NEPA HOTSHEET
February 2018
BLM Wyoming Land Use Plans and Proposed Projects

Resource Management Plans (RMP)

RMP planning areas include all lands, regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM’s jurisdiction.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Rocky Mountain Region, signed Sept. 21, 2015, finalized RMPs for the Buffalo, Cody, and Worland field offices, respectively, and approved the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments. The Lander Field Office RMP was signed on June 26, 2014. Implementation efforts for these RMPs and RMP amendments are currently underway. For more information, please see the project websites below, or visit BLM Wyoming’s Planning and NEPA website at: https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/wyoming.

Buffalo RMP: http://go.usa.gov/x9PT8
Cody and Worland RMPs: http://bit.ly/2kkoQg1

1. Rock Springs RMP Revision EIS: The planning area includes lands within the Rock Springs Field Office administrative boundary in Sweetwater, Lincoln, Uinta, Sublette, and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.5 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 3.6 million acres. The revised RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management, and management of recreational uses of the BLM-administered surface. A Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Plan for the entire field office, as well as an additional socioeconomic modeling effort coordinated with cooperating agencies are being incorporated into the RMP Revision. In April 2013, the Department of the Interior, the BLM and the Rock Springs Grazing Association signed a consent decree requiring the BLM to initiate NEPA analysis to consider the environmental effects of modifying management levels of wild horses in specified herd management areas. An NOI was issued, initiating public scoping to amend the 2008 Rawlins RMP in conjunction with the Rock Springs RMP revision. Work on the RMP resumed in February 2015 following a twelve month hold to allow the Wyoming Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments to get ahead of the revision effort.

   NOI Issued: Feb. 1, 2011
   NOI to re-open scoping period for Wild Horse Management: Aug. 16, 2013
   Estimated Publication of Draft RMP/Draft EIS: Second Quarter 2018
   Estimated Publication of Proposed RMP/Final EIS: First Quarter 2019
   Estimated Publication of ROD: Second Quarter 2019

   Contact: Kimberlee Foster, Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0256)
   http://bit.ly/2axC0iQ

2. Rawlins Visual Resource Management (VRM) Targeted RMP Amendment EA: The VRM Class decisions in the Rawlins RMP were remanded following protest resolution on the 2008 Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS. BLM is amending the Rawlins RMP to incorporate new VRM class decisions based on a new visual resource quality inventory completed in 2010. The Rawlins planning area includes approximately 3.5 million acres of public land surface and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate in Laramie, Albany, Carbon and eastern Sweetwater counties. The decision area for the Chokecherry Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project VRM planning review (742,000 acres) is excluded from the Rawlins RMP planning review as it was previously analyzed.
3. Pinedale RMP Amendment EA: The Pinedale Field Office has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing an amendment to the Pinedale RMP for federal mineral estate previously leased to the Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP) and subsequently The Trust for Public Lands (TPL). These split-estate lands (5,120 acres of private surface with federal minerals ownership) were made available for fluid mineral leasing in the 2008 Pinedale RMP. Previously, the 5,120 acres were leased by PXP for oil and gas development and production. TPL later purchased the oil and gas leases from PXP for conservation purposes. The EA analyzes three alternatives. The No Action Alternative would retain current land use allocations. The No Leasing Alternative would remove the federal mineral estate from availability for fluid mineral leasing. The No Surface Occupancy (NSO) alternative would allow the area to remain available for fluid mineral leasing with an NSO lease stipulation. Under the NSO alternative, an adjacent state-owned section of land would allow for fluid mineral extraction. The preliminary EA was released for a 30-day public comment period on Sept. 11, 2017. A public meeting will be held at the Pinedale Field Office on Tuesday, September 26.

NOI Issued: May 9, 2014
Publication of Draft Amendment/EA: Sept. 11, 2017
Contact: Kellie Roadifer, IDT Lead, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5309)

4. Rawlins RMP Amendment EA: The Rawlins Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Rawlins RMP. The EA amendment would remove an estimated 12,425 acres from future oil and gas leasing. These acres are located on federal mineral estate adjacent to the water sources for the municipalities of Rawlins, Saratoga, and Laramie, Wyoming.

NOI Issued: July 21, 2014
Contact: Annette Treat, IDT Lead, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314)

5. Kemmerer RMP Amendment EA: The Kemmerer Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Kemmerer RMP. The EA amendment identifies and allows the direct sale of an isolated parcel of public land totaling 2.8 acres in Lincoln County, Wyoming. The amendment has been submitted to the State Director for approval.

