PROPOSED CASPER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APPENDIX C

Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination

Appendix C
Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination

This appendix describes specific actions taken by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to consult and coordinate with tribes, government agencies, and interest groups; and to involve the interested general public during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 2003, formally announced the intent of BLM to revise the existing plan and prepare the associated EIS. Publication of the NOI initiated the scoping process and invited participation of affected and interested agencies, organizations, and the general public in determining the scope and issues to be addressed by alternatives and analyses in the EIS. Additional detail regarding actions taken by BLM to involve the public and consult and coordinate with tribes, government agencies, and interest groups is provided in Appendix C.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM decisionmaking process is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory and policy framework require federal agencies involve the interested general public in their decisionmaking.

In accordance with CEQ scoping guidance, the BLM provided avenues for public involvement as an integral part of revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and preparing the EIS. CEQ scoping guidance defines scoping as the "process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated" (CEQ 1981). The scoping report, which summarizes issues identified during the scoping process, is available on the Casper RMP website at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper.

The intent of the scoping process is to provide opportunity for the general public tribes, other government agencies, and interest groups the general public to scope the planning process and to identify planning issues to be addressed by alternatives or analysis in the EIS. In general, public involvement assists the agencies by the following:

- Broadening the information base for decisionmaking
- Informing the public about the RMP revision and associated EIS and the potential impacts associated with various management decisions
- Ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are brought to the attention of the agency.

Scoping Period

Publication of the NOI on June 20, 2003, initiated the scoping period and announced the BLM's intention to revise the Casper RMP and prepare an EIS. Scoping for the RMP revision and EIS took place from June 20, 2003, to November 20, 2003. BLM regulations require a 30-day scoping period; however, the Casper revision scoping period remained open for 5 months.

The BLM utilized the public scoping process to identify planning issues to direct (drive) the formulation of alternatives and to frame the scope of analysis in the EIS. The scoping process also was used to introduce the public to preliminary planning criteria, which set limits to the scope of the RMP revision.

Approximately 45 comment letters were received during the scoping period. Chapter 1 and the scoping report provides a general summary of the issues found in these letters.

Scoping Notice

The BLM prepared a public scoping notice and mailed the notice to 1,104 federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and members of the general public on October 20, 2003. In the scoping notice, the BLM solicited written comments on the RMP revision process, issues, and impacts and invited the public to a series of four public scoping meetings held throughout the planning area. The scoping notice served to remind the public of the opportunity to view the Summary of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA), the project schedule, and other relevant project information on the Casper RMP revision website. In addition, the scoping notice provided general information on the planning area, background information on the planning process, and dates and locations scheduled for the public scoping meetings.

Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings were held in Wheatland, Torrington, Douglas, and Casper, Wyoming, on November 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2003, respectively. BLM structured the meetings in an open-house format, with two formal presentations made by the Casper Field Office Manager during each meeting. Resource specialists and other representatives of the BLM were on hand to personally address questions and provide information to meeting participants. The BLM provided four fact sheets, an executive summary of the MSA, and a series of four display boards at each scoping meeting. The BLM encouraged attendees to comment using a variety of media, including written comment forms, flip charts, planning area maps, and a computer kiosk. Table C-1 identifies the public scoping meetings.

Table C-1. Public Involvement, Coordination, and Consultation Meetings (2003)

Date	Location	Type of Meeting
November 10, 2003	Wheatland, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 11, 2003	Torrington, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 12, 2003	Douglas, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 13, 2003	Casper, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting

Opportunities to Comment

The BLM provided a variety of avenues through which the public could submit comments during the scoping period. These avenues are listed below:

- **Mail** – The NOI and the scoping notice invited interested parties to submit comments by mail to the Casper Field Office.
- **E-mail** – The NOI provided the following e-mail address for submitting comments electronically: crmpwymail@blm.gov.
- **Online –** The Casper RMP revision website at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/ launched on November 3, 2003. The website provides history about the project, a project schedule, a document library, a mailing-list screen, and a comment screen. The public can enter their comments on the website and submit them electronically throughout the RMP revision process.
- **Telephone –** The scoping notice and all four fact sheets provided a phone number so interested parties could call and submit verbal comments.

- **In Person at the Scoping Meetings** – The BLM provided the public the opportunity to comment at all four public meetings. Comment methods included a computer kiosk, through which interested individuals could type in their comments; forms that could be filled out and submitted at the meetings or mailed in at a later date; and flip charts for expressing comments and concerns to share with BLM and other members of the public.

Mailing List

The mailing list for public scoping was initially developed from the Casper Field Office mailing list, but was updated throughout the planning process. The BLM encouraged scoping meeting participants to add their names to the mailing list. Some individuals added themselves to the project mailing list by registering on the project website, as well as through personally contacting the BLM and requesting placement on the mailing list. The Casper Field Office mailing list includes approximately 1,400 addresses and is used as the basis for distributing the Final EIS.

Newsletters

Periodic newsletters are regularly developed and distributed to keep the public informed of the Casper RMP revision and EIS planning process. The January 2004 newsletter provided basic background information on the project, including the purpose and need for updating the RMP and issues that the plan may address. The newsletter also extended an invitation to the public to be involved in the process, advertised the Casper RMP revision website, and summarized public scoping comments.

The February 2005 newsletter described the development of the alternatives, the process of selecting a preferred alternative, announced the schedule of the Draft EIS, and offered avenues for public involvement. The third newsletter, distributed three weeks before release of the Draft EIS, announced the publication of the Draft EIS and provided details on how to provide comments. The fourth newsletter distributed three weeks before release of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS provided details of the schedule and opportunities to comment on the document.

Website

The Casper RMP revision website is located at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper. The site serves as a virtual repository for documents related to the development of the RMP revision and EIS, including announcements, bulletins, and draft and final documents. These documents are available in PDF format to ensure they are available to the widest range of interested parties. The website gives the public the opportunity to submit for comments and be added to the project mailing list.

Future Public Involvement

Public participation is ongoing throughout the planning process. Members of the public have the opportunity to comment on the content of the Draft EIS during the specified 90-day comment period. The Final EIS will consider all substantive oral and written comments received during the 90-day comment period. The Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued by the BLM after the release of the Final EIS, the Governor's Consistency Review, and a potential Protest Resolution.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section documents the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by the BLM throughout the process of revising the RMP and developing the EIS. Title II, Section 202, of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes, other federal departments, and agencies of the state and local governments as part of its land use

planning process. The BLM is also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500.4-5). The BLM accomplished coordination with other agencies and consistency with other plans through on-going communications, meetings, and collaborative efforts with the ID Team, which includes BLM specialists and federal, state, and local agencies.

