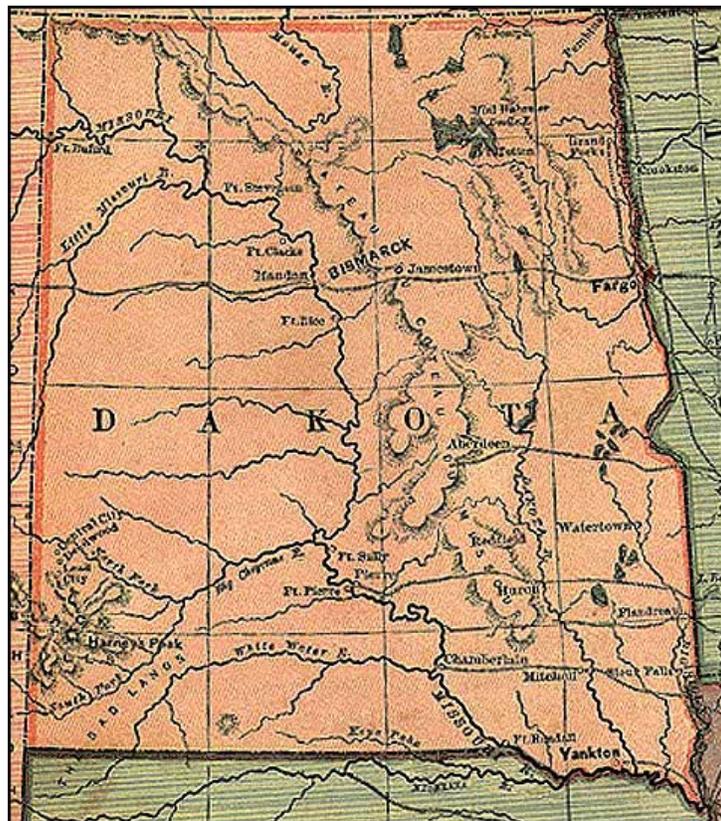


# PREPARATION PLAN

---

## NORTH DAKOTA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS



Prepared by  
North Dakota Field Office  
South Dakota Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management

January 8, 2007



**PREPARATION PLAN**

---

**NORTH DAKOTA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**

**RECOMMENDED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lonny R. Bagley, Field Manager, North Dakota Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marian Atkins, Field Manager, South Dakota Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Terland, State Director, Montana

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND .....	1
B.	PURPOSE AND NEED .....	9
C.	ANTICIPATED PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS .....	12
D.	PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA.....	28
E.	DATA AND GIS NEEDS.....	30
F.	PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS/COLLABORATION.....	34
G.	FORMAT AND PROCESS FOR THE PLAN .....	45
H.	PLAN PREPARATION SCHEDULE.....	46
I.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN .....	46
J.	BUDGET.....	48



## **A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The North Dakota Field Office (NDFO) and the South Dakota Field Office (SDFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will prepare separate Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for North Dakota and South Dakota. Within these planning documents the BLM will analyze the effects of the proposed management decisions (Environmental Impact Statements or EISs). While these field offices share in common zoned staff, stakeholders (e.g. tribal governments), and many common issues and management concerns, each office is independently managed for public lands and minerals within its state of origin and has its own unique issues, stakeholders (i.e. governors, citizens, etc.), and existing management decisions. This preparation plan takes in account that two separate RMP-EIS documents will be developed concurrently by optimizing the use of common staff, stakeholders, and planning information while providing for the unique issues and management concerns that develop within each state. The plans are to be titled the North Dakota Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and the South Dakota Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (ND RMP-EIS and SD RMP-EIS). Unless specified, this preparation plan applies to both RMP-EISs concurrently.

The land area to be covered under the ND RMP-EIS is approximately 58,500 acres of BLM administered public land located primarily in Bowman and Dunn Counties, North Dakota and the approximately 4.1 million acres of federal minerals under BLM public lands and privately or state owned or federally managed surface within North Dakota. The bulk of this mineral acreage is federal coal reserve only. Additional acres are federal oil and gas reserves only; and the remaining acres are made up of all minerals, coal and oil and gas only, and other combinations. The focus of the NDFO has been mineral management on split estate lands (fee surface/federal minerals).

Land resources covered under the ND RMP-EIS are currently managed under the following decisions: the 1988 North Dakota Resource Management Plan and EIS as amended in the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and Portions of South Dakota; the Fire/Fuels Management Plan Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas; Coal Lease North Dakota RMP/Amendment; Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States; and the Big Horn Sheep North Dakota RMP EA/Amendment (Table 1). Of importance in reviewing planning within the NDFO is also the Final Activity Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Schnell Ranch Recreation Area.

The land area to be covered under the SD RMP-EIS is approximately 278,000 acres of BLM administered public land located in the western part of the state in Brule, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, and Stanley counties, South Dakota. There are also approximately 1.6 million acres of federal minerals under BLM public lands and privately or state owned or federally managed surface within South Dakota which are managed by the SDFO. The majority of these acres are all minerals with approximately 155,000 acres of federal coal reserve only. Additional acres are federal oil and gas reserves only. The focus of the SDFO is range management, recreation and cultural preservation within the Fort Meade Recreation Area (6,693 acres), and fuels management with in

the 22,500 acre Exemption Area (5,100 acres in 100 parcels of public land managed by BLM within the area) which surrounds the cities of Deadwood and Lead, South Dakota.

Currently, land resources covered under the SD RMP-EIS are managed under the following decisions: the 1985 South Dakota Resource Management Plan as amended in the Miles City Oil and Gas RMP-EIS; Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Environmental Assessment and Proposed Amendment of the Billings, Powder River and South Dakota Resource Management Plans; Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States; Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC; Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and Portions of South Dakota; and the Fire/Fuels Management Plan Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas. Other important documents that reflect decision making within the SDFO include the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC Management Plan; the Exemption Area Wildland-Urban Interface Project; and the 1992 Rangeland Program Summary (Table 2).

**Table 1**  
**North Dakota RMP and RMP Amendments**

Document Title	Year
Coal Lease North Dakota RMP EA/Amendment	10/1990
Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States	05/1991
Big Horn Sheep North Dakota RMP EA/Amendment	07/1991
Final Activity Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Schnell Ranch Recreation Area	
EA	03/1994
DR	02/1996
North Dakota RMP and EIS	
Final EIS	07/1987
ROD	04/1988
Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (national amendment)	
Final EIS	5/1997
ROD	8/1997
Off-Highway Vehicle (State-wide amendment)	
Final EIS	1/2001
ROD	6/2003
Fire/Fuels Management Plan (State-wide amendment)	
EA	7/2003
DR	9/2003

**Table 2**  
**South Dakota RMP and RMP Amendments**

Document Title	Year
South Dakota RMP Final EIS ROD	11/1985 05/1986
Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States	05/1991
Oil and Gas RMP / EIS Amendment Miles City District Final EIS ROD	12/1992 02/1994
Rangeland Program Summary South Dakota Resource Area	1992
Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (national amendment) Final EIS ROD	05/1997 08/1997
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Environmental Assessment and Proposed Amendment of the Billings, Powder River and South Dakota Resource Management Plans Final EA DR	08/1998 03/1999
Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC EA DR	08/1996 09/1996
Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC Management Plan	1996
Off-Highway Vehicle (State-wide amendment) Final EIS ROD	01/2001 6/2003
Exemption Area Wildland-Urban Interface Project EA DR	05/2003
Fire/Fuels Management Plan (State-wide amendment) EA DR	07/2003 09/2003

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Management issues and concerns in the planning areas cover nearly all resource programs and aspects of public land management. The RMPs will incorporate management decisions from the existing RMPs and amendments if those decisions remain appropriate, and will provide up-dated decisions for the balance of the issues into the proposed RMPs. The field offices will prepare EISs analyzing the effects of the proposed management decisions.

The proposed RMP-EISs will be completed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Bureau planning regulations (43 CFR 1601-1610) and the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500). This process will provide for implementation of the National Fire Plan, Standards for Rangeland Health, and the Administration's policy on energy development, EPCA and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The field offices will use a collaborative approach to planning for the RMPs. All interested parties will have opportunities for input into the development of the RMP-EISs. The RMPs will be prepared in close consultation and collaboration with appropriate federal, state, tribal, county, and local governments and agencies.

## **3. PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION**

The North Dakota and South Dakota RMPs are for all public lands and federal minerals managed by the BLM, including Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service Lands and the Corps of Engineers (Appendix 1). The RMP does not cover Forest Service-administered lands. BLM public lands in North Dakota (58,483 acres) constitute less than one-tenth of a percent of the total land within the state. In South Dakota BLM public lands (277,746 acres) comprise about 1% of the lands in the state. Other major federal land systems in North Dakota include the Little Missouri and Sheyenne National Grasslands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Cedar River National Grasslands, U.S. Corps of Engineers lands along the Missouri River, and National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas. In South Dakota the National Park Service manages the Badlands National Park, Jewel Cave Monument, Wind Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore. Also in South Dakota, the U.S. Forest Service manages the Black Hills National Forest, Custer National Forest, and the Buffalo Gap, Fort Pierre, and Grand River National Grasslands.

North Dakota is bordered on the north by the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba; on the west by Montana; on the south by South Dakota; and on the east by Minnesota. The Missouri River flows through the western part of the state, forming Lake Sakakawea behind the Garrison Dam.

From east to west, North Dakota is divided into three main geographic regions (Appendix 7). In the east is the Red River Valley. To the west of the Red River Valley is the Drift Prairie with the Turtle Mountains. The southwestern half of North Dakota is covered by the Great Plains including the Missouri Coteau, Missouri Slope, and Badlands. The Red River Valley is flat and lies along the border of Minnesota. To the west of the Red River Valley is the Drift Prairie, rising from 200 to 2,000 feet above the river valley. The Drift Prairie is separated from the Red River Valley in the north by the Pembina Hills. The Drift Prairie is marked by rolling hills,

stream valleys, and numerous lakes where thousands of ducks nest every year. In the north are the Turtle Mountains. About half of North Dakota is covered by the Great Plains. The Great Plains, in the southwestern section of the state, rise about 300 to 400 feet above the Drift Prairie east of the Missouri River. The area is hilly and rich in mineral deposits. Along the Missouri River, the land is lower. This area is called the Missouri Breaks. To the east of the river is rolling and irregular terrain of the Missouri Coteau. To the south and west of the river is an area of rugged valleys and buttes called the Missouri Slope. The Badlands lie in southwestern North Dakota. This strip stretches approximately 190 miles north to south and is about 6 to 20 miles wide. The Badlands are a valley of stone and clay where wind and water have shaped the land into formations; buttes, pyramids, domes, and cones colored in shades of browns, reds, grays, and yellows. In some areas of the Badlands the rocks contain lignite coal that has been burning for many years.

The 58,483 acres of BLM administered public lands located in North Dakota are primarily in the western counties of Dunn and Bowman. Most of the public lands in these two counties are situated in two major blocks. In Dunn county approximately 15,000 acres make up the Lost Bridge area and in Bowman County about 22,000 acres are situated in the Big Gumbo area. The remaining public lands are situated in small isolated tracts scattered throughout the state. There are approximately 5.8 million acres of federally managed minerals in North Dakota. Federal minerals (approximately 1 million acres) are located under surface lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. These agencies are responsible for their own land use plans and are not within the purview of the proposed planning document. The other 4.1 million acres of federal minerals are located under privately owned surface. These minerals are managed by the NDFO and are within the purview of the ND RMP-EIS.

South Dakota is bordered to the north by North Dakota; to the south by Nebraska; to the east by Iowa and Minnesota and to the west by Wyoming and Montana. The Missouri River runs through the central part of the state. To the east of the river lay low hills and lakes formed by glaciers. To the west of the river the land consists of deep canyons and rolling plains.

South Dakota is comprised of four major land regions: the Drift Prairie, the Dissected Till Plains, the Great Plains, and the Black Hills (Appendix 7). The Drift Prairie covers most of eastern South Dakota and the Dissected Till Plains lie in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. Both are outside of the planning area. The Great Plains cover most of the western two-thirds of South Dakota. The Coteau de Missouri hills and valleys lie between the James River Basin of the Drift Prairie and the Missouri River. West of the Missouri River the landscape becomes more rugged and consists of rolling hills, plains, canyons, and steep flat-topped buttes. In the south, east of the Black Hills, lay the South Dakota Badlands. The Black Hills are in the southwestern part of South Dakota and extend into Wyoming. This range of low mountains covers 6,000 square miles with mountains that rise from 2,000 to 4,000 feet high. The Black Hills are rich in minerals such as gold. The recently closed Homestake Mine, one of the largest gold mines in the United States, is located in the Black Hills.

The South Dakota Field Office manages 277,747 surface acres within South Dakota. Most of the public lands are located in the western half of the state in the counties of Brule, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, and Stanley counties. The Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC (6,693 acres) and the Fossils Cycad Area (320 acres) are within these lands. There are approximately 1.6 million acres of federal minerals in

South Dakota managed by the SDFO and are under the direction of the SD RMP-EIS. Other federal minerals are located under surface lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. These agencies are responsible for their own land use plans and are not within the purview of the proposed planning document.

There are twelve Indian reservations located within the Dakotas. These include peoples of Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota Sioux; Arikara, Hidatsa, Mandan; Chippewa and Metis dissent. North Dakota Reservations include: Standing Rock (also within South Dakota), Turtle Mountain, Spirit Lake, and Fort Berthold. South Dakota Reservations include: Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Sisseton-Wahpeton, Yankton, and Flandreau Santee.

Table 3 below summarizes the administration of the planning area by the two BLM field offices.

**Table 3**  
**Planning Area by BLM Field Office/Station Responsibility**

FIELD OFFICE	COUNTY	BLM-managed Lands and Minerals (~ACRES)	
		SURFACE	SUBSURFACE MINERAL
NDFO	Adams, ND	40.00	107,776.87
	Barnes, ND	4.56	0
	Benson, ND	0	5,046.47
	Billings, ND	0	50,622.60
	Bottineau, ND	0.05	6,335.20
	Bowman, ND	33,099.77	245,793.12
	Burke, ND	0	82,262.08
	Burleigh, ND	141.36	38,895.05
	Cavalier, ND	160.00	0
	Divide, ND	120.00	282,368.68
	Dunn, ND	15,286.85	426,354.79
	Eddy, ND	0	573.60
	Emmons, ND	2.49	13,492.84
	Foster, ND	0	640.00
	Golden Valley, ND	2,360.86	179,249.27
	Grant, ND	543.75	97,613.90
	Hettinger, ND	0	237,793.79
	Kidder, ND	70.77	10,554.40
	Logan, ND	0	7,401.02
	McHenry, ND	921.94	21,353.05
	McIntosh, ND	0	4,355.00
	McKenzie, ND	875.54	544,178.36
	McLean, ND	44.40	123,765.45
	Mercer, ND	459.01	174,090.22
	Morton, ND	124.57	73,184.55
	Mountrail, ND	622.67	297,860.18
	Oliver, ND	38.00	94,391.31
	Pierce, ND	121.77	3,562.51
	Ransom, ND	0	320.00
	Renville, ND	78.31	15,465.86
	Rolette, ND	0	3,143.47
	Sheridan, ND	192.50	55,180.90
	Slope, ND	0	99,734.19
	Stark, ND	1,992.63	160,815.14
	Stutsman, ND	0	10,430.67
	Towner, ND	0	3,539.88
	Walsh, ND	20.50	10.94
	Ward, ND	169.10	113,279.40
	Wells, ND	0	11,377.76
	Williams, ND	991.30	488,350.84
	-----	-----	-----
	ND TOTALS	<b>58,482.70</b>	4,083,836.36
	<i>South Dakota Counties</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Subsurface</i>
SDFO	Bon Homme, SD	56	57.77
	Brule, SD	521	986.14
	Butte, SD	145,791	534,626.08
	Campbell, SD	199	2,120.68

	Charles Mix, SD	122	246.41
	Clay, SD	11	10.55
	Custer, SD	3,648	76,586.30
	Edmunds, SD	0	944.88
	Fall River, SD	7,334	68,280.93
	Faulk, SD	0	960.00
	Gregory, SD	172	2,093.39
	Haakon, SD	2,468.64	48,170.40
	Hand, SD	0	361.60
	Harding, SD	29,880	378,593.52
	Hughes, SD	2	867.90
	Hyde, SD	0	1,605.28
	Jackson, SD	240	3,904.50
	Jones, SD	3	1,882.39
	Lawrence, SD	5,147.62	6,722.82
	Lyman, SD	80	2,287.15
	Marshall, SD	20	0.00
	McPherson, SD	0	200.00
	Meade, SD	39,844.58	243,526.37
	Pennington, SD	16,468.48	81,850.44
	Perkins, SD	8,135	83,932.12
	Potter, SD	0	840.00
	Stanley, SD	16,824	102,234.57
	Sully, SD	58	1,553.62
	Tripp, SD	160	1,758.58
	Walworth, SD	0	1,643.40
	Yankton, SD	359	359.44
	Ziebach, SD	202	0.00
	-----	-----	-----
	SD TOTALS	277,746.32	1,649,207.23
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>336,229.02</b>	<b>5,733,043.59</b>

The BLM manages a variety of public land parcels in the two states and many of these parcels are widely scattered and often pose multiple resource management challenges. Lands managed by the BLM in the Dakotas including public domain (lands which have never left federal ownership), acquired lands and/or mineral interests (lands which left federal ownership and were later purchased under the Bankhead-Jones Act, exchanged for or purchased) and federal mineral estate (subsurface) lands beneath private or state lands or lands administered by other federal agencies as mentioned above. The RMPs will not make decisions for the surface or mineral estates of private or state-owned lands and minerals. The RMP, however, will provide stipulations for split estate situations involving federal oil and gas overlain by private or state-owned surface.

