



# Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



November 2009

## Where are we now?



Shading indicates steps completed

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your continued interest in this important revision process. This is our fourth newsletter since we began the revision of the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), and a lot has happened since we filed the Notice of Intent to revise the RMP nearly a year ago on November 14, 2008. This and subsequent newsletters will keep you up to date on where we are in the revision process and how you can become involved.

## Where are we in the revision process?

The Buffalo Field Office staff and Cooperating Agencies have recently completed a series of six workshops to develop goals, objectives, and management alternatives for the Buffalo RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During these workshops the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Cooperating Agencies collaborated to develop two alternatives (alternatives B and C) that would meet the goals and objectives for the RMP revision, and represent the reasonable range required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Each alternative provides a different emphasis, resource conservation (Alternative B) and resource utilization (Alternative C), for managing public lands and resources within the Buffalo planning area and represents a potential land use plan.

## What's next?

The BLM is now analyzing the environmental consequences that may result from implementing each of three alternatives—the two alternatives developed with the Cooperating Agencies and a third continuing with the current RMP (Alternative A). Alternative A represents the 'No Action' alternative required by NEPA. Based on the outcome of the analysis, the BLM will prepare a preferred alternative. The impact analysis and preparation of the preferred alternative are discussed in more detail on the back of this newsletter.

## When can I comment?

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 (see timeline at left). The BLM is open to accepting comments anytime during the RMP revision process.

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

## Buffalo RMP Revision Website

The RMP revision website is regularly updated with information, documents, and announcements. We encourage you to learn more about the revision process by visiting the website at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>.

## Public Mailing List

If you are already receiving information about the Buffalo RMP revision, you will remain on the mailing list. If you would like to be added or deleted from the mailing list you may do so by contacting Tom Bills at (307) 684-1133, email [BRMP\\_Rev\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:BRMP_Rev_WYMail@blm.gov), or by mailing your request to 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

## Impact Analysis

During the alternative formulation process, the BLM and Cooperating Agencies developed a reasonable range of alternatives that represent different land use plans. In order to understand



North Pumpkin Butte

the impacts of implementing each of these alternatives, the BLM will conduct an impact analysis. During this analysis, the BLM will estimate and describe the physical, biological, economic, and social impacts of implementing each alternative. The analysis will focus on key planning issues raised during the scoping process rather than providing an encyclopedic discussion of all possible consequences. The completed analysis will be presented in Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences of the Draft RMP and EIS.

## Selection of the Preferred Alternative

After conducting the impact analysis a preferred alternative will be prepared for comparison to alternatives A through C in the Draft RMP and EIS. To prepare the

preferred alternative, the BLM will consider the impact analysis of alternatives A through C, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; recommendations from Cooperating Agencies and BLM resource specialists; consideration of planning criteria; and resolution of resource conflicts.

A final RMP decision will not be made until after public outreach is conducted during the 90-day comment period following publication of the Draft EIS.

### ***Buffalo Field Office at a Glance***

*The Buffalo Field Office manages approximately 800,000 surface acres and 4.8 million acres of mineral estate in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeastern Wyoming. This area contains vast deposits of oil, gas, and coal, and provides 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.*

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
UNITED STATES POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PERMIT NO. G-76

**BLM Buffalo Field Office**  
ATTN: RMP Project Manager  
1425 Fort Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834