Cooperating Agencies

For the Casper RMP revision planning effort, the Casper Field Office extended cooperating agency status to the State of Wyoming, Converse County, Natrona County, Platte County, Goshen County, various conservation districts, and tribal governments. The BLM invited these agencies to participate because they have jurisdiction by law or because they offer special expertise. A list of the cooperating agencies that have actively participated in cooperators' meetings leading up to the development of the RMP revision and Final EIS include the following:

Local Governments

- Converse County Commissioners
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Platte County Commissioners
- Converse County Conservation District
- Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District
- North Platte Valley Conservation District
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Natrona County Conservation District

State of Wyoming

- Wyoming State Planning Office
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources – State Historic Preservation Office
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources – State Trail Program
- Wyoming State Oil and Gas Commission
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

Federal Government

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- USDI National Park Service, Fort Laramie National Historic Landmark

BLM formally invited the cooperating agencies to participate in the development of RMP alternatives and to provide existing data and other information relative to their agency responsibilities, goals, mandates and expertise. The Casper Field Office held a number of meetings and workshops with the cooperating agencies. Table C-2 lists these meetings and workshops.

Table C-2. Meetings with Cooperating Agencies

Date	Location	Type of Meeting
September 25, 2003	Casper, Wyoming	Introduction to the BLM Planning Process (For Cooperating Agencies)
January 2004	Douglas, Wyoming	Consistency Review with USFS
February 9-13, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #1: Alternative Formulation (All Cooperating Agencies)
March 1-5, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #2: Alternative Formulation (All Cooperating Agencies)
October 25-28, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #3: Cooperators' Review of the Preferred Alternative (All Cooperating Agencies)
April 7, 2005	Douglas, Wyoming	Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperators
May 19, 2005	Casper, Wyoming	Alternatives Reformulation – Biological Resources WGFD
August 3-4, 2005	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #4: Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperators on Reformulated Alternatives
May 18, 2006	Douglas, Wyoming	Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperators
February 22, 2007	Casper, Wyoming	Cooperators' Meeting

BLM Bureau of Land Management
USFS U.S. Forest Service
WGFD Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Section 7 Consultation

The Casper Field Office contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BLM sent a letter to the USFWS concerning Section 7 consultation, presenting the approach for consultation and providing details on the process of Programmatic Species-Specific Section 7 Consultations on Wyoming BLM RMPs. The USFWS provided the following species lists to the Casper Field Office for evaluating BLM Section 7 responsibilities:

- List of Threatened and Endangered Species and Candidate Species Potentially Occurring on Lands Managed By Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, updated March 1, 2006
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, and Designated Critical Habitat in Wyoming State, dated March 23, 2004.

Consultation letters between the USFWS and the Casper Field Office are located at the end of this appendix. The Casper Field Office will continue consultation with the USFWS regarding the RMP revision through completion of the final biological assessment and final RMP.

Native American Interests

Consultation with Native Americans is part of the NEPA scoping process and a requirement of FLPMA. The Casper Field Office took multiple steps to contact the tribes and include them in the scoping process.

On October 23, 2003, the BLM sent letters to the following tribes inviting them to be a part of the planning process through consultation and public scoping meetings, as well as requesting information to be considered in the planning process:

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Comanche Tribes of Oklahoma
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe
- Crow Tribe
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Lakota Nation
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
- Ute Tribe

Following the scoping process, the BLM sent a letter to each of the above-listed tribes on August 6, 2005, requesting specific information in identifying areas of special concern for the tribes and presented the opportunity for meetings or field trips with representatives from the tribes. Representatives from the Casper Field Office followed up on these letters with telephone calls to each tribe. The BLM stressed the need for the tribes to review and comment on the Draft EIS in the letters and during the follow-up telephone calls.

On January 31, 2005, the BLM sent letters to the tribes concerning the Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) located in the planning area. The letters informed the tribes on how the Preferred Alternative would impact the TCP and asked for any information or concerns that the tribes had concerning the TCP.

Members of the Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow tribes met with representatives from the Casper Field Office between February and March 2005, to discuss details of the RMP. After the meetings, the tribes received maps of the general locations of cultural and spiritual interest to the tribes, as well as an offer to meet again and take part in a tour of the planning area. On November 18, 2005, BLM sent letters to the above-listed tribes inviting them to become cooperating agencies in the preparation of the Caser RMP.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe is the only tribe that declined participation in consultation during the planning process. The other tribes expressed intent to participate in future steps during consultation. Native American consultation letters are included at the end of this appendix.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

A copy of the Final EIS has been provided to the following governments, individuals, and institutions:

Tribal Governments

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe
- Crow Tribe
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Lakota Nation
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Ute Tribe

Local Governments (Counties, Cities, Towns)

Converse County, Wyoming

- Converse County Commissioners
- Converse County Conservation District
- Converse County Farm Bureau
- Douglas Chamber of Commerce

Natrona County, Wyoming

- Casper Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Casper Chamber of Commerce
- City of Casper
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Natrona County Conservation District

Platte County, Wyoming

- Platte County Commissioners
- Platte County Conservation District
- Wheatland Chamber of Commerce

Goshen County, Wyoming

- Goshen County Commissioners
- Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District
- North Platte Valley Conservation District
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Torrington Chamber of Commerce

State of Wyoming

- Senator Jim Anderson, Converse/Platte
- Senator John Barrasso, Natrona
- Senator Bill Hawks, Natrona
- Senator Kit Jennings, Natrona
- Senator Charles K. Scott, Natrona
- Senator Curt Meier, Goshen/Platte
- Representative James C. Hageman, Goshen/Platte
- Representative Ross Diercks, Converse/Goshen
- Representative Edward Buchanan, Goshen
- Senator Charles Townsend, East Converse/North East Goshen
- Representative Deborah Alden, Converse/Platte
- Representative Bob Brechtel, Natrona
- Representative Roy Cohee, Natrona
- Representative Dave Edwards, Converse
- Representative Gerald Gay, Natrona
- Representative Mary Meyer Gilmore, Natrona
- Representative Steve Harshman, Natrona
- Representative Thomas A. Lockhart, Natrona
- Representative Ann Robinson, Natrona
- Representative Tom Walsh, Natrona

Wyoming State Agencies

- Office of the Governor, Environmental Policy Division
- Business Council
- Department of Environmental Quality
  - Air Quality Division
  - Land Quality Division
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
  - State Museum
- Department of Transportation
- State Planning Office
- Game and Fish Department
  - Casper, Wyoming
- State Geologic Survey
- Office of State Lands and Investments
- State Engineer's Office
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Department of Administration and Information
- Department of Employment, Research, and Planning Division

Wyoming State Boards/Commissions

- Air Quality Advisory Board
- Board of Wildlife Commissioners
- Natural Gas Pipeline Authority
- Agriculture Board
- Environmental Quality Council
- Farm Bureau Federation
- Land Quality Advisory Board
- Livestock Board
- Mining Council
- Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Recreation Commission
- State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides
- State Grazing Board
- Trails Council

Associations/Councils

- Coalbed Methane Coordination Coalition
- Mormon Trails Association
- Oregon-California Trails Association
- Petroleum Association of Wyoming
- Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Wildlife Habitat Council
- Wyoming Association of Municipalities
- Wyoming County Commissioners Association
- Wyoming Mining Association
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
- Wyoming Outdoor Council
- Wyoming Sportsman's Association
- Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
- Wyoming Wilderness Association
- Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
- Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Clubs/Alliances/Societies/Groups

