APPENDIX I

SCOPING MEETING DISPLAY BOARDS

Casper Resource Management Plan Revision

RMP Revision Process

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- Use a systematic interdisciplinary approach;
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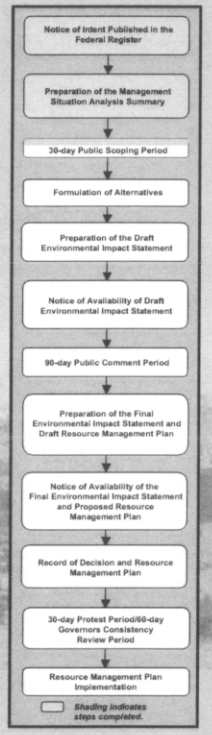
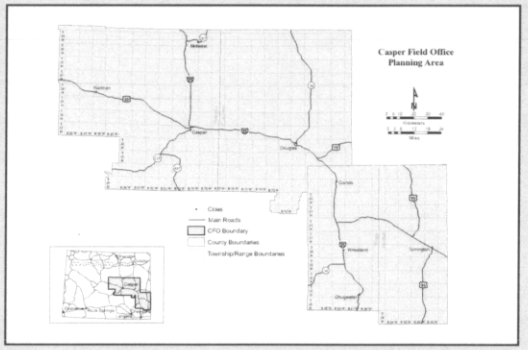


Casper Field Office Planning Area



The Casper Planning Area includes 1.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 4.7 million acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte counties.

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Casper Resource Management Plan Revision

Air Quality

Air quality in the planning area is assumed to be excellent.

Soil

Soils in the Casper Planning Area are diverse and can vary significantly over relatively short distances.

Water

Water resources in the planning area are managed for multiple uses in agricultural, municipal, and industrial purposes. Water-based recreation and use by fish and wildlife are also prevalent. The North Platte, Cheyenne, Powder, Wind, and Niobrara River watersheds, which are all tributaries of the Missouri River, are within the planning area.

Preliminary Planning Issue:
- *Air and water quality*

Physical and Biological Resources

Fish and Wildlife Resources
Fish habitat in the planning area includes perennial and intermittent streams, lakes and reservoirs. Public lands within the Casper Planning Area provide habitat for 8 families and 27 species of fish.

Vertebrate wildlife species that occur in the Casper Planning Area represent all major vertebrate classes: reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, and mammals.

Special Status Species
More emphasis is being placed on maintaining species diversity and keeping native ecosystems healthy to keep other species from becoming listed.

Vegetative Resources
- → woodland and forest communities;
- → riparian and wetland communities;
- → grassland and shrubland communities; and,
- → invasive, nonnative plant species.

Preliminary Planning Issues:
- *Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors.*
- *Management and cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered, candidate, and censitive species and their habitats.*
- *Vegetation, including impacts of invasive non-native species.*

Cultural Resources

More than 8,000 cultural resources have been documented to date on lands administered by BLM within the planning area.

Paleontology

Fossil deposits as old as 200 million years are exposed in the planning area.

Geology?

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Visual Resources

Visual Resource Management in the Casper Planning Area focuses on values and resources existing throughout the planning area and covers views involving native landscapes
and unique areas with high visual quality.

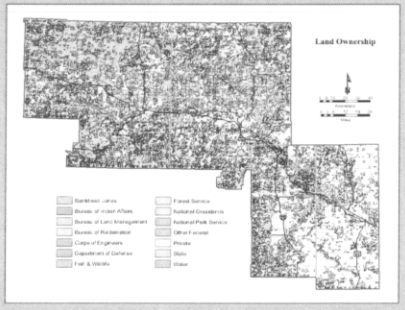
Preliminary Planning Issues:
- *Management of cultural and paleontological resources; including National Historic Trails.*
- *Visual Resource Management.*

Casper Resource Management Plan Revision

Lands and Realty

The BLM Lands and Realty program is aimed at managing lands that host and support resource and management programs.

Land ownership in the Casper Field Office Planning Area consists of a complex of intermingled federal, private, and state lands, creating management challenge.



Transportation and Access

Transportation includes mass transit, access to public lands, and infrastructure management.

Utility and Communication Corridors

Preliminary Planning Issue:
- *Access to and transportation on BLM lands*
- *Transportation on BLM Lands*

Resource Uses

Minerals
Minerals include coal, oil and gas, locatable minerals, such as gold, silver, platinum, and copper, and saleable minerals, such as sand, gravel, flagstone and rock aggregate.

Coal
The BLM manages coal leasing and other administrative duties related to coal production from federal coal land. Wyoming has the largest federal coal program in the BLM. Wyoming is the nation's largest producer of coal, producing about 34 percent of the nation's coal.

Oil and Gas
The Casper Field Office is responsible for managing and supervising all exploration, development, and production operations on federal oil and gas leases in Converse, Natrona, Platte and Goshen counties. Wyoming is the number one producer of federal onshore oil and number two producer of federal onshore gas in the United States.

