



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
South Dakota Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
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June 14, 2013

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the South Dakota Field Office. The Draft RMP/EIS considers and analyzes four alternatives that address future management of approximately 274,000 acres of BLM-administered surface estate and 1.7 million acres of federal minerals in South Dakota. Alternative D has been identified as the agency's preferred alternative. While a preferred alternative has been identified, a final decision has not been made. The final decision, which will be documented in a Record of Decision, will be made only after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS and after a Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been released. The Draft RMP/EIS is available on the internet at <http://blm.gov/m1kd>.

Your review and comments are needed at this time to ensure that your input is adequately addressed in the planning process. The public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS is 90 days and will begin with publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Additional information on public meeting dates and times to discuss the plan and provide comments will be forthcoming in news releases after publication of the Federal Register notice. Written comments should be sent to RMP Manager, BLM, South Dakota Field Office, 310 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. You may also send electronic comments to BLM_MT_South_Dakota_RMP@blm.gov. All comments will be fully considered and evaluated in the preparation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, and all substantive comments will be addressed.

Comments will be most useful if they are specific, mention particular pages of the document where appropriate, and address one or more of the following:

- Identify inaccuracies or discrepancies in information
- Identify new information that would have a bearing on the analysis
- Identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures
- Make suggestions for improving management direction

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

We appreciate your help in this planning effort and look forward to your continued interest and participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Mitch Iverson, Project Manager, at (605) 892-7008.

Sincerely,

Marian Atkins
South Dakota Field Office Manager

DRAFT

**SOUTH DAKOTA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE
BELLE FOURCHE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

JUNE 2013

Draft
South Dakota
Resource Management Plan
and
Environmental Impact Statement

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Draft (X) Final ()

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: South Dakota

Abstract: This Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), South Dakota Field Office. The planning area for the South Dakota Field Office and this Draft RMP/EIS covers the entire state of South Dakota, which includes approximately 49.3 million acres. Within the planning area, the BLM administers about 274,000 acres of public land surface estate. The majority of BLM-administered surface estate is located in Harding, Butte, Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Perkins, Meade, Ziebach, and Jackson counties. The BLM manages approximately 1.7 million acres of federal mineral estate in 37 counties in South Dakota. Over 99 percent of the BLM-administered surface and mineral estate in the planning area is located in western South Dakota.

The South Dakota RMP/EIS would revise the South Dakota RMP (1986), Miles City Oil and Gas EIS (1994), and the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC Plan (1996.)

As part of the RMP revision process, the BLM conducted scoping to solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the Draft RMP/EIS. Planning issues identified for this RMP/EIS include energy development, vegetation management, wildlife and special status species habitat, travel management and access, commercial uses, visual resource management, and climate change.

The Draft RMP/EIS considers four alternatives. Alternative A is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the existing management plans and guidance. Alternative B emphasizes resource development, while limiting protective management of resources. Alternative C emphasizes the most protection of resources, while still providing for use of resources. Alternative D is the BLM's current Agency Preferred Alternative. Alternative D is not a final agency decision, but instead an indication of the agency's preliminary preference that reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, addresses the key planning issues, and considers the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists.

When completed, the Record of Decision for the RMP will provide comprehensive, long-range decisions for (1) managing resources in the South Dakota Field Office; and (2) identifying allowable uses on the BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate. Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS must be received within 90 days following the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability for this Draft RMP/EIS in the *Federal Register*. Comments should be submitted via email to BLM_MT_South_Dakota_RMP@blm.gov.

Comments can also be mailed to: RMP Project Manager, BLM South Dakota Field Office, 310 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Acronyms

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	FMRA	Fort Meade Recreation Area
AMD	Acid Mine Drainage	FMU	Fire Management Unit
AML	Abandoned Mined Lands	FPNG	Fort Pierre National Grassland
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation	FPU	Fire Planning Unit
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species	FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class
APD	Application for Permit to Drill	FSA	Farm Service Agency
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	FY	Fiscal Year
AQI	Air Quality Index	GHA	General Habitat Area for Sage-Grouse
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity	GHG	Greenhouse Gases
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle	GIS	Geographical Information System
AUM	Animal Unit Month	HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
BAER	Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation	IGAA	Indian General Allotment Act of 1887
BHAD	Black Hills Army Depot	IMP	Interim Management Policy
BHNF	Black Hills National Forest	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
BI	Burning Index	ISR	In-Situ Recovery
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	IWM	Integrated Weed Management
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
BMP	Best Management Practice	LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
BP	Before Present	MBF	Thousand Board Feet
C&MU	Classification and Multiple Use Act	MCF	Thousand Cubic Feet
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps	MCFO	Miles City Field Office
CCF	Thousand Cubic Feet	MFP	Management Framework Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	MLRA	Major Land Resource Area
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	MMBF	Million Board Feet
CFS	Cubic feet per second	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CSP	Concentrating Solar Power	MRB	Missouri River Basin
CSU	Controlled Surface Use	MSO	Montana State Office
CWA	Clean Water Act	NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
DBH	Diameter Breast Height	NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
DLA	Desert Land Act of 1877	NF	Non-Functional
DLE	Desert Land Entry	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
DOI	Department of the Interior	NL	No Lease
EA	Environmental Assessment	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	NOI	Notice of Intent
EO	Executive Order	NPS	National Park Service
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ERC	Energy Release Component	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area	NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
ESR	Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	NRI	National Rivers Inventory
FAMS	Facility Asset Management System	NRT	National Recreation Trail
FAR	Functional At Risk	NSO	No Surface Occupancy
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
FLTFA	Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000	PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
FMP	Fire Management Plan	PILT	Payment In Lieu of Taxes

PM	Particulate Matter
PNC	Potential Natural Community
PLO	Public Land Order
POD	Plan of Development
POO	Plan of Operations
PPA	Protection Priority Area
PPM	Parts per Million
PRIA	Public Rangelands Improvement Act
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PSQ	Probable Sale Quantity
PV	Photovoltaic
R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954
RAC	Resource Advisory Council
RCI	Residential, Commercial, and Industrial
RFD	Reasonably Foreseeable Development
RHS	Rangeland Health Standards
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	Right-of-Way
RSC	Recreation Setting Characteristics
SD	South Dakota
SDDWFS	South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression
SDFO	South Dakota Field Office
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
SDNHP	South Dakota Natural Heritage Program
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SMA	Surface Management Agency
SMU	Soil Map Unit
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRHA	Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916
SRM	Society for Range Management

SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Special Recreation Permit
SSS	Special Status Species
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographical Data
STATSGO	State Soil Geographical Data
SWCP	Soil and Water Conservation Practice
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TL	Timing Limitation
TMA	Travel Management Area
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UIC	Underground Injection Control
US	United States
USAF	United States Air Force
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs, historically known as the Veterans Administration
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WEM	Waiver, Exception, Modification
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
WSRA	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542, as amended; 16 United States Code 1271-2287)
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface