



Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



Where are we now?



 **Shading indicates steps completed**

Dear Neighbor,

July 2009

Thank you for your continued interest in the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision. The RMP revision will guide the management of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered public lands within the Buffalo Field Office over the next 15 to 20 years. This is the third newsletter in a series designed to keep you updated on the RMP revision process and informed about how you can participate.

formulation the BLM will use your comments, the planning issues, and planning constraints to formulate a reasonable range of management alternatives for evaluation in the EIS. Each management alternative represents a complete and reasonable plan for managing BLM-administered lands in the Buffalo planning area. The reverse side of this newsletter discusses the alternative formulation process in greater detail.

Buffalo Field Office managers and specialists have been working hard over the past several months, conducting a series of successful public scoping meetings and completing the Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS). The scoping process, which yielded nearly 200 comment documents from members of the public, helped the BLM identify issues of concern that will be addressed during the RMP revision. The issues identified during scoping along with the Summary of the AMS have helped lay the groundwork for the development of the Draft RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Report and Summary of the AMS are available on the RMP revision website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

How can I participate?

Although the official scoping period is closed, we encourage you to continue to stay involved and provide us comments on issues that you would like to see incorporated in the RMP. The next official period to submit your comments will be after the publication of the Draft RMP and EIS when there will be a 90-day public comment period in the winter/spring of 2011.

Again, thank you for your participation and comments. I invite you to remain involved throughout the RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

Duane Spencer
Bureau of Land Management
Buffalo Field Office Manager

What's next?

The BLM is currently in the alternative formulation process. During alternative

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN RMP AND AN EIS?

An RMP is a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of resources administered by the BLM. The RMP will:

- Establish goals and objectives (i.e., desired future conditions) for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives.
- Identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses.
- Provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses.

In order to revise the RMP, BLM is required by Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act to prepare an EIS. The EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of a number of management alternatives, including a no action alternative and preferred alternative. Each alternative represents a complete RMP.

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RMP Revision Website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

Alternative Formulation

The Buffalo Field Office is in the process of developing alternatives during a series of workshops with the Cooperating Agencies. During the workshops, the team will develop a reasonable range of alternatives.



The BLM must consider all reasonable alternatives even if it is decided later not to fully analyze each alternative. Developing a reasonable range of alternatives helps the BLM understand the various ways of addressing the planning issues and management scenarios in the planning area. Each fully-developed alternative represents a different land use plan that addresses the planning issues.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives direct the BLM's actions to most effectively meet legal mandates, regulations, national policy, as well as local resource needs.

Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes that are usually not quantifiable. For example, a land use plan might have as a goal "maintaining ecosystem health and productivity." Objectives identify more specific desired outcomes for resources and may be quantifiable. A sample objective

might be to "maintain sustainable forage levels for livestock and wildlife habitats."

The Buffalo Field Office recently held a workshop with BLM specialists and Cooperating Agencies to develop and refine the goals and objectives for the Buffalo RMP revision.

Over the next several months, the BLM will continue to work with Cooperating Agencies to develop a reasonable range of alternatives that meet these goals and objectives.

What is a Cooperating Agency?

During the scoping process, the BLM initiated contact with numerous local, regional, and state agencies and offered them the opportunity to become cooperating agencies in the RMP revision process. Cooperating Agencies are invited to participate in the planning process based on their having jurisdiction over similar areas as the BLM and/or having specific environmental expertise in an area impacted by the plan revision. Cooperating Agencies participating in the Buffalo RMP revision process include:

- County Commissions
- Conservation Districts
- The State of Wyoming
- Federal Agencies
- Wyoming Congressional Delegation
- Native American Tribes

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