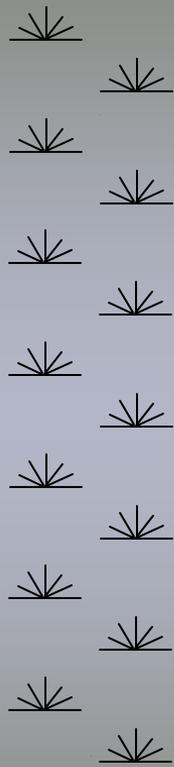




*Miles City Field Office  
Resource Management Plan Revision  
and  
Environmental Impact Statement*

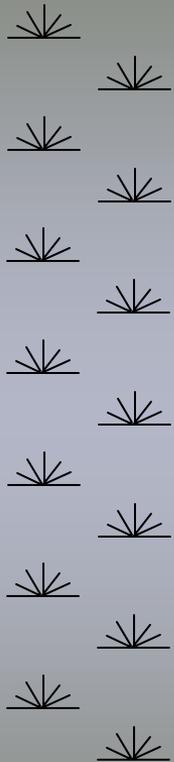


*Shared Lands ~  
Shared Plan*



# *Project Explanation*

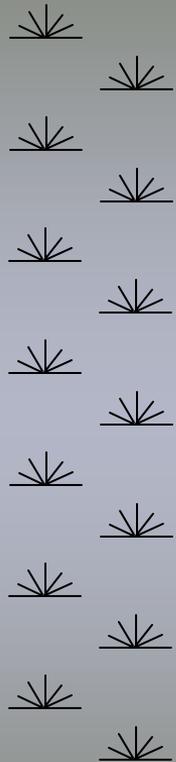
- Develop a collaborative community-based planning approach for preparing the RMP.
- Revise and combine Powder River and Big Dry Resource Management Plans (RMPs) into a single new RMP.
- Prepare associated environmental impact statement (EIS).





