

The Rawlins Field Office of the Wyoming  
Bureau of Land Management is  
modifying the Great Divide Resource  
Management Plan (RMP).

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
will be released for public comment in March 2004.  
The BLM welcomes your input.



**For more information, contact:**

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# Rawlins Resource Management Plan



# Resource Management Plan

Rawlins Field Office  
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## Plan Development

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently developing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Rawlins Field Office, as well as an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Initiated in February 2002, the RMP planning process started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. A series of four scoping meetings were held in March 2003 in Rock Spring, Rawlins, Baggs, and Laramie, WY, to encourage public participation in the RMP planning process. Scoping issues and comments were gathered at the scoping meetings and throughout the 60-day scoping period through a variety of methods - mail, fax, email, and through the project website.

Approximately 26,745 comments were received through the various methods. Comments were categorized by topic area for analysis purposes. The largest category of comments received related to issues with mining and oil and gas development. The majority of comments expressed a desire for preservation over continued development. A major concern identified in the comments was the disruption of migration corridors for big-game herd animals and the degradation of environmentally sensitive areas. These comments, and others received during the scoping period, are summarized in the Rawlins RMP Scoping Report, which can be found in the Rawlins Field Office (FO) Public Room, or on the project website at <http://www.rawlinsrmp.com>.

### Alternatives Development

Following the scoping period, the BLM, in cooperation with the EPA, various State of Wyoming agencies, Carbon, Albany, and Sweetwater Counties, and the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District (CD), Little Snake River CD, Sweetwater County CD, and Medicine Bow CD, have developed a number of reasonable planning alternatives for the EIS. Each alternative represents an alternate means of managing the various resources within the Rawlins FO. A No Action alternative has also been developed which reflects continuation of current management practices.

**Once released, the Draft EIS will be available for review and download on the website at [www.rawlinsrmp.com](http://www.rawlinsrmp.com). You can even type your comments in online.**

### Impact Analysis

All alternatives, including the No Action alternative, are then analyzed to determine impacts on the affected environment. The impact analysis for all alternatives is currently underway. The BLM will then select what is referred to as the Preferred Alternative and assemble the various chapters of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS, which BLM anticipates to complete by mid March 2004, will be made publicly available for review and comment.

### Public Participation

A critical component of the Rawlins RMP planning effort is public involvement. Another series of public meetings, as well as a 90-day comment period, will ensue with the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. Meeting times and locations will be posted on the website and through the local media. BLM encourages you to review the document, attend the public meetings, and provide comments. Comments will be collected through the project website, email, and mail. Watch for the Draft EIS in March 2004. BLM requests your participation in this planning process.

