



United States Department of the Interior



In Reply To:
1610 (070)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101-4669
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/mt>

April 2009

Dear Reader/Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce that the Butte Resource Management Plan (RMP) is complete. This document will provide management guidance for more than 307,000 acres of public land and approximately 661,000 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management in western Montana.

The attached Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved RMP were prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The document has been sent to members of the public who requested a copy and to pertinent local, state, tribal and federal government entities. The ROD links final land use plan decisions to the proposed decisions presented in the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement that was released in September 2008. Six unique protests were received. After consideration of the points raised in these protests, the BLM Director concluded that all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and pertinent resource considerations had been followed in developing the proposed plan. The protest review did not result in any significant changes to the proposed plan. Minor adjustments or points of clarification incorporated into the RMP in response to final BLM review are discussed in the ROD's *Modifications* and *Clarifications* sections.

The ROD serves as the final decision for the land use planning decisions described in the attached Approved RMP. The ROD also contains travel route designations described and mapped for the Helena Travel Planning Area (TPA), East Helena TPA, Lewis and Clark County NW TPA, Boulder/Jefferson City TPA, and Upper Big Hole River TPA. Travel route decisions for these five TPAs are implementation level decisions that are now subject to the Department of Interior's appeal regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. The appeal period will close 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability of the ROD/RMP appears in the Federal Register. This date will be announced via local news releases and on the Butte RMP website. The *Appeal Procedures for Implementation Decisions* section in the ROD provides a more detailed discussion of the appeal procedures.

Additional hard copies or CD copies of the ROD/Approved RMP may be obtained by contacting the Butte Field Office at 106 North Parkmont, Butte, MT, 59701. The document will also be available on the Butte Field Office website on the internet at: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte_field_office.html.

We appreciate your help in this planning effort and look forward to your continued participation as the plan is implemented.

Sincerely,

Gene R. Terland
State Director, Montana/Dakotas

**RECORD OF DECISION
AND
APPROVED BUTTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

April 2009

Prepared by:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office
Butte, Montana

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene R. Terland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "T".

Gene R. Terland
State Director, Montana/Dakotas

April 20, 2009

Date

ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
AML	Abandoned Mine Lands	NL	No Lease
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee	NOI	Notice of Intent
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle	NPS	National Park Service
AUM	Animal Unit Month	NSO	No Surface Occupancy Stipulation
BFO	Butte Field Office	NW	Northwest
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
BMP	Best Management Practice	PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
CCF	Hundred Cubic Feet	PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter less than 10 micrograms
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	ppm	Parts per million
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PSQ	Probable Sale Quantity
CSU	Controlled Surface Use Stipulation	R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height	RMP	Resource Management Plan
DNRC	Montana Department of Natural Resources	RMZ	Riparian Management Zone
DOE	Department of Energy	ROD	Record of Decision
EA	Environmental Assessment	ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ECMA	Elkhorns Cooperative Management Area	ROW	Right-of-way
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	SIMPPLLE	Simulating Patterns and Processes at Landscape Scales
ESA	Endangered Species Act	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
FAMS	Facility Asset Management System	SMZ	Streamside Management Zone
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	TL	Timing Limitation Stipulation
FMU	Fire Management Unit	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class	TPA	Travel Planning Area
GIS	Geographic Information System	USC	United States Code
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
IGBC	Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee	USDI	United States Department of the Interior
IM	Instructional Memorandum	USFS	United States Forest Service
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
MBF	Thousand Board Feet	VRM	Visual Resource Management
MDEQ	Montana Department of Environmental Quality	WFIP	Wildland Fire Implementation Plan
MFP	Management Framework Plan	WFU	Wildland Fire Use
MFWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
MLA	Mineral Leasing Act	WSR	Wild and Scenic River
MMBF	Million Board Feet	WUI	Wildland/Urban Interface
NA	Not Applicable		