# *What is an RMP/EIS*

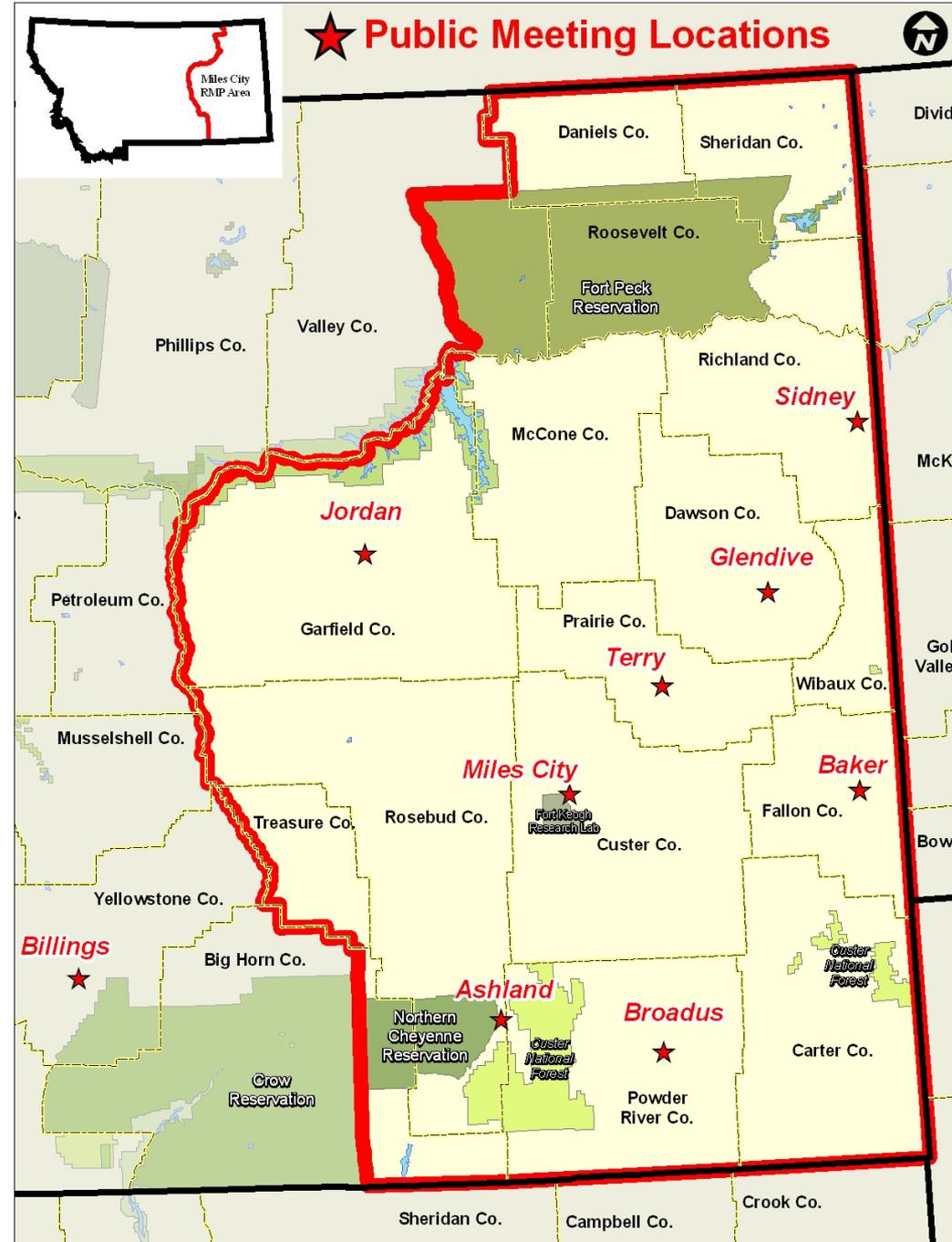
- Simply put, RMPs set out a future vision and management for the land and resources and outline the steps that will be followed to achieve that vision. The planning process involves significant public and stakeholder participation. It strives to balance opportunities for economic development with the wise stewardship and protection of our natural resources.
- An EIS analyzes the effects of proposed and alternative management.





# Planning Area

- 2,785,000 acres surface estate
- 11,725,000 acres mineral estate
- Portions of 17 counties





# *RMP/EIS Will Consider Effects of Land Use Decisions*

- Provide for multiple land uses: grazing, mineral and energy development, communication sites and utility corridors, recreation, Off-Highway Vehicles and other uses.
- Maintain and enhance cultural resources, soils, water, and wildlife habitat.





# *Preliminary Planning Issues*

Topics identified by BLM staff include:

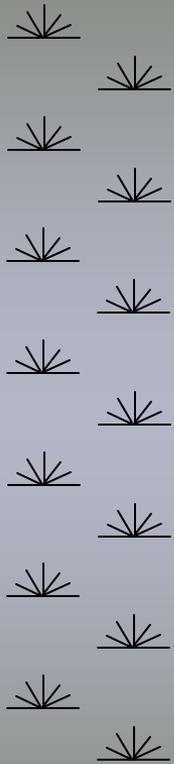
- Oil and Gas Leasing
- Management of Special Status Species
- Coal Leasing
- Recreation
- Land Tenure Adjustments and Access Needs
- Livestock Grazing
- Noxious Weed Control





# *Scoping Comments*

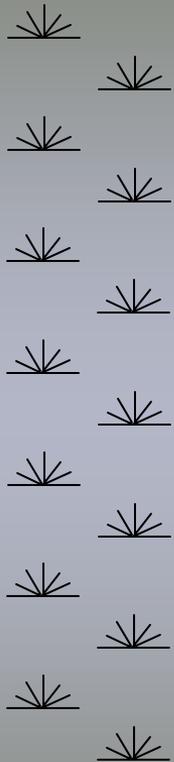
- Help identify issues and alternatives.
- Provide background data.
- Help define best uses on BLM lands.
- Help identify resource management opportunities.
- Focus on changing resource conditions and future needs.





