APPENDIX E

SCOPING NOTICE

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968

1610/Casper RMP

October 20, 2003

RE: Invitation to Participate in the Preparation of the Casper Resource Management Plan

Dear Interested Party:

The Casper Field Office, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, is currently revising the Platte River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). As part of this project, a supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) is also being prepared.

The revised RMP, referred to as the Casper RMP, is being developed to provide future direction for managing approximately 1.4 million acres of public land and 4.7 million acres of federal mineral estate lands in east central Wyoming. The planning area includes most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen, and Platte Counties, Wyoming. The BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

An integral part of developing the Casper RMP is public involvement. The Casper Field Office has scheduled four public scoping meetings at the times and locations shown below.

Meeting Site	Date	Facility	Time
Wheatland	November 10, 2003	Platte County Library Large Meeting Room 904 9th St. Wheatland, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Torrington	November 11, 2003	Eastern Wyoming College CTC Building 3200 W. C St. Torrington, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Douglas	November 12, 2003	Converse County Community Room 107 N. 5th St. Douglas, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Casper	November 13, 2003	BLM Casper Field Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, Wyoming	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

These meetings were scheduled to provide an opportunity for you to comment on development of the Casper RMP and EIS. Along with presentations at 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and question and answer sessions, you will have an opportunity to visit one on one with BLM resource specialists about any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

A website has been developed for the Casper RMP located at *www.blm.gov/rmp/casper*. This website provides information and background on the RMP and EIS process as well as information on how you can participate in the planning process. The BLM has also prepared a Summary of the Management Situation Analysis. This summary provides information about existing resource conditions, current management practices, and issues and concerns identified to date. The summary, along with comments received during scoping, will be used to formulate alternatives and develop the draft EIS. The summary will be available for public review at this website beginning November 3, 2003.

Preliminary planning issues and criteria have been identified and will also be used to guide the identification and development of management alternatives. These preliminary issues and criteria are not final. They may be added to or refined during the public scoping process. The BLM is requesting your help in identifying additional issues and concerns, management alternatives, or other ideas to be addressed in the planning effort. For your convenience in commenting, a copy of the preliminary planning issues and criteria are enclosed along with a map of the planning area.

Throughout preparation of the Casper RMP and EIS, local interests and residents will have additional opportunities to participate and share their insights and comments. However, to ensure sufficient time to consider your comments in alternative formulation and preparation of the draft EIS, comments should be postmarked by November 20, 2003.

Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, all comment letters received, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Casper Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments on the preparation of the Casper RMP and EIS can be mailed to: Casper Field Office, BLM, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, or submitted electronically (beginning November 3rd) on the Casper RMP website at *www.blm.gov/rmp/casper*. Comment forms will also be available at the scoping meetings. In order to decrease the cost of entering written comments into our tracking database, we strongly encourage you to submit your comments electronically at our website.