- American Wildlands
- Audubon Society
- Audubon Wyoming
- Back Country Horsemen of America
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
- Casper Dirt Riders
- Conservancy of the Phoenix
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
- Izaak Walton League
- Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
- Murie Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Pronghorn Foundation
- Outdoor Women of Wyoming
- Pathfinder Back Country Horsemen
- Platte River Parkway Trust
- Platte River Rod and Gun Club
- Public Lands Advocacy Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Sierra Club
- The Conservation Fund
- The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
- The Land Trust Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- The Wildlife Society
- Trout Unlimited
- Western Land Exchange Project
- Wyoming Fly Casters Association
- Wyoming Motorcycle Trails Association
- Wyoming Nature Conservancy
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Congressional Delegation

- U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Casper, Wyoming
  - Cheyenne, Wyoming
  - Gillette, Wyoming
- U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
  - Washington, DC
  - Cheyenne, Wyoming
  - Sheridan, Wyoming
  - Casper, Wyoming
- U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Cheyenne, Wyoming
  - Casper, Wyoming

U.S. Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Casper, Wyoming
- Minerals Management Service
- National Park Service
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Denver, Colorado
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- Natural Resources Library
- Office of Surface Mining
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Denver, Colorado
  - Cheyenne, Wyoming
- U.S. Geological Survey
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Cheyenne, Wyoming
- Bureau of Land Management
  - Washington, DC
  - Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne
  - Wyoming Field Offices
    Buffalo, Cody, Kemmerer, Lander, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, Rocksprings, and Worland

Other Federal Agencies

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
  - Big Horn National Forest
  - Bridger-Teton National Forest
  - Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest
  - Shoshone National Forest
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Casper, Wyoming
  - Baggs, Wyoming
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration
  - Loveland, Colorado
  - Lakewood, Colorado
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Government Printing Office
- Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service

Other Governmental Agencies

- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- State of Colorado, Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Routt County Planning Director
- Platte River Power Authority

Libraries

- Library of Congress
- University of Wyoming Library
- Converse County Public Library
- Goshen County Public Library
- Natrona County Public Library
- Casper College Library
- Eastern Wyoming College Library
- Platte County Public Library

Educational Institutions

- Eastern Wyoming College
- Casper College
- University of Wyoming
  - Trustees
  - Geology Museum
  - Department of Rangeland Ecology
  - Department of Geology and Geophysics
- Western Wyoming Community College
  - Archeological Services

Media

Cheyenne
- Cheyenne Newspaper
  Wyoming State Tribune Eagle
- Cheyenne Radio
  KRAE
  KJJL
  KFBC
  KGAB
- Cheyenne TV
  KGWN-TV5
  KLWY
  KKTU

Casper
- Casper Newspapers
  Casper Star Tribune
  Casper Journal
- Casper Radio
  KASS
  KQLT
  LVOC
  KMCD
  KYOD
- Casper TV
  KTWO
  KWYF
  KGWC
  KCWY
  KFNB

Douglas
- Douglas Newspaper
  Douglas Budget
- Douglas Radio
  KKTY

Glenrock
- Glenrock Newspaper
  Glenrock Independent

Guernsey
- Guernsey Newspaper
  Guernsey Gazette

Moorcroft
- Moorcroft Newspaper
  Moorcroft Leader

Paonia, CO
- Paonia, CO Newspaper
  High Country News

Torrington
- Torrington Newspaper
  Torrington Telegram
- Torrington Radio
  KGOS

Wheatland
- Wheatland Newspaper
  Platte County Record Times
- Wheatland Radio
  KYCN
  KZEW

Statewide Newspapers
- *Wyoming Business Report*
- *Wyoming Livestock Roundup*

Statewide Radio
- Wyoming Public Radio
- Northern Broadcasting System
- KYCN

Wire Services
- Wyoming Associated Press

SECTION 7 CONSULTATION LETTERS

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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:

6840 (930)

OCT 2 7 2003

Mr. Brian T. Kelly
Wyoming Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Ecological Services
4000 Airport Parkway
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Re: Programmatic Consultation between the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wyoming Resource Management Plans

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Evaluations of Wyoming Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 11 current Resource Management Plans (RMPs) indicated that Section 7 Consultations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) had not been completed or were not complete to current standards. Therefore, Wyoming BLM needed to re-initiate consultation on these RMPs. Due to the enormity of this task, the FWS and BLM decided to conduct the Section 7 Consultations via a species-by-species programmatic approach on 17 (now 16) listed, proposed and candidate species (since initiation of this process, the listing of the mountain plover was determined to be not warranted). Consultation for each species is to be considered within the boundary of the State of Wyoming and activities approved by the BLM analyzed for each respective RMP.

This process is consistent with the August 30, 2000, Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. That MOA committed the signatory agencies to work closer to improve the interagency consultation process under the Endangered Species Act (Act) – in effect to streamline the process and to work together cooperatively. The attached process is an excellent example of the premises of the MOA, and the cooperative and effective way our two agencies can work together.

2

Attached are two copies of the process. Please sign and date each copy and return to the State BLM Office. We will provide a signed copy for your records.

If you have any questions regarding this programmatic Section 7 Consultation process, please feel free to contact Jeff Carroll (307) 775-6090.

Sincerely,

Alan L Kesterke

for Robert A. Bennett
State Director

Attachment

WY930-03-10-116

Programmatic Species-Specific Section 7 Consultation between BLM and FWS on Wyoming BLM Resource Management Plans

(October 27, 2003)

Background

A review of all 12 Wyoming Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Resource Management Plans (RM Plans) indicated that Section 7 Consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) should be reinitiated. These RM Plans cover public lands in Wyoming (11 RM Plans). In addition, a new RM Plan in Wyoming, the Snake River RM Plan is being prepared at this time and will similarly need section 7 Consultation. This document is being prepared in order to comply with direction identified in the August 2000 Streamlining MOU.

In response to its Section 7 responsibilities, Wyoming BLM is both re-initiating consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on all 11 of its current Wyoming RM Plans and initiating Section 7 consultation on the new Snake River RM Plan. The consultation process will be programmatic. BLM planning itself will not result in impacts to listed species. The BLM is preparing, through a contractor, a Biological Assessment (BA) for each listed species or Biological Evaluation (BE) for each proposed and each candidate species. Separate BAs/BEs will cover each species' range on a statewide basis throughout Wyoming and Biological Opinions (BOs) or concurrence letters for these BAs and BEs will be completed by the FWS. We expect that this process will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2004 (Refer to Attachment 1. Planned Schedule for Completion).

Concurrent with the section 7 programmatic efforts described below, Wyoming BLM will follow through with a ten-year plan to revisit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements on all 11 of its existing Wyoming RM Plans to ensure NEPA compliance. This will entail revision of existing RM Plans as needed. Completion of the revisions will occur throughout this ten-year span. Currently, Wyoming RM Plans are either: (1) already revised; (2) in the process of being revised; or (3) scheduled for revision.