NOI Issued: June 29, 2016
Proposed Amendment/EA: July 25, 2017
Decision Record: Jan. 3, 2018
Contact: Kelly Lamborn, IDT Lead, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4505)

Oil and Gas Development Projects

1. Normally-Pressured Lance (NPL) Natural Gas Development Project EIS: The NPL project is located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs. The project encompasses 141,080 acres, 93 percent of which is BLM-administered land. Jonah Energy LLC is proposing up to 3,500 directionally-drilled wells over a period of 10 years. Most wells would be co-located on a single pad, with up to 64 wells on a single pad and no more than 4 well pads being constructed per 640 acres. On average, each well pad would be 18 acres in size. Associated access
roads, pipelines, compressor stations and other facilities would be co-located where possible to further minimize surface disturbance. Jonah Energy would use no more than 10 natural gas drilling rigs on average to develop its interest.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI published on April 12, 2011. The DEIS was published on July 7, 2017, and the public comment period closed August 21. The FEIS anticipated for Spring 2018.

**Contacts:** Kellie Roadifer, Project Manager, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5309)
Mark Snyder, Point of Contact, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0329)

http://tinyurl.com/houlms

2. **Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS:** Aethon Energy and Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company LP have proposed to develop up to 4,250 natural gas and oil wells and associated infrastructure within the proposed Moneta Divide Project area. The project area is located in Fremont and Natrona counties and encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land. The life of the proposed project is estimated to be 40 years. Additional development would include pipelines to transport natural gas from the production areas to Wamsutter, Wyoming, in the Rawlins Field Office. Also proposed are one or more pipelines to transport treated produced water to Boysen Reservoir. The untreated and/or by-product brine from treated produced water may be transported via pipelines to two underground disposal areas. The EIS is analyzing amendments to the Casper RMP project area.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI to prepare an EIS published on Jan. 17, 2013. The DEIS is scheduled for release in mid-2018.

**Contact:** Kristin Yannone, IDT Lead, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448)

3. **Converse County Oil and Gas Project EIS:** Converse County Oil and Gas Project EIS: The Casper Field Office received a proposal from a group of companies to develop up to 5,000 new oil or gas wells on 1,500 well pads in northern Converse County, Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 1.5 million acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands. The operators propose to develop the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project includes all or parts of three different Sage-Grouse Core Areas.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI to prepare an EIS published on May 16, 2014. Public scoping concluded on June 30, 2014, with 90 comments received. A DEIS was released for public review on Jan. 26, 2018. The FEIS scheduled for the last quarter of 2018 and a ROD anticipated in the first quarter of 2019.

**Contact:** Mike Robinson, Project Manager, Casper Field Office (307-261-7520)
https://go.usa.gov/xnRAN

4. **Riley Ridge to Natrona (RRNP) EIS:** The project consists of a 243-mile pipeline through Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater and Natrona counties. The pipeline project was applied for under two separate ROW applications: the Riley Ridge Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Pipeline and the Bairoil-to-Natrona CO2 Pipeline. The Riley Ridge segment would include 31 miles of 16-inch pipeline transporting nongaseous hydrogen sulfide (H2S) and CO2 from the existing Riley Ridge Treating Plant 18 miles southwest of Big Piney to a proposed sweetening plant 12 miles northeast of LaBarge. At the proposed sweetening plant, H2S would be separated from the H2S and CO2 stream and injected into a deep geological formation via two proposed H2S injection wells. From the sweetening plant, a 24-inch pipeline would transport the remaining CO2 129 miles through Sublette and Sweetwater counties to the Bairoil (Exxon) Interconnect 50 miles northwest of Rawlins. The Bairoil-to-Natrona segment would include 83 miles of 24-inch pipeline transporting CO2 from the Bairoil Interconnect through Fremont and Natrona counties to the existing Greencore Pipeline where the project ends at the Natrona Hub 30 miles west of Casper. The CO2 would eventually be used for enhanced oil recovery in the Bell Creek Unit oil field in southeastern Montana.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on June 9, 2014. The *Federal Register* notice for the DEIS is currently being prepared and a public release date is yet to be determined.

**Contact:** Mark Mackiewicz, National Project Manager, Washington Office (435-636-3616)
5. Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project EIS: Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project EIS: The Buffalo Field Office received a proposal from EOG Resources to develop up to 1,500 new oil and gas wells in Campbell and Converse counties in eastern Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 120,000 acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands within the BLM Buffalo and Casper field offices and the USFS Douglas Ranger District. There are no BLM-administered lands within the project area; however, approximately 64 percent of the mineral estate is managed by the BLM. Surface lands managed by the Forest Service and the State of Wyoming make up roughly 13,000 acres of the area. EOG proposes developing the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project is not within sage grouse core priority habitat.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on Oct. 26, 2015. Cooperating agency and public scoping meetings were held in December 2015. Alternatives were developed with cooperating agencies in May 2016. BLM finalized the alternatives following a public meeting in September 2016. The EIS is presently on hold while EOG re-evaluates the project.