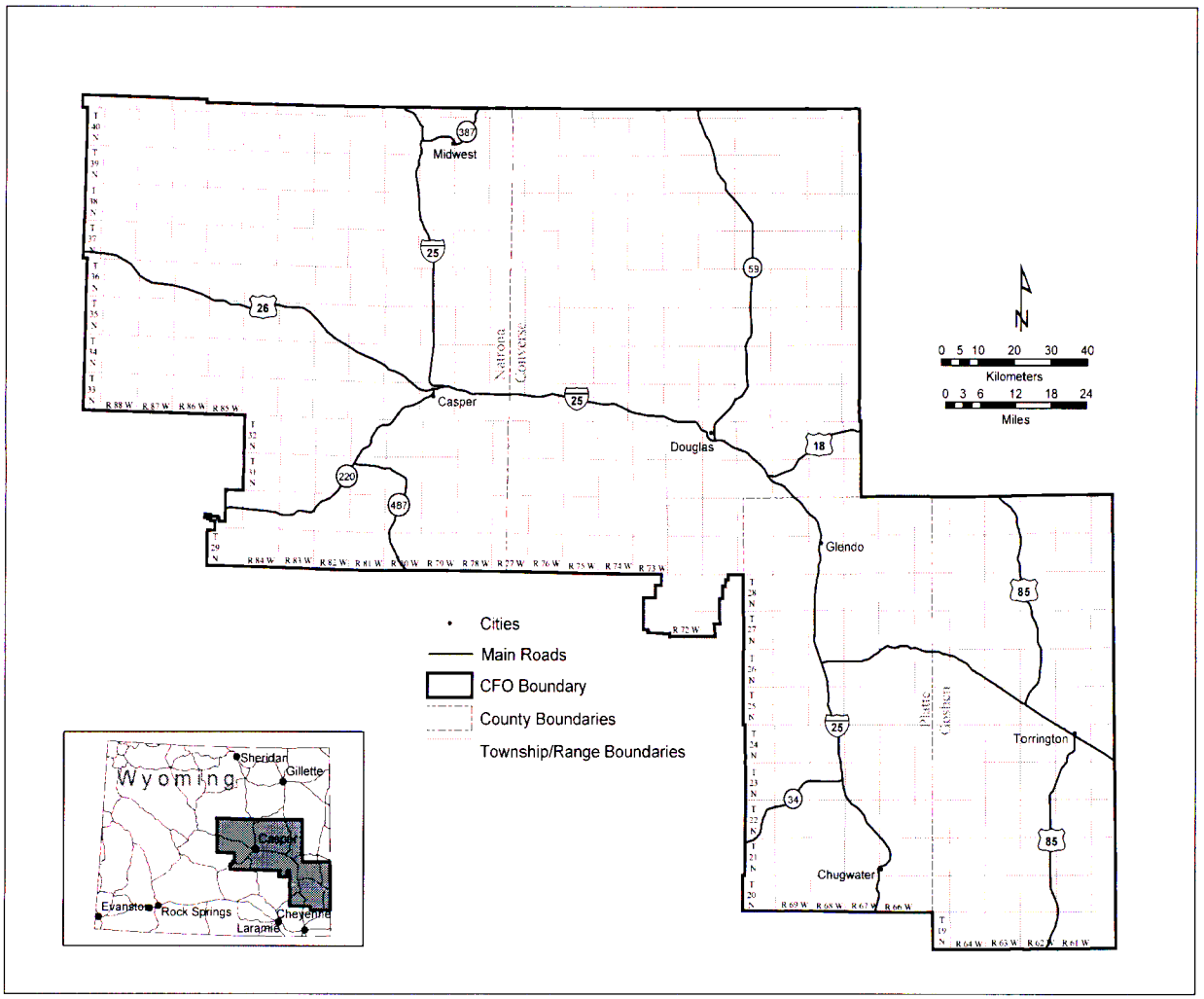
We look forward to working with you in development of the Casper RMP. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Slone, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at the address shown above or at (307) 261-7600.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures: Preliminary Planning Issues and Criteria
Planning Area Map

Casper Field Office Planning Area



CASPER RMP
PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES AND CRITERIA

Preliminary Planning Issues

A. Energy and mineral resource exploration and development;

B. Access to and transportation on BLM lands;

C. Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicle management;

D. Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors;

E. Management and cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive species and their habitats;

F. Vegetation, including impacts of invasive non-native species;

G. Management of cultural and paleontological resources, including National Historic Trails;

H. Land ownership adjustments;

I. Fire management;

J. Livestock grazing;

K. Visual Resource Management; and,

L. Air and water quality.

Preliminary Planning Criteria

A. The revised RMP will recognize the existence of valid existing rights.

B. The decisions in the revised RMP will cover BLM-administered public lands, including split-estate lands where the subsurface minerals are severed from the surface right, and the BLM has legal jurisdiction over one or the other.

C. The BLM will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach to determine the desired future condition of public lands.

D. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complimentary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and regulation.

E. The environmental analysis will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values of resources and respond to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect multiple use resource principles.

F. The BLM will use current scientific information, research, new technologies, and the results of resource assessments, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems.

G. Revised RMP decisions will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and guidance.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610/Casper RMP

date

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings in October and November of 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. We will send you invitations to participate in this process, including specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, project manager, at (307) 261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosures:
Map of planning area
Return Form

cc: Linda Slone (CFO)

CONSULTATION RETURN FORM

Dear Tribal Official:

This form is provided for your convenience to assist BLM in ensuring that your tribe has received our correspondence, and that we can continue to communicate with you in the most effective way possible. If you are not the appropriate individual to receive and respond to this form, please see that this correspondence and information, along with this form and return envelope, are given to the appropriate person.

Please fill out this form and return it in the supplied self-addressed, stamped envelope. Be assured that we will follow up with you and/or your other tribal representatives in accordance with your responses. Please check each of the following boxes that you wish to pursue:

☐ Our tribe has information or concerns that we would like to discuss with the BLM about the Casper Resource Management Plan. Therefore, we would like you to contact us to set up a meeting where we can consult on the issues.

☐ Our tribe would like to come to the Casper Field Office area to tour selected sites and other areas that we feel may be of interest due to their potential traditional, religious, or cultural concerns.

