



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (930)

APR 13 2011

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP and EIS) for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Project. The RMP planning area is comprised of the BLM Worland Field Office and a portion of the BLM Cody Field Office, referred to collectively as the Planning Area. The BLM prepared this document in cooperation with Wyoming State agencies, county Governments, and conservation districts located in the Planning Area.

The Planning Area is in north-central Wyoming and consists of approximately 5.6 million acres of land in Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties. The BLM administers approximately 3.2 million acres of surface lands and 4.2 million acres of Federal mineral estate through the existing RMPs: the Washakie (1988) and Grass Creek RMPs (1998) for the Worland Field Office, and the Cody RMP (1990) for the Cody Field Office. When approved, this RMP and EIS will result in two Records of Decision, one for each Field Office, which will replace these three RMPs.

The Draft RMP and EIS describes and analyzes four alternatives for future management of public lands and resources administered by the BLM. The Agency Preferred Alternative is identified, but final plan election has not been made. The final decision will be made only after the BLM considers comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS.

Your review and comment on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP and EIS, we request comments be as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources or methodologies, and reference to section or page number. Comments that contain only opinions will be considered and included as part of the decisionmaking process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best use your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period. BLM invites comments on all issues. Application of new policy and information received through this comment period may result in a change in the Preferred Alternative or in development of a new alternative which may be a combination of existing alternatives or an alternative within the range of alternatives analyzed in detail.

Written comments may be submitted as follows and submitting electronic comments is encouraged:

1. Written comments may be submitted electronically via email to BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov
2. Written comments may be submitted during public meetings.

3. Written comments may be mailed directly, or delivered to, the BLM at:
Bighorn Basin RMP and EIS
Bureau of Land Management,
Worland Field Office
101 South 23rd Street or P.O. Box 119
Worland, Wyoming 82401

To facilitate analysis of comments and information the public is strongly encouraged to submit comments in an electronic format through email.

The BLM will hold six public meetings at locations around the Planning Area to provide the public with additional opportunities to submit comments and seek additional information. The locations, dates, and times of these meetings will be announced at least 15 days prior to the first meeting via a press release and on the project website (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>).

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review following the comment period in their entirety at the Cody and Worland Field Offices during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from the public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly, at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Copies of the Draft RMP and EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies and to those persons who indicated that they wished to receive a copy of the Draft RMP and EIS. Copies of the Draft RMP and EIS are available on the project website and for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, Wyoming 82401

Project website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>.

The BLM thanks our cooperating agencies who have participated in the planning process and helped us complete this document. We look forward to your continued interest and participation.

For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Manager at (307) 347-5100.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Simpson
State Director