## **B. PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **1. PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose for an RMP is to establish guidance, objectives, policies and adaptive management actions. The proposed RMPs will be comprehensive in nature and will discuss the current management situation, desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, and management actions necessary to achieve objectives. The RMPs will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act

(FLPMA), and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Following the completion of the RMP process, implementation and monitoring plans will be developed.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, BLM is committed to implementing long-term strategies to produce traditional sources of energy on federal land in an environmentally responsible way, to increase renewable energy production on federal land, and to involve all interested persons in a careful and open process to meet the Nation's needs while protecting sensitive resources for future generations. The significant amount of oil and gas and coal leasing, exploration and development throughout the Dakotas is one of the forces driving a comprehensive revision of the RMPs. The BLM is involved in managing 1,800 oil and gas leases across the planning area; this has created a pressing need for new inventories and revised data to design appropriate lease stipulations. A substantial increase in new home construction and recreation use within the Exemption Area of South Dakota has increased pressure on the BLM to address land pattern, wildland urban interface fire dangers, visual resource management issues, and right-of-way issuance in South Dakota. Also, in recent years, special status species and associated wildlife species have assumed greater roles in BLM land use planning. The role of consultation with the public and in particular American Indian tribes has changed considerably over the last twenty years since the first Dakotas' RMPs were issued. The BLM's decision to begin a new planning effort for the public lands in the Dakotas' resource areas is based clearly on public and agency need for revised management guidance to address changing issues. Tables 1 and 2 list the existing management decisions and those that have been amended to reflect evolving decision making as new situations arise over time.

New planning efforts are needed due to public and agency need for revised management guidance to address the above issues. The South Dakota fifteen year Resource Management Plan Evaluation completed in November of 2001 indicated that the South Dakota RMP needed revision. Similarly, the North Dakota thirteen year Resource Management Plan Evaluation completed in February of 2002 indicated that the North Dakota RMP needed revision (see Past Land Use Plan Evaluations).

The EISs developed with the RMPs will include analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of all proposed management actions in the two RMPs. Future site-specific NEPA documents will be tiered to the RMP-EISs, eliminating repetitive discussions of issues.

## **2. PREPARATION PLAN**

The Preparation Plan defines work that must be completed for this effort and provides a general blueprint for development of RMP-EISs. It is intended that the Preparation Plan be flexible since new issues and resource management considerations will be identified during the EIS process. The preparation plan is prepared in accordance with Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-038, *Development/Approval of Preparation Plans for New Planning Starts* and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1.

The purpose of this Preparation Plan is to:

1. Identify anticipated planning issues and management concerns;
2. Identify preliminary planning criteria and outstanding questions that must be addressed to

support management decisions;

3. Identify a standard document format (documents, maps, tables, figures, photographs, etc.) for the internal and external presentation of the process, information, and decisions, including presentation on the internet;

4. Identify information or data needed to resolve or address identified issues, management concerns, planning criteria and outstanding questions to perform the requisite analyses;

5. Identify available data, metadata and data collection/format standards employed, and provide an explanation of how the data support the plan itself, and how the data address the planning requirements and address anticipated issues or outstanding questions;

6. Identify any known or anticipated data gaps and provide an explanation of why the data are needed to support the plan itself, how the data support the planning requirements and how the data address anticipated issues or outstanding questions;

7. Establish a data inventory and collection activity plan that is coordinated with other agencies, which includes data standards, work-month costs, staffing and skill requirements, and estimated time-frames needed to establish an integrated, automated geospatial database for filling in data gaps;

8. Establish a communication process for direct communication with the public and to ensure greater public involvement in the planning process and to ensure wide distribution of relevant information;

9. Establish a work plan which identifies the staffing and technology needs to support public involvement and communication through use of the internet; and

10. Identify the analytical process required to answer or address outstanding questions, issues or concerns.

11. Form a basis for statements of work for contracted work.

12. Help identify potential cooperators and interested publics.

13. Help identify needed work-month costs, staffing, and operational dollars to complete the land use planning process and issue a Record of Decision.

### **3. DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

Land Use Plan decisions are broad-scale decisions that will guide future management actions within the SDFO and NDFO RMP planning areas. Land use plan decisions for the RMPs will apply to natural, biological, and cultural resources. The land use planning process will integrate social science information which can include the economic, political, cultural, and social structure of communities, regions, and the Nation as a whole. Decisions will address resource uses and possible special designations, if identified during the land use planning process.

This Preparation Plan addresses planning actions in order to achieve the decision requirements outlined in Appendix C, Program-Specific and Resource-Specific Decision Guidance of the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 and achieve adaptive management.

The planning process and the resultant RMP will identify land use planning allocation decisions as well as implementation decisions. While most will be allocation decisions, implementation decisions such as travel management are equally as important.

The planning process will recognize ongoing programs, plans, and policies that are being implemented in the planning area by other land managers and interested governments. BLM will seek to be consistent with or complimentary to other management plans. Whenever possible, existing valid resource decisions and management prescriptions would be carried forward into the planning process.

#### **4. PAST LAND USE PLAN EVALUATIONS**

Five and fifteen year monitoring and evaluation reports have been completed on the South Dakota RMP since the RMP Record of Decision in 1986. The fifteen year evaluation indicated a plan revision was needed. The rationale for this included the following:

1. The current RMP was completed in 1986, making the plan more than 15 years old. When initiated, RMPs were considered to be 10-15 year plans and revisions would probably be required at the end of that period.
2. Much of the data used to develop the plan are outdated and new inventories have been completed or are needed to address current issues.
3. New species have become candidates or have been listed as Threatened and Endangered species and updates and new consultation should be initiated.
4. Other issues have been identified since completion of the RMP that have not been addressed.

The 1988 North Dakota RMP had monitoring and evaluation reports completed at five and thirteen intervals. As in the South Dakota RMP, the last report indicated the need for plan revision. General evaluation points were exactly the same as those listed above for the South Dakota RMP.

Specific recommendations of the evaluations from the four reports are incorporated into this document and will be of value as we continue the planning process.

#### **C. ANTICIPATED PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

A **planning issue** is identified as a *matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose*. **Management Concerns** are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is

generally more important to an individual or a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue, which has more widespread point of conflict. However, certain resource values (e.g., cultural resources) will still play pivotal roles in developing alternatives and reaching decisions regarding the major issues.

The issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary and based on the best information known to date. Preparation of these RMPs will afford many opportunities for collaboration with local, state, federal and tribal governments as well as land management agencies, public interest groups, and public land users. As a result, these issues and concerns may need to be modified and perfected to reflect public comments and concerns raised during formal scoping.

BLM staff, individuals, and user groups have identified preliminary issues, which reflect conflicts and/or deficiencies with the existing RMP. Some of these preliminary issues are included in the Notice of Intent that will be published in the Federal Register, announcing initiation of the planning and EIS scoping process. It is expected that additional issues will be identified during scoping.

The field offices will prepare scoping reports identifying issues and concerns from the public after implementation of the land use planning process. Addressing management concerns in the RMP-EISs helps ensure a comprehensive examination of BLM's land use management.

After public scoping, known issues, along with any additional issues raised by the public, will be placed in one of three categories:

- Issues to be Resolved in the plan;
- Issues Resolved through Policy or Administrative Action; or
- Issues Beyond the Scope of the Plan.

## Preliminary Planning Issues

### **Issue 1: Energy Development – (fluid minerals – oil and gas; solid minerals – coal; alternative - wind).**

*Goal: Manage energy development to provide for domestic energy production while protecting the integrity of other resources. The 1998 ROD for ND finding of 573,868 acres acceptable for coal leasing will be brought forward.*

The Dakotas are an important source of federal oil and gas and lignite coal. As of September of 2006, North Dakota had 603 federal oil and gas producing leases issued in effect and South Dakota had 74. These cover approximately 357,899 acres in the two states; 323,452 acres in North Dakota and 34,447 in South Dakota. In addition North Dakota has 1,040 non-producing leases covering approximately 539,935 acres and South Dakota has 81 non producing leases on some 100,733 acres.. While no federal coal is currently being mined in South Dakota, in North Dakota there are 6 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 3,054 acres. BLM has just leased

an additional 5,334 acres of federal coal within the Freedom Mine, West Mine Area in Mercer County, North Dakota.

The RMP will help promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy and will include the land use decisions identified in BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C, pages 23 and 24. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Areas open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms.
- Areas open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints.
- Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints.
- Areas closed to leasing.

Lands open to leasing, exploration, and development will have necessary constraints and/or appropriate terms and conditions developed in the RMPs to protect other resource values. Infrastructure associated with development will also be analyzed. New policies and guidelines concerning exploration, leasing, and development will be incorporated into the plan.

During preparation of these RMPs, data from the ongoing EPCA evaluation that addresses the Williston Basin will be used as they become available. This planning area includes parts of the Williston Basin Provinces that were included in the 1995 National Assessment. In addition, assessment data prepared by the BLM will also be used during development of this RMP. This and other information will be used in preparation of a reasonably foreseeable development scenario for the planning area. The RMP will also be used to develop lease stipulations (specifically for greater sage-grouse, prairie dogs, migratory birds, big game, erosive soils, sensitive landscapes, riparian/wetlands, air quality, invasive species, and cultural resources) in the standard format to ensure other resource values are protected and will also develop criteria for lease stipulation waivers, modifications and exceptions. Consultation will occur during the RNP process resulting in final decisions in the RMP and Record of Decision regarding leasing and appropriate stipulations providing for protection of culturally significant properties in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, executive orders, etc.

Coal beds of economic interest in North Dakota are within the Fort Union Formation of Paleocene age. The coal is ranked as lignite with a heating value ranging from 5,000 to 7,500 BTUs. The 1988 North Dakota RMP studied 24 areas for coal screening. These were located in the western one-third of the state containing 1,846,614 acres of non-federal coal and 1,009,648 acres of federal coal. The areas represented locations that had development potential based on seam thickness, depth of seam, and stripping ratios, and a minimum 5,000 BTU/lb as received heating value. The 24 study areas were estimated to have 44.2 billion tons of coal. The Record of Decision for the 1988 RMP found 573,868 acres (10,591 MM tons) of federal coal acceptable for further consideration for leasing. These acres had been processed through four broad screens: coal development potential; unsuitability criteria; multiple-use tradeoffs; and surface owner opposition. Of the selected acres 193,923 acres would be acceptable with special stipulations for the protection of vegetation, buried-valley aquifers, and cultural resource concerns. Fifteen of the study areas contained federal coal of sufficient tonnage to support new mine and facility after the application of all coal screens.

The 1988 North Dakota RMP's Record of Decision finding of 573,868 acres of federal coal acceptable for further consideration for leasing will be carried forward in the ND RMP-EIS. A market analysis will be contracted to forecast reasonable and further development for North Dakota Coal, determine if the 1988 planning remains adequate, and if surface owner opposition has changed. GIS layers will be updated/developed for unsuitability and multiple use tradeoff data requirements used in the 1988 RMP.

The RMPs will also determine what locations in the planning areas will be open or closed to the alternative wind energy development. Lands open to wind energy leasing and development will have necessary mitigation and/or appropriate terms and conditions developed in the RMPs to protect other resource values.

## **Issue 2: Vegetation Management.**

*Goal: Manage public lands to provide desired plant communities that support the integrity of the ecological processes (water cycle, energy cycle, and nutrient cycle) provided by the vegetative community within rangeland and forest.*

This issue highlights concerns over management of particular vegetative resources and communities. Management constraints resulting from the RMP will reflect appropriate levels of protection for public land values in relation to uses of vegetative resources.

The upland vegetation includes many associated ecological sites and plant communities. Vegetation across the planning areas is characteristic of northern mixed-grass prairie grasslands. Under climax conditions, cool-season mid grasses dominate the plant community but a diverse composition of forbs and shrubs can also be found. Precipitation is characteristic of a plains climate wherein a majority of precipitation is received in the late spring and summer with a moderate to light amount in the fall. Although, changing winter snow depth greatly affects the growth of spring forage.

Major grasses include western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), needleandthread (*Hesperostipa comata*), green needlegrass (*Nassella viridula*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), various bluegrasses (*Poa spp.*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). The shrub and shrub-like components include silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), saltbush (*Atriplex L.*) and black greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). Other commonly found species of shrubs include fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus spp.*), and Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*).

Vegetative communities can be altered and affected by fire, invasive species, herbivory (livestock and wildlife), natural disasters (i.e. floods and drought), or human associated disturbances. All factors mentioned that may affect upland vegetation will be addressed in the RMP.

Northern mixed-grass, native prairie habitats will play a role in forming alternatives in the RMP. Special attention will be given to greater sage-grouse conservation, as well as to other sagebrush and grassland dependant species (see the Management Plan and Conservation strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse in North Dakota and South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and the North Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan). Changes in native

prairie habitat due to fragmentation, livestock grazing, and fire suppression will also be addressed.

Riparian plant communities, including herbaceous, shrub, and tree dominated systems, make up less than 5 percent of the total landscape in the planning area. Riparian vegetation and its ability to stabilize stream banks is critical to the proper functioning of prairie type riparian systems. Stream bank vegetation and channel dynamics (sinuosity and width/depth ratio) are two means by which prairie streams dissipate energy. If the riparian vegetation is in poor condition, streams lose the ability to dissipate energy from high flow events and are less resistant to other impacts, including livestock grazing, recreation, forest treatment, etc. Poor riparian vegetative conditions can result from current or historic livestock grazing, drought, competition of other plants, such as the encroachment of noxious weeds, and many other factors. The RMP will concentrate on BLM guidance for managing riparian areas to maintain or improve conditions. Vegetative characteristics of proper functioning riparian areas will be considered in the RMP and prescriptions may be developed in concert with Bureau-wide guidance and in relation to watershed priorities. Other tree and shrub dominated systems such as woody draws and springs that aren't classified as riparian vegetation will be managed as a unique vegetative community with wildlife habitat values, particularly for neotropical migratory birds. The Dakotas aquatic baseline data for aquatic resources is non-existent, except for the larger rivers and man-made reservoirs.

Proper management of riparian systems is a key role of the BLM. The Clean Water Act and the BLM Standards for Rangeland Health require inventory and monitoring of riparian areas, wetlands, streams and rivers on public land. Identification and correction of problems that are adversely affecting the functioning of these systems is required during land use planning.

A Field collection contract of riparian data would allow description of the current condition of these systems throughout the RMP planning areas. The data would also provide insight into causative factors that are contributing to the decline of riparian systems and allow the best course of action to address problem areas to be determined. For miles of inventory needs see Appendix 6.

Forest ecosystem health will be emphasized in management decisions regarding forest resources. For public lands that are immediately adjacent to a Community at Risk, as identified in the January 4, 2001 Federal Register Notice, and those communities identified within Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), the primary forest health goal may be fuels reduction. Areas available for treatments will be identified in accordance with planning guidance. Treatment strategies and appropriate stipulations would be developed based on objectives and protection of other resource values or administrative considerations. Administrative consideration may emphasize biomass utilization.

Areas of noxious weed infestation and invasive plants are being mapped and will be used in development of the RMP. This information will be reviewed during development of alternatives to determine if particular management constraints or allocations are necessary to prevent additional infestations. The RMP will incorporate policies and strategies detailed in the "Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States EIS", 1991, "Guidelines For the Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds, South Dakota", 1992, the "South Dakota Resource Area Noxious Weed Management Plan", 1997, and the Guidelines for Coordinated

Management of Noxious Weeds: Development of Weed Management Areas 2002, regarding weed control and eradication. The RMP will also address additional practices or stipulations to be applied to all resource activities and uses, such as the use of certified weed free seed mixtures, feeds, and mulches for reclamation and restoration practices. The incorporation of the use of weed-free forage and the emphasis of restoration of disturbed areas, including specific seed mixes, will be included in all alternatives.

The upland and riparian vegetative communities provide an array of habitats for wildlife species. The RMP may target the manipulation of areas through grazing, mechanical options, fire, etc., to develop wildlife habitat. Concentration will be on ecoregion management to manage a multitude of wildlife species on Bureau lands (see the Wildlife Management Issue).