Locatable Minerals
The planning area has an assortment of minerals, including gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromite, and uranium. Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte counties contain approximately 4,983 mining claims.

Salable Minerals
Salable minerals, such as sand and gravel, moss rock, flagstone, rock aggregate, and riprap are available on demand for sale and for free use.

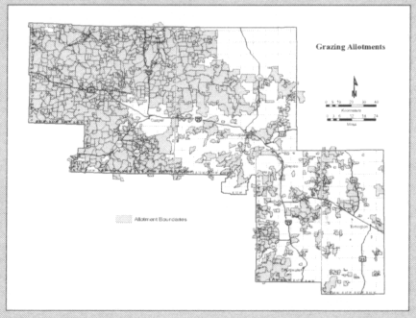
Preliminary Planning Issue:
- *Energy and mineral resource exploration and development*

Forest Products

A total of 3,314 thousand board feet (MBF) of sawtimber was harvested from 1983 to 1991. Firewood, posts and poles were harvested as well. From 1992 to 2001 there has been no activity in the forest program due to the absence of funding, and no active forest management has occurred on forestlands from 1990 to 2001.

Livestock Grazing

The Casper Field Office manages lands for livestock grazing in Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte Counties. The Casper Field Office administers 462 grazing leases, allowing approximately 200,000 animal unit months of livestock forage.



Recreation

Recreation opportunities and uses of BLM lands within the planning area include sight-seeing, touring, hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, photography, wildlife viewing, camping, fishing, and hunting.

Preliminary Planning Issues:
- *Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicle management.*
- *Livestock grazing.*

Fire Management, Special Designations, Social and Economic Conditions

Fire Management

The fire program in the Casper Planning Area has been managed to protect public safety, life and property while providing the maximum benefits of both prescribed fire and wildfire to overall resource management.

Annual Average Acreage of Planned and Unplanned Fires in Different Vegetation Types

Vegetation	Average Number of Acres Burned/Year	Fire Type
Aspens and conifers	2 acres	Planned
Mountain big sagebrush	378 acres	Planned
Mountain mahogany	45 acres	Planned
Rocky Mountain juniper forest	3 acres	Planned
Subtotal	**428 acres**	
Greasewood–salt desert shrub	42 acres	Unplanned
Forest or woodlands	250 acres	Unplanned
Mountain shrubs	24 acres	Unplanned
Sagebrush grasslands	1,620 acres	Unplanned
Subtotal	**1,936 acres**	
Grand Total	**2,364 acres**	

Preliminary Planning Issue:
- *Fire Management*

Special Designations

Special management areas are designated by the BLM to protect or preserve certain qualities or uses in specific areas. The environment in these unique areas is unique in some regard, so that it is desirable to apply different management to the areas than is applied to the surrounding public lands.

Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area *(EEA)* - Muddy Mountain EEA was established in 1977 for recreation purposes and wildlife habitat.

Preliminary Planning Issues:
- *Management of cultural and paleontological resources, including National Historic Trails.*

Socioeconomic Conditions

All four counties in the planning area had lower unemployment in 2001 than the national average of 4.8 percent.

Average Earnings Per Job (2000)

Locality	Average Earnings Per Job
Natrona County	$32,442
Converse County	$25,210
Platte County	$23,890
Goshen County	$23,051
Wyoming	$27,037
United States	$36,316

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, enacted in 1993, requires that each federal agency make achieving "environmental justice" part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income popluations.

Health and Safety

The two primary health and safety concerns of the Casper planning Area involve abandoned mines and hazardous waste.

Hazards are not always apparent to an unauthorized visitor, a hiker, or an off-highway vehicle (OHV) user enjoying outdoor recreation.

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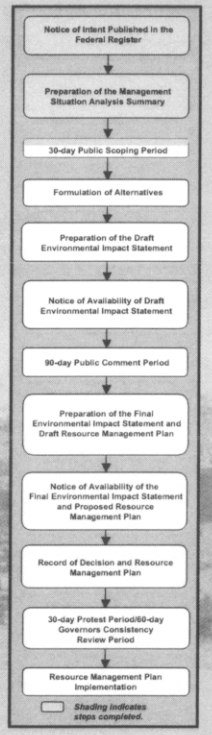

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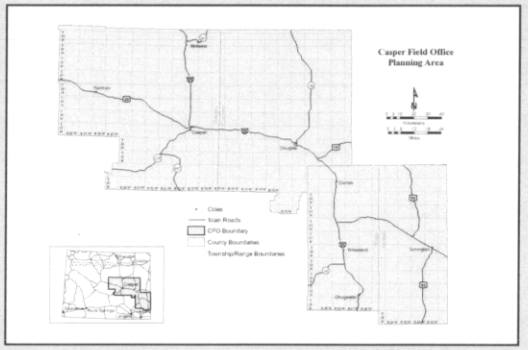

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