



April 2011

This edition of the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Newsletter summarizes the past, present and future milestones of this RMP revision project and helps you prepare for the upcoming comment period.

Where we've been . . .

ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

In 2008, the BLM began to prepare the analysis of the management situation (AMS), which describes the current conditions and trends of the resources, uses, and social and economic conditions. The main purpose of the AMS is to identify what needs to be improved by looking at the conditions and uses of the resources as well as the laws, regulations and policies under which the BLM manages those resources and uses.

SCOPING

In the fall of 2008, scoping meetings were held to obtain public input. The BLM reviewed comments and compiled a scoping report. Additional public meetings were held in 2009 and 2010.

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION

What are alternatives? In the context of the RMP, alternatives are various management options the BLM may choose to manage lands in the Bighorn Basin. One management option emphasizes resource protection while an alternative option emphasizes resource production. The resource protection alternative would favor nonconsumptive or nondegrading uses. The resource production alternative would favor consumptive uses, such as increased production of mineral resources.



BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Paul Rau discusses opportunities on public lands with Ten Sleep resident Diane Orme.

The AMS, scoping report and much more can be found at:
www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn/docs.html

Commonly Used Acronyms:

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	RMP	Resource Management Plan



Where we've been (continued) . . .

The BLM studied the AMS and public comments, and met with cooperating agencies to determine how best to craft alternatives to address the issues, respond to the management opportunities, and to change resource conditions. The completed alternatives were then analyzed for impacts and a preferred alternative was developed. The preferred alternative seeks to balance resource protection with resource production in consideration of the economic reliance of local communities on public lands and the way of life provided by public lands.

Where we are now . . .

In late December 2010, the BLM received guidance on managing lands with wilderness characteristics in the Wild Lands policy issued by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in Secretarial Order 3310. The draft RMP was recently reviewed by the BLM's Washington D.C. Office to ensure compliance with this new guidance.

The BLM will notify you through press releases and the project website when the draft RMP and environmental impact statement (EIS) are released for public comment. The project website is:

www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html

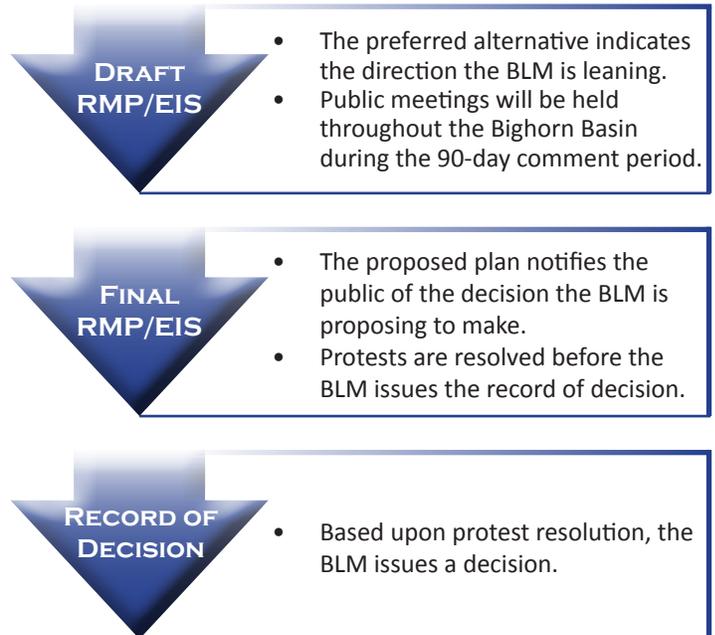
Secretarial Order 3310 and more information about the Wild Lands Policy can be found at: www.blm.gov

Where we are going next . . .



The comment period is important. Based upon the comments and information you provide, changes to the preferred alternative will likely be made. These changes will result in a proposed plan, which will be made available in the final RMP/EIS. Components from any one of the four alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS may be used to develop the proposed plan.

Comments may direct the proposed plan to lean a bit more to resource use or to resource protection. Electronic copies of the RMP/EIS will be available as



well as a limited number of hard copies. A series of public meetings will be held during which BLM staff will be on hand to answer questions. The proposed plan will be available for review before an approved plan is issued with a record of decision.