In August 1997, the BLM issued a ROD for the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Within the ROD, five specific standards were incorporated into the process for evaluating rangeland health. These standards include upland health, riparian health, water quality, air quality and habitat (biodiversity). The ROD relating to rangeland health and the subsequent standards will be incorporated into the RMP.

### **Issue 3: Wildlife Management**

*Goal: Manage public lands to conserve wildlife species, maintain or improve their habitats and control invasive species.*

The RMP will identify the range (current and potential) of wildlife habitat as well as habitat conditions in the planning area. Information on species occurrences and important seasonal habitats for selected species will also be documented. This information will provide the foundation on how wildlife habitat in the planning area should be managed. Instead of the single-species method to wildlife management, the RMP will focus on a multi-species, ecosystem approach. Wildlife goals of the RMP could include: protecting habitat for viable populations of all native species in the planning area, managing habitat at scales large enough to accommodate natural disturbances such as fire, wind and insects, providing diversity of vegetative communities, and managing human uses in a manner that does not adversely affect that natural ecological processes. The RMP will also identify those areas where restoration activities could restore or enhance terrestrial habitat.

A number of planning efforts have been completed for wildlife in the planning area such as the North and South Dakota's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in North Dakota, and various threatened and endangered species recovery plans. Management actions from these plans will be considered in the RMP. BLM will work closely with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks regarding wildlife issues in the RMP. While there is general knowledge from conservation officers in South Dakota concerning Mule Deer/Pronghorn winter range, information needs to be compiled and flights completed during the peak winter use periods to determine crucial winter ranges. Elk calving and winter ranges have not been defined for North Dakota. Continuing leasing interest has created a pressing need for new inventories and revised data. The BLM needs this information to evaluate oil and gas planning decision options.

## **Migratory Birds**

Migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Further emphasis on migratory birds was enacted by Executive Order 13186 which instructed, in part, federal agencies to consider migratory birds, especially species of concern, in any environmental review process. Most species of birds found within the planning area are protected under the MBTA and migratory birds will be addressed in the plan.

## **Issue 4: Special Status Species**

*Goal: Manage public lands to conserve and recover threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species.*

The RMP will identify reasonable strategies to conserve and recover special status species in the planning areas in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service as required under the Endangered Species Act. These include describing existing and desired habitat and population conditions for major habitat types that support a wide variety of species; designating priority species and habitats, including Special Status Species (SSS); identifying actions and area-wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired population and habitat conditions while maintaining a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationships. Streamlined consultation procedures detailed in the July 27, 1999, Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent implementation guidance for Section 7 consultations will be utilized to provide collaborative opportunities in the consultation process. Special status species include species listed, proposed for listing, or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act and sensitive species identified by the BLM.

## ***Threatened and Endangered Species & Candidates***

At present, eight species listed as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act, or species proposed for listing, are known to occur. The listed species are:

### Threatened and Endangered Species

- Interior Least Tern - *Sterna antillarum athalassos* (Endangered)
- Whooping Crane – *Grus americana* (Endangered)
- Gray Wolf – *Canis lupus* (Endangered)
- Black-footed Ferret – *Mustela nigripes* (Endangered)
- Pallid Sturgeon - *Scaphirhynchus albus* (Endangered)
- Topeka Shiner – *Notropis Topeka* (Endangered)
- Eskimo Curlew – *Numenius borealis* (Endangered)
- Scaleshell Mussel – *Leptodea leptodon* (Endangered)
- American Burying Beetle *Nicrophorus americanus* (Endangered)
- Piping Plover – *Charadrius melodus* (Threatened)
- Bald Eagle – *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Threatened)
- W. prairie-fringed orchid – *Platanthera praeclara* (Threatened)

### Candidate Species

- Dakota Skipper - (*Hesperia dacotae*)

All of these species will be addressed in the RMP but only the bald eagle, piping plover, Lest Tern, and potentially the Black Footed Ferret are known to occupy habitats on BLM lands or

split estate lands within the planning areas. The other species listed above occur in the planning area but do not occur on BLM lands, are not affected by BLM management of lands, or occur only sporadically in the planning area. If any of these species become established on BLM managed lands or additional species which are dependent on BLM lands within the planning area are added to the Threatened or Endangered list then those species will be managed accordingly.

#### *Bald Eagle*

The bald eagle occurs year-round in the Dakotas and has made significant gains in breeding numbers. There are historical and active nest sites along the Missouri River, Belle Fourche River and eastern South Dakota. Observations have been made further east along the Red River and around Devil's Lake in North Dakota. The planning area is heavily used during spring and fall migration and bald eagles may be present near open water during most winters. South Dakota is lacking data for the presence or absence of raptor use in several important counties and North Dakota needs updated surveys to complete the RMPs.

#### *Piping Plover*

The piping plover was listed as threatened in 1986 and Critical Habitat for the piping plover has been designated in the Dakotas. Nesting within the planning area is limited primarily to the Missouri River drainage, Missouri Coteau and the drift prairie. Piping plovers may occur within the Missouri Slope on barren sandy or gravelly beaches and sandbars along the Little Missouri River.

#### *Least Tern*

This species was listed as Endangered in May of 1985 in the United States, except within 50 miles of the coast. Nesting and rearing of young is limited within the planning area mainly to the Missouri River drainage and parts of the Coteau. Nesting habitats consist of sparsely vegetated sand and gravel bars within a wide unobstructed river channel or salt flats along lake shorelines.

#### *Black-Footed Ferret*

This species was listed as endangered on March 11, 1967. There are historical records of black-footed ferrets in North Dakota. The last official report for North Dakota was in the 1950's. Habitats in North Dakota are extremely limited within the planning area due to the vast continuous acreages needed for Black-footed ferrets. Habitats do occur in South Dakota and ferrets have been reintroduced in Conata Basin on the national grasslands and Badlands National Park. Currently, reintroductions are being proposed on the Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota.

## **BLM Sensitive Species**

The majority of the animal species considered Sensitive by Montana/Dakota's BLM are found in habitats within the Dakotas planning area. Many of these species are associated with grassland and sagebrush habitats and the Dakotas planning area contains a portion of their global breeding range. Sensitive species listed by the BLM in the planning area include, twenty-six bird species, six fish species, three reptile species, one amphibian species, and five mammal species (Appendix 5). The BLM sensitive species will be addressed in the RMP. At this stage of the planning process, the greater sage grouse and groups of species (such as sage brush obligates) have been identified as issues

### **Greater Sage-grouse - (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)**

Greater Sage-grouse are distributed in a three county area in southwest North Dakota. They are distributed in Butte and Harding counties in the northwest and Fall River county in the southwest in South Dakota. Currently there are 26 active leks in South Dakota and 17 active leks in the planning area with Bowman County containing the majority of them in North Dakota. Sage grouse populations have been steadily declining since the 1950's. Sage grouse in Dakotas are on the extreme eastern edge of their historic range and occupy habitats unlike those found in the heart of the sage grouse range. Sage grouse conservation is a priority for the BLM and emphasis has been placed on planning efforts throughout their range in North America. A state conservation plan for North Dakota and the BLM national strategy for sage grouse have been completed. These plans provide the basis for developing goals, objectives, management actions and allowable uses for the BLM-administered lands in the planning area. The plans cover a multitude of initiatives such as: sagebrush conservation, fire management activities, and sagebrush fragmentation/connectivity. Lek surveys are needed in the western half and southeastern portion of Harding County, South Dakota to get the number and location of leks. A smaller survey is requested for Butte County, South Dakota to determine if there are any leks within the county.

### **Black-tailed Prairie Dog- (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)**

Black-tailed prairie dogs exist throughout the planning area. Prairie dog towns provide habitat for numerous vertebrate species. Statewide conservation plans for Black-tailed prairie dogs was approved in 2005. Approximately 20 black-tailed prairie dog towns, covering over 2500 acres, occurred in the planning areas in 2005. The majority of which occur in South Dakota. North Dakota has approximately 7 active colonies covering about 101 acres. A very large percentage of the acres of prairie dogs on public lands in the planning area border private lands or even inhabit those adjacent lands. South Dakota's baseline prairie dog information is currently inadequate for analysis.

### **Grassland birds**

The relatively large, untilled blocks of native grassland administered by BLM in the planning area provide ideal habitat for a wide variety of grassland bird species, many of which are declining across their range and are included in a number of species of concern lists at the state and national level. The Dakotas contains a portion of the remaining range of many of these species. These include Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), McCown's longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*), chestnut-collared longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), and LeConte's sparrow (*Ammodramus*

*Leconteii*). A grassland bird survey is requested because many of these are on listed on BLM's sensitive species lists.

### **Issue 5: Travel Management and Access**

*Goal: Determine how transportation and access will be managed in the planning area to provide for use and enjoyment of the public lands while protecting significant resource values and providing user safety?*

The ROD for the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (June 2003) amended the existing North Dakota and South Dakota RMPs to limit motorized travel to existing roads and trails for most lands under these plans. The ROD also provides that the BLM will prioritize site specific travel planning areas by December 2003. This prioritization has been completed and it is anticipated that the RMP will incorporate these decisions. Prior to the RMP, BLM will identify road inventory needs to accomplish the desired level of travel planning. Major considerations in alternative development and estimation of the effects for travel and access management in the RMP will include: public and administrative access needs (including legal access issues), oil and gas development (including geophysical exploration), road densities, recreational activities, user conflicts, user safety, and resource values.

Other travel management issues that may be considered in the RMP include considering game retrieval by motorized means on BLM land, non-motorized trail development (horseback, foot, and mountain bikes), the need to provide directional signs, information and education for people traveling across BLM administered land, development of a series of travel management road network maps for public use and law enforcement needs, and development of a transportation plan that identifies road repair, road rehabilitation, road construction, and maintenance standards for all roads maintained by the BLM within the planning areas.

### **Issue 6: Commercial Uses**

*Goal: Determine what public lands will be available for commercial activities and how those activities will be managed.*

A wide variety of commercial activities are conducted on BLM managed lands in the planning area. Some of the primary uses are:

#### Livestock Grazing

Range Management staff located within the SDFO presently administers 578 grazing allotments under leases to 550 operators located in North and South Dakota. The RMP will review allocations and make adjustments as a result of interdisciplinary review and alternative formulation, taking into consideration the other resource values and allocations in the planning area. We expect concerns such as the need to improve range condition, range management options when forage resources are affected by drought, insects or fire, the need to maintain and improve wildlife habitat through the modification of livestock grazing (permitted use and season of use), recreational uses, and the need to maintain the economic stability of the local livestock industry. In addition, we expect concerns regarding rangeland health and maintenance of social and economic factors in the communities interspersed within the planning area to play roles in decisions regarding livestock grazing.

Rangeland improvement projects are used principally to improve or maintain vegetative conditions by manipulating livestock behavior. The RMP will discuss range improvements and provide an opportunity for the public to provide guidance to the SDFO regarding any needed clarification or amendment of range improvement policy.

Various Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) have been implemented on some allotments listed as Improve (I) or Maintain (M) category to address resource and vegetation conditions. The RMP will identify allotment categories and if resource problems have been resolved, some allotments may move to a different category listing. The RMP will also identify objectives to include allowable use parameters for upland and riparian habitats, season of livestock use, allocation of current permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs), wildlife habitat criteria, functionality of AMPs (if existing), and maintenance of the plant community according to Ecological Site Descriptions. These objectives would be measured by monitoring efforts by the BLM. In addition, public lands that are not currently under a grazing lease will be identified for grazing suitability (i.e. Exemption Area).

#### Mineral Leasing, Exploration and Development

See Issue #1 Energy Development.

#### Forest Products

Areas available for forest product removals will be identified in accordance with the planning guidance. Areas identified as Communities at Risk and additional areas within Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) may require modified treatments that remove more forest products in order to meet fuel reduction goals for that area. Forest product removal techniques and appropriate management stipulations would be implemented to protect or enhance other resource values. Contracted studies of timber vegetation type and structure and timber stand plots will be used to determine existing age, structure and composition of forest/woodland areas so that desired outcomes can be identified per the H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook.

#### Right-of-Way Corridor Planning and Lands Authorizations

Right-of-way avoidance areas and corridors have been previously identified in the Fort Meade Recreation Area. The RMP will consider whether right-of-way corridors should be designated to minimize adverse environmental impacts and avoid proliferation of separate ROWs. Avoidance and exclusion areas will also be delineated, if necessary, based on interdisciplinary analysis of resource values and requirements for right-of-way uses and commercial activities. This will include considerations for future communication site uses. Necessary constraints and appropriate area-wide terms and conditions will also be developed for future authorizations that include collocation of use to prevent unnecessary land disturbance.

The President's National Energy Policy will be reflected in the right-of-way corridors and in general areas where right-of-way authorizations are needed for the development and transportation of energy. Current environmental standards and good stewardship principles will be maintained.

#### Solid Minerals

For NDFO coal see Issue 1: Energy Development. Within the SDFP there are limited coal resources, but the potential exists for bentonite, uranium, and limestone development in some

areas. These issues will be addressed in the plan. The RMP will also address the long-term management of hard rock mining in the Black Hills. The RMP will also address sand and gravel sales in the planning areas.

### Commercial Special Recreation Permits

Commercial permits for outfitters and guides, vendors, and for special events are currently in effect on BLM lands in South Dakota. Such permits have been proposed for public lands managed by the North Dakota Field Office. All activities will follow the guidelines in the handbook for Special Recreation Permits (H-2930).

### **Issue 7: Land Ownership Adjustments**

*Goal: Determine criteria to make public land tenure adjustments, including disposal of public land and acquisition of non-public lands, and determine what public lands may be available for future adjustment activities.*

With the passage of FLPMA, Congress declared it the policy of the United States to retain public lands in federal ownership unless planning procedures determine that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest. The RMP will review all lands and/or interests in lands for retention or disposal, and identify lands and/or interests for acquisition. Historically, the 1988 North Dakota RMP Record of Decision identified 22,739 acres of public lands as available for disposal or exchange and 11,715 acres for exchange only. In the 1986 South Dakota RMP Record of Decision 85,000 acres were categorized for disposal.

The RMP will set criteria for disposal to be used when assessing land tenure adjustment proposals within the planning area. Criteria will be consistent with laws governing public land tenure adjustments. In addition, specific parcels of public land will be identified by legal description for future consideration under certain disposal actions, for instance, by sale, by exchange, or under provisions of other disposal authorities. The RMP will also consider Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) disposals and acquisitions, where a portion of the proceeds from land sales can be used for land acquisition administration.

Two seasonal hires are necessary to inventory scattered parcels mainly within North Dakota. Approximately 20% of North Dakota's BLM-administered public lands are isolated parcels. These were last inventoried in 1988. The BLM proposes to inventory the parcels, collecting such information as weeds, vegetation, improvements, condition, and potential trespass. The information is necessary for RMP and EIS to make reasoned alternatives in land pattern adjustment.

The RMP will also set criteria for acquisition of land or interest in land. The criteria will focus on exchanges, fee acquisition of land, conservation easements, and road easement considerations for access to public land. These criteria would then be applied to proposals that come under review for consideration in the planning area. Criteria will be consistent with FLPMA as well as with the goals and objectives established within the RMP.

The RMP will consider the effects of existing withdrawals on land tenure adjustments and future withdrawal actions needed (revocations, new withdrawals, withdrawal expirations, etc and also consider use of withdrawals for sensitive resources (T&E, cultural, paleontological, American

Indian, etc.), to protect the resources. The RMP will also consider the effects of changes to Bureau of Reclamation projects (withdrawal revocations, some land returned to the BLM, some land to individual reclamation projects).

Many parcels of BLM-administered land in the planning area do not have legal or physical access and many areas that are legally accessible are difficult to locate due to the fragmented ownership pattern in the Dakotas. This RMP will address the need for additional public access and enhancing existing access through signing and cooperation with other agencies. The RMP will also incorporate information contained in the “State Director Guidance on Access (April 1989) and identify priority areas for access.

### **Issue 8: Visual Resource Management (VRM)**

*Goal: Manage public land to conserve or improve visual resource values.*

The RMPs will manage visual resource values in accordance with visual resource management objectives (management classes). There is no existing VRM inventory, except for an inventory of the Fort Meade Recreation Area done in 1996. The intent is to balance the need for development with protecting scenic values. The RMP will identify areas where maintaining the landscape (i.e., limited or no energy development, fuels reduction, utility corridors, road and trail development, recreation facility development, etc) is deemed more important than developing the landscape and vice versa. In developing management classes, fragmented ownership will be an important consideration to avoid managing scenic values on lands where BLM ownership is too limited to affect the overall landscape.

