

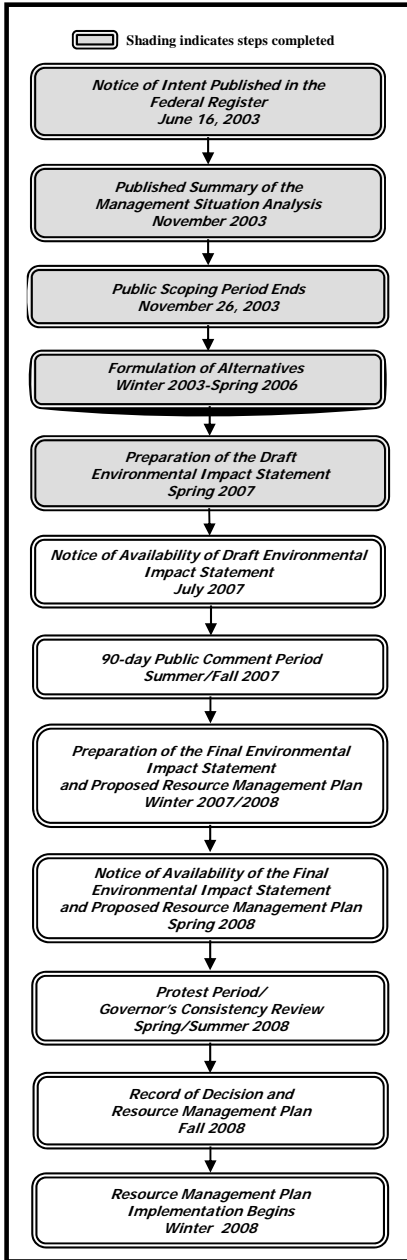


Kemmerer Resource Management Plan Revision Newsletter

312 Highway 189 N, Kemmerer, WY 83101-9711
(307) 828-4500 www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer

June 2007

Where do we go from here?



Letter from the Field Manager

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your continued participation in the Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process. This is the third newsletter in a series designed to provide you with information on what is happening in the Kemmerer RMP revision process.

The Draft RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be available mid July 2007, starting the 90-day public comment period. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared this document in cooperation with the State of Wyoming, county governments, and conservation districts located in the planning area.

The Draft RMP and EIS describes and analyzes four alternatives for future management of public lands and resources administered by the BLM for the Kemmerer planning area. While a Preferred Alternative is identified, selection of the final plan has not been made. The final decision will be made only after the comments received from the public on the Draft RMP and EIS are considered.

Your review and comment on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. There are three distinct ways for you to comment during the comment period: (1) submit comments using the Kemmerer RMP revision website at www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/, (2) attend the public meetings/hearings (schedule on page 3), or (3) mail written comments to the BLM (see page 3). I encourage you to review the document, attend the open houses or public meetings/hearings in August, and submit your comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Rugwell, Kemmerer Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Kemmerer Field Office

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Commonly Used Acronyms

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision

Purpose and Need for the Resource Management Plan Revision



Within the Kemmerer planning area, the BLM manages approximately 1.4-million acres of BLM-administered public land surface and 1.6-million acres of federal mineral estate. Since 1986, the existing plan has

served as the framework for managing these BLM-administered lands; however, the existing plan has undergone more than 30 maintenance actions, including updates and amendments, and is in need of revision. Since the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 1986 for the existing plan, new data have become available, new policies established, and old policies revised. This, along with emerging issues and changing circumstances, resulted in the need for revision. This new version will address the changing needs of the planning area and select a management strategy that best achieves a combination of the following:

- Land use plan decisions to guide future land-management actions.
- Comprehensive management direction.
- Goals and objectives (desired outcomes) in accordance with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Management actions and allowable uses to achieve the established goals and objectives.
- Recognize the nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber, and incorporating requirements of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act Reauthorization of 2000.
- A community-based planning approach.
- Adapt to new and emerging issues and opportunities.
- Be compatible with existing plans and policies.

Reminder – You can submit your comments on the Draft RMP and EIS using the Kemmerer RMP revision website. See Page 3 for tips on commenting.

www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/

Overview of the Resource Management Plan Alternatives

Through a series of workshops, meetings with other federal, state, and local agencies who accepted cooperating agency status on the RMP revision, and analysis of alternatives, four alternatives were developed to be considered in the Kemmerer RMP revision. Following is an overview of each alternative.

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, represents a continuation of current management and provides a baseline from which to identify potential environmental consequences when compared to the Action Alternatives. The No Action Alternative describes current resource and land management direction as represented in the existing plan and associated maintenance actions, updates, and amendments. Current management addresses resource conflicts on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources and places the most constraints on resource uses compared to all other alternatives.

Alternative C emphasizes resource uses (e.g., energy and minerals, grazing, recreation, and forest products) while lessening some resource conservation measures to protect physical, biological, and heritage resource values.

Alternative D (Preferred Alternative), is the BLM's Preferred Alternative because it reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meet purpose and need, address the major planning issues, and consider the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists. Alternative D emphasizes a moderate level of protection for physical, biological, and heritage resource values and moderate constraints on resource uses.



Timeline: Where We Are and Where We Are Going

- **Publish the Draft RMP and EIS.** The Draft RMP and EIS will be available mid July 2007.
- **90-Day Public Comment Period.** The Draft RMP and EIS process provides 90 days for public comment, during which time two open houses and three public meetings/hearings are scheduled in Cokeville, Kemmerer, Rock Springs, Evanston, and Lyman, Wyoming. The 90-day public comment period begins mid July 2007.
- **Prepare and Publish Final EIS.** The BLM will prepare the Final EIS, considering the public and agency comments that are submitted during the 90-day comment period. The Proposed RMP and Final EIS is scheduled for release in spring 2008.
- **30-Day Protest Period.** The protest period allows the public an opportunity to protest the BLM’s proposed land use plan decision. The protest period occurs after the Proposed RMP and Final EIS is published.
- **60-Day Governor’s Consistency Review.** The Governor will have 60 days to review the proposed plan, identify inconsistencies between the proposed plan and state programs, and provide written recommendations to the BLM State Director.
- **Prepare Record of Decision.** Once any protest issues are resolved and the Governor’s consistency review is complete, the State Director approves the EIS and Final RMP by signing the Record of Decision (ROD), scheduled for fall 2008.

How Can You Participate in the Decision Making Process?

The Draft RMP and EIS will be released mid July 2007 and will be available for your review on the Kemmerer RMP revision website at www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/ and at the following libraries:

- Library of Congress
- University of Wyoming Library, Laramie
- Lincoln County Public Library, Kemmerer
- Sweetwater County Public Library, Green River
- Sublette County Public Library, Pinedale
- Uinta County Public Library, Evanston
- Western Wyoming College Library, Rock Springs

We want to hear from you! Although your comments are welcome anytime during the RMP revision process, they are most beneficial during the 90-day comment period. There are three ways to comment:

1. Submit comments using the Kemmerer RMP revision website at www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/.
2. Attend the public meetings/hearings (see schedule below).
3. Submit written comments to the BLM at:
 Kemmerer RMP Revision
 312 Highway 189 N.
 Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101-9711
 or fax to: (307) 828-4539

Draft RMP and EIS Comment Deadline. Comments must be submitted to the BLM website or postmarked by the 90th day of comment period.

Public Meetings/Hearings Schedule

The BLM will be available at the open houses and public meetings/hearings to explain the process and answer questions. People may enter and leave at their convenience at any time during the scheduled hours.

Location	Date	Address	Time
Cokeville, Wyoming	August 6, 2007	Cokeville City Hall 110 Pine Street	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Kemmerer, Wyoming	August 7, 2007	Lincoln County Library 519 Emerald Street	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Rock Springs, Wyoming	August 8, 2007	BLM Rock Springs Office 280 Highway 191 North	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Evanston, Wyoming	August 9, 2007	Uinta County Library 701 Main Street	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Lyman, Wyoming	August 10, 2007	Lyman Town Hall 100 E Sage Street	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I get a copy of the Draft RMP and EIS?

A: The Draft RMP and EIS will be released mid July 2007 and will be available for your review on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/ and at select libraries listed on page 3. A limited number of compact disks (CDs) and hard copies of the Draft RMP and EIS are also available at the Kemmerer Field Office. Call (307) 828-4500 for more information.

Q: How can I submit comments?

A: There are three ways for you to submit comments during the 90-day public comment period:

1. The Kemmerer RMP revision website www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/.
2. Attend the public meetings/hearings (see page 3).
3. Mail or fax written comments to the BLM (see page 3).

Q: What is the most efficient way to submit comments?

A: We prefer you submit comments on the Kemmerer RMP revision website at www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/.

Q: How do I write an effective comment?

A: There are several details that make an effective comment:

1. Be familiar with the document, including the purpose and need for the document.
2. Be as specific as possible, referencing page numbers and paragraphs in the document.
3. Focus comments on particular issues or resources and back up your statement with facts and references.
4. If you think something in the document is wrong, suggest how BLM can fix it.

Q: When and where will the public meetings/hearings be held?

A: There are two Open House Meetings and three Public Meetings/Hearings scheduled for August during the 90-day comment period (refer to page 3):

- Monday, August 6, 2007 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Cokeville Town Hall - Cokeville, Wyoming
Open House
- Tuesday, August 7, 2007 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Lincoln County Library - Kemmerer, Wyoming
- Wednesday, August 8, 2007 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
BLM Rock Springs Field Office – Rock Springs, Wyoming
- Thursday, August 9, 2007 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Uinta County Library – Evanston, Wyoming
- Friday, August 10, 2007 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Lyman Town Hall– Lyman, Wyoming Open House

Q: If the BLM has already selected a Preferred Alternative, why do my comments matter?

A: The Preferred Alternative is presented, as required by BLM planning guidance, and is an indication of the agency's preliminary preference because it reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, addresses the key planning issues, and considers the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists. The final decision will be made only after BLM considers all comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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