
SCOPING REPORT

**BIGHORN BASIN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
REVISION**

Appendix C

SCOPING MATERIALS

**APPENDIX C
SCOPING MATERIALS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meeting Notices C-1
 Scoping Press Release C-3
 Postcard Announcing Scoping Meetings C-4
 Flyer Announcing Scoping Meetings..... C-5
 Powell Meeting Change of Location Flyer C-6
 Scoping Extension Press Release C-7

Meeting Handouts..... C-9
 Meeting Agenda and Planning Issues C-11
 Project Description and How to Comment C-13
 Resource Handout C-15

Meeting Displays C-17
 Resource Management Plan Revision Process and Project Description C-19
 Minerals and Development C-22
 Wildlife C-25
 Recreation C-28

MEETING NOTICES

Scoping Press Release



PUBLIC MEETING ***You Are Invited!***

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody and Worland Field Offices are revising their Resource Management Plans (RMP). 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 encompassing both field offices that will be called the Bighorn Basin RMP. Each field office will issue its own Record of Decision for its jurisdictional area.

An RMP is a land use plan that provides a framework for managing BLM-administered lands over the next 15 to 20 years. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to revise their RMP periodically and to manage for multiple use and sustained yield. The RMP will:

- ◆ Establish goals and objectives that describe the desired future condition for resources and resource uses in the Bighorn Basin planning area;
- ◆ Identify management actions anticipated to achieve stated goals and objectives;
- ◆ Provide a framework for subsequent implementation level decisions for the next 15 to 20 years; and
- ◆ Identify lands that are open, closed, and restricted for resource use.

Public involvement is an essential and required part of the RMP revision process. As part of the RMP revision, the BLM is hosting six public scoping meetings to collect information on the public’s desired outcomes for the Bighorn Basin planning area. You are encouraged to attend and provide your community-specific input.

| Date and Time | Location |
|---|--|
| Wednesday, November 5, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Holiday Inn, Conference Room 115 East Park Street, Thermopolis, WY 82443 |
| Thursday, November 6, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Community Center, Conference Room 1200 Culbertson Avenue, Worland, WY 82401 |
| Friday, November 7, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Big Horn Federal Savings Bank, The Paint Brush Room 33 North 6 th Street, Greybull, WY 82426 |
| Wednesday, November 12, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Big Horn Federal Savings Bank, Community Room 1701 Stampede Avenue, Cody, WY 82414 |
| Thursday, November 13, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | America’s Best Value Inn, Conference Room 777 East 2 nd Street, Powell, WY 82435 |
| Friday, November 14, 2008 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Lovell Community Center 1925 US Hwy 310, Lovell, WY 82431 |

For more information on the Bighorn Basin RMP or the revision process, please contact Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Lead, at (307) 347-5171 or email Caleb_Hiner@blm.gov.

Postcard Announcing Scoping Meetings



The Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Notice of Intent on October 17, 2008 to prepare the Bighorn Basin (BB) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision and associated Environmental Impact Statement. 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/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.

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- Identify lands that are open, closed, and restricted for resource use.

The BLM is holding public scoping meetings to gather public input on the issues related to this project. Please see the opposite side of this postcard for additional information.

You are Invited ...

To attend the upcoming public scoping meetings for the RMP and EIS, hosted by the Cody and Worland BLM Field Offices.

Public involvement is an essential and required part of the RMP revision process. As part of the RMP revision, the BLM is hosting six public scoping meetings to collect information on the public's desired outcomes for the Bighorn Basin planning area. You are encouraged to attend and provide your community-specific input.

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Big Horn Savings Bank, Paint Brush Room, 33 N. 6th St., Greybull, WY
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America's Best Value Inn, Conference Room, 777 E. 2nd St., Powell, WY
- **Friday, November 14, 2008, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
Lovell Community Center, 1925 US Hwy 310, Lovell, WY

For more information:
Contact the BLM RMP Project Manager, Caleb Hiner at
(307) 347-5171 or caleb_hiner@blm.gov

Worland Field Office
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

First Class Mail
United States Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department of the Interior
Permit No. G-76

TO:

Flyer Announcing Scoping Meetings



If you are interested in any of the following issues...

- Energy and Minerals Management
- Recreation/Visitor Use and Safety Management
- Land Tenure Adjustment, Realty Leases and Utility Corridor
- Right-of-Ways
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Livestock and Grazing Management
- Management of Riparian Areas Water Quality Concerns
- Management of Areas with Special Values
- Visual Resource Management
- Management of Wildlife Habitat
- Protection of Sensitive Species Habitat
- Travel Management, including Off Highway Vehicle Use

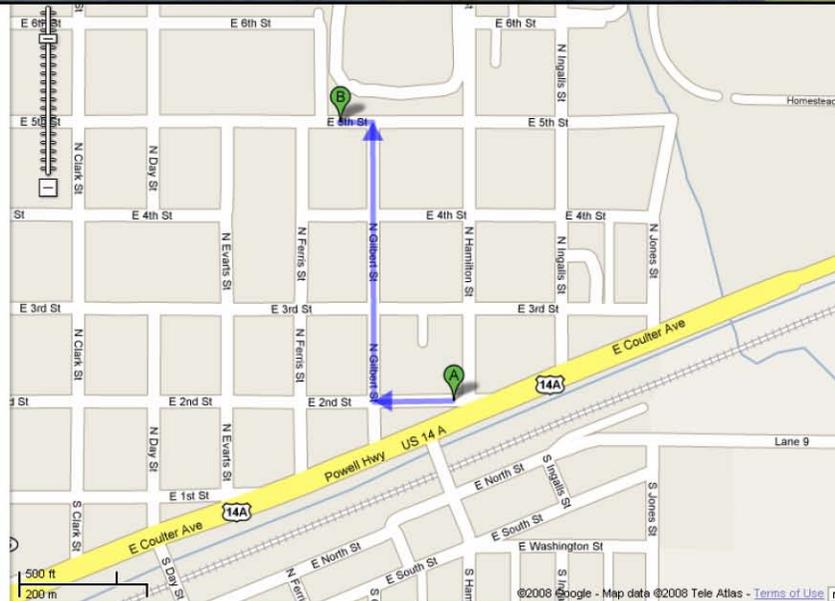
Please join the Bureau of Land Management at one of the following public meetings to provide your comments on these issues for the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan.

| BLM Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Public Scoping Meetings | |
|---|--|
| Date and Time | Location |
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If you are unable to attend but would like to comment, please contact Caleb Hiner by email at BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov, by phone at (307) 347-5100, or mail your comment to Bighorn Basin RMP ATTN: Caleb Hiner, PO Box 119, Worland, WY 82401.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Powell Meeting Change of Location Flyer



The Bureau of Land Management Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Thursday, November 13th public scoping meeting has been moved from:

America's Best Value Inn
77 E Second Street
Powell, WY 82435
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

to

Park City Fairgrounds
General Exhibit Hall
655 E Fifth Street
Powell, WY 82435
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Head West on Second Street.
Turn North on N Gilbert Street.
Turn West on East Fifth Street.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to comment on the management direction of public lands in the Bighorn Basin and to provide your input on the issues. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scoping Extension Press Release



November 14, 2008

Contact:

Caleb Hiner
307-347-5171

BLM still accepting scoping comments on Bighorn Basin RMP

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today that the public can continue to submit scoping comments on the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) even though the formal scoping period was scheduled to end on Nov. 17, 2008.

Due to the high level of public interest and attendance at the scoping meetings, the BLM has extended the formal scoping period until November 24th. Comments should be postmarked no later than Nov. 24, 2008, to be included in the Scoping Report. Comments received after the formal period will be considered but may not be included in the report.

“Public involvement is an essential and required part of BLM’s planning process, and we encourage the public to continue to submit their scoping comments,” said Bighorn Basin RMP Project Lead Caleb Hiner.

Comments can be mailed to: BLM, PO Box 119, Worland, WY 82401-0119

Comments can be emailed to: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

For more information on the Bighorn Basin RMP or the revision process, visit the project website at www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html or contact Caleb Hiner at 307-347-5171 or email Caleb_Hiner@blm.gov.

- BLM -

MEETING HANDOUTS

Meeting Agenda and Planning Issues



BIGHORN BASIN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

Welcome...

Welcome to the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Project public scoping meeting. The goal of tonight's meeting is to inform you about the project and encourage you to participate in the environmental process by sharing the issues you think should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Open House:
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Stations:

- Welcome/Sign-In
- RMP Process & Project Description
- Wildlife Issues
- Recreation Issues
- Urban and Community Development Issues
- Comment Station

During the open house, please visit each station to learn about this project and provide your comments and concerns to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

continued →



BIGHORN BASIN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

Preliminary Issues Identified for Analysis:

- Energy and Minerals Management
- Recreation/Visitor Use and Safety Management
- Land Tenure Adjustment, Realty Leases and Utility Corridor Right-of-Ways
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Livestock and Grazing Management
- Management of Riparian Areas Water Quality Concerns
- Management of Areas with Special Values
- Visual Resource Management
- Management of Wildlife Habitat
- Protection of Sensitive Species Habitat
- Travel Management, Including Off Highway Vehicle Use

What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress in 1969 and signed into law on January 1, 1970. This legislation established a landmark national environmental policy which, among other things, encourages environmental protection and informed decision-making. It provides the means to carry out these goals by:

- Mandating that every Federal agency prepare a detailed statement of the effects of "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."
- Establishing the need for agencies to consider alternatives to those actions.
- Requiring the use of an interdisciplinary process in developing alternatives and analyzing environmental effects.
- Requiring that each agency consult with and obtain comments of any Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved.

Project Description and How to Comment



BIGHORN BASIN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

What is the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Project?

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An RMP is a land use plan that provides a framework for managing BLM-administered lands over the next 15 to 20 years.

The RMP will:

- Establish goals and objectives that describe the desired future condition for resources and resource uses in the Bighorn Basin planning area;
- Identify management actions anticipated to achieve stated goals and objectives;
- Provide a framework for subsequent implementation level decisions for the next 15 to 20 years; and
- Identify lands that are open, closed, and restricted for resource use.

The Planning Area Includes:

- 12 Wilderness Study Areas
- 9 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 2 Areas of Special Designation
- 7 Special Recreation Management Areas

continued →



BIGHORN BASIN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

Making Comments...

Your comments and ideas are crucial to the project, so please visit the [Comment Station](#) to provide us with your feedback! Also, please feel free to direct questions to the staff available at each station.

Providing Comments:

To provide comments, please fill out a comment form. Completed forms may be handed to any staff member, placed in the basket at the comment station, emailed to BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov or mailed to the address below, postmarked by November 17, 2008.

Bureau of Land Management
Bighorn Basin RMP
ATTN: Caleb Hiner
P.O. Box 119
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401
Phone: (307) 347-5100

Please note: By including your name and address on correspondence, you agree the information may be made public as part of the environmental process.

Keys to Making Effective Comments:

Your involvement and input are essential in helping the BLM make informed decisions during the process. Listed below are tips on how to make your comments useful and effective:

- *Be specific. State particular reasons for your concerns instead of making broad statements.*
- *Focus your comments on particular issues or resources and provide details.*
- *Let us know what environmental and community factors you consider important for analysis.*

Thank you for coming!

Resource Handout



What Resources and Resource Uses will be considered during the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision?

Physical Resources:

- Air Quality
- Geology
- Soil Resources
- Water Resources
- Cave and Karst Resources

Minerals:

- Locatable
- Leasable Coal
- Leasable Geothermal
- Leasable Oil and Gas
- Leasable Other Solids
- Salable

Fire and Fuels Management:

- Unplanned/Wildland Fire
- Planned/Prescribed Fire
- Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Biological Resources:

- Forests and Woodlands
- Grasslands and Shrublands
- Riparian and Wetland Resources
- Invasive and Non-native Species
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Special Status Species
- Wild Horses

Heritage and Visual Resources:

- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Visual Resources

Land Resources:

- Lands and Realty
- Renewable Energy
- Rights-of-Way and Corridors
- Trails and Travel Management
- Recreation
- Livestock Grazing

Special Designations:

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Scenic or Backcountry Byways
- National Historic Trails
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness Characteristics
- Wilderness Study Areas

Social and Economic:

- Social and Economic Conditions
- Health and Safety
- Environmental Justice
- Tribal Treaty Rights

Please provide your comments regarding the above resources or other issues related to BLM-administered lands.

MEETING DISPLAYS

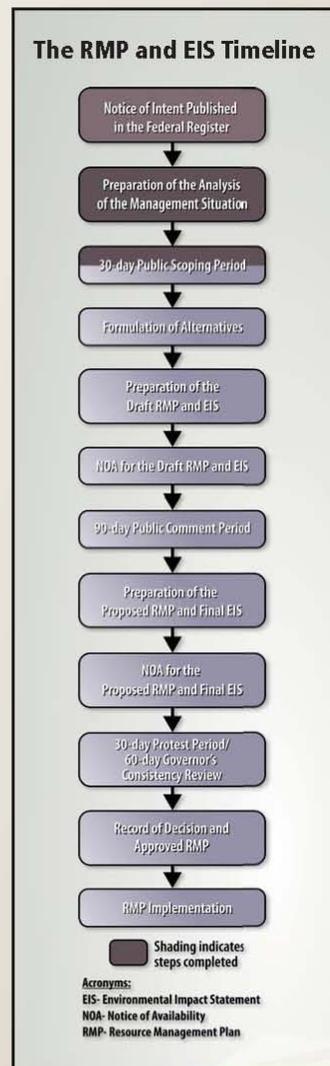
Resource Management Plan Revision Process and Project Description



What is the Process?

The BLM will consider the following throughout the Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision:

- ◆ Observe multiple use and sustained yield;
- ◆ Use a systematic interdisciplinary approach;
- ◆ Consider areas requiring special management;
- ◆ Consider present and potential uses of public land;
- ◆ Consider and solicit public input throughout the process; and
- ◆ Coordinate with applicable tribal, federal, state, and local agencies.





What is the Bighorn Basin (RMP) Revision Project?

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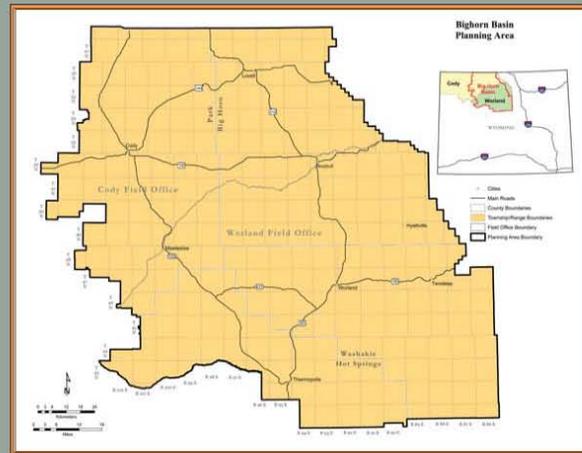
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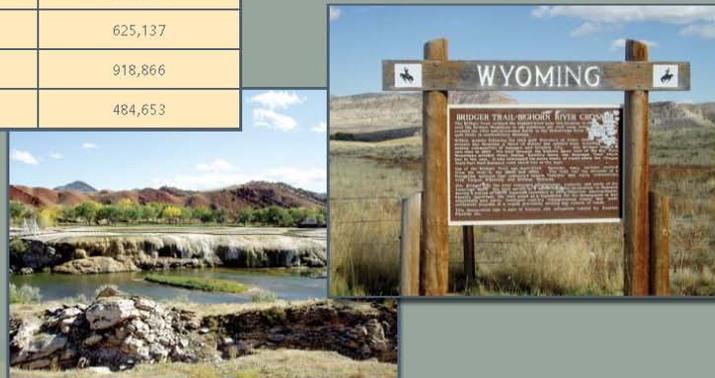


Where is the Bighorn Basin planning area?



The Bighorn Basin planning area includes 3.2 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 4.2 million acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in all of Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming.

| COUNTY | SURFACE LAND |
|-------------|--------------|
| Big Horn | 1,160,595 |
| Park | 625,137 |
| Washakie | 918,866 |
| Hot Springs | 484,653 |



Minerals and Development



What are the issues associated with wildland urban interface?



What are the safety issues with wildlife in the Bighorn Basin?



Other Environmental Issues?

The BLM encourages you to submit written comments about urban development, mineral development, safety, or other issues in the planning area.



What are the issues associated with mineral development?



The Bighorn Basin currently has:

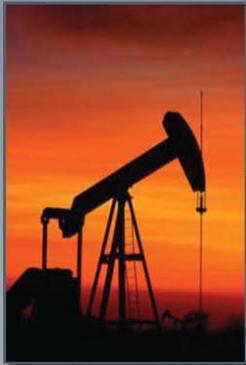
- Approximately 132 persons employed at the six operating bentonite mines
- Approximately 360 persons employed at the six different milling processing facilities
- Levels of bentonite mining is expected to continue at its current level or increase in the future

Currently, there are no coal, geothermal, or other solid leasable mineral operations in the Bighorn Basin.

The estimated annual production of saleable minerals for the Bighorn Basin planning area is approximately 220,000 cubic yards per year.



What are the oil and gas trends in the Bighorn Basin?



Oil and gas production in the Bighorn Basin has been trending downward over the past 20 years. Future production is considered uncertain, but could increase

Current Bighorn Basin Oil and Gas Leases

| COUNTY | NUMBER OF LEASES | ACRES UNDER LEASE |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Big Horn | 180 | 158,565 |
| Hot Springs | 304 | 230,473 |
| Park | 156 | 106,944 |
| Washakie | 477 | 465,281 |

depending on a number of variables including prices of oil and gas and development of new technologies to harness new resources.



Wildlife



What special status plant species occur in the Bighorn Basin?

Several special status plant species occur in the Bighorn Basin planning area. Six BLM sensitive plant species are known to occur within the Bighorn Basin. Of these six species, five are Wyoming plant species of concern* and one is a plant species of potential concern.+

- Dubois milkvetch (*Astragalus gilviflorus* var. *purpureus*)*
- Hyattville milkvetch (*Astragalus jejunus* var. *articulates*)*
- Williams' wafer-parsnip (*Cymopterus williamsii*)*
- Evert's wafer-parsnip (*Cymopterus evertii*)*
- Rocky Mountain twinpod (*Physaria saximontana* var. *saximontana*)*
- Shoshonea (*Shoshonea pulvinata*)*
- Absaroka beardtongue (*Penstemon absarokensis*)*
- Persistent sepal yellowcress (*Rorippa calycina*)+

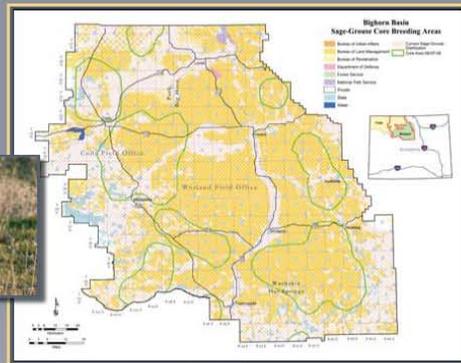


Habitat for only one threatened and endangered plant species is known to occur in the Bighorn Basin planning area.

- Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)



What are the wildlife concerns in the Bighorn Basin?



Protecting crucial habitat is essential to maintaining sustainable populations. Crucial habitat for several species occurs in the planning area and include:

- Sage-grouse strutting grounds, nesting/brood-rearing areas, and wintering concentration areas
- Raptor nesting areas
- Bighorn sheep wintering and lambing areas
- Elk wintering and calving areas
- Pronghorn and mule deer wintering and fawning areas
- Moose wintering and calving areas
- Riparian areas along streams and wetlands for many wildlife species



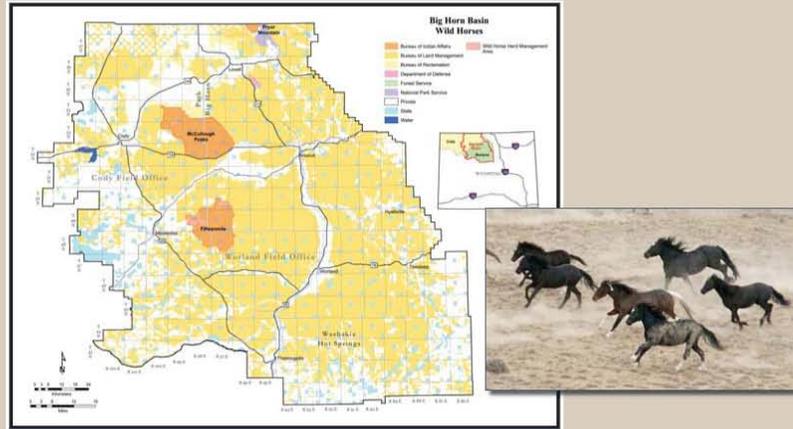
Threatened and endangered species in the Bighorn Basin planning area include:

- Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)
- Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*)
- Gray wolf (*Canis Lupus*)





Where are wild horses managed in the Bighorn Basin?



- ◆ The Fifteen Mile Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 35 miles north-west of Worland, within portions of Washakie, Big Horn, and Park counties.
- ◆ The McCullough Peaks Wild Horse HMA includes approximately 110,000 acres of sage covered prairie. Some of the most pristine Wyoming Badlands are found within this HMA.
- ◆ Pryor Mountain Wild Horse HMA is located in the northern portion of the planning area and is administered by the Montana BLM.

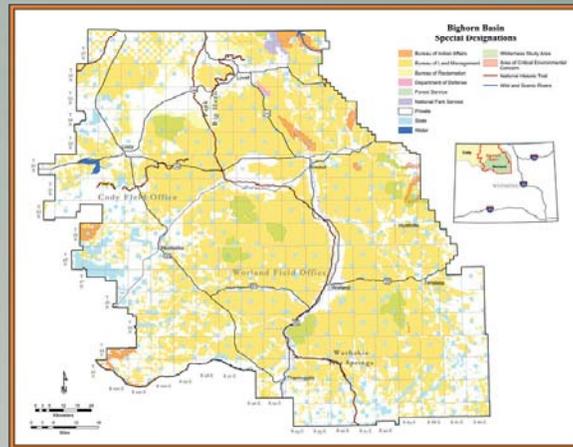
Other Environmental Issues?

The BLM encourages you to submit written comments about wildlife, wild horses, sensitive species or other issues in the planning area.

Recreation



What are the current special designations in the Bighorn Basin?

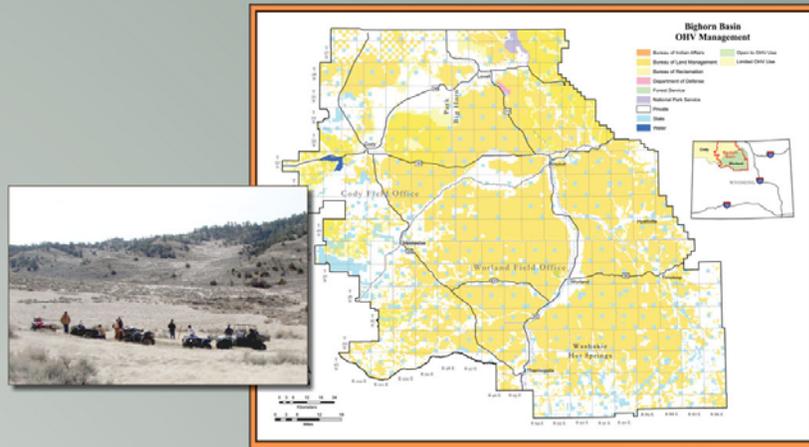


The planning area includes twelve wilderness study areas (WSAs), nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), two areas of Special Designation, and seven Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs).





What recreational opportunities exist in the Bighorn Basin?



Recreation or Visual Issues?

The BLM encourages you to submit your comments about recreation or other issues in the planning area.



What are the recreation issues in the Bighorn Basin?

- Access to public lands
- Maintaining minimal constraints
- Unauthorized dumping
- Unauthorized off-road motorized use
- Safety and information on public lands
- Conflicts with traditional land uses
- Cave management
- Travel management
- Urban growth and sprawl
- Use allocations along the Bighorn River
- Unlimited outfitting permits allowed in hunt areas
- Illegal outfitting on public land
- Increased regulations
- Increased federal presence