A VRM study will be contracted as the bureau has a basic stewardship responsibility to identify and protect visual values on public lands. According to policy, the Bureau shall prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of visual values on all public lands. Priority for new inventory shall be given to those areas where it is needed for issue resolution in RMP's or in those areas where a project is proposed and an inventory does not exist or needs updating.

## Management Concerns

### **Air Quality**

The RMPs will summarize all relevant “background” air quality and climate information associated with the planning areas. They will identify all potentially affected PSD Class I areas as well as actions that could be taken to protect these areas. They will identify area-wide criteria or restrictions that would be applied to any activity authorized by the field offices to ensure compliance with all local, state, federal, or tribal air quality standards and implementation plans. Authorized activities, include but not limited to, are fuels management and energy development. Air quality concerns may be in-whole or part contracted to outside parties for analysis.

### **Water Quality-Ground Water**

Standard procedures regarding permitting practices required by federal and North Dakota and South Dakota State laws will be identified in the RMP. The BLM will work closely with South Dakota’s Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) and North Dakota’s North Department of Health regarding water quality planning and management. Data to be examined will include (but not limited to) identified impaired streams, riparian condition, land jurisdiction, water quality, and water quantity data.

The RMP will identify drinking wells on public land in the planning area that require protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, as amended. In addition, wells and municipal watersheds in proximity to public land in the planning area will also be identified.

The RMP will identify the best management practices that the state of North Dakota and its cooperators have developed for use on federal land, including in particular those developed for watersheds. These have been created as a result of the total maximum daily load process, Standards for Rangeland Health Assessments, best management practices for Grazing, and MOUs with the State of North Dakota.

### **Lands and Realty**

The RMPs will identify and inventory land uses under 43 CFR 2800, 2880, and 2920. These include, but are not limited to transportation and utility needs. Specific issues that have been identified include expansion of the Black Hills National Cemetery and construction of National Guard facilities within the Fort Meade Recreation Area, South Dakota.

### **Soil Resources**

Soils will be managed to maintain or improve soil health and productivity and minimize impacts to soil resources through the actions of management activities. Best management practices and mitigation measures will be implemented at the site-specific activity/project level to prevent or reduce soil erosion and compaction; especially, for soils with severe erosion susceptibility, sparse vegetation, shallow depths and on steep slopes. If soil impacts cannot be mitigated or effectively controlled then the activity/project could be relocated or denied.

The RMPs will utilize available soil data to make informed decisions for a variety of resources and resource uses. State Soil Geographical Data (STATSGO) and Soil Survey Geographical Data (SSURGO) are available for all counties in the planning area.

### **Cultural Resources and Traditional Cultural Values**

The RMPs will describe the cultural resource values located within the planning area and establish goals for their management. These include preservation and protection of significant cultural resources, reduction of imminent threats and resolution of potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or from other resource uses, and address the allocation of recorded sites to use categories as identified in BLM Manual 8110. In addition to assigning use categories to known cultural resources the RMP will also (1) develop a strategy for how those cultural resources assigned to use categories realize their use potential, (2) categorize geographic areas as high/medium/low priority for future proactive inventory for cultural properties, and (3) specify that all authorizations for land and resource use will comply with section 106 of the NHPA, consistent with and subject to the objective established in the RMPs for proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest (NHPA Sec. 106, 101 (d)(6), 110(a)(2)(E).

Principles and standards for cultural resource planning including planning requirements, data needs, management direction in land use plans, factors to consider, and consultation and incorporation of cultural resource content into RMPs are found within the 8130 Manual Planning For Uses of Cultural Resources. Class I inventories are necessary for the RMPs. There has never been a Class I for the SDFO and the NDFO Class I was done in 1984 and is extremely outdated. We will contract Class I Overviews and ethnographic inventories including GIS of the

planning area. This will enable us to be prepared to analyze cultural resource information and to provide a cultural resource management synthesis. This will include at minimum, priorities for proactive inventory, use categories as defined in the 8130 manual for sites on BLM administered public lands, and appropriate management actions. In addition the contracts will complete at a minimum the Chapter 3, Affected Environment of the RMP. This will free up the cultural resource specialist for consultation. Consultation will address American Indian tribal, SHPO, and public concerns relative to the management of traditional cultural properties and sacred sites.

### **Paleontological Resources**

The RMP will identify criteria or restrictions to ensure that significant known paleontological resources are monitored, preserved and protected and will identify area wide criteria or site-specific use restrictions to identify and evaluate threats to paleontological resources prior to surface disturbing activities so that threats are appropriately mitigated to preserve these resources. The RMP will also consider opportunities for scientific, educational and recreational use of paleontological locales within the planning area. Contracted Class I reviews will be conducted to construct an overview of the paleontological resources in the area. This information, coupled with GIS layers delineating where geological units (i.e., formations, members, etc.) containing or likely to contain paleontological resources will be utilized in the RMP.

### **Social and Economic Concerns**

The North Dakota Field Office and the South Dakota Field Office manage lands across the western portions of both states. Oil and gas and coal provide high paying jobs and revenues to the counties in which these federal minerals are being extracted. Concerns among residents and the impacts to communities from public land management decisions vary in the planning area. Land allocation decisions (e.g., land tenure decisions, commercial uses available, right-of-way actions, etc.) have the potential to impact many communities in the planning areas and will be analyzed in the RMP process.

The RMP decisions could also have regional, state, and national impacts and interest. This includes population, employment, values, etc. The plan will rely on Appendix D of BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (2005) to guide the social and economic analysis for the planning area. This analysis will identify, describe and analyze social and economic conditions and trends including (but not limited to) demographics, social organization, attitudes, employment, income and environmental justice. Economic Profile System (EPS) county level data and Economic Profile System Community (EPSC) community level data will be updated and available from the Sonoran Institute. IMPLAN input-output database and model will be used for describing the affected economic environment and predicting economic impacts.

### **Recreation and Visitor Services**

Managing recreation-tourism in the two RMPs will follow IM. 2006-060, Incorporating Benefits-Based Management within Recreation and Visitor Services Program Policy Changes. The RMPs will determine how many Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) will be identified within the planning area. It is anticipated that Schnell Recreation Area will be the only SRMA for the North Dakota Field Office. In South Dakota there is a greater potential for SRMAs to be identified because of more public lands and greater visitation to public lands. Each SRMA will address: recreation management of resources, visitors, and facilities; recreation marketing (outreach, interpretation, environmental education and other visitor services;

recreation monitoring (social and environmental); and recreation administration (regulatory; permits and fees, concessions etc). Remaining public lands within the planning area not identified as a SRMA may be designated as an Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) and managed in a custodial manner with much less emphasis on the SRMA described actions above.

The BLM will follow the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and other bureau guidelines for the management of recreation fees in the developed recreation areas.

### **Engineering**

The RMP will provide guidance for construction and maintenance of resource improvements for watershed, wildlife, fisheries, recreation and livestock grazing and will be consistent with resource management objectives for the allotments or areas (BLM Manual 9101).

### **Wildland Fire & Fuels Management**

The RMPs will incorporate the 2001 update of the 1995 Federal Fire Policy, the National Fire Plan (NFP) and associated policies and guidelines, including multi-agency collaboration for fire, fuels management and budgeting, the Fire/Fuels Management Environmental Assessment Plan Amendment for the Montana/Dakotas (2003), South Dakota Field Office Fire Management Plan (2004), and the North Dakota Field Office Fire Management Plan (2004). In addition to incorporating these plans, we will have the opportunity to (1) identify broad treatment levels, (2) identify general restrictions on fire management practices (suppression and fuels management) if any are needed to protect other resource values, and (3) restore fire adapted ecosystems. In North Dakota these may be limited to the Schnell Recreation Area. In South Dakota, the two areas currently being addressed are the Fort Meade Recreation Area and the Exemption Area.

The RMP will also address emergency stabilization and rehabilitation activities on landscapes and communities affected by wildland fire through the use of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) as prescribed by requirements of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and local fire management plans (FMP). FMPs address the following: identifies fire management unit strategies for suppression and preparedness and determines constraints on fire activities to protect sensitive resources; identify type and level of fire activity and fuel treatment to achieve resource objectives including targets for fire size and estimated level (acreage) of fuel treatment; and identify Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas.

### **Environmental Justice**

The BLM will determine if its proposed actions will adversely and disproportionately impact minority populations, low-income communities, and tribes (Executive Order No. 12898, Environmental Justice) and consider aggregate, cumulative, and synergistic effects, including results of actions taken by other parties. While Environmental Justice analysis is specifically concerned with disproportionate effects on these three populations, the social and economic analysis produced in accord with NEPA considers all potential social and economic effects, positive and negative, on any distinct group. The BLM will promote and provide opportunities for full involvement of minority populations, low-income communities, and tribes in BLM decisions that affect their lives, livelihoods, and health.

### **Abandoned Mine Lands (SDFO ONLY)**

Numerous hard rock mines in the Exemption Area of South Dakota and lands mined for bentonite as well as other small areas mined for sand, gravel, and uranium have become Abandoned Mine Lands (AML). These AMLs will be documented and placed in GIS. As we identify AMLs having chemical or physical hazards, remedies are undertaken. The RMP will provide guidance for mitigation of the hazards associated with the AMLs.

## **D. PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA**

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require development of planning criteria to guide preparation of the resource management plan. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that guide and direct the preparation of the plan. They ensure the plan is tailored to the identified issues and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are based on applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the result of consultation and coordination with the public, other federal, state and local agencies and governmental entities, and American Indian tribes.

The following preliminary criteria have been developed internally. They will be available for public review during the scoping process. After public input is analyzed, preliminary criteria and new criteria resulting from public input will be consolidated to become proposed criteria where appropriate. These criteria can be added to or changed as issues are addressed or new information is presented. The appropriate Field Manager must approve the planning criteria and any changes to them.

- Lands covered in the RMP-EISs will be public land and split estates managed by BLM. Decisions will not be made in the RMP relative to the management of lands not managed by BLM.
- The proposed RMPs will be in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws, regulations and policies.
- Impacts from the management alternatives considered in the revised RMP will be analyzed in an EIS developed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 1610 and 40 CFR 1500.
- Broad-based public participation will be an integral part of the planning and EIS process.
- Decisions in the plans will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law, and regulations applicable to public lands.
- The RMPs will recognize state's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife. BLM will consult with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as necessary.

- The National Sage-grouse Strategy requires that impacts to sagebrush habitat and sagebrush-dependent wildlife species (including sage-grouse) be analyzed and considered in BLM land use planning efforts for the public lands with sage-grouse/sagebrush habitats located within the planning areas.
- The RMP-EISs will recognize valid existing rights.
- The RMP-EISs will incorporate management decisions where appropriate based on the outcome analysis brought forward from existing planning documents.
- Based on the assumptions of adequate funding, plans will be periodically reviewed and would be amended if necessary. Plans would be evaluated every 5 years per 43 CFR 1610.4-9. Information gathered from the 5 year evaluation would be used to determine planning needs, priority for plan revisions and amendments. For NEPA analysis purposes, the short-term will be 5 years and the long-term will be the life of the RMPs.
- The planning team will work cooperatively and collaboratively with the State of North Dakota and the State of South Dakota, tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council, and all other interested groups, agencies and individuals.
- The BLM and cooperating agencies/governments will jointly develop alternatives for resolution of resource management issues.
- The planning process will incorporate Standards and Guidelines developed in accordance with regulations in 43 CFR Subpart 4180 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
- The State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) will be consulted and involved throughout the RMP-EIS process.
- Areas with significant historic, cultural, scenic or natural resource values will be protected and if necessary designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), or other appropriate designations.
- The RMPs will emphasize the protection and enhancement of the planning areas' biodiversity while, at the same time, providing the public with opportunities for compatible activities on public lands.
- Lands acquired by the BLM, will be managed in the manner the RMPs prescribes for adjacent public land, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
- The RMPs will provide management direction for lands returned to BLM management through revocation of withdrawals. The plans will also address lands acquired through other means.

- Lands already identified for disposal will be reviewed to insure disposal is in the best interest of the public.
- Forest management strategies will be consistent with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Tribal Forest Protection Act where appropriate.
- Fire Management strategies will be consistent with the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy, the National Fire Plan, the Fire/Fuels Management Plan for Montana and Dakotas, the Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, and other policies.
- GIS and metadata information will meet Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards, as required by EO 12906, signed April 11, 1994.
- Other applicable BLM data standards will be followed. The planning process will use an easily maintained, spatially based plan with minimal text. Data changes would be automatically reflected in the plan decisions. The goal is to develop RMPs with spatial and temporal data that can be easily accessed for use in subsequent NEPA analyses.
- The RMP will incorporate the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines as goal statements.
- The planning process will involve American Indian tribal governments and tribal leaders and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional and cultural uses.
- All proposed management actions will be based upon best available scientific information, research and technology, as well as existing inventory and monitoring information.
- The RMPs will include adaptive management criteria and protocol to deal with future issues.
- The RMP will incorporate Best Management Oil and Gas Policy so those practices maybe applied to surface disturbing activities on BLM authorized actions.

## **E. DATA AND GIS NEEDS**

### **1. GENERAL**

While existing resource information will be used in formulating resource objectives and management alternatives, Geographical Information System(s) (GIS) will be used for analysis. Current information and new data must be compiled, verified, and/or put into digital format for use in the planning process analysis and the later production of maps for the RMP-EIS. This must be done before actual analysis can begin.

Existing data will be used where possible and new data will be collected only where necessary. All new data will be collected to established data standards. Existing data will be converted to accepted and established data standards.

## **Geospatial Data Development**

The development of the geospatial database for this planning effort will be accomplished by the BLM and its contractors and within the context of existing BLM data management strategies currently under development. Database development tasks performed by the BLM and any of its contractors will incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in national federal governmental guidance and instructions regarding the use, development, and sharing of geospatial data and its management including the following:

- IB No MT-2004-001 Identifying Data Stewards
- Data Stewards for Data Subject Areas
- Template for GIS data storage
- Executive Order 12906 of 1994 – Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).
- OMB Circular A-16 & the expected revision.
- OMB Information Initiative of 2000 – “Collecting Information in the Information Age”.
- OMB Information Quality Guidelines – (Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658)
- Incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in Washington Office BLM planning guidance and other instructions regarding data management.
- BLM H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook.
- BLM IM No. 2001-038 (11/30/2000) – Development/Approval of Preparation Plans for New Planning Starts.
- BLM IM No. 2001-029 (11/13/2000) – Interim Data Management Guidance
- BLM IM No.2001-202 (8/3/2001) – Interim Guidance for Data Management in Land Use Planning

### Geospatial Data Development Guidelines:

The following guidelines will be followed as the BLM and any of its contractors develop data for this planning effort:

- Existing data will be used where possible and new data will be collected only where necessary. All new data will be collected to established data standards. Existing data will be converted to accepted and established data standards.
- The development of redundant data will be avoided by extensive coordination with our data partners. Data from existing sources will be used when possible.
- Data for this planning effort will be integrated into seamless corporate datasets.

## **Data Standards**

All GIS data should comply with state and national BLM data standards. Data standards refers to how data should look, what the attributes should look like, what geographic projection the data should be in, what the accuracy the data should be, and so forth. The procedures and responsibilities for developing data standards, and a current listing of completed standards are located at: <http://web.mt.blm.gov/datasteward/index.html>

### Data Standards Strategy

- Coordination with BLM Montana/Dakotas data administrator
- Coordination with BLM Montana State Office program leads
- Use of established data standards where available
- Creation of data standards where necessary in coordination with all above.
- Data standards from other agencies will be adopted where appropriate.
- Data standards will be jointly developed and documented with our statewide data partners as appropriate. Data category standards teams, which include state data stewards, resource specialists, and GIS specialists from BLM and other agencies, will be used as necessary. The national BLM data stewards will be included in the review process as appropriate.
- All geospatial data used in this planning effort will be documented with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata.
- Data sharing with the public will be accomplished through the use of BLM planning project webpage.

### GIS Applications

The Bureau standard software for GIS mapping and analysis is ArcGIS. This application has been in use for about 5 years and is currently being used for all major planning projects. EZ Mapper, an ArcGIS application which runs off Citrix servers at the Montana State Office will be the main GIS application used during the RMPs. All processing takes place on the Citrix servers and the output is viewed on client computers using Citrix software. This application is an attempt to create a “point and click” GIS environment. This application is designed to use centralized data served by SDE (Spatial Data Engine). The user’s guide for this application is located at: <http://www.mt.blm.gov/gis/documents/gisdocuments.html>

### Locations of existing GIS data

Current GIS data for the planning area is spread out between various servers and laptop/desktop clients. A new Montana/Dakotas state-wide data structure has been established and data is currently being reviewed for accuracy and compliance with established standards. Data meeting standards is being copied into the new file structure, and data not meeting standards is being updated to meet standards.

Montana/Dakotas state-wide GIS data has been consolidated and served through the Montana State Office and EZ Mapper.

In many cases GIS data may not exist for many resource applications. In that case the data needs to be collected and placed into GIS.