Discussion

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS. RM Plans are used by the BLM to provide management direction and to guide future actions. RM Plans identify desired outcomes, also known as "desired future conditions". These desired future conditions or outcomes are expressed in RM Plans as goals, standards, and objectives. RM Plans also establish allowable uses, including allocations, levels of use, and restrictions on use, as well as defining the management actions needed to achieve desired outcomes. These are often referred to as RM Plan decisions or land use plan level decisions. RM Plans decisions normally require additional decision steps before activities having on-the-ground impacts can be carried out. A thorough NEPA analysis, generally an EIS, is completed on every RM Plan, as well as Section 7 consultation.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS. Implementation decisions are decisions to take action to implement RM Plans and usually represent BLM's final approval to allow on-the-ground actions to proceed. They are also called project-level or activity-level decisions. These types of decisions range from planning documents that are narrower in scope, to approvals for use authorizations, and are based on a more detailed NEPA analysis tiered to the RM Plan analysis. A new section 7 consultation is conducted where the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat. Proposals for implementation actions can be initiated by BLM (or other federal entity) or by application from the public. Further, where activity plans, also known as implementation plans, provide the support and final approval for site-specific projects or other implementation actions, those decisions are considered implementation decisions.

Sometimes, there is an intermediate step in the decision-making process. Unlike most implementation actions, the issuance of oil and gas leases, for example, does not allow commencement of on-the-ground activities that

may affect a species or designated critical habitat. Therefore, the Service and BLM have agreed that the NEPA analysis and Section 7 programmatic consultation conducted at the RM Plan level will cover the impacts expected to result from both the RM Plan and the lease issuance stages of decision making. The programmatic consultation for this step must be updated annually to ensure that the BLM is using the best commercial and biological information currently available. Before approving an application for ground-disturbing lease activities such as an application for permit to drill (APD), surface use plan of operations (SUPO), or similar proposal for exploration and development of a lease, site specific NEPA analysis is conducted and Section 7 consultation will be completed whenever the proposed activity may affect a listed or proposed species.

STREAMLINING CONSULTATION. At this point, Section 7 consultation will have been completed at the RM Plan level for authorized BLM activities. The RPAs, T&Cs, RPMs provided in RM Plan BOs can be included in subsequent Section 7 consultation at the project development levels (i.e. full field developments) and site specific levels. Since RPAs, T&Cs, and RPMs will have been developed at the RM Plan Level, there should be a quicker, more detailed Section 7 consultation at the subsequent project development level and site specific level. This tiered or "top down" consultation approach will expedite subsequent lower level or site specific consultations, and provide consistency to the management of listed and proposed species throughout the state. The annual review between the FWS and BLM will ensure that the BLM RM Plans will remain in compliance with Section 7 despite any addition of newly listed species or modified or new BLM activities.

How the Section 7 Process Will Work (see Attachment 2) :

FOR EACH LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES IN WYOMING

1. The Wyoming BLM will work internally or with a contractor to prepare draft statewide programmatic BAs/BEs. These BAs/BEs will address all potential impacts of all anticipated BLM activities as identified (Refer to Attachment 3. List of Activities) in the 11 RM Plans. Each BA or BE will be distributed to BLM Field Staff and FWS for review and comment. These comments will be incorporated into the final programmatic BA/BE. The FWS will be involved early on in the RM Plan revision to assist BLM in addressing their section 7(a)(1 and 2) responsibilities. This early involvement will minimize the effort by both agencies needed to consider listed, proposed and candidate species at the programmatic level. In addition, the preparation of an RM Plan-specific BA by the BLM and subsequent RM Plan-specific BO by the FWS should hold no surprises for the BLM, FWS, individuals, or organizations and will merely be a straightforward completion of the section 7 consultation process.

2. Each final programmatic BA/BE will be sent to the FWS along with a letter requesting Section 7 consultation. These final programmatic BAs/BEs will then be posted on the Wyoming BLM website.

3. For each final programmatic BA/BE, a draft BO will be completed by the FWS on the anticipated activities identified in the RM Plans. These BOs will include any relevant Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs), Terms & Conditions (T&Cs), Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs), and Conservation Measures (CMs). Draft BOs are to be submitted to the BLM within 60 days of receipt by FWS of each final programmatic BA/BE and a letter from the BLM initiating formal consultation. The BLM will work with the FWS to make any appropriate changes to the draft programmatic BO as it is developed. The FWS will provide BLM a final programmatic BO within 30 days of receipt of all BLM comments on the draft BO. The final programmatic BO for each species will also be posted on the Wyoming BLM website.

4. A determination on how to best incorporate any RPAs, T&Cs, RPMs into RM Plans will be based on the discussion of the categories following:

2

a. Each RM Plan will be reviewed as soon as the final BO is received by BLM to determine if RPAs, T&Cs, RPMs require an allocation change (change in proposed use) or a change in stipulations either of which will be included in approval documents (See Table 1, below).

1. If an allocation change is required, then an RM Plan amendment will be prepared.
2. If an allocation change is not required, then it may be appropriate to prepare a RM Plan maintenance action to update the affected RM Plan.

3. If an allocation change is required, but the RM Plan revision is in progress, then the RPAs, RPMs and T&Cs for the BO will be incorporated via the ongoing EIS (or EA).

Table 1. Process for Amending Resource Management Plans (identified in 43 CFR 1610.5-4&5)

	Change in Allocation	*No Change of allocations or stipulations*	*Change in Stipulations*
RM Plan revision completed or more than one year from completion	EA or EIS – amend RM Plan	IM w/maintenance action	IM or EA/EIS – amend or maintenance action
RM Plan revision underway and less than one year from completion	Incorporate into "new" RM Plan EIS	IM incorporate into "new" RM Plan	Incorporate into "new" RM Plan EIS

KEY:
IM – Instruction Memorandum (no "new/additional" public input – happened previously at initial EIS, a maintenance action to the RM Plan will occur to document minor changes in dates or refinement of existing decisions)
EA – Environmental Analysis
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement (With changes, public will be provided an opportunity to provide input at the EA/EIS stage)
MA – Maintenance Action.

5. BLM anticipates RPAs, T&Cs, RPMs from Species-Specific Programmatic BOs of Section 7 Consultation with the FWS could result in changes in one of the following three categories:

a. Changes in agency administrative activities or coordination procedures, or a change in data collection or field inventory techniques;

b. Changes in stipulations or conservation measures for BLM authorized activities designed to protect the species that may result in modifications to existing activities or new activities. They do not preclude activities, but may impose seasonal or other restrictions or a change in the activity's standard operating practices; or

c. Changes in stipulations or conservation measures for BLM authorized activities designed to protect the species that could result in major curtailment or restrictions, reductions, minimizations or exclusions of use or activities over a significant area. These may be exclusions of use (such as no leasing) or highly restrictive in nature (such as No Surface Occupancy).

