
**Proposed
Casper Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Draft () Final (X)
Administrative (X) Legislative ()

Jurisdiction: Most of Natrona and all of Converse, Goshen, and Platte counties, Wyoming

Abstract: The Casper Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Casper Field Office. The Proposed RMP is open for a 30-day review and protest period beginning, June 8, 2007, the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the *Federal Register*.

The BLM is also providing an additional 60-day review and comment period on supplemental information regarding proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) considered in the Draft RMP and EIS, but only partially described in the original *Federal Register* notice announcing release of the document in July 2006. While the Draft RMP and EIS, including the ACEC information, has been available for public review and comment, the BLM is providing an additional 60-day review period to ensure the procedural requirements contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.7-2 are met. Specifically, these regulations require BLM to specify in a *Federal Register* notice any resource use limitations that would occur if an ACEC is designated.

Alternatives A through E were presented in the Draft RMP and EIS. **Alternative A** is a continuation of the existing management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of the public lands and resources continue to be managed under the 1985 Platte River RMP as amended. **Alternative B** emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources, while providing for the smallest level of development. **Alternative C** provides more conservation and less resource development than current management and is in between alternatives B and D relative to resource conservation and resource development. **Alternative D** emphasizes resource development, while providing for the smallest level of conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources. **Alternative E** (Preferred Alternative) conserves physical, biological, and heritage resources while emphasizing moderate constraints.

After careful consideration of both public and internal comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS, adjustments and clarifications have been made to Alternative E. As modified, Alternative E is now presented as the Proposed Casper RMP in the Final EIS. The major issues addressed include: (1) energy and mineral resource exploration and development; (2) vegetation and habitat management; (3) landownership adjustments, access and transportation; and (4) special designations.

Protest/Comment: (1) Protests must be postmarked or received not later than 30 days after publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. (2) Comments on the ACEC information presented in the Draft RMP and EIS must be postmarked or received not later than 60 days after publication of EPA's Notice of Supplemental Information in the *Federal Register*. The 30-day protest period (identified above) will not be extended or repeated, unless new and significant ACEC-related information is identified and a Supplemental Proposed RMP and Final EIS is issued.

If any comments received identify new and significant ACEC-related information that has not currently been raised in the planning process, then a Supplemental Proposed RMP and Final EIS may have to be issued and the Record of Decision on this Proposed RMP and Final EIS deferred.

Refer to the instructions in the letter preceding this abstract for additional information on how to protest and comment. The close of the protest and comment period will be announced in news releases, newsletters, and on the Casper RMP website at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/.

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