## **General GIS status/needs**

Most of our datasets were created before data standards existed. Data was collected in different formats, and stored on various servers throughout the zone. The challenge arrives in finding all the data, compiling it together into a single file structure, converting data to accepted and established standards, and creating a seamless dataset. The workload associated with formatting and manipulating this data is beyond the capabilities of our existing GIS support staff; so a GIS employee will be hired. Below is a sample of the workload.

- Utilize folder structure template developed by MTSO to organize GIS data.
- Update grazing allotment information
- NDFO has coverage where there is oil and gas development activity.
- Insure there is metadata with GIS layers.
- Resource specialists will need to update metadata for existing GIS layers.
- As new data is collected and converted to GIS, assure that metadata is completed by the appropriate person(s)
- Resource specialists will need to make contact with their program leads in MSO regarding data standards.
- Coordinate with BLM statewide GIS representative.
- Need to meet standards and criteria.
- Project data needs costs into BPS by end of FY under each discipline requiring further inventory work.
- Standards for data collection and analysis, storage.
- Existing data has to be done to standards and reformatted.

### **1. DATA NEEDS**

See Appendix 3.

## F. PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS/COLLABORATION

The tables below identify roles and responsibilities for conducting the Planning/NEPA process. Assignments have been made for the individual resource areas of responsibility. The Support Team will eventually include cooperating agency representatives.

CORE TEAM							
Discipline	Name	Office	WM Estimate by Fiscal Year				
			2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
RMP-EIS Project Manager	Vacant		12	12	12	12	48
Administrative Assistant/Writer/Editor	Vacant		5	12	12	12	41
GIS Technical Specialist	Vacant		7	12	12	6	37
Oil and Gas Leasing and Development	Casper Team	Casper					
Realty	Linda Gisvold	NDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Realty	Chuck Berdan	SDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Cultural Heritage, Ethnography, and Tribal Consultation	Barry Williams	NDFO	5	7	7	2	21
Paleontology	Barry Williams	NDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Wildlife	Tim Zachmeier	NDFO	2	3	3	1	9
Wildlife	Chuck Berdan	SDFO	2	3	3	1	9
Special Status Species	Tim Zachmeier	NDFO	1	2	2	1	6
Special Status Species	Chuck Berdan	SDFO	1	2	2	1	6
Visual Resource Management	Angela Wetz	NDFO	2	3	3	2	10
OHV Management	Angela Wetz	NDFO					
Recreation	Angela Wetz	NDFO					
Transportation/ Access	Angela Wetz	NDFO					

<b>CORE TEAM CONT.</b>							
Visual Resource Management	Dennis Bucher	SDFO	2	3	3	2	10
OHV Management	Dennis Bucher	SDFO					
Recreation	Dennis Bucher	SDFO					
Transportation/ Access	Dennis Bucher	SDFO					
Noxious Weeds	Angela Wetz	NDFO	2	2	2		6
Noxious Weeds	Gerald Moller	SDFO	2	2	2		6
Special Status Species - Plants	*Nora Taylor	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Surface Hydrology	Mike Philbin	MSO	1	2	1	1	5
Ground Water Hydrology	Mike Philbin	MSO					
Riparian/Wetlands	Mitch Iverson	SDFO	2	2	2	1	7
Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing	Steve Bell	SDFO	3	3	3	2	11
Soils & Surface Resource Protection	Angela Wetz	NDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Soils & Surface Resource Protection	Russell Pigors	SDFO	3	3	2	1	9
Air Quality/Noise	*Mike Philbin	MSO	1	1	1	0	3
Fire Management	Terry Chaplin Travis Lipp	SDFO	3	2	2	1	8
Solid Minerals, Saleable Minerals	Vacant	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Forestry	Dennis Bucher	SDFO	2	3	3	1	9
Sociology	*Joan Trent	MSO	2	4	2	1	9
Economics	*John Thompson & Ed Hughes	MSO	2	3	1	1	7
<b>Total Core Team Workmonths</b>			68	92	86	55	301
<b>Total Core Team Labor Cost (AWMC - \$7,275)</b>			\$494,700	\$669,300	\$625,650	\$400,125	\$2,189,775

\* Project Manager will be the local support person for these resources.

<b>SUPPORT TEAM</b>							
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>WM Estimate by Fiscal Year</b>				
			<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Field Manager	Lonny Bagley	NDFO	3	2	2	2	9
Field Manager	Marian Atkins	SDFO	3	2	2	2	9
Assistant Field Manager for Minerals	Michel Nash	NDFO	3	2	1	1	7
Engineering	CETs	MCFO	1	1	1		3
Administrative	Carla Turbiville	SDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Planning Coordination	Jim Beaver	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Planning Coordination (Paid by WO210)	Mark Spencer / Mel Meier	WO					
Internet Coordination/Webpage	Mary Apple	MSO	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
Layout/Printing	Kathy Ives	MSO	0.5	2	2	2	6.5
Budget Tracking/Procurement	Bernice Havelka	NDFO	2	2	2	1	7
GIS Oversight	Corinne Walter	NDFO	4	2	1	1	8
GIS	Gerald Moller	SDFO	1	1	1		3
IRM	Lynne Ridl	NDFO	1	1	1	1	4
Recreation/Forestry	Bill Monahan	SDFO	2	2	1		5
Law Enforcement	Bill McDonald	SDFO	1	1	1		3
<b>Total Support WMS</b>			24	20.5	17.5	12.5	74.5
<b>Total Support Labor Cost (AWMC - \$7,275)</b>			\$174,600	\$149,137	\$127,313	\$90,937	\$451,987

**Table 5-1  
Management and Program Leads**

<b>Management/Program Leads</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Roles/Responsibilities</b>
State Director	Gene Terland	<p>The Montana State Director (SD) approves the Preparation Plan, issues the draft RMP-EIS, final RMP-EIS, and ROD, approves the RMP-EIS, and signs the Record Of Decision (ROD). The State Director is the approving official for all land use plan amendments and revisions.</p> <p>The State Director is responsible for the overall review and quality control of documents and for ensuring consistency with laws, regulations, and policy. He also provides staff coordination and review, assists in protests and provides scarce skill specialists for the interdisciplinary team.</p>
National Planning Support Team	Mark Spencer and Mel Meir  Charles Carroll – WO 210 Protest Team	<p>Coordinates WO policy with FO/SO's document production; coordinates review of draft and proposed plans\EISs with WO and provides comments to SO; coordinates and tracks the approval of all Federal Register Notices\briefing papers with the WO; schedules-coordinates briefings on the draft and proposed RMPs with WO200 and the Office of the Director; coordinates project with DOI\Congress and SO as needed. Works with the WO-210 Protest Team and the FO/SO as needed to ensure resolution of protests and the SO issuance of the ROD.</p>
State Office Coordinator	Jim Beaver	<p>Coordinate assignment and scheduling of any needed personnel from the Montana State Office.</p> <p>Coordinate timely reviews by Technical Review team in cooperation with Project Manager in accordance with schedule.</p> <p>Act as the State Director's representative for the project. Provide technical assistance to the Field Office when necessary.</p>

<b>Management/Program Leads</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Roles/Responsibilities</b>
Field Managers	Lonny Bagley Marian Atkins	<p>Responsible for preparation, content, and completion of RMP.</p> <p>Recommend approval of the draft and final RMP-EIS and ROD.</p> <p>Supervise the Project manager and Writer-Editor during the RMP.</p> <p>Apprise Project Manager of needed corrections and ensure original direction is maintained.</p> <p>Assure availability of Support Team members for completion of all phases of the RMP within assigned dates.</p> <p>Participate in all planning team meetings.</p> <p>Participate in all reviews.</p> <p>Sets priorities in relation to other workloads and provides overall direction to the Support Team. This ensures that the final product responds to the issues and contains decisions that can be implemented.</p> <p>With the Support Team, helps develop issues and questions, keeps the Field Manager and the Montana State Director up-to-date on progress, and is responsible for ensuring that the project is on schedule, and resolves, when necessary, any programmatic conflicts with the ID Team.</p> <p>Recommends that the Montana State Director approve the Preparation Plan, the Draft RMP/Draft EIS, and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.</p>
Assistant Field Manager for Minerals	Mike Nash	<p>Apprise Project Manager of needed corrections.</p> <p>Assure availability of Support Team members for completion of all phases of the RMP within assigned dates.</p> <p>Participate in all planning team meetings.</p> <p>Participate in all reviews.</p> <p>Sets priorities in relation to other workloads and provides overall direction to his Support Team members. This ensures that the final product responds to the issues and contains decisions that can be implemented.</p> <p>With the Support Team, helps develop issues and questions,</p> <p>Recommends, along with the Field Manager, that the Montana State Director approve the Preparation Plan, the Draft RMP/Draft EIS, and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.</p>

**Table 5-2  
Support Team Roles and Responsibilities**

<b>ID Team Roles/Responsibilities</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Roles/Responsibilities</b>
Project Manager	Vacant	<p>Work with Public Affairs Specialist to coordinate public participation in plan.</p> <p>Serve as primary contact and spokesperson for RMP process. Ensure Team members are aware of assignments, schedule, and deadlines.</p> <p>Coordinate with Field Managers, Assistant Field Managers and MSO Coordinator to ensure RMP commitments are met and assignments completed by staff under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Keep Field Manager and SO Coordinator informed on progress with monthly updates and conference calls.</p> <p>Identify problems or challenges in meeting scheduled time frames, recommends solutions, and facilitates the resolution of conflicts.</p> <p>Work with contractors (COR on contract) to ensure any aspects of the RMP prepared by a contractor are prepared within the technical and procedural quality standards, which meet the requirements of the Bureau Planning System, NEPA guidelines, and RMP planning guidance.</p> <p>Carries out day-to-day oversight to ensure that the RMP-EIS is developed according to established schedules, priorities, and budgets.</p> <p>Recommends EIS Support Team priorities, briefs the Field Manager and the State Director on progress throughout the process, and maintains the administrative record for the RMP-EIS.</p> <p>Helps develop issues and questions, anticipates and proactively avoids problems, works directly with the Support Team and is responsible for ensuring that approved budgets for the RMP-EIS are allocated to this work effort. Serves as principle contact with contractors if contracts are issued throughout the RMP process.</p>
Writer Editor/ Facilitator/ Public Affairs	Vacant	<p>Assist Project Manager in keeping all local interest groups and key individuals informed of general plan progress. Participate in all public participation planning and implementation.</p> <p>Assist with public involvement tasks (e.g., newsletters to public on planning status, website input etc.)</p> <p>Provide facilitation expertise throughout the project. Facilitates Support Team meetings, public meetings and stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>Assist RMP effort as necessary in providing administrative skills, computer and IRM/IT support, public affairs assistance, administrative and working file maintenance, mail list maintenance, comment analysis, and administrative duties such as drafting</p>

		<p>letters. This team member needs to be proficient in Microsoft Word, EXCEL, and ACCESS software. Knowledge of Microsoft project would be beneficial.</p> <p>Coordinates issues amongst offices, tracking of write-ups and reviews allowing project manager to focus on big picture and public outreach.</p>
Management Review Team	<p>Marian Atkins</p> <p>Lonny Bagley</p> <p>MSO</p>	See Management Table above
GIS Technical Specialist/Advisor	Vacant	<p>GIS - Serves as data administrator for RMP; coordinates with MSO GIS on data standards, metadata, and requirements; Provide GIS expertise to RMP ID Team (e.g., technical assistance, training, correction efforts).</p> <p>Participate in Support Team meetings so that there is an understanding of process, technical needs for analysis and eventual decision making. Will advise on how GIS can be used to describe and resolve issues towards reaching decisions. The GIS Technical Advisor will perform analysis, provide maps and organize GIS data in a central location for the team's use and record keeping.</p>
Resource Specialists	<p>Linda Givold</p> <p>Chuck Berdan</p> <p>Barry Williams</p> <p>Tim Zachmeier</p> <p>Dennis Bucher</p> <p>Angela Wetz</p> <p>Gerald Moller</p> <p>Mitch Iverson</p> <p>Steve Bell</p> <p>Russ Pigors</p>	<p>Serves as program lead for their resource section/issues.</p> <p>Works with contractors for data collection to prepare the necessary sections of the RMP.</p> <p>Assists in preparation of all sections of the document.</p> <p>Ensures technical adequacy of their programs.</p> <p>Reviews the entire RMP and comments on all sections.</p> <p>Participates in team meetings and work sessions.</p> <p>Assures the technical adequacy of program input; coordinate with MSO counterparts and contractor on all aspects of plan development and technical program adequacy.</p> <p>Keeps Project Manager informed on progress of assignments.</p> <p>Reviews document and assures that references are documented, terms defined, and thoughts and statements are consistent throughout the document; works with Writer-editor to assure consistency.</p> <p>Provides written responses when requested to public comments received throughout the course of the RMP.</p>

Resource Specialists, cont.	Terry Chaplin  Nora Taylor  Mike Philbin  Joan Trent  John Thompson  Ed Hughes	
Technical Review Team	State Office Program Leads	Provides policy, technical, and consistency review of documents. Provides comments to Field Office counterparts and Project Manager; and advises of needed corrections.
Cooperating Agency Representatives	To Be Determined	Before the planning process is formally initiated, Federal and state regulatory agencies and local governments will be asked to be cooperating agencies on this project. Those who accept this invitation will be part of the Support Team and will be responsible for advising the Support Team on matters under their agencies/government jurisdiction and well as participation in all aspects of the development of the RMP (see Support Team roles and responsibilities).

## 1. GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The amount of time involved by BLM and cooperating agency staff should not be underestimated. During the summer of FY06, we gathered existing information, identified issues and data needs, and completed an RMP preparation plan. In FY07 and beyond, we will begin data collection and review, organize existing data into a standard GIS storage area for the RMP, prepare statements of work (SOW), conduct and oversee the process, write and review the documents, conduct briefings and public meetings, attend Core and Support Team meetings, coordinate work with cooperating agencies and collaborate as a team throughout the process. Some Support Team members will have formal consultation responsibilities and some will be involved with baseline data collection. A good portion of the team will need to attend planning training. Management representation at Support Team meetings is encouraged throughout process.

### **RMP Core Team**

Core Team Members attend all Core Team meetings or conference calls as determined by the project manager; submit input for various components of the RMP-EISs in an interdisciplinary and coordinated manner; submit accurate and properly formatted input to a contractor when needed; provide all submissions by the assigned due dates; coordinate and communicate with BLM staff specialists and specialists with other agencies to ensure that the RMP-EIS contains

interdisciplinary, complete and accurate information; provide information for maps at the appropriate scale and standards for publication and for use during the analysis; and when event delays are anticipated or questions arise consult with the BLM Project Manager and their supervisors in advance of deadlines. Members of the Core Team provide overall direction and management guidance to the BLM Project Manager. In addition, the Core Team provides representation for key resources to ensure the RMP-EISs are developed in an interdisciplinary fashion and addresses all key issues.

#### *Internal Review of the Plan*

The Core Team will review the RMP-EISs throughout their development. For any portions prepared by a contractor, the Team will meet with the contractor to continually refine the contractor's product. Team members will submit review comments to the BLM Project Manager by email within the allotted timeframes.

#### *Accountability*

Individuals working on this RMP-EISs are accountable for completing their specific tasks on time. A smooth progression to each step requires this. Management and supervisors will be made aware of our progress. All efforts will be made by the Project Manager to keep team members and reviewers aware of the schedule and elapsed time. Being accountable for a job carries a responsibility for each individual involved to meet deadlines and to submit the best product possible. Any situations that occur in which a delay seems imminent will be resolved immediately by collaboration between the Project Manager and individuals involved. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, ensure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get the schedule and products on track again. It is the Field Managers' responsibility for ensuring that the project is on schedule, and resolves, when necessary, any programmatic conflicts with the team. If a delay in schedule can not be avoided, the SO will also promptly notify WO-210.

#### **RMP Support Team**

The Support Team is responsible for assisting the Core Team with preparation of the RMPs with specific tasks including: overall planning and environmental coordination; preparing maps; web site administration; and publication assistance.

#### **GIS & Internet Coordinators - Field Office & State Office**

Planning data needs will be systematically identified and their quality clearly documented as part of this planning effort. Data being used in development of the RMP-EISs will be made accessible to members of the Core Team, excluding specific threatened or endangered species information, cultural resources and sensitive cultural information which will be made available on a need-to-know basis. Upon issuance of the Draft RMPs, data used in support of planning decisions will be made available to all interested parties. All data used in support of planning decisions is to be considered corporate data. Corporate data require established quality control procedures to ensure data consistency and standardization.

