



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828



In Reply Refer To:

1610 (930)
Casper RMP Revision

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review is the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Casper Field Office. The Proposed RMP was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. This Proposed RMP provides a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of BLM-administered lands and resources located in most of Natrona County, and all of Converse, Goshen, and Platte counties, Wyoming. The document contains land use planning decisions to facilitate management of the public lands and resources administered by the Casper Field Office. The Proposed RMP is open for a 30-day review and protest period beginning the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register.

The BLM is also providing an additional 60-day review and comment period on information regarding proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) that were reconsidered in the Draft RMP and EIS, but only partially described in the original Federal Register notice announcing the release of the document. A Supplemental Proposed RMP/FEIS may have to be issued if new and significant ACEC related information is identified during the 60-day comment period. The 30-day protest period, identified above, will not be repeated unless a Supplemental Proposed RMP and Final EIS is issued.

This Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The Proposed RMP is largely based on Alternative E, the preferred alternative in the Draft RMP and EIS, which was released on July 21, 2006. This Proposed RMP and Final EIS contains the proposed plan, potential impacts of the proposed plan, summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period of the Draft RMP and EIS, and responses to these comments. To aid the reader, substantive changes made between the Draft RMP and EIS and the Proposed RMP and Final EIS are shaded grey.

Instructions for Filing a Protest

Any person who participated in the planning process for this Proposed RMP, and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest approval of this Proposed RMP and land use planning decisions contained within it (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1610.5-2) during the 30-day protest period. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to the Proposed RMP may protest. The protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to the publication of this Proposed RMP. These issues may have been raised by the protesting party or others. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage.

Protests must be filed with the BLM State Director in Writing. Regular mail protests should be sent to: Director (210), Attn: Brenda Williams, P.O.Box 66538, Washington DC, 20035. Overnight mail should be sent to: Director (210), Attn: Brenda Williams, 1620L Street, NW, Suite 1075, Washington DC, 20036. E-mail and fax protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the e-mail or fax protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct e-mails to *Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov* and faxes to (202) 452-5112, Attn: BLM Protest Coordinator.

All protests must be postmarked on or before the end of the 30-day protest period following publication of this notice by the EPA.

IMPORTANT: In accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2, the protest must contain the information described in the following critical elements checklist:

- The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person filing the protest.
- The “interest” of the person filing the protest. (How will you be adversely affected by the approval of the resource management plan?) .
- A statement of the part(s) of the Proposed RMP, and the issue(s) being protested. (To the extent possible, this should reference specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., which are believed to be incorrect or incomplete.)
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process **OR** a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.
- A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the BLM State Director’s proposed decision is incorrect.

All of these elements are critical parts of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, or available planning records (e.g., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). To aid in ensuring the completeness of your protest, a printable protest checklist is available following **this** letter and online at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper.

The BLM State Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision will be in Writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the BLM State Director shall be the final decision of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Instructions for Commenting on the Proposed ACECs

BLM planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.7-2 require the BLM to notify the public of proposed ACECs in the Federal Register notice releasing the **Draft RMP** and **EIS**. While the **Draft RMP** and **EIS**, including the ACEC information, has been available for public review and comment, the BLM is providing an additional 60-day review period to ensure the procedural requirements contained in 43 CFR 1610.7-2 are met. Specifically, these regulations require BLM to specify in a Federal Register notice any resource use limitations that would occur if an ACEC is designated. The BLM can best use your comments on only the ACEC information presented in the **Draft RMP** and **EIS** and in the Notice of Supplemental Information if they are received on or before the end of the 60-day comment period following publication

of this notice by the EPA. If any comments received identify new and significant ACEC-related information that has not currently been raised in the planning process, then a Supplemental Proposed RMP and Final EIS may have to be issued and the Record of Decision on this Proposed RMP and Final EIS deferred.

Written comments on the ACECs as proposed in the Draft RMP and EIS may be submitted as follows:

1. Online at the Casper RMP Revision website, www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/. This website allows commenters to submit ACEC-related comments electronically onto a comment form posted on the website under the Special Designations topic.
2. Written comments may be mailed or delivered to the BLM at:

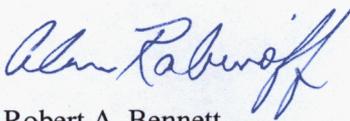
Casper RMP/EIS
Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604-2968

The BLM will only accept comments submitted by the methods described above and within the 60-day review **period**. To be given consideration by the BLM, comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address. Whenever possible, please include reference to either the page or section in the Draft RMP and EIS to which the ACEC-related comment applies. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, it is encouraged to submit comments in an electronic format through the website.

BLM's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, E-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Upon resolution of any protests and a determination a Supplemental Proposed RMP and Final EIS is not warranted, **an** Approved Plan and **Record** of Decision will be issued. The Approved Plan will be mailed to all who expressed an interest in receiving a copy. The document will be available to all parties through the "Planning" page of the BLM national website, www.blm.gov, or by mail upon request.

Sincerely,


for Robert A. Bennett
State Director