Changes that fall into the first two categories do not constitute changes in resource allocations and therefore may not require amendments to RM Plan-level decisions. It may be appropriate to incorporate these changes into the structure of RM Plans as maintenance actions. When the level of significance of the new measures upon current users is in doubt or the change is likely to generate a high level of interest by the public, it is advisable to prepare an EA for the maintenance action and to make the EA available to the public.

3

Changes in the third category may require alterations to RM Plan-level decisions (such as allowable uses and levels of use) and must be incorporated into RM Plans by an amendment or as part of a larger RM Plan revision. These types of changes should typically have a more thorough analysis by the field office involved. Individuals or organizations may perceive these allocations as resulting in significant changes to how they "use" the resource. These perceptions must be addressed when amending RM Plans or preparing larger RM Plan revisions.

BLM will maintain, amend, or revise its RM Plan(s) relative to the Programmatic Species-Specific BO Terms and Conditions as soon as possible, but within the annual review period. This process will take into account the status of the affected RM Plans, number and geographic distribution of affected RM Plans, and associated workload.

6. To further streamline and provide consistency to this process, upon completion of the each of the Species Specific Programmatic BOs, the following applies:

    a. If a species occurs in only one field office, that field office will prepare either a maintenance action or an amendment, as appropriate, to the RM Plan for that species.

    b. If a species occurs in more than one BLM field office, the BLM state office will work with each of those field offices involved and prepare a "multi-office" maintenance action or an amendment applicable to each affected RM Plan.

7. The FWS and BLM will develop and sign a Memorandum of Agreement that commits each agency to participate in the annual Section 7 RM Plan level review (statewide by RM Plan area). The review will consist of a thorough examination of each RM Plan and their associated Maintenance Actions, RM Plan amendments and BOs for changes to (1) species status and information, (2) new proposed implementation actions, and (3) resultant effects that were not identified in the original consultation. At the time of each annual review, the BLM field offices will provide a list of new or anticipated Instruction Memorandums, Maintenance Actions and Amendments for each RM Plan. In addition, a list of each field office's standard conservation measures/stipulations, information regarding the past years activities, and information regarding any new proposed activity-types will also be brought to the review. The FWS will bring an updated list of proposed, threatened and endangered species, designated habitats and species inventories. To keep the Section 7 Consultation up-to-date and the BLM RM Plans in compliance with ESA, each RM Plan and associated MAs and RM Plan amendments will be reviewed by FWS and BLM at an annual meeting starting in the spring of 2004 (no more than every 365 days), to:

    a. address any newly listed species or changes in status of species (since the previous 365 day review), if a species is listed prior to the yearly update, then analysis will begin within 30 days of the listing;

    b. identify whether new information indicates that effects occurred or did not occur as expected, and what changes should be implemented as a result of this information;

    c. evaluate current BLM authorizations for any new or modified activities, as well as proposals for large projects, that are anticipated to be considered over the next year;

    d. report the amount of any "take" of species or habitat to the FWS and evaluate if the take was within the amount allowable if an incidental take permit was issued;

    e. evaluate if project projections or reasonable foreseeable developments may exceed the anticipated take levels;

4

f. evaluate if effects were what was anticipated;

g. identify what RM Plan actions have been completed to date (track baseline);

h. evaluate consistency in use of stipulations and conservation measures among field offices.

To summarize, new information, if it exists, will be analyzed to reveal effects of the RM Plan implementation (actions) that may affect listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in the original consultation or previous year's annual review. If the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to a listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat that was not considered in the original consultation or previous year's annual review; and/or, if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the RM Plan, then the RM Plan may be re-analyzed.

PROCESS FOR POTENTIAL JEOPARDY ANALYSIS. Where potential exists for BLM actions to result in a Jeopardy determination by the FWS, the agencies will work together to develop viable alternatives and measures previous to initiation of formal consultation. Neither the BLM nor the FWS foresee that any management action would go forward if its implementation would result in Jeopardy to any listed or proposed species. This will be ensured through BLM's incorporation of offsetting measures (acceptance of RPA) into the proposed action(s).

The attached matrix (Attachment 4) shows each species and the corresponding responsible BLM Field Offices.

APPROVALS:

FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, WYOMING STATE OFFICE

By:

Alan L. Kesterke — 10/31/03

Robert A. Bennett — Date

for Wyoming State Director

FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WYOMING FIELD OFFICE

By:

B. T. Kelly — 10/27/03

Brian T. Kelly — Date

Wyoming Field Supervisor

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Attachment 1

Planned Schedule for Completion of Programmatic Biological Assessment/Biological Opinions for RM Plans in Wyoming

as of 6 August 2003

Species	Contractor	Final BA	Final BO	IM	Who
Whooping Crane	Real West Natural Resource Cons	7/02	7/02		Pam Cornelisse
Kendall Warm Springs Dace	Accipiter Biol Cons	8/03	Goal = 8/03	8/03	Jeff Carroll
Bald Eagle	Meaney & Co/ Greystone EnvCons	8/03	Goal = 8/03	9/03	Christi Barlow
Yermo (Desert Yellowhead Plnt)	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	8/03	Goal = 9/03	10/03	Christi Barlow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Accipiter Biol Cons	8/03	Goal = 8/03	9/03	Christi Barlow
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse	Real West Natural Resource Cons	9/03	Goal = 9/03	10/03	Christi Barlow
Colo Butterfly Plant	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	9/03	Goal = 9/03	10/03	Corey O'brien
Blowout Penstemon	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	9/03	Goal = 9/03	11/03	Corey O'brien
Wyoming Toad	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	9/03	Goal = 10/03	11/03	Christi Barlow
Boreal Toad	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	9/03	Goal = 9/03	10/03	Christi Barlow
Ute Ladies'-Tresses Orchid	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	10/03	Goal = 10/03	11/03	Corey O'brien
Mountain Plover	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	11/03	Goal = 11/03	12/03	Christi Barlow
Canada Lynx	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	12/03	Goal = 12/03	1/04	Christi Barlow
Grizzly Bear	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	1/04	Goal = 1/04	2/04	Christi Barlow
Gray Wolf	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	2/04	Goal = 2/04	3/04	Christi Barlow
Blk-footed Ferret	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	3/04	Goal = 3/04	3/04	Christi Barlow
Blk Tailed PD	Meaney & Co Greystone EnvCons	4/04	Goal = 4/04	5/04	Christi Barlow

Issues:

(1) Bald eagle template: (Stop order with contractors while waiting for template).
(2) Field Office education: (Process/flow established).
(3) Litigation caused adjustments to schedule and will continue
(4) Other states using as template so care was taken to perfect.
(5) Funding OK - $200K contractors/funding FWS/Chicago Botanical Garden
(6) Agreement with FWS signed by August 15 detailing process/annual review/solicitors review.

