

THE WIND RIVER BREEZE

DECEMBER 2007

BLM RMP REVISION IS ON THE MOVE!

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Welcome to the second edition of *The Wind River Breeze*, the official publication for the Lander Field Office's (LFO's) Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision.

The RMP revision will guide the management of BLM-administered public lands within the LFO over the next 15 to 20 years and is a major effort for the LFO. *The Wind River Breeze* will keep you updated on the RMP revision process and how you can participate. As the revision progresses, future issues will explore the steps in the revision process in greater depth.

Since the last newsletter, BLM specialists have been working vigorously on the RMP, collect-

ing data and information from local citizens, organizations, and agencies during recent travel management public meetings. More information regarding these meetings is on page 3 of this newsletter.

Over the next year, the BLM will use information obtained through scoping, travel management meetings, and the Management Situation Analysis (MSA) to formulate alternative RMPs. The alternative RMPs will address issues identified during scoping and travel management meetings as well as management opportunities identified in the MSA. Once alternatives are developed, the BLM will analyze the environmental effects of those alternatives in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), select a

preferred alternative, and after public comment, determine the proposed RMP revision.

Information is always available from the LFO web site at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/lander_rmp.html



Photo taken during LFO RMP Travel Management Meetings, Lander, WY
BLM photo



FROM THE LANDER FIELD OFFICE, FIELD MANAGER:

BOB ROSS, LFO
FIELD MANAGER



Dear Neighbor,

First and foremost, thanks to all of you who have participated in the LFO RMP revision process thus far. Whether you are a cooperating agency or a member of the local community who attended our recent travel management meetings, your willingness to assist in this process is greatly appreciated!

Lander's employees are proud to work in this area, and we take seriously the BLM's

vision—to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

As we approach the new year, we will rigorously continue working with more than fifty cooperating agencies to formulate alternatives. We will meet monthly to ensure we make informed decisions during this RMP revision. As always, we value any and all input from

local citizens, agencies, organizations, and tribes.

We think the LFO planning area is a special place, and we know the great people of Wyoming agree. Thank you again for your continued participation in this important planning process.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Bob Ross

SCOPING SUMMARY STATISTICS:

BLM conducted scoping to initiate the RMP revision process between February 13 and April 16, 2007. The scoping process enabled the BLM to obtain a sense of the planning and management issues that are important to the public, interested organizations, government agencies, and tribes for various resources and resource uses. To provide multiple opportunities for public input, the BLM held scoping meetings in Riverton, Shoshoni, Jeffrey City, Dubois, and Lander in March 2007. The number of comments obtained during those meetings and the resource areas addressed during scoping are summarized in the table below. For more information on the scoping comments, please refer to the Scoping Report located at : http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/Ifodocs/lander_rmp.html

Resources and Resource Uses	Number of Comments	Resources and Resource Uses	Number of Comments	Resources and Resource Uses	Number of Comments
Air Quality 	8	Historical and Cultural Resources	1	Special Recreation Management 	18
Coal	7	Historic Trails 	7	Threatened and Endangered Species 	11
Cultural Resources	15	Mineral Leasing	15	Vegetation	0
Cumulative Impacts	2	Noise	1	Water	25
Drought 	9	Oil and Gas 	40	Wild and Scenic Rivers 	11
Fire Management 	9	Recreation 	31	Wild Horses	3
Forest Management	16	Scenic Byways	2	Wilderness	24
Grazing 	84	Scenic Trails 	2	Wildlife	75
		Soils	3	Wind Energy 	3

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY:

The BLM held open house travel management meetings November 5-6 in Lander and November 7-8 in Dubois, WY. The BLM organized these meetings to obtain information from the public, interested organizations, government agencies, and tribes regarding how BLM lands are utilized for recreation, as well as how users travel across BLM lands to conduct recreation and resource-based activities.

During the meetings the public was invited to fill out a travel management information sheet to supply usage information, as well as to mark areas on BLM maps where that usage occurs. Over 100 interested citizens and organizations participated in the meetings held over four days. During the four days, approximately 590 map entries in over 300 areas were recorded by meeting participants. Numerous participants took information sheets with them to complete them more thoroughly and mail back to LFO. All information sheets are due back to the LFO by December 7, 2007.

If you were unable to attend one of the travel management meetings in November, please feel free to contact the LFO and request a travel management packet. You can fax, mail, or email your input to the LFO office. Contact information for the LFO office is on the back page of this newsletter.

In late December and early January the BLM will be reviewing and compiling the travel management information to assist them with developing RMP alternatives and making future management decisions.



Photo taken during LFO RMP Travel Management Meetings, Lander, WY

THE REVISION TIMELINE:



Next Travel Management Meeting

January 24, 2007 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm
Riverton Branch Library
1330 West Park
Riverton, WY 82501

The RMP . . .

The revised RMP, referred to as the Lander RMP, is being developed to provide future direction for managing approximately 2.5 million acres of public surface land and 2.7 million acres of federal mineral estate lands in central Wyoming. The planning area includes most of Fremont Country, and smaller portions of Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon, and Hot Springs counties, Wyoming.

Spotlight on a BLM Specialist:

I am Jared Oakleaf, an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM Lander Field Office. I have been with the BLM Lander Field Office for nine years, having begun as a volunteer working the front desk at the age of 16.

While young employees are lucky if they have one mentor, I can lay claim to an entire office of mentors. The veteran staff continues to teach me a great deal about public land resources.

I was born and raised in Lander and credit my upbringing for fostering my interest in natural resource management. My father is a biologist, my mom has always been interested in public land issues, and my grandfather worked for the BLM in Lander in the 1950s. It just seemed natural to work in natural resources here.

I will be the planning lead on several items including: recreation, visual resources, comprehensive travel management, and wilderness study areas. I look forward to this opportunity to serve the community where I was raised and develop a plan for the natural resources which I have enjoyed my entire life.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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COMMON ACRONYMS:

BLM: Bureau of Land Management
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
LFO: Lander Field Office
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
MSA: Management Situation Analysis
RMP: Resource Management Plan

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