1077

RCC

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Jim Milburn	**E-MAIL:** milburnj@tritel.net
ORGANIZATION: self	
ADDRESS: 180 S. Mountview St.	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Powell, WY 82435	

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PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11-13-08

I am 70 and can only enjoy the BLM areas on a 4 wheeler. So my interest is in open roads and multiple use areas. Keeping all present trails and roads open for use will allow our group to visit areas and observe wildlife.

1078

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NAME: Thom Miller	**E-MAIL:**
ORGANIZATION:	
ADDRESS: 217 Pat O'Hara	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Powell, WY 82435	

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PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11/13/08

I would like to see off road recreation contain or expand from its present levels. It seems more and more trails are closed due to a few people who will not follow the rules and those of us who do follow the rules are punished. I would like to see the current trail system in the Peaks stay at that level.

1079

BEECHERLLC@aol.co
m

11/13/2008 11:24
PM

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov
cc

Subject
Comments on the Bighorn Basin RMP

We would like to submit the attached comments for the Bighorn Basin
Resource Management Plan Revision Project.
Thank you,
Diane Orr
Preservation Committee
Utah Rock Art Research Association

Get the Moviefone Toolbar. Showtimes, theaters, movie news & more!(See
attached file: RMP commentsOrr.doc)

Commenter has requested the remaining pages of
Comment Document 1079 be removed.

1080

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NAME: Russell Taylor	**E-MAIL:** rtay1@wir.net
ORGANIZATION: SELF	
ADDRESS: 852 Risem Son Road	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Powell, WY 82435	

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PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11/13/08

BLM LAND IS THE PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING AND SHOULD BE ADMINISTED AS SUCH. WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE WILDERNESS AREAS, OR NATIONAL PARKS, OR STATE PARKS. THE STATE ECONOMY HINGES ON AGRICULTURE, MINING AND OIL; ALL OF WHICH DEPEND ON ACCESS AND DEVELOPEMENT OF THE STATES NATURAL RESOURCES. TOO OFTEN THE BLM SEEMS TO LISTEN TO THE YELLOWSTONE COALITION, OR THE SIERRA CLUB, OR OTHER SEVERE ENVIRONMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS WHILE IGNORING THE CONCERNS AND VALUES OF WYOMING RESIDENTS. ALL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMPRISED IN THE VAST MAJORITY BY PERSONS (SMOKEY)

1080

BB RMP Scoping Comment Form
Comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008

WHICH DO NOT RESIDE IN THE STATE. THEY HOLD NO OWNERSHIP OR RIGHT TO ADMINISTER LAND WHICH BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING.

RESIDENTS OF WYOMING DON'T LIVE HERE FOR HIGH WAGES OF GLITTER AVENUE SHOPPING. WE LIVE HERE LARGELY TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE HILLS AND EXPLORE AND ENJOY THE ACCESS. WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE ROAD CLOSURES OR RESTRICTED ACCESS. THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH LAWS & RESTRICTIONS ON THE BOOKS TO ADEQUATELY MANAGE THE LAND IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER. THERE ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE EVERY YEAR TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR STATES FORESTS, PARKS, AND PUBLIC LANDS WHILE WE SEE MORE AND MORE ROAD CLOSURES AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS. THIS IS NOT THE OLD WEST OF THE 1800'S AND IT IS RIDICULOUS TO ASSUME THAT YOU NEED TO TRY TO REVERT TO THAT CONDITION.

THE BLM NEEDS TO REMEMBER THAT THEY WORK FOR THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING - NOT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WITH THEIR AGENDA'S.

Russell G. Taylor

THE McCULLOUGH PEAKS AREA SHOULD REMAIN OPEN. NO FURTHER ACCESS RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED

Comment Document 1081 has been intentionally removed.

1082

"Jacquelyne Theisen" <bebehumr@gmail.com>
11/13/2008 11:55 PM

To: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov
cc:
Subject: Bighorn Basin - RMP

To Whom it May Concern

I would like to file for an extension on this planned Resource Management Plan Revision.

Public Notification was not given over the radio, or seen in any newspapers. Code of Federal Regulations requires proper notification to the public for soliciting public input. The public was not properly notofied. The only public meeting was held 4 days prior to the close of the comment period.

At the meeting in Powell tonight, we could not obtain any documentation of the plan or it effects to land users and the public. Maps of proposed changes were not provided. We asked for maps and documentation but were not given any.

We would like an extension for more public notification of the changes proposed by the BLM and for the lack of Documentation of changes.

Thank-you

Jacquelyne Theisen
5592 W. Driftood Ct.
Rocklin, CA 95677
bebehur@gmail.com

1083

"Trosper, Ann - Powell, WY" <ann.trosper@wy.nacdnet.net>

11/13/2008 01:07 PM

To <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Written Comments

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District want to emphasize the support of the multiple use concept. Over the last 100 years there have been great partnerships between government, agriculture, oil and gas, and recreationists developed. These partnerships need to be fostered. All of these groups are key to the quality of life that we enjoy.

We do support continued oil and gas development.
We do support the continued agriculture use of oil and gas discharge water across the basin.
We do support ATV use and trail development. Additional trails and rest room facilities in the area would be great!
We do support the protection of the wild horse herds recognizing that the herd size must be managed to meet the limited resources available for them.

We do appreciate the support and interest BLM staff has given to work on the Shoshone Watershed plan.

BLM staff have been wonderful to communicate with and helpful to our operations.

We are interested in working with the BLM to improve water quality, particularly sedimentation issues.

We are concerned about the huge influx of rusian olive and salt cedar into the basin. Our district is working with local land owners, Park County Weed and Pest, NRCS, Wyoming Game and Fish to find grant funds and develop a remediation program. We are looking forward to a good partnership with BLM as we begin to address this issue.

We look forward to partnering with BLM to expand our education efforts regarding responsible recreation (ATV) use.

1083

Although the BLM is located primarily in the lower parts of the basin, we are also looking forward to working with you to provide education on sensible wildfire protection of dwellings and property.

Again THANKS for the opportunity for comment and looking forward to a great year.

Ann Trosper
District Manager
Powell Clarks Fork CD

307-754-9301 X 112

1084

Written Comment Sheet

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Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

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All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Tracy Walsh	**E-MAIL:**
ORGANIZATION: —	
ADDRESS: 907 Lone 13	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Powell, Wy 82435	

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PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11-13-8

The use of BLM land should be aloud for hunting, fishing, camping and othe recreation activities. The land should be improved threw burns and treatments to enhance wildlife habitat. Oil and gas development shoul be aloud, but should not degrade wildlife habitat anymore than necessary. The oil companies should improve other habitat to off set the habitat that is degraded threw exploration. The most important thing I think is to allow the public to use the land.

1085 Rec

Written Comment Sheet

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Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
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NAME: Tom Whitson	**E-MAIL:** TDWhitson@frontiernet
ORGANIZATION: UW + County planning bd, individual	
ADDRESS: 1560 Lane 14	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Powell, WY 82435	

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PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11/13/08

We should do more sagebrush thinning with spike herbicide for thinning the stands to a 12-15% live canopy in bottom productive areas. We need to graze to allow us to harvest grass for beef + sheep production but it needs to be sustainable. We need to limit turn out until June to maximize grass stands and production. Early grazing reduces grass stands. Weed control should be emphasized through a IPM approach with the goal, replace weeds with perennial grasses. We need hunting, oil + gas + mineral development but only in areas a long ways from my place. We cannot live with that. We hire professional land managers to manage public land do not tie their hands behind their backs, let them manage. Limit off road use of four wheel drive vehicles.

1085

BB RMP Scoping Comment Form
Comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008

We must have a solution to eleminate unwanted wild horses they can be humanely disposed of not just rent more land and buy more feed this costs the public over 27 million $ annually with no end in site. The least we can do is keeping them from breeding. This is a very emotional issue and is a no win issue but it must be delt with.
We cannot let every extreme group or artifact become the tail that wags the dog. The minor issues should be delt with as minor issues but things like the endangered species act are being used to control the land and prevent ranking from harvesting needed resources from the land. We still need to harvest renewable resources such as timber, grass and wildlife don't lock up resources because a few individuals threaten legal action.
The main thing to keep in mind is that we are only borrowing the land from the next generation and it should be left to them in as good or better condition than it was when we started with it.
Best wishes to the employees of the BLM they are a group of well trained people working for an agency that has a bad reputation. I have met many of the BLM employees and they are great people doing a tough job. Thanks for taking time to allow the public to comment often this offsets the vocal minority groups we seldom comment but often need to get involved. Work as a team make good team decisions that will give us sustainable soils water and wildlife but make a decision and stay with that decision, all of you know what will work best for the long run. Thanks

Tom Whitson
307-754-3392

1086

"Joe Winkler"
<debjoewink@rtconnect.net>

11/13/2008 09:00 PM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan

I am writing because of my concern about the revision of the Resource Management Plan that is coming up. As a hunter, rock climber, horseman, and fisherman I use BLM land for many reasons. I wish to speak for areas where I can do those things. I have done all of the above on BLM land and hope that I can not only continue to do so but that opportunities are expanded. We need to protect what we have and not let the energy needs to over take all other uses. I hope your organization will protect lands such as Castel Gardens and increase protected areas such as the Wilderness Study Areas.

Joe Winkler
1012 Rd. 11
Worland, WY 82401

1087

Lynne Bama
<lbama@tribcsp.co
m>

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

11/14/2008 09:50
AM

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin Management Plan

The following is my comment on the revisions to the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan:

The Bighorn Basin is one of a lessening number of Wyoming landscapes that still looks much the way it did when I first came to the state forty-two years ago. My hope is that it will remain unspoiled by any more industry; but at the very least, the Fifteen-Mile badlands country, all of the BLM Wilderness Study Areas, Citizens' Wilderness Proposed Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and crucial wildlife ranges and recreational
areas on the mountain fronts should be off-limits to energy, mining, and other developments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bama
PO Box 148
Wapiti, WY 82450

1088

Mike Blymyer
<utpz2@hotmail.com>

11/14/2008 04:34 PM

To <bbrmp_wymail@blm.gov>, <cody_wymail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Bighorn Basin RMP

Issue Ranking Survey: BIGHORN BASIN RMP

name: Mike Blymyer email: utpz2@hotmail.com
address: 1789 Eaglenest Trail, Powell, WY 82435

10("most important") Restoration- Inadequate/incomplete restoration: detrimental impacts to wildlife habitat and livestock grazing carrying capacity

mining companies must be required to meet reclamation standards on existing mining disturbed lands prior to being authorized to open new surface mines; in other words, no net loss of habitat

Wyoming Game and Fish should be encouraged to participate with the BLM in developing vegetation composition/density standards to be met as part reclamation

- vegetation standards should be quantifiable
- all mining activities must be sufficiently bonded to ensure complete, successful reclamation
- no bonds should be released until/unless successful reclamation has occurred which includes successful establishment of site-appropriate vegetation

