



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407



In Reply Refer To:
4700 (WYD03)

Scoping Notice

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Proposed Rogers Canyon Resource Protection and Public Access Plan Environmental Assessment Bureau of Land Management

Description of Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO), is conducting an environmental review for Rogers Canyon, a site proposed as a resource protection and public access area in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The project area is located on 640 acres of public land in southeastern Wyoming approximately eight miles north east of Laramie. Under consideration is fencing a one-mile stretch of public land along the south side parallel to Albany County Road 17. The proposed fence would be wildlife friendly, with three-strands of wire, and a fourth smooth-wire bottom strand which would connect to a current private fence. In addition, barriers may be installed surrounding a current parking area on public land, also along Albany County Road 17. The proposed resource protection and public access area would preserve the ecosystem which has recently been impacted by a wildfire, from on-going off highway vehicle (OHV) use and littering. Non-motorized recreational activities would still be authorized in the canyon.

NEPA

To comply with the NEPA and Council of Environmental Quality regulations which implement the NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis (EA). The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives, identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives, and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be prepared by an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of the BLM resource specialists.

One essential element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to: identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the EA, identify environmental issues of concern related to the designation of resource protection and non-motorized recreational use, determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed by the environmental document, and identify potential mitigation.

of analysis for issues addressed by the environmental document, and identify potential mitigation. Known resource issues or potential conflicts include: recreational activities such as hunting, wildlife viewing, special status plant/wildlife species, hydrology including the Casper aquifer (City of Laramie), riparian areas, and cultural or historic sites.

This scoping notice has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Timing Requirements

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the EA process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Your comments are important. **Only written comments will be accepted and should be received by May 10, to be considered in the EA process.** Please note, public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, email addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the address below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Please submit your comments to:

Amanda Jones, Rangeland Management Specialist
BLM, RFO
1300 N. Third Street
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301
Fax: (307)-328-4373

E-mail comments will only be considered if received at the following address:

BLM_WY_Rogers_Canyon@blm.gov

(Please include "**Rogers Canyon Scoping Comment**" in the subject line.)

Public comments are most helpful if they are specific. The regulations (40 CFR 1503.36) state that "comments on a proposed action shall be as specific as possible and may address either the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed or both." The most valuable comments are those that cite specific actions or impacts in the document and offer informed analysis of what is presented.

Enclosure:

1-Map