All planning data (excluding specific threatened or endangered species information, cultural resources and sensitive cultural information) will be stored and maintained to be readily available to all team members. At a minimum, data will be updated and archived at the time of the management situation analysis, issuance of the draft EIS, the final EIS, and the Record of Decision. The GIS Coordinator will ensure that a strategy for regular backup of planning data is

in place to protect against data loss. During the development of the RMP-EISs, working documents, including maps, will be labeled with the following verbiage:

*“Preliminary Draft Working Document. Not suitable for public distribution. Does not represent final agency findings, opinions or conclusions.”*

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS**

A combination approach has been taken in this preparation plan regarding the use of consultants to assist the BLM with the preparation of the RMP-EISs. In considering what aspects of the RMP-EIS development we should obtain assistance with, IB No. 2005-118 and team member advice were utilized.

Selected contractor(s) will provide a Project Manager to serve as its contact point and be responsible for all aspects of preparation of the RMP-EISs document as specified in the Statement of Work (SOW). All work done by contractor(s) will be subject to BLM review and approval.

The contractor(s) will be responsible for ensuring that all GIS products, maps and tables are in suitable formats (BLM standards) for displaying in text and in electronic format on the Internet.

## **3. AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

As required by the resource management planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.2, the public shall be provided opportunities to participate and comment in the preparation of these RMPs. Before the planning process is formally initiated, federal and state regulatory agencies and local governments will be asked to be cooperating agencies on this project. Training on the RMP process and the role of cooperating agencies will be held for cooperating agencies. This training will be coordinated through Jim Beaver (Montana State Office Planning Coordinator) and Cynthia Moses-Nedd (WO Liaison to the National Association of Counties). Possible cooperating agencies include but are not limited to:

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
- Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- South Dakota Game Fish and Parks.
- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO).
- North Dakota and South Dakota Affected Counties.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CORPS)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

### **Federal Agencies:**

*Fish and Wildlife Service:* The proposed action and alternatives require consultation by both NDFO and SDFO with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. A Biological Assessment will be

prepared in coordination with the FWS. FWS will provide the BLM a Biological Opinion regarding the Proposed RMP-EISs.

*Natural Resource Conservation Service:* Soils information.

*Neighboring BLM Offices:* BLM will coordinate with neighboring offices to ensure that planning decisions match, to the extent possible, at our common borders.

**American Indian Tribes:**

Government-to-government coordination and consultation with American Indian Tribes will begin upon issuance of the Notice of Intent, which initiates the scoping period. Interested tribal peoples include: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne-Arapaho of Oklahoma, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Crow Tribe, Eastern Shoshone, Flandreau Santee Sioux, Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Leech Lake Band of Minnesota Chippewa, Lower Brule Sioux, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, Oglala Sioux, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Rosebud Sioux, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, Sac and Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa, Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Southern Arapaho, Southern Arapaho, Southern Cheyenne, Standing Rock Sioux, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa, Winnebago Tribe, the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and the White River Band of the Utes.

**Resource Advisory Councils (RACs):**

RACs provide advice to the BLM on various issues. We will work collaboratively with the Dakotas RAC throughout the process, in particular, at times such as issue identification, alternative formulation, and impact analysis.

**State Agencies:**

- State Historic Preservation Offices.
- Public Utilities Commissions.
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- South Dakota Game Fish and Parks.

**Local Governmental Agencies:**

The RMP-EISs will be developed in collaboration with representatives from affected county governments. These counties will be invited as cooperating agencies in the planning effort (see Table 3).

**Other Stakeholders:**

Resource Planning Regulations at 43 CFR 1610.2(d) require the Field Managers to maintain a list of known interested and affected publics. Stakeholders will be identified throughout the process. A mailing list of organizations, agencies, interest groups, and interested members of the public will be compiled and maintained.

## **G. FORMAT AND PROCESS FOR THE PLAN**

### **1. Format**

The format and contents of the RMP-EISs will comply with:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321-4347)
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Part 1500)
- Section 203 of FLPMA (43 USC 1711 & 1712)
- Resource Management Planning regulations (43 CFR Subpart 1610)
- The DOI Manual Part 516, Chapter 4 “Environmental Impact Statements”
- The BLM NEPA Handbook, (H-1790-1)
- The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)
- Current BLM guidance in the form of WO and Montana State Office Information Memoranda (IMs) and Information Bulletins (IBs)
- Other laws, policy, and regulations.

This will be a web-based RMP-EISs process that will follow the format of RMPs available for review at <http://web.ead.anl.gov/rmpweb/>.

Decisions in the existing RMPs and amendments will be reviewed and brought forward as appropriate. Also, the RMP-EISs may incorporate existing BLM management decisions from fire management plans, livestock grazing allotment management plans, wildlife habitat management plans, conservation/recovery plans for special status species, recreation area management plans, Standards and Guidelines and other applicable plans. Any NEPA analysis prepared for such decisions will also be brought forward if it meets current standards.

The RMP will describe the current management situation and then identify desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, and prioritize management actions necessary to achieve objectives and a schedule for implementing the identified management actions.

### **2. Process**

The process will have two parts. First, existing data will be gathered and entered into GIS(s). Once that is done, actual preparation of the RMP-EISs will begin, starting with the NOI/scoping and ending with issuance of a Record of Decision.

The RMP-EISs will be based on existing information where feasible and professional judgment supported by credible scientific information. Once data gaps identified in this preparation plan have been filled, no further data collection will be made for the RMP development unless a critical need is identified through public scoping.

Coordination with other federal agencies, public entities, and tribal, state and local governments will occur as outlined in the Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1. Collaborative planning will emphasize contact with local governments and with the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council.

### **3. Alternative Formulation**

A range of alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, will be developed to respond to the identified issues. Each alternative will provide different solutions to issues and concerns identified through scoping. Alternatives will be realistic and implementable and will be presented in the completed plan. Sub-alternatives (alternatives within alternatives) might be identified if a portion of any alternative requires a variation in resource management methods.

## **H. PLAN PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

(See Appendix 2)

## **I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

See also Plan Preparation Schedule (Appendix 2) and the RMP Communications Plan (separate document).

Agency and public participation are important parts of the planning process. All interested parties, whether local, statewide or national, will have opportunities to comment on all aspects of these RMP-EIS efforts. The RMP-EISs will be prepared in close consultation with all appropriate federal, state, tribal, county and local agencies, ranchers, environmental groups and other private organizations and individuals.

All public participation would occur as outlined in the Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1. In addition, the requirements for an economic conditions and strategies workshop as provided for in WO IM No. 2003-169 would be completed. All public participation requirements associated with NEPA would be met.

Community-based planning would form the foundation for preparation of the RMPs, and would, where appropriate, be based on the principles and practices in the Guide to Collaborative Planning (Appendix A of H-1601-1). Upon plan approval, collaborative planning workshops would be scheduled at appropriate locations within the planning area and a project website would be developed for the field office. These workshops would include Community-Based Partnerships, Place Based NEPA, and the Economic Profile System-based workshop. Additional public input would be solicited through public scoping meetings, direct mailings, and professional and personal communications.

Public participation opportunities for the major stages of the planning process are listed below. Every effort will be made to assure public involvement throughout the process. The BLM Montana State Office, North Dakota Field Office and South Dakota Field Office web sites will provide information and solicit comments from interested members of the public. The following is a summary of public participation opportunities for this planning effort.

### *Identify Issues, Planning Criteria and Management Concerns*

1. The Federal Register Notice of Intent, press releases, mailings and the BLM's website will be used to disseminate information regarding the preparation of this RMP-EISs and will notify the public of upcoming scoping meetings, public comment meetings, and deadlines.

2. Public scoping meetings will be organized and facilitated by the BLM in order to gather input on issues and disseminate information on management concerns and planning criteria.

#### Formulate Alternatives

3. Public meetings will provide the mechanism to discuss alternatives and ensure that issues are adequately addressed. Whenever possible, these meetings will be designed using methods that facilitate and enhance interaction between the public and BLM (e.g., roundtable discussions, charettes, workshops etc).

#### Issue the Draft RMP-EIS

4. Federal Register Notices announcing the availability of the draft EISs and news releases to local and regional media will initiate a 90-day comment period.
5. Public meetings to gather verbal (recorded) and/or written comments will be held in locations across the planning areas.

#### Publish the Proposed RMP/ Final EIS

6. Federal Register Notices announcing the availability of the Proposed RMP/FEISs and news releases to local and regional media will initiate a 30-day protest period.
7. The Proposed RMP/FEISs will be made available for inspection by the public both on-line and at designated locations in and near the planning areas, and copies will be provided to those who request them. The availability of the FEISs will be advertised in regional newspapers and other media with notice of a 30-day protest period.
8. Solicit Governors' consistency review (60 days).
9. Informal public input (written, verbal and email) will be welcomed anytime during the process.

#### Respond to Protests

10. Protests will be resolved using the established BLM process.
11. If any significant change is made to the RMP-EISs in response to a protest, a Federal Register Notice will be published requesting public comment on the change(s).

#### Publish Approved Plan

12. The approved RMP-EISs.
13. Notify the public via news articles, email, websites, and mail of the availability of the approved RMP-EISs.

## J. BUDGET

Table 6 provides the Proposed RMP-EIS budget for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

**Table 6**  
**RMP-EIS Overall Budget**

Item	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
<b>Salaries/Labor</b>				
Core ID Team	\$494,700	\$669,300	\$625,650	\$400,125
Support Team	\$174,600	\$149,137	\$127,313	\$90,937
<b>Total Salaries/Labor</b>	<b>\$669,300</b>	<b>\$818,437</b>	<b>\$752,963</b>	<b>\$491,062</b>
<b>Contracts/Agreements</b>				
SDFO Sage Grouse Lek	(*\$44,000)	(*\$10,000)		
NDFO Sage Grouse Lek		(*\$13,000)		
SDFO Grassland Bird	(*\$6,000)			
NDFO Grassland Bird		(*\$40,000)		
SDFO Pronghorn - Mule Deer	(*\$2,000)			
SDFO Prairie Dogs		(*\$8,000)		
SDFO Raptors		(*\$40,000)		
NDFO Raptors		(*\$25,000)		
NDFO Elk Calving and Winter Range		(*\$10,000)		
NDFO Aquatic Resources	(*Partners)			
SDFO Aquatic Resources	(*\$2,000)			
Timber Vegetation Type & Structure	(*\$100,000)			
Sonora Institute (Socio-Economics)	\$35,000			
SDFO VRM Study	(*\$30,000)			
NDFO VRM Study	(*\$10,000)	(*\$10,000)		
SDFO Riparian/Weeds	(*\$48,000 contract or \$31,000 seasonals)			
NDFO Riparian/Weeds	(*\$15,000)	(*15,000)		
Cultural Resources (Class 1 SD)	\$185,000			
Cultural Resources (Class 1 ND)	\$185,000			
SDFO and NDFO - NGPJV Agreement Sagebrush Species	(*\$11,000)	(*\$11,000)		
SDFO and NDFO – NPS Agreement Fire History, Woodland Inventory, Fire Regime	(*\$80,000)			
Coal RFD	(*\$40,000)			
<b>Total Contracts (“*” indicates funding other</b>	<b>\$405,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

than 1610)				
<b>Seasonal Labor</b>				
2 Seasonals for Isolated Tract Evaluations	(* \$40,000)	(* \$40,000)		
Seasonal for Range Improvements Location (GPS)	(* \$15,000)	(* \$10,000)		
<b>Total Seasonal Labor (***) indicates funding other than 1610)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Procurement</b>				
Federal Register	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Newsletter/Brochure/other	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Meeting Rooms	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
Misc.	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
IMPLAN Data Sets	\$3,000	\$3,000		
Draft RMP-EIS			\$10,000	
Final RMP-EIS				\$10,000
Record of Decision				
<b>Total Procurement</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$11,300</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$14,300</b>
<b>Data Collection for RMP (all disciplines and including per diem etc.)</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Vehicle Costs (\$20,000/ vehicle)</b>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$5,000
<b>Travel</b>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
<b>Training (travel)</b>	\$25,000	\$10,500	\$2,000	\$1,000
<b>Computers, printers, GPS Units, supplies.</b>	\$12,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>WY Assistance with RFD &amp; Alternatives</b>	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$1,186,600</b>	<b>\$946,237</b>	<b>\$820,763</b>	<b>\$532,362</b>
<b>Total RMP/EISs Cost</b>				<b>\$3,485,962</b>

(\* indicates funding other than 1610)

If, during scoping, a critical data gap is identified, additional funding would need to be secured before such data could be collected. Additional funding would also be necessary if a decision is made to contract more aspects of an RMP-EIS preparation. Funding will come from planning, 1610, although program funding will be solicited and used whenever feasible.

**GLOSSARY**  
of  
**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**ACEC – Area of Critical Environmental Concern** – Areas of public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. (43 CFR 1610.0-5)

**Adaptive Management** – Adaptive management is a procedure in which decisions and changes in management are made as part of an ongoing process. It is a continuous process of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new information into strategies to meet the goals and objectives of ecosystem management as described in the RMP.

**Allotment Management Plan** – A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures, if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

**Biodiversity** – The diversity of living organisms considered at all levels of organization, including genetics, species, and higher taxonomic levels, and the variety of habitats and ecosystems as well as the processes occurring therein.

**CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality** – Established by Title II of NEPA to assist and advise the President in preparation of an annual Environmental Quality Report and stay abreast of trends in the quality of the environment

**Collaboration, collaborative planning** – A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands.

**Cooperating Agencies** – Any Federal agency other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal or alternative; a State or local agency of similar qualifications; an Indian Tribe (by agreement with lead agency) when effects are on a reservation. (40 CFR 1508.5)

**Corporate Data** – Electronic data and their derived applications, which are shared or exchanged across administrative units, used repetitively through time, applied in decision-making, and/or released to the public and others. Corporate data are official agency records and include all correspondence, memoranda, case files, photographs, and electronic records that BLM uses in connection with the transaction of business.

**Environmental Impact Statement** – A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposed a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**FLPMA – Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976** – Public Law 94-579m passed October 21, 1976. Provides much of BLM’s legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance, including a requirement that land use planning be done.

**Forage banks** – Forage reserved for use in an emergency such as drought, rangeland restoration or rehabilitation.

**GIS – Geospatial [or Geographic] Information System** – A computer system capable of storing, analyzing, and displaying data and describing places on the earth’s surface.

**HazMat – Hazardous materials** – Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance which, when released to the environment, may present substantial danger to public health and welfare or the environment. (CERCLA, sec. 101 (10))

**Invasive Weeds – Noxious Weeds** – Non-native invasive plants that are fast spreading and often expensive or difficult to control. Noxious weeds may proliferate, forming mono-cultures, which can crowd out other plants that provide biodiversity.

**Metadata** – Detailed information about data

**Multiple Use** – Management of public lands and resource values so they are utilized in the combination that best meets the present and future needs of the American people, with consideration given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the uses that will give the greatest economic return or unit output (43 CFR 1601.0-5 (f))

**OHV – Off-highway vehicle** – In addition to cars, trucks, dune buggies, jeeps and motorcycles, the motorized OHV category includes sport utility vehicles (SUV’s), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), ultralights (aircraft), motorized bicycles, and other emerging technologies.

**PFC – Proper Functioning Condition** – Evaluation method to assess riparian area and wetland areas to determine if natural processes are functioning and if areas natural processes are in a stable ecologically condition.

**RAC – Resource Advisory Council** – Advisory committees established under authority of FLPMA to provide recommendations to the BLM authorized officer on issues related to public land management (43 CFR 1784 and 4180.2).

**RMP – Resource Management Plan** – A land use plan, as described by FLPMA, that generally establishes land allowable resource uses, areas designated for restricted use, general management constraints, general implementation sequences, and monitoring standards; not a final implementation decision on actions that require further steps (43 CFR 1601.0-5 (k)).

**Special Status Species:** – Proposed, listed, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act as well as state-listed species and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species. (See BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy, IM MT-2004-082 -2004 Montana/Dakotas Sensitive Species List for animals and IM MT-2005-55 - 2005 Montana/Dakotas Special Status Plant Species Policy).

**Upland** – Terrestrial ecosystems located away from riparian zones, wetlands, springs, seeps, and dry washes; ecosystems made up of vegetation not in contact with groundwater or other permanent water sources.



**APPENDIX 2 - ESTIMATED SCHEDULE**

<b>Planning Phase</b>	<b>Planning Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>How</b>
<b>Pre-Planning</b>	Develop Preparation Plan	IDT	07/06	IDT meetings/Electronic
	Complete Draft Preparation Plan	Prep Plan Lead	08/06	Route for review
	Finalize Preparation Plan	Prep Plan Lead	11/06	MSD Signature
	Project Manager on Board	Field Office Managers	12/06	PMC Review
	Publish NOI in Federal Register	Prep Plan Lead	<b>03/07</b> (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Field Managers
	Prepare Statements of Work for any positions or inventories to be contracted	IDT and Project Manager The COR should be the person that needs the work done so advise COR training where needed.	as needed	Coordinate with management and procurement
	GIS Technical Specialist	Field Office Managers	03/07	PMC Review
	Award Contracts	Contracting Officer	as needed; 12/06	Project Manager and IDT reps review proposals/conduct interviews where possible.
	Revise Talking Points and Briefing Paper	External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	Approx 3-6 month intervals	IDT/Mgt Review
	Writer Editor on Board	Field Office Managers	05/07	PMC Review
	Send invitation letters to potential Cooperating Agencies	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	Coincide with publishing NOI in FR	Mail letters Follow-up call if no response
	Send introduction letters to tribal government	B. Williams	Coincide with publishing NOI in FR	Mail letters Follow-up letters if no response
	Cooperating Agency MOUs	Project Manager/Mgt/Cooperating Agencies	Coincide with publishing NOI in FR	BLM/Cooperating Agency buy-in and signatures
	Initiate coordination with other agencies/gov	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Phone/Electronic/Meetings
Invite RAC to be represented on IDT (will a RAC subgroup be formed?)	Mgt/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Mgt/Project Manager	
Brief BLM MSO and DC Headquarters	Mgt/External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Electronic or in person as requested	

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	Brief Congressional/County Commissioners/MSO	External Affairs/Mgt/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Travel to congressional and county offices/conduct briefings.
	Tribal government briefings	B. Williams/Mgt/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Travel to tribal offices/conduct briefings.
	Establish website on BLM server ( <i>Be prepared for the public periodically losing access to our website and possibly even email- it could happen during a formal comment period for example</i> )	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	prior to publishing NOI in FR	Project Manager coordination with webmaster
	Utilize the Quarterly Steward, Weekly Updates and other internal communication to get the word out about major steps in the process	Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	Utilize this avenue throughout process	Quarterly Steward, Weekly updates, other internal communication routes
	RAC Presentations	Project Manager/Mgt/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	As requested	Attend and conduct briefing/presentation at RAC meetings
	Planning Concepts Course	RMP IDT (including Cooperators), Mgt.	10/06 3 days	Project Manager coordinates with NTC and MSO
	Planning Nuts and Bolts Course	RMP IDT (including Cooperators), Mgt.	1/07 4 days	Project Manager coordinates with NTC and MSO
	Cooperating Agency Workshop	RMP IDT (including Cooperators), Mgt.	Late FY07 2 days	Project Manager/MSO Planning Program Lead coordinate
	Partnership Training, Comm. Based Partnerships, Place Based NEPA, and 3 EPS-based workshops	RMP IDT (including Cooperators), Mgt.	FY07 Over a period of 5 months	Project Manager/Mgt/External Affairs
	Respond to field tour and briefing requests	Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	As necessary	Organized by requesters where possible
<b>Formal Initiation of Planning &amp; Scoping</b>	Develop Public Participation Plan; publish on website	Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	03/07	Website
	NOI in Federal Register	PA/Writer-Editor	03/07; or sooner (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Published after WO review
	Have plan in place to process electronic	RMP Project Manager/Mgt/ PA/Writer-Editor	As soon as budget allows	Contract assistance or full time admin assist , use ePlanning Phase 2
	Establish an email address for the project	RMP Project Manager/MSO IRM	prior to publishing NOI in FR	Coordinate with MSO IRM

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	Create newsletter (multi page tool) explaining when/where/how to participate in scoping as well as introducing process/need to freshen mail list	External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	As soon as NOI is published	Mailing list, concurrent with NOI publication
	Issue press releases (when/where/how to participate in scoping – include key messages)	External Affairs/Project Manager/PA/Writer-Editor	As soon as NOI is published	Press release
	Create power-point presentation	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	Update as necessary throughout process	Ensure there is a laptop/ppt projector obligated to the West HiLine RMP
	Update website with NOI	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	Once NOI published in Federal Register (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Website
	Assess Local Economic dependency on BLM management actions and activities occurring on BLM lands.	John Thompson/core team/ID team	FY07 before Economic Strategy Workshop(s)	Team members identify current levels of use and financial commitment. Thompson uses these data to run IMPLAN/FEAST model to determine current dependency and significance of BLM contributions to local economies.
	Conduct Economic Strategy Workshop(s)	FO Manager/John Thompson	FY07	FO/John Thompson will coordinate with economic development interest and the Sonoran Institute
	Plan public scoping meetings – format, locations	RMP IDT/Mgt/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Agree on format/style/recordation etc.
	Create scoping meeting tools (posters, maps etc.)	RMP IDT/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	There are table easels and nice looking poster boards available from a previous project that could be utilized.
	Conduct public scoping meetings	RMP IDT including cooperators/Project Manager/Mgt/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Dependent on NOI publication date (Conduct meetings at least 15 days after NOI published – somewhere in the middle of scoping comment period is best)

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	Comment Period	Public	FY07 Minimum two months	Letters; Electronic; Possibly verbal comments recorded at scoping meetings.
	Public Comment Analysis & Scoping Report	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07(will require 4 months time)	Relational Database  Publish Scoping Report on website (this does not include a copy of the database due to privacy requirements)
	Issue newsletter to provide feedback to public about what we heard during scoping	Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Newsletter
	Issue press release	External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Press Release
	Update Website (what we heard via scoping/how alternative formulation works)	Project Manager/Webmaster/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07	Website
	Finalize planning issues, concerns, criteria, opportunities	RMP IDT including cooperators/Mgt/External Affairs (Project Manager responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY07 (will require 1 month timeframe)	Publish on Website
<b>Data Needs Assessment</b>	This is a good time to re-evaluate the data that has been brought together into the GIS storage structure and determine if additional data collection is needed based on public scoping results.	IDT	Should be done throughout process but especially after scoping, AMS, and after alternative formulation.	Resource specialists coordinating with GIS specialist and project manager.
<b>Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)</b>	Complete AMS and publish on website.	Project Manager/IDT	FY07/08 Takes approximately 6 months to complete.	

<b>Planning Phase</b>	<b>Planning Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>How</b>
<b>Alternative Formulation</b>	Develop alternatives	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	<b>09/07</b> FY07-08 (approx 5 months)	ID Team meetings
	Continue public involvement throughout alternative formulation	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08	Meetings, website
	Newsletter/Brochure (informational mailing – alternatives)	Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08	Newsletter/Brochure
	Conduct public alternatives development open houses/workshops	RMP IDT/Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08	Open Houses/Workshops
	Public Comment Analysis/Summary	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08	RMP IDT
	Ensure that all alternatives provide issue resolution	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)	FY08	RMP IDT
<b>Writing and Publishing Draft RMP-EIS (DEIS)</b>	Write Draft EIS	RMP Project Manager and Adm. Asst. /Tech. cord.	FY/08-09 8 months	Meetings/Electronic
	Prepare draft Biological Assessment of all alternatives	BLM RMP Wildlife Biologist s	FY08	Coordination amongst BLM, FWS, NDGF, SDGFP,
	DEIS review by ID Team, cooperators, collaborators	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08 (1 month)	Meetings/electronic
	Review by MSO		FY08 (3 wks)	MSO
	Review by WO		FY08 (3wks)	WO
	Respond to internal review of DEIS	RMP IDT including Cooperating Agencies/gov (Project Manager Responsible for task)/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08 (1 month)	Electronic; comment database

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	Select Preferred Alternative	IDT	FY08 2 weeks	IDT recommendation to management
	Brief State Director on DEIS	Mgt/Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08 (1 week to prepare and then conduct)	PowerPoint
	Prebriefing\Briefing with the WO and Director's Office	Project Manager, FO Managers	FY08 (4 wks prior to release of the NOA and necessary to secure WO\Exec. Sec. approval to release the NOA)	Travel to WO
	Approval to print	SD	1 week	SD
	Brief Congressionals	External Affairs/Mgt/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY08	Travel to congressional offices/conduct briefings
	BLM's NOA for DEIS published in Federal Register	Project Manager Drafts	FY08-09 (4-6 months) (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Must wait for approval
	Layout and printing of DEIS		6 weeks	Camera ready copy made by contractor, MSO for printing
	File DEIS with EPA and OEPC	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY09 (2 weeks)	When date for FR publication of BLM NOA is received
	Notice of Availability (NOA) of DEIS published in FR		<b>12/08</b> (2 weeks) (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Starts 90-day comment period
	DEIS or Executive Summary mailed to interested parties (mailing list)	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY09 (2 weeks)	To coincide with EPA's FR publication
	News Release announcing availability of DEIS, public meetings	External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY09 (1 week)	To coincide with EPA's FR publication
	Biological Assessment of all alternatives to FWS for review	BLM RMP Wildlife Biologist	1 week	Concurrent with DEIS comment period
	Public Meetings	RMP IDT/Mgt/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY09 (2 weeks)	During comment period
	Comment period ends	90 days	FY09 (90 days)	

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
<b>Analysis of Public Comment</b>	Analyze public comments; prepare summary	Project Manager, PA/Writer-Editor, , IDT	FY09 (4 months)	Relational database
	Prepare Proposed RMP/FEIS	Project Manager, PA/Writer-Editor, , IDT	FY09 (4 months) May be done simultaneously with comment analysis	
	Prepare draft NOA for Proposed RMP/FEIS	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY09 (2 weeks) (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	
	Internal review of Proposed RMP/FEIS	Project Manager/Admin Assist-Tech Coordinator	FY09 (1 month)	IDT
	Reviewed by MSO	MSO	FY09 (3 weeks)	Electronic Copies
	Reviewed by WO	WO	FY09 (3 weeks)	Electronic Copies
	Respond to internal review	RMP IDT	FY09 (2 weeks)	
	Brief SD	Mgt/Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor; SD	FY09 (1 week)	
	Prebriefing\Briefing with the WO and Director's Office	Project Manager, FO Managers	FY08 (4 wks prior to release of the NOA and necessary to secure WO\Exec. Sec. approval to release the NOA)	Travel to WO
	BLM's NOA for Proposed RMP/FEIS published in Federal Register	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor drafts	FY09-10 (4 – 5 months) Need to get this back to Washington for review 6 months ahead of when you want to publish.	Must wait for approval

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	NOA for Proposed RMP/FEIS published in FR	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor drafts	<b>12/09</b> FY10 (2 weeks)(needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Initiates 30 day protest period for Proposed RMP
	File Proposed RMP/FEIS with EPA and OEPC	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY10 (1 week)	When date for FR publication of BLM NOA is received
	Proposed RMP/FEIS mailed to interested parties (mailing list)	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY10 (2 weeks)	To coincide with EPA's FR publication
	Send Proposed RMP/FEIS to interested parties	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY10	To coincide with publication of NOA in FR
	Send Proposed RMP/FEIS to Governor (State Clearinghouse)	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /External Affairs	FY10	Initiates 60 day Governor's consistency review period
	Publish Proposed RMP/FEIS on website	Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor /Webmaster	FY10	To coincide with NOA in FR
	News release	External Affairs/Project Manager/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY10	Newspapers, website, other media
	Protest period ends		FY10	
	Governor's consistency review period ends		FY10	
<b>Decision</b>	Resolution of protests, if any were filed	WO-210 Protest Team – to be coordinated with the RMP Project manager and Field Mangers\Writer Editor\External Affairs and the MTSO P&EC	FY10 (4 months)	Letters to protesting parties
	Record of Decision (ROD) drafted	RMP IDT/Mgt (Project Manager Responsible for task)	FY10 (1month)	As protest resolution progresses
	Brief SD and ROD signed by SD	Mgt/Project Manager/External Affairs/ PA/Writer-Editor; SD	FY10 (1 week)	After protest resolution is complete
	NOA for ROD published in FR		<b>05/10</b> FY10 (needs 6-8 wks for clearance)	Must wait for approval
	ROD sent to interested parties (This completion date dependent upon formal kickoff date, budget, and unforeseen developments)	Project Manager/External Affairs/Mgt/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY10 (1 week)	After publication of NOA in FR

Planning Phase	Planning Task	Who	When	How
	News release	External Affairs/Project Manager/Mgt/ PA/Writer-Editor	FY10 (1 week)	After NOA publication in FR

### Appendix 3

#### NDFO RMP - Existing/Needed GIS Data As Of 06/30/06

Why Needed	Needed Data Set(s)	Is Needed Data Set Available	Is Metadata Complete	Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data	Estimated Costs
					Staff Needs (Seasonals)
<b>This listing will continually be updated as new data is collected and old data updated.</b>					
<b>Base Info. Analysis</b>					
Base Info. Analysis	FO Administrative Boundaries	Yes	No	100K (SDE)	
	County Boundaries	Yes	Yes	100K statewide layer (SDE)	
	PLS	Yes	Yes	100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer 24K gaps in layer – data needs to be added to SDE (ND GIS HUB)	
	Ownership	Yes	Yes	100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer 24K very little available, what is available would need to be verified (ND GIS HUB).	
	Ownership (Subsurface)	Partial	Yes	100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer and some needs to be created.	create in-house
	Topographic Maps	Yes		Digital Raster Graphs (DRG) 100K (SDE). DRG 24K statewide layer (SDE).	
		Yes	Yes	Digital Raster Graphs (DRG) 100K statewide layer available (ND GIS HUB).	
	NED DEM	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS HUB).	
	NED Shaded Relief	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS HUB).	
	Slope			Self generated.	create in-house
	Vegetation	Yes		Statewide GAP vegetation available (SDE).	
	Vegetation and Land Cover	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
Hydrologic Units (Preliminary)	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).		

	Lakes	Yes	Yes	100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer. 24K two quads available.	
	Ponds Lakes and Large Rivers	Yes	Yes	100K Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
	Streams and Rivers	Yes		100K (SDE) some data needs to be added to SDE layer . 24K three quads available.	
	Streams and Rivers	Yes	Yes	Need stream-order layer (ND GIS Hub). 100K Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
	Impaired Streams			State Water Commission	create in-house
	Cities and Towns	Yes	Yes	Tiger Data or ND GIS Hub	
	Scenic and Natural Areas				create in-house
	Digital Ortho Quads (USDANAIP)	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
	Pipelines over 12 inches			North Dakota Industrial Commission	create in-house
	USFS/Other Agency Roads			USFS	
	Transportation	Yes	Yes	100K (SDE) 24K quads scattered coverage in western ND (ND GIS hub).	
	County and City Roads	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
	State and Federal Roads	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).	
	Railroads	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available form ND GIS Hub.	
	BLM/FIMMS Roads	Yes	Yes	GPS.	
	Other/Miscellaneous Roads	Yes		Available data GPS - Roads Bowman County and some completed in Dunn County (NDFO).	
<b>Wildlife</b>					
	State Wildlife Management Areas			ND Game and Fish.	
	State Listed Endangered Species	Yes		Natural Heritage.	
	Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species			Fish and Wildlife (Ron Reynolds).	
	Elk Seasonal Use Areas			Contracted	Contract

	Mule Deer Seasonal Use Areas			Partial ND Game and Fish.	
	Bighorn Sheep Habitat	Yes		Data received from McKenzie Ranger District and Medora Ranger District (NDFO) ND Game and Fish.	
	Pronghorn	Yes		Data received from McKenzie Ranger District and Medora Ranger District (NDFO) ND Game and Fish.	
	Prairie Dog Surveys	Yes		Statewide layer, data received from ND Game and Fish (NDFO)	
	Swift Fox				
	Greater Sage Grouse - Leks			2002 Collection, 2005 Collection (NDFO)	Contract
	Greater Sage Grouse – Nests			2005 Capture Location, 2005 Nests (NDFO)	Contract
	Burrowing Owls			ND Game and Fish.	
	Raptor Nesting Areas including Bald and Golden Eagles			2004 Nest Data Bowman County and Dunn County (NDFO)	Contract
	Waterfowl Seasonal Use Areas				
	Migratory Birds			Grassland Birds	Contract
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>					
	Fisheries				Contract
	Amphibians				Contract
	Aquatic Dependent Reptiles				Contract
	Sensitive Aquatic Species				Contract
<b>Riparian &amp; Hydrology</b>					
	Surface -watersheds			Hydrological Unit Codes 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>	
	Ground				
	Wetlands			National Wetlands Inventory FWS Ron Reynolds	
	Reservoirs				Seasonal GPS
	Floodplains				
	Riparian Areas/Condition				Contract
	Wells			5 mile buffer around Public Lands	Seasonal GPS

Vegetation					
	Noxious Species				Seasonal
	Sage Brush				Agreement
T&E Plants					
Base Info.	Sensitive Plants			Not Needed	
	Plot Parcels			Not Needed	
	Forest Health			Not Needed	
	Old Growth			Not Needed	
	Timber Management			Not Needed	
Soils					
Base Info. Analysis	SSURGO data	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available. (NRCS).	
	STATSGO Soils	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available. (NRCS).	
Air					
	Class I Areas	Yes	Yes	NPS sites	
	Monitoring Locations	Yes			
	Climate Data			Tabular Data	
Fire and Fuels					
Base info. Base Info	Forest Fuels Inventory				Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology.
	Non-Forest Fuels Inventory				Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology.
	Fire History Study				Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology.
	Fire Regime Condition				Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology.
Rangelands					
	Rangeland Health				Create in-house
	Noxious Weeds				Seasonal
	Allotment Boundaries	Yes		100K needs to be updated and verified. Needs to be added to SDE.	Create in-house