Contact: Tom Bills, Project Manager, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133)

6. Blacks Fork EIS (Formerly Moxa Arch Area Infill): The Blacks Fork project area is located within the Moxa Arch gas field in southwestern Wyoming and is comprised of 633,532 acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta, and Lincoln counties. The Kemmerer Field Office received a proposal submitted by the operators in the Moxa Arch gas field to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource, and extend the production life of the field. The operators estimate that approximately 7,500 hydrocarbon wells on 1,000 well pads would be drilled over 20 years.

NEPA Status: The original NOI was published on Oct. 7, 2005. In December 2013, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation took the project over from the previous operator. In June 2014, Anadarko provided preliminary information for changes to the Moxa Arch Area Infill Project, including changing the project name to the Blacks Fork Hydrocarbon Development Project, increasing the total acreage, and revising the number of proposed wells. A new plan of development was submitted to BLM on Oct. 10, 2014. The project is currently on hold by the proponent due to commodity pricing.

Contact: Travis Chewning, IDT Lead, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4518)

7. Hiawatha Field Project EIS: QEP, along with Dominion Energy, propose to drill up to 279 exploratory and development wells in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The proponents plan to drill new vertical, directional and horizontal natural gas wells many of which would be within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming. The project area is located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

NEPA Status: An NOI was published on Sept. 6, 2006. The project is currently being re-evaluated due to substantial changes proposed by the operators.

Contact: Ted Inman, SNRS, IDT Lead, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)

8. Bird Canyon Field Infill Project EIS: Koch Exploration and Memorial Resource Development propose to drill additional oil and gas wells in the Bird Canyon Field to facilitate product extraction and to maximize the economic recovery of the resource. The Bird Canyon Field encompasses 17,612 acres of BLM-administered surface lands in Sublette and Lincoln counties in southwestern Wyoming. The operators have proposed to drill 348 new gas wells in the project area over 10-20 years. The proposal is entirely within the marginal non-attainment area for ozone.

NEPA Status: The NOI to prepare an EIS was published on May 9, 2014. Public scoping meetings were held in Rock Springs and Marbleton, Wyoming, on May 29-30, 2014, and the scoping period
ended on June 16, 2014. Eleven individuals and organizations commented on the project. The project is currently on hold due to current commodity market prices.

**Contact: Brandon Teppo, IDT Lead, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0318)**

9. **Riley Ridge Unit Development Project (RRDP) EA:** The EA analyzes the development of natural gas well pads, access roads, and pipeline corridors situated approximately 18 miles west and southwest of Big Piney, Wyoming. The proposed RRUDP also includes portions of the adjacent Miami Ditch Unit. The development would include drilling four wells, upgrading 2.4 miles of existing access roads, connecting two existing shut-in wells, and installation of approximately 18 miles of flowlines.

**NEPA Status:** The decision was released Jan. 2, 2018. The EA, FONSI and Decision Record are available online at [https://go.usa.gov/xnPjW](https://go.usa.gov/xnPjW).

**Contact: Brian Roberts, IDT Lead, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5351)**

10. **North Dutch John Unit #1 EA:** Azalea Oil Company proposes to drill a single exploratory well in the North Dutch John Unit in southwestern Wyoming. The proposed well pad is located on Iron Mountain, approximately 17 miles north of the town of Dutch John, Utah, and 6 miles east of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Total project disturbance is anticipated to be approximately 10.4 acres. The project is within a Class III visual resource management area and contains designated elk and mule deer crucial winter range.

**NEPA Status:** Scoping was initiated in November 2013. A total of 368 sets of comments were received. The EA is expected to be released for public review in summer 2018.

**Contact: Ted Inman, SNRS, IDT Lead, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)**

11. **Desolation Road EA:** Mustang Resources proposes to drill up to 17 wells on up to five well pads in the Desolation Road Unit in southwestern Wyoming. The proposed well pads are located within 2 miles of the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area, with the closest well pad located about 0.25 miles from the WSA boundary. Total project disturbance area is anticipated to be approximately 117 acres. The project is within a Class II visual resource management area and contains designated pronghorn antelope crucial winter range as well as potential habitat for raptors and mountain plover.