6

Attachment 2

FLOWCHART FOR HOW THE SECTION 7 PROCESS WORKS
As of October27, 2003

Programmatic Species-Specific Section 7 Consultation between the BLM and FWS On Wyoming BLM Resource Management Plans

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Draft Programmatic Statewide Species-Specific RM Plan Biological Assessments (BAs) Received from Contractor includes Species Information, Activities Descriptions, and Effects Determinations broken out by Program within each RM Plan

↓

Draft BAs Distributed to Appropriate BLM Field Staff & FWS for Review via the BLM Intranet

↓

Final BAs w/requests for concurrence to FWS – Placed on BLM Internet

↓

Draft Biological Opinions (BOs) or Concurrence Letters from FWS to BLM Evaluating each Listed Species and Appropriate TCs/RPAs/RPMs Placed on BLM Internet

↓ **----> Public Input including scientific information**
----> Review for RM Plan Consistency

FWS Finalizes BOs for each listed species – Placed on BLM Internet

↓

BLM Evaluates each RM Plan for any Allocation Changes

↓ **No Allocation Changes** → **RM Plan maintained (Incorporate requirements via RM Plan maintenance or possibly amend, as appropriate)**

↓ **Allocation Changes** → **RM Plan amendment initiated -or- Rolled into ongoing plan revisions**

↓

Annual Review - see no. 7

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Attachment 3 LIST OF BLM ACTIVITIES BY PROGRAM

LIST OF BLM ACTIVITIES

BLM Activity

Air Quality

1. Apply dust control measures
2. Collect meteorological and/or air quality data
3. Cover conveyors at mine sites

Cultural/Paleontological/Historical

1. Identify cultural resources
2. Photography
3. Inventory cultural resources
4. Developing interpretive sites
5. Use hand tools, power tools, heavy machinery
6. Field activities
7. Allow collection of invertebrate fossils
8. Stabilize deteriorating buildings
9. Surface disturbing activities
10. Map and collect surface material
11. Excavation
12. Stabilize erosion
13. Develop campgrounds
14. Cultural resource investigation

Fire Management

1. Fire suppression
2. Damage rehabilitation
3. Prescribed burning
4. Construct firelines
5. Use off-road vehicles
6. Use heavy equipment
7. Use of hand tools, off-road vehicles, and heavy machinery
8. Use bulldozers
9. Use chemical fire suppression agents
10. Bulldozers in riparian and wetland areas
11. Fire retardant drops containing chemical dyes

Forest Management

1. Rehabilitation surveys
2. Assess effects of grazing
3. Allow firewood collection
4. Timber harvesting
5. Planting harvested areas
6. Fencing regenerated areas
7. Clearcuts
8. Slash disposal
9. Allow harvest
10. Site regeneration
11. Stand replacement
12. Precommercial thinning
13. Fuelwood, posts, poles, Christmas trees, wildlings
14. Pursue legal access
15. Commercial thinning
16. Skidder-type yarding
17. Logging operations
16. Skidder-type yarding
17. Logging operations
18. Cable yarding
19. Roads and landings
20. Logging activity
21. Prescribed burning
22. Establish new seedlings
23. Chaining
24. Shearing
25. Road development
26. Install drain culverts, water bars, or ditches
27. Cut and remove diseased trees
28. Artificial regeneration
29. Slash will be lopped and scattered, roller chopped, or burned
30. Helicopter logging
31. Disease treatment by spraying
32. Spraying of Grasses and shrubs

Minerals

1. Study and exploration of coal resources
2. Open lands for oil and gas development
3. Lease with a "no surface occupancy" restriction
4. Lease with seasonal restrictions
5. Lease with other standard surface protection restrictions
6. Sand and gravel collection
7. Lease geothermal resources
8. Oil, gas, and mineral development
9. Issue leases
10. Open to geophysical exploration
11. Construction of roads, pads, and other facilities
12. Construction of new above-ground powerlines
13. Explore, lease, and develop oil, gas, coal, oil shale, and geothermal steam
14. Surface coal mining
15. Exploration drilling
16. Geophysical exploration
17. Increase human activity
18. Increase vehicular traffic

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LIST OF BLM ACTIVITIES

BLM Activity

Hazardous Material

1.Provide warnings
2. Establish precautions
3. Use precautionary measures
4. Secure and dispose of hazardous waste discharged on public lands
5. Report, secure, and clean up public lands contaminated with hazardous wastes

Lands and Realty

1. Stock driveway withdrawals
2. Locatable mineral entry withdrawals
3. Lease acres for landfills
4. Establish protective withdrawals
5. Procure easements
6. Disposal or transfer of public lands through desert land entry, public sale, exchange, State of Wyoming indemnity selection, or Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases or patents
7. Designate existing routes as right-of-way corridors
8. Pursue public access
9. Pursue cooperative agreements
10. Leases and disposals
11. Develop stipulations
12. Issue rights-of-way
13. Temporary use permits
14. New withdrawals
15. Seek legal access to timber management areas
16. Fence revegetation sites
17. Block linear rights-of-way to vehicle use
18. Road construction
19. Construction of powerlines, communication towers, pipelines, irrigation ditches, and roads
20. Develop recreation site facilities
21. Designate corridors
22. Adjust corridors

Livestock Grazing

1. Designate stock trails
2. Livestock conversions
3. Livestock grazing
4. Fence improvement riparian habitat to exclude livestock
5. Provide access to water
6. Design grazing systems
7. Provide salt or mineral supplements
8. Use safe and effective prairie dog control measures
9. Modify kinds of livestock and season of livestock use
10. Perform project work to enhance and improve riparian zones
11. Improve resource conditions
12. Noxious weed control
13. Control predators
14. Vegetation manipulation projects
15. Change composition of existing vegetation
16. Manage leases
17. Develop management plans and agreements
18. Range improvement projects
19. Cancel or change driveways
20. Fence
21. Develop water catchments
22. Sagebrush spraying
23. Prescribed fire treatment
24. Adjust season of use, distribution, kind, class, and number of livestock
25. Implement new grazing systems
26. Establish salt stations
27. Develop reservoirs, springs, pipelines, and wells
28. Prescribed fire
29. Mechanical or biological vegetative treatments
30. Use heavy equipment

ORV Use

1. Designate closed, limited, or open areas for ORV Use
2. Post signs, maps, or brochures
3. Monitor off-road vehicle use
4. ORV rallies
5. Cross-country races and outings
6. Perform necessary tasks requiring off-road vehicle use

Recreation

1. Allow casual recreational use without charge
2. Restrict recreational use
3. Allow fishing and floatboating opportunities
4. Permit competitive recreational events
5. Pursue land acquisition
6. Allow camping
7. Require facilities to blend with the natural environment
18. Maintain public access
19. Pursue rights-of-way
20. Maintain or develop recreation sites and facilities
21. Monitor recreational use
22. Enforce recreation-oriented regulations
23. Patrol high-use areas and update recreational potential
24. Monitor, evaluate, and update recreational potential

