

## Little Snake RMP Overview

**The Little Snake Draft Resource Management Plan analyzes a range of broad management options** for the BLM Little Snake Field Office in northwestern Colorado, including portions of Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco counties.

**The RMP analyzes four alternatives** covering all aspects of BLM land and mineral management within the Little Snake Field Office boundaries, including energy development, resource protection, travel management, wildlife habitat, special designations, grazing, and realty actions.

The Field Office manages **1.3 million surface acres and 1.9 million subsurface acres**.

**The Draft RMP has been released for a 90-day public comment period.** BLM will use the comments to prepare a Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is expected to be released in fall 2007.

The Draft RMP is the **result of close coordination with the public and Cooperating Agencies**, which include Moffat County, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Juniper Water Conservancy District, and City of Steamboat Springs.

The Draft RMP identifies a **preferred alternative that balances resource protection with commodity production.** Highlights of the Preferred Alternative include:

- **Incorporating adaptive management principles**, which allow BLM to use the latest information for flexible, proactive management of public lands.
- **Designating five new Special Recreation Management Areas** covering more than 60,000 acres to maintain unique recreational experiences.
- **Protecting wilderness characteristics in the more than 78,000 acres of existing Wilderness Study Areas** as well as **an additional 87,000 acres** of lands identified as having wilderness characteristics through deferring oil and gas leasing or stipulating no surface occupancy for oil and gas development.
- **Recommending three Yampa River segments**, which total 20 river miles, as suitable for inclusion in the **National Wild and Scenic River System**.
- **Providing a balanced approach to oil and gas leasing**, including more than 400,000 acres of lands closed to mineral leasing or requiring no surface occupancy.
- **Using a unitization approach to oil and gas leasing within the 77,000-acre Vermillion Basin area** that substantially limits surface disturbance
- **Reducing wildlife habitat disturbance in critical sagebrush communities** by offering incentives for oil and gas operators to leave larger blocks of habitat undisturbed