9 Oil & Gas Leasing- impacts to view shed, wildlife habitat

- spacing requirements for all new leases should be made on a geographic basis and include a minimum 2-mile buffer from all identified sage grouse leks and nesting areas
- geographic areas for well/facility spacing should be mapped (delineated) and include classifications such as "heavy industrial" (5-acre or less pad/facility spacing); "industrial" (40-acre pad/facility spacing); "light industrial" (160-acre pad/facility spacing) as an example
- best management practices should be required and not just recommended as a lease stipulation on all new leases

8 Noxious Weeds- deleterious impacts to riparian systems, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing

- more emphasis/resources need to be applied to noxious

1088

weed management
· emerging problems such as the invasion of riparian areas by Russian knapweed should be met aggressively and on a priority basis while the problem can still be realistically addressed
· the BLM must work cooperatively with State and county organizations to establish priorities for control and to establish monitoring standards to establish successful treatment strategies
· a permit condition for all surface disturbing activities such as leasable mineral, locatable mineral and salable mineral development/extraction and their related facilities such as right-of ways and access roads should include annual physical inspections for and treatment of noxious weeds by the permit holder
· permit holders should be required to submit an annual report of noxious weed monitoring/treatment activities as a condition of permit approval

7 Livestock Grazing- potential impacts to riparian systems, wildlife habitat, stability of livestock industry
· grazing in riparian pastures should be limited to not more than once every three years
· utilization levels from all herbivores in riparian systems should not exceed 40 percent current annual growth (CAG)
· total use levels on uplands should be restricted to less than 60 percent CAG
· all "M" and "I" category allotments with significant/manageable segments of aquatic/riparian systems should have grazing systems incorporating riparian pastures
· "grass banks" or other strategies such as use of non-allocated common allotments need to be used to provide increased flexibility to permittees/lessees in time of drought, major range improvements such as use of prescribed fire, or impacts caused by wildfire

6 Mining- impacts on water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, livestock grazing
· cumulative impacts that have and will result from bentonite mining need to be evaluated so that effective measures can be put into place to keep the industry from having unnecessary /undue degradation on the environment
· in situ leach mining operations will require test wells to detect any leakage or contamination of groundwater outside the aquifer mining zone
· suitable bonding will be required to assure remediation of groundwater contamination that may result form in situ mining operations
· concurrent reclamation should, generally, be required of all open pit mining operations

5 Recreation (motorized)- potential impacts on other recreational uses, wildlife habitat, water quality
· unless designated as open to vehicular use and signed as such, motorized vehicular use should be prohibited
· vigorous enforcement against unauthorized use should be a priority

1088

· recognize that legal use of off highway vehicles on designated roads and trails is a popular and valid use of public lands
· work with state, county and local organizations to identify areas, roads and trails to promote appropriate motorized use
· work with local off road enthusiasts to erect signage that identifies roads and trails open to motorized vehicular use

4 Cultural Resources- vandalism to cultural sites
· a systematic approach to monitoring cultural sites should be developed and employed
· impact thresholds should be identified and protection/enforcement actions taken to protect priority sites in particular

3 Fire- decadent vegetation, wildlife forage, livestock forage
· use a systematic approach to identify areas that need prescribed fire to restore appropriate vegetative age-class and composition
· insure that burning in a mosaic pattern is a priority

2 Wild Horses-
· maintain the appropriate management level to McCullough Peaks herd
· insure that wild horses are managed as part of a multiple-use approach and not as a single use or special emphasis use resource
· consider using the Foster Gulch HMA as a refuge for non-reproducing, unadoptable horses from within Wyoming if appropriate funding is allocated to protect private lands

1 Wildlife Habitat-

determine areas that are deficient in water resources and install watering facilities
Get 5 GB of storage with Windows Live Hotmail. Sign up today.(See attached file: Issue Ranking Survey.doc)

1089

"Laura Bredesen"
<lbredesen@hunter
-keith.com>

11/14/2008 05:35
AM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP Revision

To Whom it May Concern,

I previously sent a separate e-mail sharing my thoughts about your Resource Management Plan revision. As I stated previously, I believe it is critical to keep the BLM lands free from drilling disturbances . Leaving the lands allows wildlife to prosper and maintains the lands for all to enjoy.

Since sending the letter, my father gave me the specific BLM allotment number, 03106, that our family utilizes along with our deeded property. Since originally purchasing land in the Trout Creek Basin, our family has worked with the BLM to ensure that the BLM land is available for the wildlife. To me, we have taken care of and used the BLM land the way it was intended. The combination of the BLM land and deeded land enlarges the area the wildlife use.

Please protect our BLM allotment number 03106 from all drilling. We value this allotment and hope that we can continue to maintain it for the benefit of wildlife.

Sincerely,
Laura Bredesen
2692 Becker Rd
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Our Ranch address is:
Trout Creek Ranch
3659 North Fork
Cody, WY 82414

1090

"Marc Davidson"
<cjeight@gmail.co
m>

11/14/2008 10:11
AM

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc

Subject
BLM Resources Bighorn Basin RMP
revision.

Marc Davidson
cjeight@gmail.com
Oklahoma Trailchasers http://www.trailchasers.com

18970 Oakwind

Choctaw, Oklahoma 73020

11.14.2008

BLM Resources Bighorn Basin RMP revision.

Many people have been using the Big Horn Basin as an area for OHV's for as as many as 50 years. Some of these routes are roads that OHV'ers have adopted and prescriptively used as destination trails. These routes, in many cases, predate the existence of the BLM, and we contend that the BLM has no right to close the original roads trails that have been used by the public, uninterrupted for 130 years (in some cases).

They lead to vistas, scenic byways, creeks and primitive camping. We contend that all of these routes are valuable, as they are being used to access some type of needed or wanted resource. These trails have not been proven to affect water quality, habitats, or plants. What they are is a road that the BLM cannot afford to manage. Management is not closure. These roads all need to be analyzed individually for their value, and included into the BLM System until this has been accomplished.

The BLM has decided not to designate routes leading to private property, traversing private property, or exiting private property. BLM has also stated that the burden of permitted access to these types of trails will be on the user. We as users will not have the ability to gain permission to cross private property if there are no trails designated to private property. These trails need to be designated until access or easement has

1090

been denied by private property owners.

Four wheel drive owners do not want to loose this valuable resource. They use these areas for recreation. Four wheel drive owners build their vehicles to traverse extreme terrain. Most of the time the BLM closes trails because they cannot traverse the terrain in the stock vehicles. OHV's do not feel it is fair to shut down these trails and roads or designate them as only for 4 wheelers just because a car cannot drive over the trail or road.

OHV's do not approve of adding more area to the already large Wilderness Study Area. This land has been set aside for over 20 years. We feel this land should be opened up again to the Public and off road vehicle travel.

There are 4 wheel drive enthusiasts that spend a great deal of time and money preparing their rigs for the winter. Bead-lock wheels are the most expensive equipment used. The wheels lock the bead of the tire to the wheel, so when the tire is aired down and left with 2-3 lbs of air, the tire will stay on the wheel. The purpose of this is to create a wide footprint which greatly enhances traction in the snow by allowing the vehicle to "float" on top of the snow. It prevents the tires from "digging" into the snow, and also helps prevent tread damage to roads that may have 24-36" of snow pack. The trick to staying on top of the snow is slow steady throttle, which much like the nature of rock crawling reduces the risk of resource damage. Many purchase wider tires as well to aid in deep snow travel.

Thank-you

Marc Davidson

P.S. I know this is a form letter and I'm sure you have seen many. For that I apologize, however, it does state the issues at hand pretty well. A large number of these old roads/routs/paths were used to settle the Western United States and are as much a part of the American history/heritage as River Boats on the Mississippi, cable cars in SF, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Please don't deny me or my children the opportunity to see what those that have gone before us struggled to overcome to settle the Western frontiers of our great nation.

.\\

Comment Document 1091 has been intentionally removed.

1092

BLM

I am very concerned about the impact of oil & gas on the McCollughs.
We need to protect the horses & sage grouse there.
Any development in the Big Horn Basin needs to protect our animal & plant life.

Joyce L. Hardwick
307-754-2466
Ralston, Wy

The one thing we have here that we don't want to lose is being able to go out for a drive & see antelope, eagles, ducks, elk, deer etc. We need to protect them at all cost

1093

"Hessenthaler,
Paul A."
<phessenthale@marathonoil.com>

11/14/2008 04:23 PM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc
"Hessenthaler, Paul A."
<phessenthale@marathonoil.com>

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP

Please see my comments in this attachment.

Thank You

Paul Hessenthaler

(See attached file: BHB_BLM_letter_11-14-08.doc)

1093

Dear Sirs

I have lived in the Bighorn Basin all of my life. I feel that the BHB is a great place to live, and I plan on staying in this area to retire. I am now 53 years old so I am getting close to retirement. I have worked in the Oil & Gas Industry for over 25 years and I must say that I am proud of our environmental record. The company I work for goes to extreme measures to conduct itself in an environmentally safe way.

The Shoshone River runs through my families farm, therefore I feel that I am very aware of the water quality, and I feel that the water quality today is better than it was back in the 1960's and 70's. The numbers and varieties of wild life today are much more abundant than what they were 30 and 40 years ago, so we must doing a lot of things right..

I have heard about how detrimental the Oil & Gas industry is to the environment, (usually from people who come from outside of Wyoming). How Oil companies wreck ground water with their downhole work, how they can put harmful chemicals into the ground anytime they want. To these people I say bull! I know what is being done and I have no worry that anything dangerous to the environment is happening. I have not heard of anyone who has had their water well wrecked due to Oil & Gas activity.

We enjoy a great lifestyle here in Wyoming. Our schools and public buildings are excellent. Many of these buildings were bought and paid for with money from the Oil & Gas Industry. As stated earlier I plan on living here in Wyoming for the rest of my life. There is no way that I would want to live in a place that was ruined by any industry. I am very concerned about what kind of lifestyle we could enjoy in Wyoming if the Oil & gas Industry were forced to leave the State due to extreme regulation and high taxation.

I feel that open discussions will benefit the Oil & Gas Industry. I feel that too often we are maligned and disliked due to the Big Oil perception that is so popular today. It is my hope as a life long resident of this great state to do what I can to disprove this perception and let people see the Oil & Gas Industry as a vital part of Wyoming now and in the future.

Sincerely
Paul Hessenthaler

1094

"Eric Hill"
<ehill@tritel.net
>

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

11/14/2008 02:27
PM

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin Resource Management
Plan Revision Comments.

Eric Hill
P. O. Box 1551
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P. O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

I would like to comment regarding the McCullough Peaks area. My main concern is for the wild horses. I would like to see fewer roundups for herd reductions. If any roundups are done at all there shouldn't be a large round up but maybe a few throughout the year without the use of helicopters. I think this would be less stressful for the herd. If there are too many horses for the grazing available then why is cattle allowed in that area? I think the cattle should go before the horses since Horse Management Areas are a lot scarcer than cattle properties. I have no problems with cattle on other public lands.

I would like to see the horse herd size increased to at least 200 in order to keep genetic diversity at a high enough level to keep the herd healthy. I would like to see the size of the herd management area increased along with the staff to manage it. With a larger area some of the 30,000 horses in pens could be returned to the land. I would like to see a greater effort to use birth control rather than roundups to control herd size. As they say "When you find yourself in the bottom of a hole-- stop digging." Don't keep adding horses to the dry lots!

I would like to see the McCullough Peaks area declared off limits to drilling and road improvements due to the natural unique beauty of the area. If not declared a wilderness maybe it could become a park with access along the Whistle Creek road and limited to this road (no motorized off road use). I know we need the gas the wells produce but the McCullough Peaks area is tiny in comparison to the country at large. This type of property should be saved and only used after less unique areas are

1094

developed. Alternate technology may possibly be developed before the need of this type of land use is needed for fuel.

Thank You,
Eric Hill

1095

See attached, looking forward to your categorization of comments.(See attached file: Issues for Scoping.doc)

1095

To: USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Worland District Office
Attn; Caleb Hiner
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

November 14, 2008

Withhold personal identity publicly and BLM internal

Formal Scoping comments for the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision

Provide analysis for maintaining and improving recreational settings for semi-primitive motorized and semi primitive nonmotorized areas. Demands on public lands for projects like right of ways (*pipelines to private entrepreneurships*), oil & gas, mining, etc. present historical evidence that little consideration/analysis is given to the recreationist seeking solitude and tranquility. This analysis is inseparable with landscape management i.e. viewsheds.

As mining development, O&G development, subdivision developments, etc. are proposed; recreation and landscape management for public lands should be considered the priority during analysis and withdrawn from leasing. This should be considered and disclosed to the public during RMP development.

Provide for motorized recreation via open areas at or near all municipalities within planning area. Currently, these have been user created which demonstrates the need and desire for such areas. Develop staging areas with minimal facilities.

Designate motorized travel routes while maintaining access to public lands at or near current levels. Show the public existing transportation i.e. two track roads thru system roads and ask for input.

Pursue public access thru ROWs to significant acreages of public domain lands (BLM, Forest Service, Park Service, State Trust etc.) to better disperse current and future recreational use!!

1095

Analyze relative value in recreation vs. other resources for greatest economic return. Consider Wyoming Game and Fish revenues on BLM public lands, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing nongame.

1096

loghouse@tctwest.net

11/14/2008 11:27 AM

To: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc:

Subject: Protect our land

Please count my "vote" for protecting the Basin

Certain areas are too special to develop; these areas should be off-limits to energy and mineral development:

è All 13 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) with Citizens' Proposed Areas (links above)
è The 9 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
è The crucial wildlife ranges and recreation areas along the fronts of the Big Horn,
Absaroka, and Beartooth Mountains.

► The Bighorn Basin contains some of the most spectacular cultural, historical, paleontological, and unique scenic resources in the state. Measures need to be in place to ensure these resources are protected, including the requirement of minimum-impact techniques like directional drilling and phased developments.

► The Bighorn Basin provides habitat for many sensitive wildlife species; buffers and development limitations, such as no-surface-occupancy stipulations, should be in place to protect habitat areas for sage grouse, pronghorn, raptors, and other wildlife.

►Human health and safety should be ensured through the development of policies and decisions based on specific, quantitative data and modeling.

►Development must be done right; we need a balance. We don't want the Bighorn Basin turned into an industrial wasteland or the next Jonah Field.

Sincerely. Wendy Johnson

1097

Scott Johnston
<cruzila@wildblue
.net>

11/14/2008 10:55
AM

Please respond to
scott@almarmfg.co
m

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc

Subject
Resource Management Plan Revision.
Big Horn Basin in Wyoming.

Dear BLM,

I would like to file for an extension on this planned Resource Management Plan Revision comment period.

Public Notification was not given over the radio, or seen in any newspapers. NEPA and CEQ provide guidelines for public involvement in this type of process.

Documentation of the plan or it effects to land users and the public are not available. Maps of proposed changes were not provided.

I would like an extension for more public notification of the changes proposed by the BLM and for the lack of dissemination of changes.

Please add my email to the list.

Thank-you
Scott Johnston
4500 Ingot Lane
Garden Valley, CA 95633

1098

lll@loendorf.net

11/14/2008 01:18 PM

To BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc

Subject Bighorn Basin planning

November 14, 2008

Comments for the Bureau of Land Management Bighorn Basin RMP Revision
Submitted by Lawrence Loendorf, Archaeologist
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Those who simply drive through the Bighorn Basin consider it to be a dry, eroded expanse of clay and mud-covered buttes with some irrigated farm lands along the main water courses. But those who have studied the Basin know it as quite a different place. This is especially true from the cultural resource perspective where every known archaeological entity for the past 13, 000 years is represented by major and exceedingly significant habitation sites. The Paleo-Indian cultures include Clovis (Colby), Folsom (Hansen), Cody complex (Horner); the Early Archaic (Medicine Lodge Creek), Late Archaic (Daugherty Cave); Late Prehistoric Period (Wedding of the Waters Cave, Spring Creek Cave, Medicine Lodge Creek). I need to be clear that I am only naming some of the exceedingly important sites, as there are dozens of other significant sites.

After realizing that the Basin contains many significant habitation sites, the cultural resource specialist discovers that the Basin is crossed by some of the most intact Indian Trail systems in North America. The Bad Pass Trail coming south out of the Pryor Mountain -Bighorn Canyon area to follow a route along the eastern side of the Basin and over the Lysite region is marked by major cairn lines that were used to clear the trail and indentify its route. Then there is the major trail that crosses the Owl Creek Mountains, moves north to a turn to the west into the head of Owl Creek toward Washakie Needles. This region so important to the Wind River Shoshone that they had a special name for it -- "nda' unawisua". There were more trails but these two exceedingly significant ones point out that the there are few places elsewhere in the world that one could find a more complete and important Native trail system.

Knowing that there are major habitation sites and trail systems, it should not be surprising that there are also other kinds of prehistoric sites. Unquestionably the most important of these are the rock art sites, but it is a mistake to believe that the sites known to the public, like Medicine

1098

Lodge Creek or Legend Rock are the only ones in the Basin. Indeed the corridor between the Thermopolis hot springs was considered to be connected to the hot water features in Yellowstone National Park and along this route there was a spiritual underground passage way. The supernatural creatures that used this passage could and often did come up to the surface to make appearances on the rocky outcrops. Rock art sites are numerous in areas like Coal Draw and along the Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Perhaps more important, these sites are nearly universally considered as traditional cultural property to American Indians. In this regard the sites take on significance for their archaeological properties as well as their traditional ones.

I certainly do not envy the problems the Bureau of Land management faces in trying to appropriately manage these diverse cultural resources. I suggest that serious consideration be given to creating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as one way to keep the places protected. But before that step is taken, or perhaps concurrently, it might be best to get some sampling strategy in place to learn the magnitude of the problem. I know that Bureau of Land Management archaeologists have tried to undertake some independent survey in areas like Coal Draw, and that there have also been energy mandated surveys completed but I do not believe these areas of known sites have been placed in an overall scheme to see if certain landforms or certain substrate are more prone to have cultural resources than others.

This sort of approach has been successful on Bureau lands in other parts of the west and many times the spending of money up front to learn the importance of the cultural resources in a loci will actually save money in the end when potential developers clash with archaeologists and Indians. In other words what I am suggesting here is that the Bureau of Land Management try to adhere to Executive Order 11593 where they were mandated to find and evaluate all the cultural resources on the lands they mange. This up front approach is considerably more effective than waiting until the developer has plans in place and then hires the archaeologist to learn what cultural resources might get in the way.

1099

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Bob Mangus	**E-MAIL:** BKMangus@tctwest.net
ORGANIZATION:	
ADDRESS: 17 Shoshone Ave	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Lovell wy 82431	

Comments submitted to BLM for use in this planning effort, including names and home addresses of individuals submitting comments, are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 522). Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, public comments submitted, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Worland Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11-14-08

need to Keep 4 wheelers in check. They seem to go any where. I do not mind the grazing that should be done. Continue to provide plenty of wildlife Habitat. Push to get public access to public property. Horse trails should continue to be Kept up. it seems that we have lost a lot of Sage grouse in our area and I am not sure why

1100

"Meabon, Randy"
<rpmeabon@marathonoil.com>

11/14/2008 11:06 AM

To <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Marathon Oil Company Comments for BB RMP

Attached please find comments for the Big Horn Basin RMP revision. Original letter mailed on 11/14/08

<<BHB RMP.doc>>

Thanks,

R.P. Meabon
Marathon Oil Company
Regulatory Compliance Group
Rocky Mountain Operations
307-527-2133 (office)
307-272-0005 (cell) (See attached file: BHB RMP.doc)

1100

November 14, 2008

Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

RE: Comments Concerning The Big Horn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision

Dear Mr. Hiner:

Marathon Oil Company appreciates the opportunity to comment on the the Bureau of Land Management's planning process for the Bighorn Basin (BB) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision covering 3.2 million surface acres and 4.2 million acres of federal mineral estate in north-west Wyoming. The BB RMP Revision Project is a combined effort revising RMPs for both the BLM Cody and BLM Worland Field Offices. Public lands within the field offices are currently managed according to three RMPs: the Washakie RMP (1988) and Grass Creek RMP (1998) for the Worland Field Office; and the Cody RMP (1990). The field offices will produce a single RMP and EIS encompassing both field offices that will be called the Bighorn Basin RMP Project. Each field office will issue its own Record of Decision for its jurisdictional area.

The area includes 12 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), two areas of special designation, and seven special recreation management areas. The planning area includes part of Hot Springs, and all of Park, Washakie, and Big Horn County, Wyoming.

The major preliminary issues are:

- energy and minerals management;
- climate change and greenhouse gas emissions;
- management of riparian areas and water quality concerns;
- livestock grazing management;
- recreation/visitor use and safety management;
- travel management, including Off Highway Vehicle use;
- management of wildlife habitat including protection of sensitive species habitat;
- land tenure adjustments, realty leases, and utility corridor right-of-ways;
- management of areas with special values, such as ACECs;
- and visual resource management.

Marathon requests the following points be evaluated and included in the Resource Management Plan.

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- **Planning for Fluid Minerals**

It is necessary for mineral resources to be represented equitably in not only the planning criteria, but also in factors that will be considered by alternative, effects to be addressed in the analysis of environmental consequences and determinations used to select a preferred alternative.

The following factors should be included by BLM in the analysis:

- Management options that would protect or enhance opportunities to explore for and develop oil and gas resources will be examined.
- Management options for surface resource management that are compatible with oil and gas resource management objectives
- Reasonable mitigation measures designed to limit or avoid impacts to surface resources as a means to lessen restrictions on access to public lands for leasing
- Lack of oil and gas resource potential or current industry interest will not be used as a basis for closing lands or imposing constraints on exploration and development activities

The effects on oil and gas opportunities from surface management is only tied to -- not limited to -- economic impacts. Access to public lands for purposes of exploring for and producing oil and gas resources must be considered a separate issue from economic impacts. It must be explained how surface management constrains the availability of public lands for leasing, exploration and potential development. Moreover, compliance with the various leasing laws that require all lands to be evaluated for lease is an access issue that has nothing to do with economics.

We recommend that an analysis of the following types of effects be included in the environmental consequences section of the RMP:

- Effects on opportunities to explore for, lease and develop oil and gas resources resulting from restrictive surface management decisions.
- The application and viability of reasonable mitigation.
- Limit the study to any residual effects that may be present after standard or special lease terms and conditions have been imposed. (For example, under the 43 CFR 3101 regulations, a two-month occupancy restriction can be imposed under standard terms and conditions of a lease for purposes of protecting critical habitat. Therefore, if the typical restriction used to protect calving areas is two months, no stipulation is needed because the BLM has the authority to restrict an operator, if necessary, to protect such areas under the standard terms of the lease. A lease notice apprising the lessee that calving grounds exist on the lease should be sufficient.)

- **How will BLM provide for interim development during the planning process?**

According to IM-2001-191: "*When a RMP is being amended or revised, BLM will continue to process site-specific permits, sundry notices, and related authorizations on existing leases in an expeditious manner while ensuring compliance with NEPA and other laws, regulations, and policies.*

The BLM has the authority and discretion to condition its approval of proposed actions (APDs and other site specific activities) with reasonable measures (including relocation, redesign or delays in the proposed action) so as to reduce the effect of actions on other resource values and uses, consistent with the lease rights granted (see 43 CFR 3101.1-2). That is, BLM can use its authority and discretion to condition its approval of proposed actions to not constrain alternatives under consideration in a RMP revision or amendment consistent with the lease rights granted. Actions that may appear to reduce a lessee's right to reasonably develop a lease should be cleared through the State Director and Regional Solicitor's Office."

We urge BLM to follow the requirements in the Instruction Memorandum during the current planning process.

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- **How will socio-economic considerations and benefits from oil and gas activities be addressed in the DEIS?**

A comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic benefits of oil and gas development activities in the area should be included in the review. A chart representing costs of administering the mineral program and industry's financial contributions to local, state and federal treasuries would also be appropriate.

- **How will BLM manage areas of low, moderate, high and unknown potential for oil and gas in the study area?**

BLM is responsible for assessing the potential for occurrence of oil and gas resources during the analysis process. We would like to emphasize that the lack of potential or lack of current industry interest should not be considered a basis for closing lands or imposing constraints on future development. Levels of interest can change over night, rendering an area previously considered to have low potential highly prospective due to new information, technology or economics. It is important that future opportunities to explore for and develop oil and gas resources not be indiscriminately foreclosed.

- **How will BLM determine the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable oil and gas development?**

We recommend that BLM use a method that incorporates historical data on what types of impacts have typically occurred in the area. It will be impossible to determine exactly how many miles of roads will be needed or how big a specific well pad may be until an Application for Permit to Drill is filed. Therefore, the agency should use a local average for these types of uses. Furthermore, the discussion of cumulative impacts related to possible development should include not only possible impacts of oil and gas activities, but also the measures available to mitigate adverse effects. In addition, we recommend that BLM utilize a new approach for defining reasonably foreseeable development that addresses acceptable levels of surface disturbance rather than the number of wells in then planning area. This gives both BLM and industry needed flexibility in future development opportunities, such as drilling multiple wells from a single pad or taking into consideration wells that have been plugged and abandoned.

We also strongly urge BLM to periodically review the Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenario for oil and gas during the planning process to ensure it accurately reflects industry activity projections in the planning area. In so doing, BLM can ensure the plan will be a useful management tool.

- **To what extent will the BLM identify available mitigation measures to minimize or avoid possible impacts that could result from future oil and gas activities?**

Section 1502 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations on the National Environmental Policy Act directs that mitigation measures be identified in the EIS which may be employed to reduce or entirely avoid impacts to other resource values. While this could be construed to mean that only lease stipulations need to be identified, we believe it is necessary to discuss other types of mitigation which may be utilized at the time of oil and gas drilling, both exploration and development, such as area-wide standards and guidelines for oil and gas operations. This information is necessary because it illustrates that with appropriate mitigation, oil and gas activities are compatible with other resource uses, including those in sensitive areas.

- **In general, how will opportunities to explore for and develop oil and gas resources be affected by the management of other surface resource management decisions?**

Many past BLM planning documents have discussed the impacts oil and gas activities may have on other resource values, but they have failed to adequately describe the effects surface resource management decisions may have on future subsurface opportunities and activities. Therefore, we strongly urge BLM to

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describe the impacts of surface management decisions and trade-offs selected as they relate to oil and gas opportunities.

- **How will valid existing rights be affected by the new plan?**

Valid existing lease rights cannot be changed by a new plan. Voluntary compliance to the new plan may be sought from lessees if activities are initiated. Nevertheless, BLM needs to specify in the planning documents if and how valid existing lease rights could be impacted by the new leasing decisions. Specifically, potential conditions of approval for operations and other changes should be identified.

- **How will BLM address Directional Drilling?**

We urge BLM to recognize that the use of directional or horizontal drilling methods is based upon a number of factors that include geology, technological feasibility and economic viability. Even though this technology is viewed by many as a reasonable solution to surface disturbance concerns, BLM must recognize that these decisions can only be made with careful consideration to many other factors that influence a project's viability. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to impose across the Field Office a requirement that could render a well uneconomic or infeasible, particularly when existing leases do not require the use of alternative drilling techniques.

Due to the nature of the Resource Management Plan development process and the importance of this issue which may effect future oil and gas operations within the RMP area, Marathon requests to be notified in advance of public meetings or input sessions concerning this project. Marathon plans on being involved in every aspect of the process. Therefore, If we may be of any assistance in supplying the facts about our industry or processes, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

MARATHON OIL COMPANY

R.P. Meabon
Regulatory Coordinator
Rocky Mountain Operations
307-527-2133 (Office)
307-272-0005 (Cell)

1101

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME:	Kay Neves	**E-MAIL:**	seven@tctwest.net
ORGANIZATION:	7K Ranch, Inc.		
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 108		
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	Emblem, WY 82422		

Comments submitted to BLM for use in this planning effort, including names and home addresses of individuals submitting comments, are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 522). Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, public comments submitted, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Worland Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** Nov. 14, 2008

I am pleased with the range land health, and the use of livestock grazing to improve the health of the range. I fully support continuing livestock grazing on these range lands at the current or higher ~~levels~~ permitted levels.

1102

"G. Dale Nuttall"
<dNuttall@wyoben.
com>

11/14/2008 09:06
AM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Please add me to the Bighorn Basin
RMP mailing list

dnuttall@wyoben.com

1103

November 14th, 2008

To: Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Resource Management Plan

Sirs and Ms.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

My name is Jeff Pearson and I live in Lovell, Wyoming. Among other things, I am concerned with the degradation of BLM lands around Lovell by (for the most part) motorized off-road vehicles including fullsized 4-wheel drives, 4 wheelers and other ORVs, and dirt bikes. I have no problem with users who stay on designated roads open to them and enjoy our wonderful outdoor areas, but the areas adjacent to the west side of the Big Horn Mountains including all of the newly acquired Little Mountain area and especially the eastern and western slopes of Little Sheep Mountain are being butchered by vehicles that will not stay on roads. I believe those guilty are mostly locals and the lack of respect for the land is appalling. The trash that is left by those using these vehicles is disgusting. The roads along the western edge of Little Sheep Mountain are used as dump areas.

I feel that this could be partially controlled with some patrolling and fines greater than a "slap on the wrist" followed by BIG second offense penalties. Better signage and the posting of penalties plus

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-2-

a public education program would also probably help. Have information and education visits to area elementary, middle and high schools ever been tried? These violations of public lands are going on all over the West and it's time to put a stop to it.

In addition it would be helpful if your agency would provide a place for those of us who bring in the trash to deposit the large stuff i.e. stoves washers, furniture etc. I put the small stuff in my dumpster, but I could bring in larger items too.

Recreation is a large part of using our public lands as long as regulation and respect are observed. We need you people to encourage this and enforce it where necessary.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pearson

Jeff Pearson
P. O. Box 517
Lovell, Wyoming 82431

1104

"Barry Reiswig"
<thepacker@tctwes
t.net>

11/14/2008 08:18
AM

To
"BLM plan" <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc

Subject
Scoping commentsfor bighorn basin
plan

Please accept my comments for the Bighorn Basin Plan. I find it hard to believe you will be working on this plan for three years and yet give Cody meeting participants FOUR DAYS to submit scoping comments. What's with this????? I recommend comments be accepted for another 30 days.

ISSUES

Wilderness

All Wilderness Study Areas and ACEC's should be addressed as an issue and should be off-limits to any energy development. These areras are too important to be screwed up by the energy industry.

Big-Game Winter Range

Big-game iwnter range should be considered as an issue. All big-game winter ranges should be off-limits to any energy development. This notion of stipulations protecting winter range is garbage. As we have seen in the Pinedale area, the minute the energy companies started whining about how tough they have it and the need for eliminating any wildlife-protective stipulations, BLM was only too agreeable to accomodate them. As a result, deer poplations have bee reduced by 50% and sage grouse populations by 90% in the Pinedale Anticline area.

Sage grouse habitat.

Sage grouse and sage grouse habitat should be an issue in this planning process. The portection of sage grouse and sage grouse habitat should be off-limits for any energy development, this includes areas two miles from any lek and all core areas for sage grouse as recently defined by the Governor's sage grouse working group.

Health and Human Safety

Health and human safety should be an issue in this plan. I really don't want to see ozone alerts in Cody because of runaway development, such as is going in in PInedale. I value the tremendous views and vistas this area

1104

now generally affords, and want to see it stay that way. Energy companies must be made to develop in a way that does not threaten public health and safety. With Federally desiganted Wilderness areas on both sides of the Bighorn Basin, protecting air quality is a must, and a legal requirement.

We neeed a balanced energy and mining development; it needs to done in a way that protects the outstanding recreation, historical, wildlife and scenic values of the Bighorn Basin.

1105

heather_smith2@eo
gresources.com

11/14/2008 09:37
AM

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc
eric_dille@eogresources.com,
carsonb@comcast.net,
Andrew_Morris@eogresources.com

Subject
EOG Resources Scoping Comments on
the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision

Caleb,

Attached are EOG Resources' scoping comments on the Bighorn Basin RMP
revision.

Regards,

Heather N. Smith
NEPA Coordinator
EOG Resources, Inc.
303.262.9416 (Office) / 303.818.8365 (Cell) / 303.262.9417 (Fax)
heather_smith2@EOGResources.com

(See attached file: EOG_BighornRMP_ScopingComments_111408.pdf)

1105

EOG Resources, Inc.
600 Seventeenth Street
Suite 1000N
Denver, CO 80202
Main: 303-572-9000
Fax: 303-824-5400

November 13, 2008

Mr. Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401-0119
Sent via e-mail: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

RE: Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Hiner:

EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) offers the following comments on the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EOG produces significant oil and natural gas in Wyoming and is an active participant in many planning processes throughout the state. The hydrocarbon resources that exist beneath public lands are, in fact, owned by the public. Oil and gas operators in the management area provide the means to access and develop these oil and gas reserves, providing much needed energy to meet public demand.

President's Executive Order 13212

The BLM must follow the President's Executive Order 13212 (2001) in completion of the RMPs and EIS. In the Executive Order, the President directs federal agencies to evaluate current programs, policies, and rules, and to reduce barriers to America's energy self-sufficiency. The RMP/EIS should reflect federal law and policy and the nation's need for secure sources of domestic energy. The RMP/EIS should acknowledge that industry can develop the resources in an environmentally sensitive manner while providing the nation with an abundant source of energy. Furthermore, the BLM has a Congressionally mandated multiple-use mission, which must be honored and not compromised by single-use land management objectives.

Legal Framework

It is the "continuing policy of the Federal Government in the national interest to foster and encourage private enterprise in…the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources." 30 U.S.C. § 21a. When the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) was enacted in 1976, Congress declared that "the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals." 43 U.S.C. § 1702(c)(1). Multiple-use, therefore, assumes the ongoing and obvious presence of mankind and its many extractive uses.

Congress also directed the President to encourage federal agencies to "facilitate availability and development of domestic resources to meet critical material needs." 30 U.S.C. § 1602(7). The 2000 amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) required the Interior Department to produce a scientific inventory of oil and gas resources underlying federal lands, and to identify the extent and nature of any restrictions or impediments to the development of such resources. Section 604, Pub. L. 106-469, 42 U.S.C. § 6217 (2000).

The RMP/EIS must substantively and procedurally comply with the foregoing direction and policies that require BLM to promote and facilitate the development of energy resources on public lands. Robert Gleen, 124 IBLA 104, 108 (1992); Ellis Ferguson, 69 IBLA 352 n.2 (1983) (terms and direction in manuals and instruction memoranda are binding on BLM employees).

Valid Existing Lease Rights

In preparation of the RMP, the BLM should recognize that existing oil and gas leases within the Cody and Worland planning areas must be honored. As the BLM is aware, once federal oil and gas leases are issued without no surface occupancy stipulations, and in the absence of a nondiscretionary statutory prohibition against development, the agencies cannot completely deny development on the leasehold. *See, e.g., National Wildlife Federation, et al.*, 150 IBLA 385, 403 (1999). Only Congress has the right to completely prohibit development once a lease has been issued. *Western Colorado Congress,* 130 IBLA 244, 248 (1994). In the EIS, the BLM should discuss the fact that an oil and gas lease is a contract between the federal government and the lessee, and that the lessee has certain rights thereunder. *See Mobil Oil Exploration & Producing Southeast, Inc. v. United States*, 530 U.S. 604, 620 (2000) (recognizing that lease contracts under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act give lessees the right to explore for and develop oil and gas); *Oxy USA, Inc. v. Babbitt*, 268 F.3d 1001, 1006-7 (10th Cir. 2001) (noting that the Tenth Circuit has long held that federal oil and gas leases are contracts), *rev'd on other grounds, BP America Prod. Co. v. Burton*, 127 S. Ct. 638 (2006).

The BLM should also recognize that surface use and timing restrictions resulting from the RMP cannot be applied to existing leases. The BLM cannot adjust a lessee's valid and existing rights. Congress made it clear when it enacted FLPMA that nothing therein, or in the land use plans developed thereunder, was intended to terminate, modify, or alter any valid or existing property rights. *See* 43 U.S.C. § 1701 (2006).

The BLM has specifically adopted and promulgated policies and directives regarding the contractual rights granted in an oil and gas lease. BLM Instruction Memorandum 92-67 states that "[t]he lease contract conveys certain rights which must be honored through its term, regardless of the age of the lease, a change in surface management conditions, or the availability of new data or information. The contract was validly entered based upon the environmental standards and information current at the time of the lease issuance." As noted in the BLM's policies, the lease constitutes a contract between the federal government and the lessee which cannot be unilaterally altered or modified by the BLM. In the EIS, the BLM should make it absolutely clear that it intends to honor valid and existing lease rights.

1105

EOG Resources, Inc.
Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Scoping Comments
Page 3

Courts have similarly recognized that once the BLM has issued an oil and gas lease conveying the right to access and develop the leasehold, the BLM cannot later impose unreasonable mitigation measures that take away those rights. *See Conner v. Burford*, 84 F.2d 1441, 1449-50 (9th Cir. 1988); 43 C.F.R. § 3101.1-2 (2006) (BLM can impose only "reasonable mitigation measures . . . to minimize adverse impacts . . . to the extent consistent with lease rights granted"). The BLM must not adopt an alternative that unconstitutionally "takes" a lessee's property and contract rights.

Consideration of Existing RMPs

Indeed, in the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Grass Creek Planning Area (1998), the BLM appropriately recognized the multiple-use mandate when deciding that "the entire planning area (about 1,171,000 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate) is open to oil and gas leasing consideration." Apart from 20,200 acres, the existing RMP allowed for "the rest of the planning area…subject to standard lease terms and conditions, and seasonal or other requirements." In the Washakie Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1988), the BLM decision was that "all public land not formally closed to leasing are open for consideration for exploration and development of oil and gas." We urge the BLM to continue sound management of the land for multiple-use in the Bighorn Basin RMP revision.

We also urge the BLM to continue to continue allow leasing in the resource area during preparation of the RMP revision. Mineral leasing can still be conducted pursuant to the existing RMPs and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report and Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS)

The RFDS that will support the RMP revision needs to accurately predict oil and gas development during the next 20 years. If the RFDS has yet to be developed or is currently being completed, it should be developed or revised in consideration of the following comments. After completion, the RFDS should be made publicly available.

The use of assumptions that unrealistically reflect the economics of drilling and production operations would result in a RMP/EIS that is speculative and would not provide a reasonably accurate projection of operator activity during the RFDS's time frame. To develop a RMP that attempts to accurately consider the factors relating to the oil and gas industry, the BLM must actively solicit data from the operators that are active the in the project area.

To ensure that the RFDS is able to result in an analysis of impacts that remains within the scope of what oil and gas operators consider "reasonable," the RFDS should be developed in consideration of the following comments:

- The RFDS should be developed with the full cooperation of oil and gas operators in the Big Horn management area and in consideration of data and information provided by those operators.

- Sufficient time should be allowed to conduct a thorough review of the data supplied to the BLM by management area oil and gas operators for incorporation into the document analysis.
- The RFDS should include documentation of the assumptions that it uses to estimate surface disturbance. The most accurate sources of information for use in developing supporting assumptions and guidelines would be the oil and gas operators. At a minimum, the figures used to estimate future surface disturbance, for example, should be submitted to the operators for verification and concurrence.
- The RFDS should include specific details of current and projected take-away pipeline capacity from the management area.
- The RFDS should include a discussion of well life in the management area and should consider the number of wells that may be abandoned during the planning period.
- The RFDS should include an estimate of the compression needs required for future production. Estimates of the number and types/horse power of compressors currently in use and projected for future production needs should be determined through discussions with management area operators and pipeline/gas transmission companies.
- The RFDS should consider possible changes in spacing that may occur during the next 20 years.

Alternatives Development

Because an EIS provides the basis for the decision that implements the new RMP, EOG supports the development of alternatives in the EIS that offer the public, including the oil and gas industry and other users of public lands, clear-cut, distinct resource management choices.

- The EIS should describe a rationale for the development of each alternative considered. Alternatives should not be based on speculative determinations that the mineral resource can be developed regardless of the restrictions imposed upon minerals development. Alternatives should not affect an operator's ability to access the minerals that it has leased. Management area operators have the right to access their leases. An operator's inability to extract minerals from its leases could result from its inability to access the surface above the minerals.
- The use of alternative drilling technologies should not be presumed to be feasible on anything but a well-specific or project-specific basis and should not provide the basis for the analysis of any alternative.

Wildlife and Other Resources

The analyses in the EIS should be based upon detailed area-specific information.

- The EIS should use data from the most recent studies conducted within the project area or from areas similar to that of the management area. Data from studies in areas not similar to the project area should be avoided. Guidance provided in the BLM National Environmental Policy Handbook H-1790-1 states that "existing environmental analyses should be used in analyzing impacts associated with a proposed action to the extent possible and appropriate. This approach builds on work that has already been done,

avoids redundancy, and provides a coherent and logical record of the analytical and decision-making process."

- Relevant information should include that data compiled by the oil and gas industry, federal agencies, and the professional public.

Regional Socio-economics

The ability to extract natural gas from the leased public lands administered by the BLM helps to maintain a stable economic platform for the counties directly affected by the RMP, makes an important contribution to the economic health of the State of Wyoming, and helps to satisfy the energy needs of our nation. The BLM decision should recognize the importance of the role that the oil and gas industry plays in the economy by developing an affected environmental description that contains a detailed historical perspective of the role of energy development in the project area and an impacts analysis that fully considers the direct, associated, and cumulative effects of restricting energy development within its purview.

The EIS should consider the wide-ranging adverse effects (losses) to the regional economy that would result from hindering oil and gas exploration and development in the project area.

- The description of the affected environment should include a historical perspective of land use in the management area and the extent to which the development of oil and gas resources has facilitated economic growth. This description would provide a context for current conditions and how different future development scenarios would affect the stability of the economy in the project area.
- Typical or average well costs should not be used as a baseline to assess the economic viability of drilling and producing a well during the time frame of the RMP. Use of current figures based on current operational procedures for a period of 20 years is speculative at best. There are many factors that affect typical well costs. Each of these factors has the ability to alter well costs to the extent that varying a single figure for any one factor would render an analysis using a static cost invalid. If estimates of future pricing are included in the EIS, sensitivity analyses should be included to demonstrate the effects of changes to the projected price to drilling and production activities and to the economy of the project area.
- The designation of areas with wilderness characteristics, other areas of limited or no surface use, or areas with seasonal restrictions to development should be quantified in the EIS in terms of economic impacts to the oil and gas industry and general public as a result of diminished supply.

Preparation of Statement of Adverse Energy Impacts

As specified in Executive Order 13212, the BLM should prepare a Statement of Adverse Energy Impacts after the record of decision for the Big Horn RMP is made if the BLM's decision has the potential to adversely impact energy production, development, and transmission. The statement would document the BLM's decision in accordance with the order, which was intended to expedite projects that increase production, transmission, or conservation of energy. A Statement of Adverse Energy Impacts should be developed for each alternative and should discuss the following topics:

1105

- The impact of timing restrictions;
- The impact of designated areas excluded from energy development;
- Costs to oil and gas development associated with the mandate of alternative drilling technologies, such as directional drilling; and
- Costs to consumers if energy development is hindered or delayed as supplies fall short of demand.

Conclusion

Continued environmentally-responsible development of natural gas and oil resources in the Worland and Cody Field Offices will provide significant benefits to local communities, the state of Wyoming, and the nation. To successfully lease and develop the resources in the area, all parties should work together to establish reasonable multiple use alternatives that will provide environmentally sound development of natural resources and minimize impacts on wildlife, plants, and recreational interests. We appreciate this opportunity to provide BLM with our scoping comments. We welcome the opportunity to be an active participant in BLM's planning process. Please contact me at 303-262-9416 with any questions about our comments, or to request industry information as you continue with the planning process.

Sincerely,
EOG Resources, Inc.

Heather N. Smith
NEPA Coordinator

Comment Document 1106 has been intentionally removed.

1107

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Brad Tippetts	**E-MAIL:**
ORGANIZATION: Farm Ranch Graze Public Land	
ADDRESS: 1043 Rd 15	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Lovell Wy 82431	

Comments submitted to BLM for use in this planning effort, including names and home addresses of individuals submitting comments, are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 522). Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, public comments submitted, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Worland Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11/14/08

I am a 4th generation Francher (Farmer Rancher) Things continue to get tougher to make a Living everywhere. I Feel the BLM is in the Right track in Burning Brushy Areas more grassy vegetation comes back, cattle + many species of wildlife Enjoy the New grass that comes Back. It is like someone in the city mowing their lawns every week.

I also want to comment on the Bentonite mining in our area. Why reclaim this country the way it was, why not improve it. Make some Duck ponds, some stock watering ponds, some catch ponds to ensure that all of the top soil from Run off doesn't fill up Horseshoe Bend with Mud.

(over)

1107

BB RMP Scoping Comment Form
Comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008

I also want to ask what happened to the Desert entry projects that used to take place years Ago. My Grand parents used to be able to get such things accomplished years ago. Now days my parents submited an Application probably 10 years ago on a project North of the Shoshone from (Colloid - Cetco) and have gotten no Results. I personally feel that we have good intent and this would improve some wild life quality in this area. not all things are done out of greed.

1108

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Dean Tippetts	**E-MAIL:** deantip@tctwest.net
ORGANIZATION:	
ADDRESS: 1088 Road 7	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Lovell, Wyo. 82431	

Comments submitted to BLM for use in this planning effort, including names and home addresses of individuals submitting comments, are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 522). Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, public comments submitted, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Worland Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11-14-08

Those who mis use the land should be prosecuted. But I feel the land belongs to the people, and the people should be allowed to use ~~and~~ enjoy it freely. I believe most people who ~~the~~ like to use public lands for recreation, are respectful and careful, and I am against public restrictions, and closures of roads.

11- 24 -04 **1109**

Written Comment Sheet

Please submit this comment form in person or by mail on or before **NOVEMBER 17, 2008** to:

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Electronic comments are encouraged and can be submitted at: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.
All comments must be received or postmarked by November 17, 2008. For more information contact BLM RMP Project Manager, **Caleb Hiner** at 307-347-5100 or via e-mail at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov.

NAME: Wilford J Tippetts	**E-MAIL:**
ORGANIZATION:	
ADDRESS: 1002 - Rd 16	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Lovell Wyo 82431	

Comments submitted to BLM for use in this planning effort, including names and home addresses of individuals submitting comments, are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 522). Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, public comments submitted, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Worland Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays).

PLEASE PRINT **DATE:** 11- 14-08

I support mulity use
Minerals are very important
Planned/Prescibed Fire very Important
Livestock Graging is very Important

Comment Document 1110 has been intentionally removed.

1111

Neil and Jennifer Miller
<njmiller@tctwest.net>

11/16/2008 07:15 PM

To: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc:

Subject: Big Horn Basin RMP Revision

November 16 2008

Neil O. and Jennifer S. Miller
P.O. Box 742
Basin, WY 82410

Caleb Hiner
RMP Projects Lead
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401-0119
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

RE: Big Horn Basin RMP Revision

Dear BHB RMP Revision Team:

We are residents here in the Big Horn Basin that enjoy our badlands! We've hiked many miles around our home enjoying the beauty and diversity found right here at home. Therefore there are many special places that need protection. The entire Big Horn Basin needs an energy development plan sensitive to the needs of recreationists and wildlife; and we need a plan that protects and promotes a healthy atmosphere to raise families and to grow old.

We have hiked in many of the Big Horn Basin's Wilderness Study Areas. It's such a refreshing visit to be out on the ground in our badlands with all of nature's diversity surrounding you! These WSA's - all 13 including the Citizens' Proposed Areas -, the nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and crucial wildlife ranges and recreation areas on the fronts of the Big Horn, Absaroka, and Beartooth Mountains must be off limits to energy, mining, or any other development.

Human health and public safety should be ensured through the development of policies and decisions based on specific, quantitative data and modeling. All impacts from development must not be detrimental to human health.

The Revised RMP must balance energy and mining development with the

1111

need to protect our recreation areas and our wildlife historical, paleontological, and scenic values. The plan should provide for phased leasing and development so that only a small minority of the Big Horn Basin is committed to oil and gas drilling at any one time. The plan must mandate that development use methods that will result in a minimum "footprint" by using directional drilling and minimum road construction.

The public should receive notice when federal minerals are leased, and the plan should require landowner approval of drilling, and make public the compositions of all drilling and fracturing fluids to be used.

The sage grouse in the Big Horn Basin is one of very few populations maintaining its numbers or slightly increasing them. All possible mitigation must be used to protect our sage grouse populations. Require "No Surface Occupancy" for oil and gas development within 3 miles of sage grouse leks and in crucial big game winter ranges and calving sites.

Much of our public lands have been hurt by overgrazing. Grazing must be kept at ecologically sustainable levels.

Any CBM development must be required to reinject their discharge water, and road construction must be kept to a bare minimum.

ATV or off-road vehicle use of our public lands must be restricted to established roads. Enforcement of the ORV rules is vital to keep our fragile ecosystem intact. More public education and participation must be implemented to reduce the harmful impacts of illegal ORV use.

Thank you for all you do to protect our public lands.

Neil O. and Jennifer S. Miller

1112

Austin Perkins
<austin.perkins@h
otmail.com>

To
<bbrmp_wymail@blm.gov>

11/16/2008 09:56
AM

cc

Subject
dont close our land!!

Name: Austin Perkins
Email: Austin.perkins@hotmail.com
Organization: norcal4x4
Address: 17595 vierra cyn rd
City/State/Zip: salinas ca 93907
Date: 11-16-08

dont take away BLM land!

See how Windows® connects the people, information, and fun that are part of your life Click here

Comment Document 1113 has been intentionally removed.

1114

Sandra Frost
<frostkayak@yahoo
.com>

11/17/2008 07:22
AM

Please respond to
frostkayak@yahoo.
com

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc
cody_wymail@blm.gov,
JBarrasso@barrasso.senate.gov,
senator@enzi.senate.gov,
governor@state.wy.us

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP

November 17, 2008

Bighorn Basin RMP
Caleb Hiner
Bureau of Land Management

Dear Mr. Hiner,

Rather than give you a long list of topics I would prefer BLM to consider when planning in the Bighorn Basin, I would like BLM to emphasize three principles.

1. Wild, open space has value now and in the future. The Cody to Thermopolis area makes its living off tourism. People come from all over the world to experience the beauty of Northwest Wyoming. This value will increase as world population increases in the next 30 years.

2. Manage for sustainable use 25 to 50 years from now. This includes Best Management Practices and long distance vision. Let us have responsible development of assets. This will include bonds in escrow prior to development.

3. Re-write your management plan every 5 to 10 years in the future. Allow for changes along the way.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra M. Frost
641 Ashwood Dr.
Powell, WY 82435

1115

Dean House
<deanhouse994@msn
.com>

11/17/2008 02:21
PM

To
<bbrmp_wymail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Big Horn Basin RMP

Calib Hiner

My main concern is access to roads and trails on the public lands.
I have seen too many 2 tracks and ATV trails closed. There seems
no appenent reason to close this access.

One area that really grips me is access to the Rattlesnake Mountain road.
This requirement of a wood permit appears as a control method by the
present landowner. This should never have been allowed to happen.

That fellow caused lots of acess problems on the old Yellowstone Road
down by the Shoshone River.

I am in favor of responsible development of oil and gas production.
This helps us here locally and the Nation as a whole.

I have been able to visit a whole lot of areas since I retired.
I have a ATV and ride with several friends. We are very careful about
cleaning up after ourselves.

Dean House
.

1116

Dean House
<deanhouse994@msn
.com>

11/17/2008 04:34
PM

To
<bbrmp_wymail@blm.gov>

cc
<cody_wymail@blm.gov>

Subject
ATTN; Caleb Hiner and Mike Stewart

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions, although I wish you had had the meeting in Powell much earlier. Now here I am on the last day and I just wiped out my first copy.(Embedded image moved to file: pic04596.gif)

I have viewed New Gingrich's talk about the energy needs of our country and I believe his organization has done much studying on the subject. I would agree with him that it is critical that we develop our resources to maintain the strength of our country. We cannot afford to continue to depend on other countries for energy. (Actually, for our food, too) There are so many acres of BLM and other public lands that were set aside as multiple purpose lands that we should certainly work toward developing them. I agree that there must be rules and regs, but let's not set up impossible standards.

One example of this would be do genetic testing on the wild horses on the Peaks. They were set loose by settlers who either couldn't feed them or had to move on. What difference would it make if they were accidentally bred by an "outsider." I do not believe we need to worry about deer and other wildlife not breeding around oil field equipment as breeding is itself a rather strong natural function!

My main concern is that there will be too many requirements for drilling on BlM land for it to be feasible. I see no need for building berm to hide buildings and tanks, especially off where few will even see them; I wonder how many of us go over to the east end of the peaks for a Sunday afternoon. Having said that, I will say that I would be one of those who really loves the desert and getting out of town for a few hours calms the soul. However, an example would be Ralston Bench and Polecat Bench. There are so many acres there one isn't really bothered by the oil wells.

Visual appearances can only be required if they make sense economically. We are already outsourcing our food and manufactured goods; we cannot afford to put such strict guidelines on these companies that they won't drill in our country.

As far as ATV's on public lands are concerned, it seems even when we are to stay on the roads, places like Clarksfork Canyon are getting more difficult

1116

for even ATV's to travel. There needs to be at least a minumum of care to make them accessible. Actually, ATV's make less of an impact when they are used off trail because they do not make ruts where they are used repeatedly. A forest ranger in the Big Horns told us we could go to a certain area and drive around where they chop wood, but that it makes less impact if you do not drive back over the same tracks. As far as noise is concerned for others, we seldom run into any other ATV's when we are out--2 or 3 at the most.

I wish you would extend the comment period another 30 days.....but then I would wear out your eyes. In general I think you do a good job. However, I think a 20 year plan may be too long. Mr. Gingrich tells of so many different studies of ways to produce clean energy that should not take 10 years to develop, but if environmentalists impose too many strict management practices, we as a nation will suffer. The BLM should not let the extremists control our public lands. Thank you. Helen House deanhouse994@msn.com

1117

John Krohn
<jkrohn@inghamhab
itat.org>

11/17/2008 03:22
PM

Please respond to
jkrohn@inghamhabi
tat.org

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin grouse habitat

Mr. Eddie Bateson, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Wind/River Bighorn Basin District
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

The text following this is a form letter, the content of which I fully agree with. But I wanted to add my personal note that I happen to be very familiar with the plight of the Sage Grouse population, that though they may be thriving (for now) in the Bighorn Basin, they are disappearing elsewhere because of man-made surface obstacles such as oil rigs, communication towers, wind turbines, etc. which these grouse have an aversion to. Since they demand plenty of open space to perform their mating rituals, it's very important that this sparsely interrupted open area be preserved. Please take this into consideration, as the BLM is supposed to advocate for things like this on behalf of us citizens. Although I may live in Michigan, I visited the Bighorn Basin as recently as three weeks ago, and it's important that habitat like this exist for every american who may want to enjoy it.

-John Krohn

Mr. Bateson,

The Bighhorn Basin is rich in cultural, historical and environmental resources, and offers outstanding desert recreation opportunities. I urge you to develop a revised RMP that will:

*Require phased leasing and development so that only a minority of the Basin can be committed to oil and gas drilling at any one time;

*Give notice when federal minerals are leased, require landowner approval of drilling, and require that companies provide the public a complete chemical inventory of drilling products;

*Mandate minimum-footprint directional drilling for all projects to reduce impacts;

1117

*Require "No Surface Occupancy" for oil and gas development within 3 miles of sage grouse leks and in crucial big game winter ranges and calving sites;

*Protect potential wilderness such as McCullough Peaks and Bobcat Draw; and

*Minimize CBM impacts by considering reinjection when possible, ensure quality of discharge waters, and require full surface owner consent.

In addition, I urge you to extend the comment period for this process. I understand that the BLM is hosting public scoping meetings to provide information and answer questions from the public on this process. The deadline for public comment is only three days following the last public meeting. This does not give the public adequate time to digest the multiple and complex issues related to the Big Horn Basin. Under 5 U.S.C Section 555(e), I petition the BLM to extend the comment period such that the public has an opportunity to digest this information and provide the BLM adequate input.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John Krohn
1500 E Grand River Rd
Williamston, MI 48895
US

1118

"Carrie I.
Peters"
<cpeters@TNC.ORG> To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>
11/17/2008 10:28 AM cc
Subject
BBRMP Comments

Mr. Caleb Hiner,

The attached word document contains our comments regarding the BBRMP.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Brian and Carrie Peters
(See attached file: BighornBasinRMP.doc)

1118

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision. We feel strongly that BLM lands are intended for multiple uses and should continue to be treated as such. Livestock grazing, responsible oil, gas, and mineral development, recreation and hunting, management of wildlife habitat, and improving the health of the land are all extremely important and should be embraced in the revised plan.

As livestock producers and managers, we feel strongly that livestock grazing use in the planning area should absolutely continue. Grazing is a necessary tool for improving rangeland health and has proved mutually beneficial to many classes of wildlife. Grazing reduces risk of fire and helps control noxious weeds.

We feel that range monitoring is an invaluable tool in assessing grazing goals and determining the need for adjustments in use levels, timing, duration, and intensity. We consider it absolutely critical that any adjustments made to grazing plans or permits be based on monitoring and consultation with the permittee. We also believe strongly in the relationship, respect, and communication that develops with cooperative permittee monitoring. It is crutial that the permittee and range consultant understand the goals and work cooperatively to achieve that goal. We are not supportive on third party monitoring. Third parties may use their own methods to alter the data because of personal agendas. Monitoring data should be accepted based only on cooperative permittee monitoring where methods are consistent and there is a common objective.

In closing, there are so many different things to address in this plan. We are strongly supportive of multiple uses and have special interest in livestock grazing. We hope our comments are helpful in guiding this plan into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian and Carrie Peters, Ranch Managers
The Nature Conservancy—Heart Mountain Ranch
Powell, WY 82435

1119

"Curt Bales"
<te@teranch.com>

11/18/2008 11:52 AM

To <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Big Horn Basin BLM RMP.doc

(See attached file: Big Horn Basin BLM RMP.doc)

1119

11/19/2008

Big Horn Basin BLM RMP

These are the main users as I see them.

Oil & Gas development, Recreation, Livestock Grazing, Timber Harvest, Wildlife Habitat, Endangered Species, Wild Horse Habitat, and Urban Sprawl.

Oil and Gas Development

Keep it simple. We don't need new roads everywhere, but it should be done being sensitive to other users, whether that is cultural, recreation, grazing, or any of the other above users. Let's make as little of a foot print while still being effective as possible. I don't think oil and gas development has as much negative affect on other speceices as I quite often see the only sage grouse that I see within a few hundred yards of the oil wells that are on our property. Elk, deer, and antelope are seen within that same distance quite often.

Recreation

Keep it simple. I don't like new roads everywhere. Let's make as little of a foot print while still being effective as possible. If you are going to have trails and trailheads maintain them. Control erosion when it starts so it doesn't turn into a big problem. Control littering and waste problems with proper facilities.

Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing should be done to minimize negative affects on natural recourses. Grazing done correctly can have a beneficial affect upon plant communities. Livestock users should develop water for better utilization for livestock and wildlife. Ranches provide a lot of open space and habitat for public benefits, when they go broke it quite often means more housing developments and less open space and crucial winter habitat for all sorts of wildlife. Five acre ranchetts has one of the worst devastating impacts on our Big Horn Basin resources. So much of the time four and one half acres of that five either turns into a weed patch or dust bowl depending on whether or not they own horses.

Timber Harvest

I think where applicable timber harvest should occur for several reasons. We have a bad problem with beetle killed trees already and something should be done with them because if we wait for nature to run its course there will be so many down dead trees that wildlife won't even be able to use the timbered areas. Or when a fire does occur it will be a hot and wild fire leaving very little viable seeds for regrowth. We may not like the looks after a timber harvest but one thing we must remember is that it will never look the same in our life time as it was before the beetle kill. Let's do what will allow the timber to recover the quickest with minimal resource damage. Let's follow best management practices.

1119

Wildlife Habitat

BLM lands are very import to our wildlife.

Wild Horses

I think wild horses are a lot like grizzly bears and wolves. People like to fall in love with them and view them as an American Icon; they give them a warm and fuzzy feeling. I view the wild horse allot like a noxious weed as they are non native to North America and are hard to control, with a huge cost to the American tax payer. I don't think their management areas should be enlarged and their numbers should be kept in check to eliminate over grazing and doing resource damage.

Urban Sprawl

This has greatly reduced open space in the Big Horn Basin and is only going to get worse. We are losing our open space and wildlife habitat. Don't do anything to encourage more urban sprawl. As we get more people using the area we need to make facilities available to control waist and littering.

Thank You,
Curt Bales

1120

"Steven Gardiner"
<sgardiner@cal4wheel.com>

11/18/2008 01:38 PM

Please respond to
<sgardiner@cal4wheel.com>

To <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Big Horn Basin

BLM Resources Bighorn Basin RMP revision.

Many people have been using the Big Horn Basin as an area for OHV's for as many as 50 years. Some of these routes are roads that OHV'ers have adopted and prescriptively used as destination trails. These routes, in many cases, predate the existence of the BLM, and we contend that the BLM has no right to close the original roads trails that have been used by the public, uninterrupted for 130 years (in some cases).

They lead to vistas, scenic byways, creeks and primitive camping. We contend that all of these routes are valuable, as they are being used to access some type of needed or wanted resource. These trails have not been proven to affect water quality, habitats, or plants. What they are is a road that the BLM cannot afford to manage. Management is not closure. These roads all need to be analyzed individually for their value, and included into the BLM System until this has been accomplished.

The BLM has decided not to designate routes leading to private property, traversing private property, or exiting private property. BLM has also stated that the burden of permitted access to these types of trails will be on the user. We as users will not have the ability to gain permission to cross private property if there are no trails designated to private property. These trails need to be designated until access or easement has been denied by private property owners.

Four wheel drive owners do not want to loose this valuable resource. They use these areas for recreation. Four wheel drive owners build their vehicles to traverse extreme terrain. Most of the time the BLM closes trails because they cannot traverse the terrain in the stock vehicles. OHV's do not feel it is fair to shut down these trails and roads or designate them as only for 4 wheelers just because a car cannot drive over the trail or road.

OHV's do not approve of adding more area to the already large Wilderness Study Area. This land has been set aside for over 20 years. We feel this land should be opened up again to the Public and off road vehicle travel.

1120

There are 4 wheel drive enthusiasts that spend a great deal of time and money preparing their rigs for the winter. Bead-lock wheels are the most expensive equipment used. The wheels lock the bead of the tire to the wheel, so when the tire is aired down and left with 2-3 lbs of air, the tire will stay on the wheel. The purpose of this is to create a wide footprint which greatly enhances traction in the snow by allowing the vehicle to "float" on top of the snow. It prevents the tires from "digging" into the snow, and also helps prevent tread damage to roads that may have 24-36" of snow pack. The trick to staying on top of the snow is slow steady throttle, which much like the nature of rock crawling reduces the risk of resource damage. Many purchase wider tires as well to aid in deep snow travel.

Thank-you

Steven Gardiner

State Recording Secretary for the

California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs

Life Member of Blue Ribbon Coalition

Life Member of Cal 4 Wheel

Life Member of CORVA

1121

"Matt Elliott"
<mrelliott@dalewe
aver.com>

11/19/2008 07:31
AM

Please respond to
"Matt Elliott"
<mrelliott@dalewe
aver.com>

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP

I was unable to attend any of the meetings but I would like to see the BLM lands in the state of Wyoming remain multiple use lands. Be it for recreation or oil and gas development. It is very important that we be able to use these lands to maintain a strong state that is a leader in the production of oil and gas. But also a leader in multiple use. Matt Elliott, V.P. Dale Weaver Inc. Powell Wy.

1122

Ana davidson
<davidson@unm.edu
>

To
BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

11/14/2008 03:03
PM

cc

Subject
Don''t drill in Bighorn Basin

Please respond to
davidson@unm.edu

Mr. Eddie Bateson, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Wind/River Bighorn Basin District
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

Mr. Bateson,

As an ecologist, I strongly oppose any and all drilling in the Bighhorn Basin because of its rich cultural, historical and environmental resources, which is important for wildlife. We have too much drilling occurring throughout the west. It is destructive, ugly, smells, and negatively impacts wildlife.

At the very least, develop a revised RMP that will:

*Require phased leasing and development so that only a minority of the Basin can be committed to oil and gas drilling at any one time;

*Give notice when federal minerals are leased, require landowner approval of drilling, and require that companies provide the public a complete chemical inventory of drilling products;

*Mandate minimum-footprint directional drilling for all projects to reduce impacts;

*Require "No Surface Occupancy" for oil and gas development within 3 miles of sage grouse leks and in crucial big game winter ranges and calving sites;

*Protect potential wilderness such as McCullough Peaks and Bobcat Draw; and

*Minimize CBM impacts by considering reinjection when possible, ensure quality of discharge waters, and require full surface owner consent.

In addition, I urge you to extend the comment period for this process. I understand that the BLM is hosting public scoping meetings to provide

1122

information and answer questions from the public on this process. The deadline for public comment is only three days following the last public meeting. This does not give the public adequate time to digest the multiple and complex issues related to the Big Horn Basin. Under 5 U.S.C Section 555(e), I petition the BLM to extend the comment period such that the public has an opportunity to digest this information and provide the BLM adequate input.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ana Davidson, PhD

Ana davidson
21 Forest Rd
Tijeras, NM 87059
us

1123

"Michele Keith"
<mkeith@hunter-ke
ith.com>

11/14/2008 02:25
PM

To
<BBRMP_WYMAIL@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP revision

Dear Sir,
Our family purchased Trout Creek Ranch in 1991. We have added acres adjacent to the ranch and land that historically was part of the ranch since then. Because of this, we utilize the Trout Creek BLM allotment #03106.
We have made many improvements on all of the property in the past seventeen years. We have learned the fragile nature of this ecosystem and have tried to respect and help it flourish. We have reduced grazing and worked with BLM representatives to offer a better rangeland for the native animals. We manage our deeded land and our allotment to attempt to help all wildlife.
We hope that the RMP revision respects special "wild" areas like this one. We would not want to see mineral extraction allowed or "public" activities that would reduce the wild and natural lands involved in this area.
I thank you for your consideration,
Michele Keith
Trout Creek Ranch
3659 North Fork
Cody, WY 82414

1124

"Dean Thompson"
<thompson@mhbwy.c
om>

11/14/2008 02:16
PM

Please respond to
<thompson@mhbwy.c
om>

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject
Bighorn Basin trail closures

Please see attached letter(See attached file: letter to BLM.doc)

1124

State of Wyoming
BLM

I.e.: closures in the Big Horn Basin area.

Dear BLM,

I am a member of a local organized 4 wheel drive club in Gillette Wyoming. I have been an avid 4 wheeler, hunter, fisherman, camper and outdoorsman since I was able to drive. Your plans to close designated routes in the Big Horn Basin solely based on your lack to maintain these routes is irresponsible and undesirable. The people of Wyoming live here because of the outdoors we are able to experience in are back yards. The actual combined mapped square mileage of the existing trail systems is so minuet compared to the vast quantity of inaccessible public land I feel it is ridiculous for you to close trails that are still accessible to a large population even if they are to go unmaintained. Certain groups like 4 wheel drive clubs, OHV clubs etc. strive to seek out areas that the average car can not access just as hikers, cross country skiers etc strive to go places that no vehicles are allowed. Everyone has their certain niche for relaxation, use and enjoyment of the outdoors and it would be irresponsible for you to take away designated routes that have actually been in existence longer than the BLM has existed. Furthermore, the organized, responsible groups that frequent these trails systems police themselves and adhere to the tread lightly programs and pack it in, pack it out way of life our fathers taught us. If the trail systems were to be closed, only the law abiding citizens would suffer the consequences as the irresponsible people out there could care less that the trails are closed and will continue to use, litter and destroy our public lands. Therefore it is only reasonable to leave the trail systems open for our use and allow us to continue to enjoy the great outdoors. Believe me, the people in our groups spend countless hours, and unlimited amounts of money building our rigs to perform on the trail systems that currently exist. There are families and businesses that depend on our sports to put food on their tables, send their kids to college and generate tax dollars. It's a win win situation for the BLM to leave these designated trails open, allow the users to police the trail systems and let mother nature maintain these trails herself. Our groups do not need nor want these trails graded, plowed or anything. Please leave them be. Our clubs have no problem volunteering our time to assist in marking these trails so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

Sincerely

Dean Thompson
3703 Hoback Ave
Gillette Wy 82718
Deanthompson911@msn.com
President: Trailheaders 4x4 Club Gillette
www.trailheaders.net

1125

Christina Selby
<chris-kandwpc@qwestoffice.net>

11/14/2008 01:48 PM

To <BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc

Subject Comment on BLM Plan

I would like to see several points addressed with regard to mountain biking on the BLM land in general, and in the Cody area in particular.

BLM studies have concluded that mountain biking is comparable to hiking in regards to resource impact, and has less impact on resources than grazing and horseback use. This fact, and the fact that mountain biking is not like motorized travel, should be expressly recognized.

The Plan should state that mountain biking is an appropriate use for BLM lands and should be allowed anywhere that hiking and horse back riding is allowed.

In the area around Cody, Wyoming, there a number of existing trails that are being used extensively, and should be protected from motorized use. Continuing bicycle use should be encouraged. These areas include:

The Valley and ridge north of Newton Lakes, West of the Cody Shooting Complex, and East of Trail Creek Ranch. There are no roads in this area, and, to date little or no motorized use, however, there is extensive horse, foot and bicycle travel on the existing trails. This is a precious resource that should be protected from motorized travel and preserved for non-motorized use;

South of Cody, including the areas immediately adjacent to Beck Lakes Park, the ridge above that park, the red lakes area, and areas East and South of the Red Lakes. There is substantial bicycle and other use in these areas, the red lakes have been trashed by the motorized user, who create new (illegal) roads and litter. Shooting in the area is dangerous, especially when combined with drinking. There are single track trails (cow and game trails) that are extensively used for recreation. However ATVs and trucks destroy the single track.

1125

North Rim of Oregon Basin. These sandstone outcrops offer great recreational resources that should be preserved. Generally accessed from the end of Bluebird Lane, this area is also threatened by motorized abuse, and under-aged parties.

From a mountain biking perspective, single track trails are the most attractive and the most fun. The two-track trails that result from ATVs and
Trucks are an eyesore and do not provide the same recreational value as single track. The problem is that ATVs will put one set of tires on the single track, and run the other in the grass, converting single track to two
track. Please do anything that can be done to stop this.

Thank You.

Matt Winslow
1107 Willow Lane
Cody, Wyoming 82414
527-6128

1126

"Tina Denney"
<soquili@nemont.n
et>

11/15/2008 11:50
PM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
BLM RMP letter

Please let me know if you recieve this. Thank you, Christina Denney(See attached file: BLM RMP letter.doc)

1126

Comments on the Big Horn Basin Resource Management Plan

Energy and Minerals: I saw a map at the BLM's Open House of current oil and gas leases and it looked like most of the Basin was leased. There were some small pockets here and there left for the wild horses and some other things. Don't you think the energy industry has enough real estate sewed up to keep them busy for quite awhile? I would like to see no more of the Wild Horse Range opened to leasing. Any Wilderness Study Areas and other sensitive areas should not be leased either. If these places continually have areas shaved off and given to industry, there soon won't be anything left. What's the point of having wild horses and other wildlife if they don't have anyplace to roam freely? May as well fence them in and call it a drive through zoo.

What would be so wrong with having some areas that are totally off limits to human activity? Give the wildlife a place where they can go and be in total peace from humans.

There doesn't need to be roads everywhere, either. If people want to see the backcountry and roadless areas, they can ride a horse or walk. That eliminates air and noise pollution and vegetation from being torn up by ATVs and other vehicles.

These "set aside" areas should not be leased for grazing, either. No chance of over grazing or diseases spreading that way.

For oil and gas leases, the BLM should take baseline tests of water, air and soil before a company drills and then subsequent tests during and after. The results should be made available to the public. Everyone's best interests are considered then. To pay for them, the BLM could charge the company doing the drilling. But the BLM should be in charge of the testing.

Be pro-active in your planning for oil and gas. More often than not they're going to want to drill several wells. Take that into consideration ahead of time. Make sure they have proper funds to reclaim the area when and if they leave, also.

I feel that 10yrs. is far enough in advance to look for this plan rather than 15-20yrs. Things change very quickly these days. You don't want to be playing catch up.

Don't wait so long to get the public involved in comment periods. The open houses were at the end of this comment period. We're only given 30 days, too. That's not enough time to wade through the mountain of information (if you manage to find it all) to formulate a truly intelligent, proper response. And that's while trying to make a living, take care of families and just everyday stuff. These companies have had YEARS to plan and decide.

It would be nice if we had more say in it before it happened. It's already a "done deal" before we're ever asked to comment. If everyone's doing their jobs properly, we shouldn't have to tell you what to pay attention to, anyway.

So many times, though, even after all the comments of concern and EA process outlining areas of concern and potential impacts, the Record of Decision always comes back FONSI. That makes it sound like there's nothing there important enough to try and protect and industry is given full rein to do what they want. Please remember oil and gas are not our ONLY valuable resources in the State. Money isn't everything.

Perhaps the Plans and Acts that govern everything should be updated. The Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970 is *38* yrs old. The 1920 Mineral Leasing Act is **88** yrs

1126

old! (And in places it talks about actions prior to 1910!) Plus it's hard to read and understand. Don't you think things have changed a lot since then?

Will this new RMP have an affect on existing EISs or other plans?

Grazing Management: Any over grazing of leases should not be tolerated. Close watch should be kept on any riparian areas in grazing leases that they're not being torn up.

ATV travel should not be allowed off existing roads.

Protection of all water sources should be top priority. Water is **THE** most important resource we have.

And all rules must be enforced. It doesn't do a lot of good to make rules if they're not going to be enforced. If the BLM doesn't have the man power or money, maybe they should tap into all that revenue the state is making off of oil and gas.

Christina Denney
457 RD 8VE
Clark, WY. 82435
soquili@nemont.net

1127

"Wray Jenson"
<jensoncody@tctwe
st.net>

11/15/2008 04:37
PM

To
<BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov>

cc
"Karen Jenson"
<jensoncody@live.com>

Subject
Bighorn Basin RMP Revision

November 15, 2008

Dear Sirs;

Multiple Use in Wyoming on BLM

1. Open to public access year-round
2. No closers of exciting roads
3. Open to hunting and fishing
4. Recreation Area
5. Oil & gas exploration [if done according to standards]
6. Wild horse management
7. Cattle grazing permits [unless over grazed]
8. Handicap access [for the elderly & handicap]
9. Open to motorized vehicles
10. Wild life management

This land should be open to the public for future use for all ages and handicap people. It is a real privilege to live in Wyoming and enjoy its recreation areas, historical sites, wild life and scence beauty. Managing the wild horse herds are a must, over grazing and etc. Issues on the oil and mineral exploration can be done correctly. And for cattle grazing, ranchers are entitled to use public lands. Recreational use on public lands should be keep open to motorized vehicles, for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and etc. And for commercial use on public lands, that depends on the usage. Multiple use is the answer, let's keep it open for all! Thank you.

Sincerely,

1127

Karen L. Jenson
233 Road 2AB
Cody, Wy. 82414