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LIST OF BLM ACTIVITIES

BLM Activity

8. Designate road use
9. Designate recreation areas
10. Allow fishing, boating, and hunting
11. Develop management plans
12. Designate ORV use
13. Identify hazards on the river
14. Maintain developed and undeveloped recreation sites
15. Provide public facilities and continued access
16. Allow use of motorized over-the-snow vehicles
17. With some exceptions, limit motorized vehicles to existing trails
25. Conduct field inventories
26. Place boundary signs
27. Camping, hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use
28. Add interpretive markers
29. Add developments as opportunities arise
30. Develop campgrounds
31. Develop recreational facilities
32. Cut trees and firewood
33. Construct and use roads
34. Commercial recreation uses

T&E Species

1. Provide habitat
2. Protect known populations
3. Close known locations to surface disturbing activities, mineral material sales, off-road vehicle use, and the use of explosives and blasting
4. Conduct surveys

Vegetation

1. Pursue the acquisition of additional riparian areas
2. Plant species surveys
3. Conduct prescribed burns
4. Implement weed control programs
5. Plant trees
6. Improve riparian habitat
7. Use species-specific insects, livestock grazing, mechanical methods, or chemical methods
8. Spraying, burning, mechanical disturbances
9. Precommercial tree thinning
10. Use of machinery or fire

Visual

1. Exclude activities
2. Reclaim watershed projects and water wells

Wild Rivers

1. Studies segments of river

Wild Horse

1. Monitoring
2. Roundups
3. Herding, corralling, transporting

Geothermal

1. Vehicle traffic
2. Road construction
3. Pod and facility construction
4. Powerline construction

Special Areas

1. Protect petroglyphs, artifacts, and cultural deposits from weathering and vandalism
2. Land exchange
3. Close areas where accelerated erosion is occurring
4. Apply restrictions on ground-disturbing activities
5. Guide supervised tours
6. Evaluate noxious weed and grasshopper control measures
7. Logging and heavy equipment use restrictions
8. Develop recreational trails

Watershed/Water

1. Develop pollution prevention plans
2. Ensure rights to water-related projects are filed
3. Delineate "no chemical use" buffer zones
4. Design activities to promote reduction of channel erosion
5. Restore damaged wetlands or riparian areas

Water/Soils

1. Apply seasonal closures
2. Restrict activities such as mineral exploration and development, pipelines, powerlines, roads, recreation sites, fences, and wells
3. Land acquisition
20. Develop riparian exclosures
21. Improve forage
22. Habitat improvement projects

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LIST OF BLM ACTIVITIES

BLM Activity	
4. Impose road closures	23. Manage timber
5. Acquire riverfront land	24. Manage access
6. Prohibit surface development	25. Modification of existing projects, such as fence modification
7. Easement acquisition	26. Construction of artificial structures
8. Monitor habitat	27. Management of other resource activities to conserve forage and protect habitat
9. Monitor public drinking water	28. Chemically control pests
10. Conduct inventories	29. Cutting, thinning, planting, seeding, pitting
11. Improve, maintain, and restore riparian areas	30. Herbicide treatments
12. Reestablish willows	31. Spraying of insecticides
13. Stream improvement practices	32. Use heavy machinery and hand tools
14. Vegetation manipulations	33. Construct stream crossings
15. Farming	34. Develop water facilities
16. Prescribed burning	35. Introduce species
17. Construct and maintain fences	36. Develop islands
18. Apply soil management practices	37. Improve range with mechanical treatment, burning, or other methods
19. Complete a groundwater study	
Soil/Water/Air	
1. Monitor soil erosion, water quality, and air quality	3. Reduce or eliminate erosion
2. Field activities	4. Use heavy equipment and hand tools
Soils	
1. Apply conservation practices	6. Use heavy machinery and hand tools
2. Use special construction and reclamation techniques	7. Removal of topsoil
3. Revegetation efforts	8. Restoration of surface drainage
4. Erosion control measures	9. Abandoned road reclamation
5. Restore damaged wetlands	
Riparian	
1. Livestock conversions	3. Fence
2. Herding, livestock driving	
Access	
1. Pursue access across private lands	3. Rehabilitate access roads no longer needed
2. Purchase rights-of-way or easements, land exchange, reciprocal rights-of-way	
Surface Disturbance Restrictions	
1. Restrict surface disturbance	

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Attachment 4

Matrix – RM Plan & Species

RM Plan / Species	Buffalo	Cody	Grass Creek (Worland)	Great Divide (Rawlins)	Green River (Rock Springs)	Kemmerer	Lander	Newcastle	Pinedale	Platte River (Casper)	Snake River (Pinedale) [New]	Washakie (Worland)
Kendall Warm Springs Dace (E)									XXX			
Desert Yellowhead (T)							XXX			XXX		
Wyoming Toad (E)				XXX								
Blowout Penstemon (E)				XXX								
Colorado Butterfly Plant (T)				XXX						XXX		
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (T)				XXX						XXX		
Bald Eagle (T)	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Black-footed Ferret (E)	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Canada Lynx (T)	XXX	XXX		XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX		XXX		XXX	
Grizzly Bear (T)		XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX		XXX		XXX	
Ute Ladies'-Tresses (T)	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Gray Wolf (Exp–popln)		XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX		XXX		XXX	
Whooping Crane (Exp-Popln)				Exterp	Exterp	Exterp	Exterp		Exterp		Exterp	

Black-tailed Prairie Dog (C)	XXX	XXX		XXX			xxx	XXX		XXX		???
Southern Rockies Popln Boreal Toad (C)				XXX	xxx	xxx						
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (C)				xxx	XXX	xxx			xxx			

XXX = species confirmed/or habitat occurs within the area evaluated in the RM Plan
xxx = species unconfirmed/but possibly found in the Field Office area. Will not be evaluated in the RM Plan unless additional information confirms presence of individuals or habitat.

a. If a species is found in only one RM Plan area, then the respective F.O. would prepare the maintenance action or amendment.
b. If a species is found in two or more RM Plan area, then the Wyoming State Office staff would prepare a "multi-office" maintenance action or amendment for all areas affected with input from each field office.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
5353 Yellowstone Rd, Suite, 308
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

In Reply Refer To:
ES-61411/W.02/WY10142

March 13, 2006

Memorandum

To: James Murkin, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Casper, Wyoming

From: Brian T. Kelly, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Field Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming /s/ Pat Deibert *for*

Subject: Species List for the Casper Field Office

Please find attached the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) current list of endangered, threatened, and candidate species which may occur within the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office's (Bureau) area of management. This list is provided as a general reference for the Bureau to use when evaluating their responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, 50 CFR § 402. In addition, we have included information that may be useful in the development of a project assessment for listed species, as well as other areas of Service trust authorities such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,16 U.S.C. 703, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668, and wetlands.

Although we intend to update this list annually or when additions or changes in species' status occur, the Bureau should contact this office to verify the list before completing any major Federal construction activity as identified under section 7 of the Act. If you have any questions regarding this letter or your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Bradley Rogers of my staff at (307) 684-1046.

