



October 2010

This edition of the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Newsletter focuses on a projection for oil and gas development in the Bighorn Basin, summarizes the Summer 2010 field trips and helps you prepare for the upcoming comment period.

Oil and Gas Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario

A projection for oil and gas development within the Bighorn Basin planning area is captured in the *Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for Oil and Gas, Bighorn Basin Planning Area, Wyoming*. This document is commonly referred to as the RFD.

The RFD is:

- an estimate for anticipated future oil and gas development assuming all areas are open to leasing under standard lease terms and conditions, except those areas designated as closed to leasing by law, regulation or executive order, such as Wilderness Study Areas.
- a report on where development is likely to occur, the density of that development and how much surface disturbance may occur through 2027.
- a comparative analysis tool.

The RFD is not:

- a report on where minerals are known to exist.
- used to develop constraints on future oil and gas leasing.

TO DO LIST

JANUARY 2011

- Review Draft RMP/EIS

FEBRUARY

- Review Draft RMP/EIS
- Attend Public Meeting(s)*
- Prepare Comments

MARCH

- Submit Comments

*Times and locations to be announced

More on the web:

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

Commonly Used Acronyms:

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM Bureau of Land Management
EIS Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
RFD Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario
RMP Resource Management Plan

Summer 2010 Field Trips

Hot summer days in July and August were filled with convoys of vehicles transporting interested people, cooperating agencies and BLM staff across the wide-open spaces of the Bighorn Basin. Hundreds of miles were covered in six field trips, reaching heights near 11,000 feet above sea level with only three flat tires.

Visited areas included Tatman Mountain, Carter Mountain, Little Mountain, McCullough Peaks, the Grass Creek oil field and rangeland habitats, and Legend Rock and the grassy plains between Ten Sleep and Nowater.



The purpose of these field trips was to prepare for the upcoming 90-day comment period on the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and EIS, expected to begin in January 2011.



Topics included management of travel on, and access to, public lands; cultural resources; invasive species; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Wild Horse Herd Management Areas; wildlife habitat; riparian and wetlands; and the availability of lands for recreational use, mining, oil, gas, and wind energy development.

What's 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 in late summer to early fall 2012.