☐ The information that you have provided in your correspondence is sufficient and we do not require consultation with you at this time. We do, however, request copies of the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements and associated documents generated during the development of the Casper Resource Management Plan.

☐ Thank you for your correspondence. Our tribe has no comment and no further interest in the Casper Resource Management Plan at this time.

Name of individual responding to this form:

_____
(Please print)

Title: _____
(Please print)

Telephone No. _____

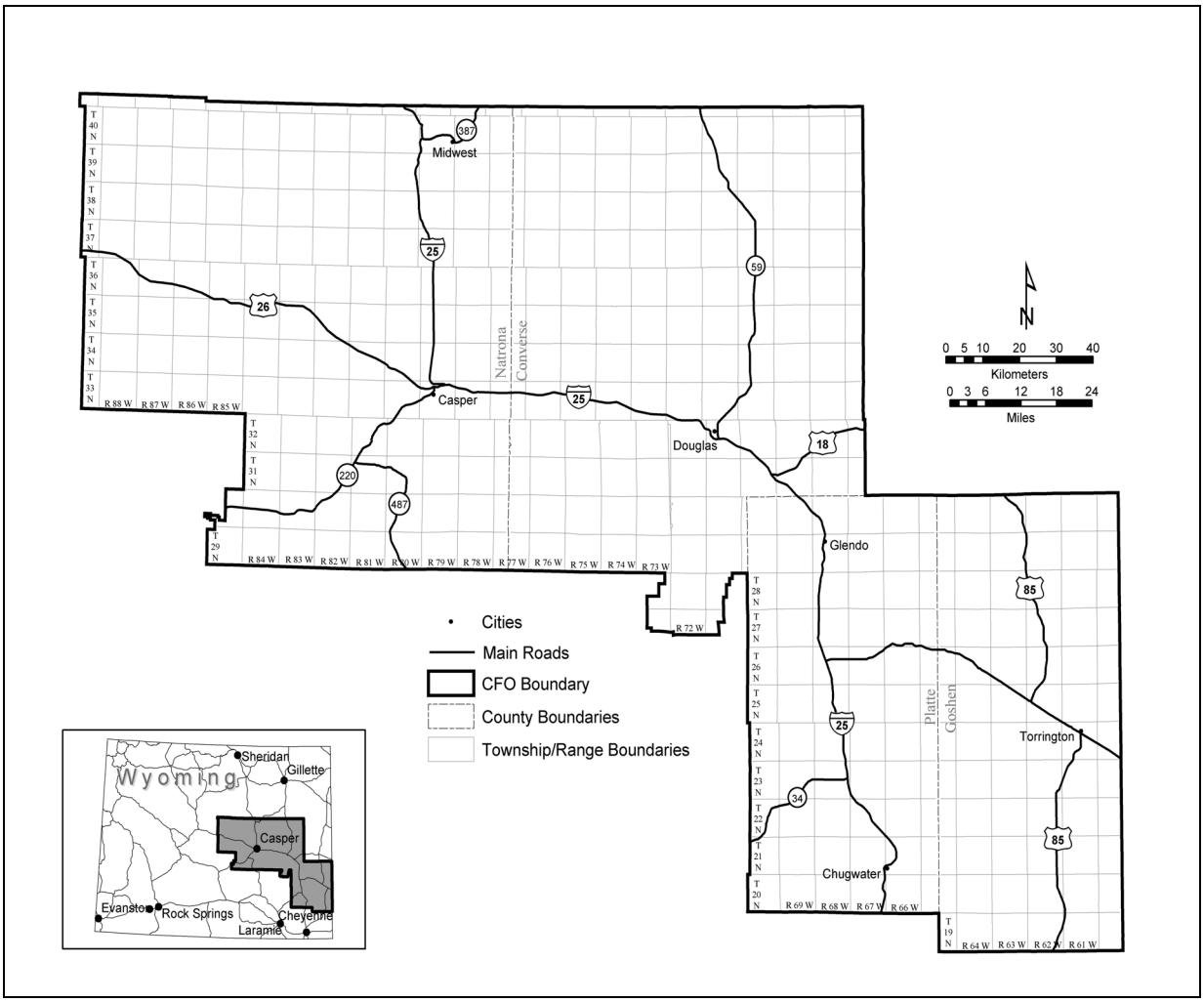
Date: _____

Signature: _____

If there is someone else we should contact regarding this correspondence, please indicate their name, title, address, and telephone number below:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No. _____

Casper Field Office Planning Area