	Pasture Boundaries			Not Needed.	
	Rangeland Improve. Locations				Seasonal
<b>AML/Hazardous Materials</b>					
Base Info.	Inventory/Assessment				
	HMM Inventory				
	Unauthorized dump sites				
<b>Lands/Realty</b>					
	Access (admin/public)			Not Needed.	
	Transportation/Utility ROW Corridors				Create in-house.
	Ceded Lands			Not Needed.	
	Withdrawals			MSO	Create in-house.
	Lands for disposal/Exchange				Create in-house.
	Adjacent conservation				Create in-house.
	Utility Corridors	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).. Shows general locations of pipelines, electric, and gas in ND	
	ROWs (power lines, Pipelines, Roads)			From SHPO.	Create in-house.
	Communication Sites				Create in-house.
	Exclusion Areas			Not Needed.	
	Unauth Use/Trespass			Not Needed.	
<b>Minerals, Oil and Gas</b>					
	Geology –Surface	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub). Shows surface geological features in ND.	Casper BLM
	Geology – Linear Features	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available (ND GIS Hub).. Shows surface geological, linear features in ND.	
	Geology – Bedrock	Yes	Yes	Shows digital version of ND Geological Survey Map	
	Mineral Potential				

	Oil and Gas Potential				
	Mineral Material Sale Areas				Create in-house.
	Field Boundaries	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	Participating Area Boundaries	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	Communitization Agreements	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	Unit Boundaries	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	Wells	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	Federal Leases	Yes		24K layer (SDE)	
	EPCA			WO	Create in-house.
	USGS Assessments				
<b>Minerals, Solid</b>					
	Potential Coal			24 areas from the 1988 RMP need to be digitized	Create in-house.
	Coal Lease Areas			573,868 acres need to be digitized	Create in-house.
	Current Leases			Need to be digitized	Create in-house.
<b>Renewable Energy</b>					
	Wind Energy Potential			State of ND	Create in-house.
<b>Recreation and Special Area Management</b>					
	Travel Management	Yes	Yes		
	Special Designations (Wild and Scenic Rivers)				Create in-house.
	ACECs			None.	
	Visual Resource Management/ROS				Contract
	Other Recreation				Create in-house.
<b>Transportation</b>					
	Signs				Create in-house.
	OHV	Yes		GPS - Roads Bowman County (NDFO)	
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					

	Class I Inventory			SHPO	Contract
	Existing Information			SHPO	Contract
	TCPs			Consultation and SHPO	Contract
	Sacred/Special Importance			Consultation and SHPO	Contract
<b>Paleontology</b>					
	Class I Inventory				Contract
<b>Social/Economic</b>					
	Environmental Justice Consideration			Indian Reservations	Create in-house.
	Wildland Urban Interface Areas			County	Create in-house.
	Communities at risk from Wildland Fire			County	Create in-house.
	Counties Losing Population			Tiger	
	Number of Economic Sectors by Counties			Tiger	

**SDFO RMP - Existing/Needed GIS Data As Of 06/30/06**

Why Needed	Needed Data Set(s)	Is Needed Data Set Available	Is Metadata Complete	Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data	Estimated Costs
					Staff Needs (Seasonals)
<b>This listing will continually be updated as new data is collected and old data updated.</b>					
<b>Base Info. Analysis</b>					
Base Info. Analysis	FO Administrative Boundaries	Yes		100K (SDE)	
	County Boundaries	Yes		100K statewide layer (SDE)	
	PLS	Partial		100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer 24K scattered coverage in western SD	
	Ownership	Partial		100K need to be added to SDE layer 24K very little available, what is available would need to be verified.	
	Ownership (Subsurface)	Partial		100K some data needs to be added to SDE layer Subsurface layer needs to be added to SDE	Create in-house
	Topographic Maps	Partial		Digital Raster Graphs (DRG) 100K two available – request sent to MSO DRG 24K missing 9 for complete statewide layer – request sent to MSO	
	NED DEM	Yes	Yes	Download from SD Geological Survey.	
	NED Shaded Relief	Yes			Create in-house
	Slope			self generated	Create in-house
	Vegetation	Yes	Yes	Statewide GAP vegetation available – needs to be added to SDE	
	Hydrologic Units	Yes	Yes	NRCS	
	Lakes	Partial		100K some data needs to be added to SDE 24K ten quads available	
	Streams and Rivers	Partial		100K some data needs to be added to SDE 24K ten quads available	
	Impaired Streams			State	Create in-house
Cities and Towns	Yes		Tiger Data		

	Scenic and Natural Areas				
	Digital Ortho Quads (USDANAIP)	Yes			
	Pipelines over 12 inches			Public Utility Commission	Create in-house
	USFS/Other Agency Roads			USFS	
	Transportation	Partial		100K some data needs to be added to SDE 24K quads scattered coverage in western SD	
	County and City Roads	Yes		TIGER	
	State and Federal Roads	Yes		TIGER	
	Railroads	Yes		TIGER	
	BLM/FIMMS Roads	Yes		GPS	
	Other/Miscellaneous Roads				
<b>Wildlife</b>					
	State Wildlife Management Areas	Yes		SD Game, Fish and Parks	
	State Listed Endangered Species	Yes		Natural Heritage	
	Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species				
	Elk Seasonal Use Areas	Yes		SD Game, Fish and Parks	
	Mule Deer Seasonal Use Areas			Partial	Contract
	Bighorn Sheep Habitat			SD Game, Fish and Parks	
	Pronghorn			SD Game, Fish and Parks	Contract
	Prairie Dog Surveys	Yes		Needs to be updated in 2007	
	Swift Fox			SD Game, Fish and Parks	
	Greater Sage Grouse - Leks	Partial		2002 Collection (SDFO)	Contract
	Greater Sage Grouse – Nests	Partial			Contract
	Burrowing Owls				

	Raptor Nesting Areas				Contract
	Waterfowl Seasonal Use Areas				
	Migratory Birds	Yes		Grassland Birds	Contract
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>					
	Fisheries				Contract
	Amphibians				Contract
	Aquatic Dependent Reptiles				Contract
	Sensitive Aquatic Species				Contract
<b>Riparian &amp; Hydrology</b>					
	Surface			State Hydrologic Unit Codes 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>	
	Ground			State	
	Wetlands			State	
	Reservoirs			State	Seasonal GPS
	Floodplains			State	
	Riparian Areas/Condition				Contract
	Wells			State 5 mile buffer around Public Lands	Seasonal GPS
<b>Vegetation</b>					
	Noxious Species				Seasonal
	Sage Brush				Agreement
<b>T&amp;E Plants</b>					
Base Info.	Sensitive Plants	Yes			Create In-house
<b>Forestry</b>					
	Plot Parcels				Seasonal
	Forest Health				Contract
	Old Growth				Contract
	Bug Surveys				Create in-house
	Timber Management			Vegetation Type and Structure	Contract

Soils					
Base Info. Analysis	SSURGO data	Yes	Yes	NRCS	
	STATSGO Soils	Yes	Yes	NRCS	
Air					
	Class I Areas	Yes	Yes	NPS sites	
	Monitoring Locations	Yes			
	Climate Data	Yes		Tabular data	
Fire and Fuels					
Base info. Base Info	Forest Fuels Inventory			Timber Vegetation Study	Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology
	Non-Forest Fuels Inventory			Woodland River Breaks	Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology
	Fire History Study			Fort Meade	Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology
	Fire Regime Condition			National Map vegetative layer	Agreement with NPS Fire Ecology
Rangelands					
	Rangeland Health				Create in-house
	Noxious Weeds	Yes		MSO	
	Allotment Boundaries	Yes		100K needs to be updated and verified. Needs to be added to SDE.	Create in-house
	Pasture Boundaries			Not Needed	
	Rangeland Improv. Locations				Seasonal
AML/Hazardous Materials					
Base Info.	Inventory/Assessment			Have some, not in GIS SD School of Mines	Create in-house
	HMM Inventory				Create in-house
	Unauthorized dump sites				
Lands/Realty					
	Access (admin/public)			Not Needed	
	Transportation/Utility ROW Corridors	Partial		Fort Meade	Create in-house
	Ceded Lands			Not Needed	

Withdrawals			MSO	Create in-house
Lands for disposal/Exchange			Chuck Berdan has a map.	Create in-house
Lands of interest to acquire				Create in-house
Adjacent conservation	Yes			Create in-house
Utility Corridors	Yes		Fort Meade, Exemption Area	Create in-house
ROWs (powerlines, Pipelines, Roads)			Exemption Area	Create in-house
Communication Sites			White Rocks	Create in-house
Exclusion Areas				Create in-house
Unauthorized Use/Trespass			Not Needed	
<b>Minerals, Oil and Gas</b>				
Geology –Surface			SD Geological Survey	
Geology – Linear Features				
Geology – Bedrock				Casper BLM
Mineral Potential				
Oil and Gas Potential				
Mineral Material Sale Areas				Create in-house
Field Boundaries	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
Participating Area Boundaries	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
Communitization Agreements	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
Unit Boundaries	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
Wells	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
Federal Leases	Partial		24K layer (SDE)	
EPCA			WO	Create in-house
USGS Assessments				
<b>Minerals, Solid</b>				
Bentonite, limestone, uranium			MSO	Create in-house
Hard Rock			MSO	Create in-house
Mining Claims			MSO Connie Schaff	Create in-house
<b>Renewable Energy</b>				

	Wind Energy Potential			State	Create in-house
<b>Recreation and Special Area Management</b>					
	Travel Management	Yes		GPS Data	Create in-house
	Special Designations (Wild and Scenic Rivers)			Not Needed	
	ACECs	Yes		24K Fort Meade (SDE), Fossils Cyanide	
	Visual Resource Management/ROS				Contract
	Other Recreation				Create in-house
<b>Transportation</b>					
	Signs	Yes		GPS	Create in-house
	OHV	Yes		GPS – Roads (SDFO)	Create in-house
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
	Class I Inventory	Partial		SHPO/SARC	Contract
	Existing Information	Partial		SHPO/SARC	Contract
	TCPs			Consultation and SHPO	Contract
	Sacred/Special Importance			Consultation and SHPO	Contract
<b>Paleontology</b>					
	Class I Inventory				Contract
<b>Social/Economic</b>					
	Environmental Justice Consideration			Indian Reservations	Create in-house
	Wildland Urban Interface Areas			County	Create in-house
	Communities at risk from Wildland Fire			County	Create in-house
	Counties Losing Population			TIGER	
	Number of Economic Sectors by Counties			TIGER	

## Appendix 4\*

### Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement File Organization

2005

(All Files to be Indexed)

NDFO RMP-EIS 1616.\_\_\_\_ or SDFO RMP-EIS 1616.\_\_\_\_

<b><u>File No.</u></b>	<b><u>File Name</u></b>
<b>.01</b>	<b>Project Planning</b>
.011	Preparation Plan/Communication Plan
.012	Project Costs
.013	Regulations/Guidance
<b>.02</b>	<b>Internal BLM Correspondence</b>
.021	Washington Office
.022	State/Field Offices
.023	Solicitor's Office
<b>.03</b>	<b>External Correspondence</b>
.031	Federal Government (includes FWS correspondence & all federal comment letters)
.032	Congressional
.033	State Government (includes all state govt. comment letters)
.034	County Government (includes all county govt. comment letters)
.035	Organizations/Businesses
.036	General Public
.037	Resource Advisory Councils
.038	FOIA Requests
<b>.04</b>	<b>Public/Agency Involvement and Updates</b>
.041	News Releases/Briefing Statements/Newsletters/Talking Points
.0411	News Articles
.0412	Briefing Packets
.0413	Presentations (PowerPoint, Overhead)

- .042 Scoping Open Houses
- .043 Draft RMP Open Houses
- .044 Federal Register Notices
  
- .05 Management/Core/ID Team Meetings**
- .051 Meeting Notes/Schedules
  
- .06 Issue Identification**
- .061 Issue Identification
- .062 Scoping Public Comments/Log
- .063 Scoping Content Analysis
  
- .07 Draft Resource Management Plan**
- .071 Background Data by Discipline
- .072 Formulation of Alternatives
- .073 Estimation of Effects by Discipline
- .074 Maps
- .075 Draft Resource Management Plan
- .076 Public Comments/Log
- .077 Draft RMP Content Analysis
  
- .08 Final Resource Management Plan**
- .081 Background Data by Discipline
- .082 Identification of Preferred Alt.
- .083 Final Resource Management Plan
  
- .09 Record of Decision**

\*This is the index that is currently in use for the UMRBNM RMP. There is also an example appendix in the LUP Handbook.

## Appendix 5 DAKOTAS' BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES LIST

### Amphibians and Reptiles

- Greater short-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)
- Plains spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*)
- Snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)
- Western Hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)

### Fishes

- Blue sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*)
- Northern redbelly X Finescale dace (*Phoxinus eos x phoxinus neogaeus*)
- Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
- Pearl dace (*Semotilus/Margariscus margarita*)
- Sicklefin chub (*Macrhybopsis meeki*)
- Sturgeon chub (*Macrhybopsis gelida*)

### Mammals

- *Bats*  
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus/Plecotus townsendii*)  
Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)  
Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)  
Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
- Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)

### Birds

- Black tern (*Chilodonia niger*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene/Speotyto cunicularia*)
- Common loon (*Gavia immer*)
- Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)
- Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
- Franklin's gull (*Larus pipixcan*)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
- Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)  
Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)  
McCown's longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*)
- Marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)
- Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
Baird's sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)  
Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)  
LeConte's sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)
- Sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

- Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*)
- White-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)
- Willet (*Cataptrophorus semipalmatus*)
- Wilson's phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
- Yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

## **Plants**

: White-veined wintergreen      Only in SD. Zero in ND

Compiled 2/7/06

### **Threatened/Endangered Species for North Dakota**

- T      Bald Eagle
- T      Piping Plover
- E      Least Tern
- E      Whooping Crane
- E      Pallid Sturgeon
- E      Black-footed ferret
- E      Gray Wolf
  
- T      Western Prairie-fringed Orchid
  
- C      Dakota Skipper

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, ND – August 31, 2005

### **Threatened/Endangered Species for South Dakota**

- T      Piping Plover
- T      Bald Eagle
- E      Least Tern
- E      Whooping Crane
- E      Pallid Sturgeon
- E      Black-footed ferret
- E      Gray Wolf
- E      Topeka Shiner
- E      Eskimo Curlew
- E      Scaleshell Mussel
- E      American burying Beetle
  
- T      Western Prairie-fringed Orchid

## C Dakota Skipper

Source: <http://ecos.fws.gov>

**Appendix 6 RIPARIAN INVENTORY NEEDS**

<b>River &amp; Creek Systems – Miles of Riparian -SDFO</b>						
<b>(By County)</b>						
<b>County</b>	<b>River Riparian # Parcels</b>	<b>River Riparian Miles</b>	<b>Creek Riparian # Parcels</b>	<b>Creek Riparian Miles*</b>	<b>Total # Riparian Parcels</b>	<b>Total Riparian Miles</b>
Harding	39	20.75	5	1.8125	<b>44</b>	<b>22.5625</b>
Butte	4	1.0625	10	11.125	<b>14</b>	<b>12.1875</b>
Lawrence	0	0	7	5.25	<b>7</b>	<b>5.25</b>
Pennington	19	8.625	0	0	<b>19</b>	<b>8.625</b>
Meade	7	3.0625	2	1.8125	<b>9</b>	<b>4.875</b>
Custer	0	0	1	0.25	<b>1</b>	<b>0.25</b>
Ziebach	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Haakon	4	2.3125	0	0	<b>4</b>	<b>2.3125</b>
Stanley	1	0.125	4	4.00	<b>5</b>	<b>4.125</b>
Jackson	2	0.625	0	0	<b>2</b>	<b>0.625</b>
Shannon	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Jones	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Mellette	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Lyman	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Fall River	11	5.875	1	0.375	<b>12</b>	<b>6.25</b>
Perkins	1	0.75	2	0.375	<b>3</b>	<b>1.125</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43.1875</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>68.1875</b>

Estimated acreage includes 68 Acres of Lotic (streams) plus 16 acres of Lentic (wetland).

<b>River &amp; Creek Systems – Miles of Riparian –NDFO (estimated)</b>			
<b>Stream</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Miles completed in 2005 or 2006 (approx.)</b>
Little Missouri	5	Bowman Co.	2
Little Missouri	5.5	Dunn Co.	1
Kid Creek & Trib.	1.5	Bowman Co.	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		

Estimated 42 acres of Lotic (streams) plus 20 acres of Lentic (wetland).

Appendix 7

PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS

