

Fact Sheet
BLM-Buffalo Field Office
August 13, 2008

BLM Buffalo Field Office

- The Buffalo Field Office manages approximately 800,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land and 4.7-million acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in north-eastern Wyoming.
- This area contains vast deposits of oil, gas and coal, in addition to providing a variety of resources such as wildlife habitat and rangelands for livestock grazing. The public lands and adjacent Bighorn National Forest provide many opportunities for recreational activities.

Powder River Basin

- The Powder River Basin (PRB) is located in northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana; 85 percent of the PRB lies in Wyoming and 15 percent in Montana
- Approximately 60 percent of the Federal mineral estate is “split-estate” with private surface ownership.
- An estimated 25-27 trillion cubic feet of recoverable coalbed natural gas exists in the PRB. Approximately 14 percent of this gas has currently been produced. The current rate of production is approximately 1.2 bcf/day.
- Over 95 percent of the Federal minerals in the PRB is currently leased. BLM has not issued additional leases over the coal in the PRB since 2004.

Coal

- Wyoming has 12 producing coal mines in the Powder River Basin.
- The Solid Minerals Group in the Casper Office manages the coal program in the Powder River Basin.
- Wyoming produced about 378 million tons of coal, 98 percent from the Powder River Basin and 2 percent from the Green River Basin.
- Approximately 34 percent of the nation’s coal is produced from the PRB.
- 97 percent of Wyoming’s coal is used for electrical generation, and is shipped to 29 states.



BLM Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision

- The Bureau of Land Management Wyoming will begin revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Buffalo Field Office (BFO) Fall 2008. The revised BFO RMP will provide future direction for managing approximately 800,000 acres of BLM-administered surface land and 4.7 million acres of BLM – administered mineral estate in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in north-central Wyoming.
- The purpose of the RMP will be to establish goals and objectives for resource management; identify lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses; and contain broad scale decisions guiding future site-specific implementation decisions.

Preliminary Planning items

- Energy and mineral resource exploration and development, including consistency with the National Energy policy
- Access to and transportation on BLM lands
- Recreation and off-highway vehicle (OHV) management
- Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors;
- Management and the cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species and their habitats;
- Vegetation, including impacts of invasive non-native species
- Management of cultural and paleontological resources, including national historic trails
- Landownership adjustments
- Fire management and consistency with the National Fire Plan
- Livestock grazing
- Visual resource management
- Air and water quality.

Public Participation

- There will be many opportunities for the public to participate during the RMP revision.
- Initial public scoping will begin in Fall, 2008. This will be the first opportunity for local interests and residents to participate and share their insights and comments. As BLM proceeds with the planning effort, additional opportunities for public participation will be provided.

For more Information

Contact BLM Wyoming Buffalo Office Manager, Chris Hanson at 307-684-1141