



Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



April 2013

Where are we now?



 Shading indicates steps completed

Dear Neighbor,

Thanks for your continued interest in the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision process. Since our last issue (April 2011), we have been working on several important revisions to the Preliminary Draft Buffalo RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We anticipate issuing the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Buffalo RMP and EIS in the *Federal Register* in May or June 2013.

Where are we in the revision process and what have we been working on?

The Preliminary Draft RMP and EIS was recently reviewed by the BLM Washington Office (WO). The Buffalo Field Office is revising the document based on their comments and preparing the Draft RMP and EIS for public release. Publication of the NOA in the *Federal Register* begins the 90-day public review and comment period for the Draft RMP and EIS.

Over the past two years, the Buffalo Field Office has been working to revise the RMP and EIS to reflect new BLM guidance and updated data. In December 2011, the BLM WO issued a national Greater Sage-Grouse land use planning strategy and in February 2012, the Wyoming State Office issued a revised Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management policy. Both policies have been incorporated into the RMP and EIS. As a result, several analyses and other baseline information were updated, as briefly described below.

- Management actions and alternatives were revised to incorporate new BLM policies for the conservation and management of Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat.
- The Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario for Oil and Gas was revised to account for the increasing interest in shale borne oil and natural gas and declining interest in coalbed natural gas.
- The air quality emissions inventory was revised and the impacts re-analyzed to reflect changes in the management actions, alternatives, and RFD. The supporting air quality appendices were also updated.
- The socioeconomic model (IMPLAN) was re-run to incorporate the changes in the management actions, alternatives, and RFD. These changes required updating the impact analyses for social conditions, economic conditions, and environmental justice, including the direct, indirect and induced economic impacts (employment, earnings, output, and tax revenues from oil and gas production).

What's next?

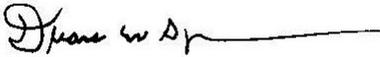
Following publication of the Draft RMP and EIS in May or June, you can review and comment on the document during the 90-day public comment period. During this time, a series of public meetings will be held across the planning area. We encourage you to attend these meetings to learn more about the Draft RMP and EIS.

BLM managers and resource specialists will be available at the meetings to answer questions and comments can also be submitted at that time. Specific information about the meetings and submitting comments will be included in the NOA for the Draft RMP and EIS.

After the comment period, the BLM will consider all of the comments received, revise the Draft RMP and EIS as needed, and issue a Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

Again, thank you for your interest. We encourage you to stay involved in 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, or by mailing your request to 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

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