# *Examples of Comments*

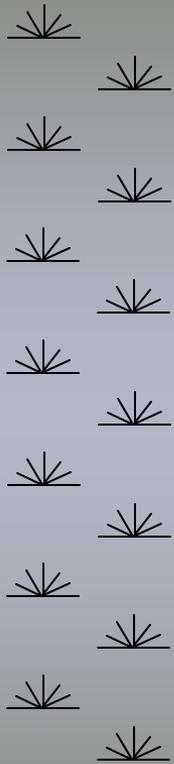
- **Livestock Grazing** – The analysis for livestock grazing should include the economic benefit to local rural communities.
- **Recreation** – To better my hunting experience, BLM should not allow camping on large blocks of federal land. The RMP should describe where camping is allowed and where it is not.





# *How to Categorize Comments*

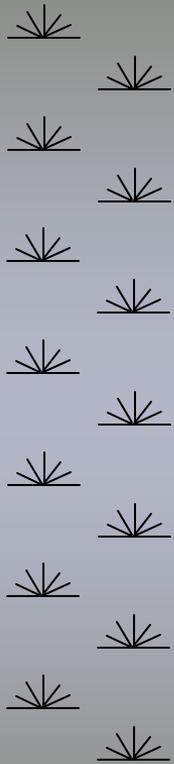
- Choose a category from the list provided on the comment form or the website submission form.
- If you prefer to combine categories, list all of them before making your comment.
- For example, if your comment is on air quality, write “Air Quality” on the line or simply select this category on the website submission form.
- You know best how you would like your comments categorized.





# *Comment Process*

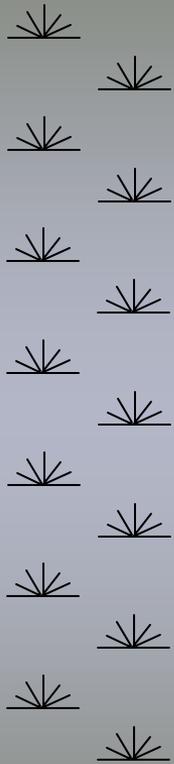
- Each comment submitted during the comment period is reviewed by the resource topic specialist.
- Like comments are grouped together and summarized.
- Summarized comments are addressed in the scoping report and assigned one of three responses:
  - (1) Already addressed and resolved by current policy;
  - (2) Issues not to be addressed because they are beyond the scope of the RMP; and
  - (3) Issues to be addressed in the RMP as viable issues needing resolution.