**NEPA Status:** Scoping was reinitiated in October 2014 due to a significant change in the proposed project. Nineteen individuals/organizations provided comments on the proposed project. Alternatives for the project were developed in January 2015. In July 2015, Samson Resources sold the Desolation Road Unit to Mustang Resources. In November 2017, Mustang Resources sold the Desolation Road Unit to Southland Royalties. The Preliminary EA is currently in progress by a third party contractor and under review by the BLM.

**Contact: Brandon Teppo, IDT Lead, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0318)**

**Upcoming Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales (Online sales held at [www.energynet.com](http://www.energynet.com))**

Oil and Gas lease sales are dynamic; individual EA’s are listed on the website: [https://go.usa.gov/xn9Cw](https://go.usa.gov/xn9Cw)

**Solid Mineral Projects**

1. **Rawhide Coal Lease Modification EA:** Peabody Caballo Mining, LLC submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Rawhide Mine. The requested modification consists of adding a 291 acre tract to the Rawhide lease.

**NEPA Status:** Public scoping ended on Feb. 17, 2015. The preliminary draft EA is being prepared.

**Contact: Sarah Bucklin, Project Manager, High Plains District Office (307-261-7541)**

2. **Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project Modifications EIS:** Lost Creek ISR LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ur-Energy USA Inc., requested to modify their Lost Creek Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project Plan of Operations, which was approved Oct. 5, 2012. The proposed mining expansion consists of two submittals: The Lost Creek East modification would expand operations outward and would add a new project area totaling approximately 5,750 acres to the existing Lost Creek
Project area of approximately 4,254 acres, resulting in approximately 241 acres of new surface disturbance. The KM Horizon modification (to expand operations deeper) would allow in-situ mining of uranium from the deeper KM Horizon, while increasing the extent of mining in the existing HJ horizon, within the approved project area, and add approximately 78 acres of additional surface disturbance. The BLM and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are completing a joint EIS with the BLM as the lead agency.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on Sept. 14, 2015. The DEIS is anticipated for release in the spring of 2018. The applicant completed the update to the Environmental and Technical Reports for submission to the NRC. NRC accepted the Lost Creek application for technical review on May 2, 2017. The BLM and NRC have worked out an EIS schedule that meets both BLM and NRC timelines. The draft EIS chapters 1 & 2 have been reviewed by BLM and NRC staff and comments have been reviewed and incorporated. Chapters 3 & 4 are being developed and will be reviewed by BLM and NRC to carry the issues of concern between the two chapters. The Draft EIS is anticipated for public review in Spring 2018.

**Contact:** Annette Treat, Project Coordinator, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314) [http://bit.ly/2oEJ5VD_LostCreek](http://bit.ly/2oEJ5VD_LostCreek)

3. **West Antelope 3 Coal Lease by Application EIS:** Antelope Mine LLC submitted an application to lease a tract of federal coal on Aug. 24, 2015, for approximately 441 million tons of in place federal coal.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI published on July 28, 2017, with the scoping period ending on September 26. Baseline Data Reports as per the PRB Data Adequacy Standards (for coal) (DAS) are being generated and reviewed by resource specialists for use in creating the draft EIS. EIS sections are being drafted as DAS reports are approved and finalized for use in the EIS.


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**Water Development Projects**

1. **Alkali Creek Reservoir Project EIS:** The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC; proponent and cooperating agency) proposed to construct a 294-acre reservoir on Alkali Creek and ancillary facilities across public and private land near Hyattville, Wyoming. The reservoir would impound approximately 7,994 acre-feet of water under normal conditions, and 9,872 acre-feet when under flood conditions. The reservoir would provide late-season irrigation water for portions of the Nowood River Watershed. The irrigation pool (currently modeled at 5,996 acre-feet) would be available either directly or through exchange for irrigation water.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI was published on Oct. 11, 2017. Public comments were received through Nov. 13, 2017.

**Contact:** Holly Elliot, Project Manager, Worland Field Office, Worland (307) 347-5193 [rebrand.ly/AlkaliCreekReservoirEIS](http://rebrand.ly/AlkaliCreekReservoirEIS)

2. **Leavitt Reservoir Expansion Project:** The WWDC has proposed to expand the existing Leavitt Reservoir near Shell, Wyoming, from a pool of 643 acre-feet to 6,404 acre-feet. As proposed, a new 1,800-foot earthen dam will result in a reservoir surface of 193 acres. The purpose of the project is to provide late season irrigation for agriculture in Shell Valley.

**NEPA Status:** The NOI published Sept. 29, 2017.

**Contact:** Chad Krause, Assistant Field Manager, Cody Field Office (307) 578-5909 [http://bit.ly/Leavitt_Reservoir_EIS_2bcgpgW](http://bit.ly/Leavitt_Reservoir_EIS_2bcgpgW)