# *Planning Criteria*

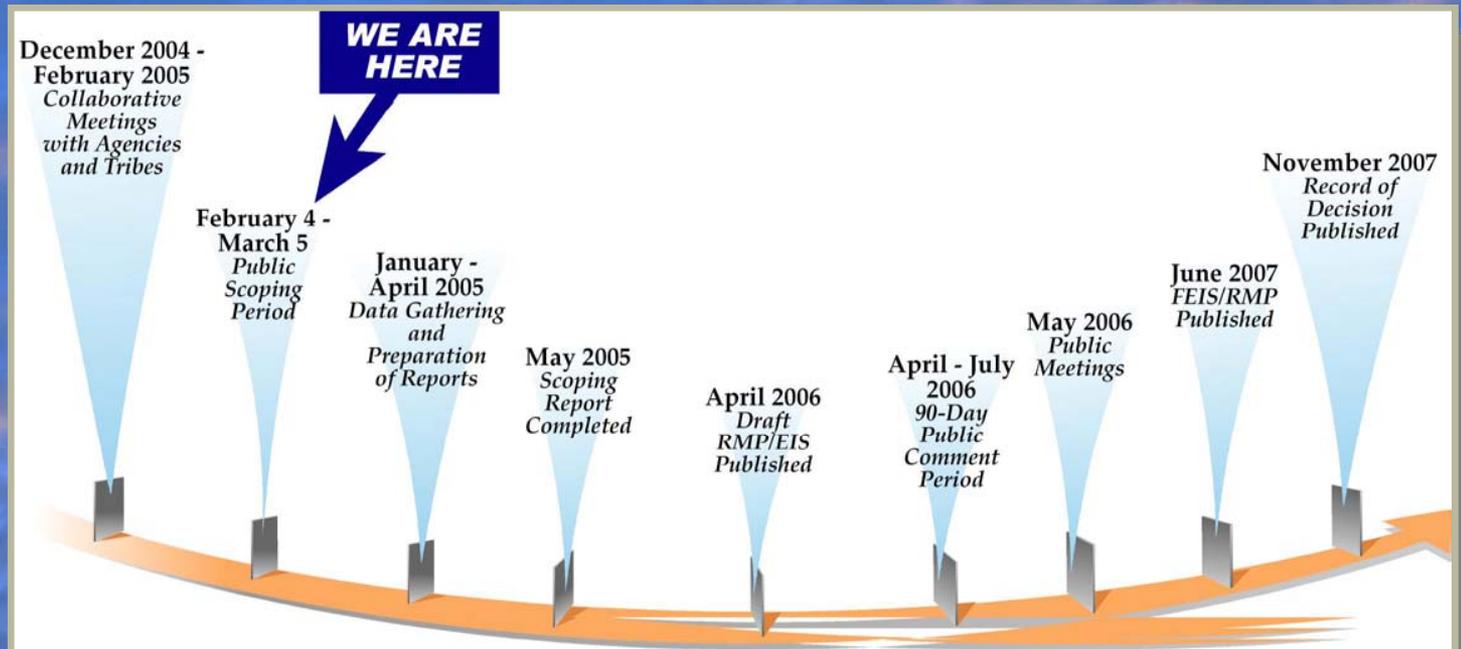
- Guide and direct the plan.
- Determine how the planning team and collaborators will approach the development of alternatives and ultimately select the preferred alternative.
- Ensure plans are tailored to the identified issues and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided.





# RMP Process and Schedule

## ■ February 4 to March 5, 2005



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# *Miles City Field Office RMP Revision*

## *Public Scoping Meetings*

Feb 22 – Baker

Mar 01 – Sidney

Feb 23 – Ashland

Mar 01 - Glendive

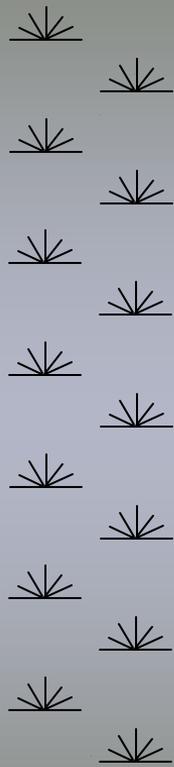
Feb 23 – Broadus

Mar 02 – Billings

Feb 24 – Terry

Mar 03 – Miles City

Feb 28 - Jordan



**Written comments received until  
March 5, 2005**

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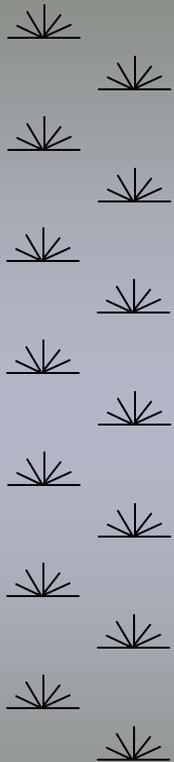


# *Project Website*

- To access project updates
- To submit scoping comments
- To obtain RMP/EIS electronically

go to

<http://www.milescityrmp.com>



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