Attachment (1)

cc: BLM, T&E Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (J. Carroll)
BLM, Wildlife Biologist, Casper Field Office, Casper, WY (J. Wright)
WGFD, Statewide Habitat Protection Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (V. Stelter)
WGFD, Non-Game Coordinator, Lander, WY (B. Oakleaf)

Attachment 1

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
5353 Yellowstone Rd, Suite, 308
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Threatened and Endangered Species and Candidate Species
Potentially Occurring on Lands Managed By
Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office
Updated March 1, 2006

Species	Status	Expected Occurrence
Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	Threatened	Found throughout state
Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)	Endangered	Prairie dog towns
Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*)	Endangered	Sand dunes
Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)	Threatened	Seasonally moist soils and wet meadows of drainages below 7000 feet
Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana coloradensis*)	Threatened	Wet meadows in floodplains
Critical habitat for Colorado butterfly plant	Designated	51 stream miles in Platte and Laramie counties. Federal Register notice (70 FR 1940)
Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)	Threatened	Riparian areas east of Laramie Mtns and south of North Platte River
Critical habitat for Preble's meadow jumping mouse	Designated	Varying widths (360 to 394 ft from stream edge) portions of Cottonwood, Chugwater, Lodgepole Creeks and some tributaries

Platte River Species: If the proposed action will lead to water depletions (consumption) in the Platte River System, impacts to threatened and endangered species inhabiting the downstream reaches of these systems should be included in the evaluation. Platte River system depletions may affect the whooping crane (*Grus americana*), interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus*

Attachment 1

leucocephalus), Eskimo curlew (*Numenius borealis*), and western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*). In addition, depletions may contribute to the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat for the whooping crane, and proposed critical habitat for the northern Great Plains breeding population of the piping plover.

2

1

Attachment 1

Federal Agency Responsibilities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility, under a number of Federal laws, treaties, Executive Orders, and memoranda of agreement, for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. Some of these same authorities also require other Federal agencies to consider, avoid, or prevent adverse impacts to fish, wildlife, and wetland resources. To ensure resources are afforded adequate consideration and protection, Federal agencies are often required to consult with the Service regarding potential impacts their actions may have on fish and wildlife resources.

When reviewing proposed actions of other agencies, our office normally focuses on three broad categories of trust resources: (1) threatened, endangered, and candidate species, (2) migratory birds, and (3) wetlands and riparian areas. The Service provides recommendations for protective measures for threatened and endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*. Protective measures for migratory birds are provided pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA),16 U.S.C. 703 and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), 16 U.S.C. 668. Wetlands should be protected pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 11990 (wetland protection) and Executive Order 11988 (floodplain management) as well as the goal of "no net loss of wetlands." Other fish and wildlife resources are considered under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq*., and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, 70 Stat. 1119, 16 U.S.C. 742a-742j.

Federal agency actions may range from small, site specific, short duration projects to expansive, long-term programs. Because of the wide range of possible actions, the Service provides the following comments with the understanding that this list of comments may not be all inclusive or may not be applicable for each Federal project.

Section 7(c) of the Act requires the preparation of a biological assessment for any Federal action that is a major construction activity to determine the effects of the proposed action on listed and proposed species. If a biological assessment is not required (i.e., all other actions), the lead Federal agency is responsible for review of proposed activities to determine whether listed species will be affected. If it is determined that the proposed activities may affect a listed species, you should contact the Service to discuss consultation requirements:

If it is determined that any Federal agency program or project "is likely to adversely affect" any listed species, formal consultation should be initiated with this office. Alternatively, informal consultation can be continued so the Service can assist you to determine how the project could be modified to reduce impacts to listed species to the "not likely to adversely affect" threshold. If it is concluded that the project "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species, you should request the Service to review the assessment and concur with the determination of "not likely to adversely affect."

For those actions where a biological assessment is necessary, it should be completed within **180 days** of receipt of a species list, but can be extended by mutual agreement between the lead agency and the Service. If the assessment is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of a species list, the list of threatened and endangered species should be verified with the Service prior to

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Attachment 1

initiation of the assessment. The biological assessment may be undertaken as part of the agency's compliance of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and incorporated into the NEPA documents. The Service recommends that biological assessments include:

1. Description of the project.
2. Description of the specific area potentially affected by the action.
3. Current status and habitat use of threatened and endangered species in the project area.
4. Discussion of the methods used to determine the information in item 3.
5. Direct and indirect impacts of the project to threatened and endangered species.
6. Analysis of the proposed action effects on listed and proposed species and their habitats including cumulative impacts (pursuant to the Act) from State or private projects.
7. Measures that can potentially reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species.
8. The expected status of threatened and endangered species in the future (short and long term) during and after project completion.
9. Determination of "is likely to adversely affect" or "is not likely to adversely affect" for listed species.
10. Determination of "is likely to jeopardize" or "is not likely to jeopardize" for proposed species.
11. Alternatives to the proposed action considered, a summary of how impacts of those alternatives on listed and proposed species would differ from the proposed actions, and the reasons for not selecting those alternatives.
12. Citation of literature and personal contacts used in the assessment.

Migratory Birds

Under the MBTA and BGEPA, the Federal agency has a mandatory obligation to protect the many species of migratory birds, including eagles and other raptors which may occur on lands under their jurisdiction. In order to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations and their habitats, the Service recommends that the Federal agency implement those strategies outlined within the Memorandum of Understanding directed by the President of the U.S. under the Executive Order 13186, where possible. During project planning analysis of the following information is recommended to determine project effects to migratory birds:

1. The current status and habitat use of migratory birds in the project area. This may include number of individuals, breeding pairs, population trends, active nests within and adjacent to the project area.
2. Analysis of the proposed action on migratory bird species and their habitats.
3. Measures that will reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to migratory birds including protective buffers, seasonal restrictions, maintenance of habitat within project area, raptor-proofing designs for powerlines, and netting of waste pits.
4. The projected short and long term impacts to migratory birds and their trends during and after project completion using monitoring, modeling and current literature.

Potential adverse effects to migratory birds from power lines should be identified and every attempt to mitigate such effects should be implemented. Structures that are identified as affecting birds should be made safe to prevent subsequent mortalities. If you determine that power poles and/or stretches of power line are resulting in electrocution of migratory birds, especially raptors, the Service requests that specific information be documented regarding these mortalities. Based on regulations pursuant to the MBTA and BGEPA, collecting, possessing, or moving the carcass

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Attachment 1

can only be done by, State Game Wardens, Service Refuge Officers, Service Special Agents or persons holding a valid salvage permits issued by the Service and the applicable State. When a migratory bird mortality is observed the Service recommends that as much of the following information as possible be documented: legal location, all identifying numbers from the nearest power pole, date of observation, species, GPS location, photographs (pole number, top section of the pole, and the dead bird) and directions to the scene. Additionally, please contact Dominic Domenici of the Service's Law Enforcement Office at phone (307) 261-6365 or email dominic_domenici@fws.gov to report your observation and obtain further guidance. The Service appreciates your efforts to protect migratory birds.

Wetlands

The functions and values of wetlands are well documented and are especially important in the arid west. Substantial degradation diminishes the effectiveness of wetlands to function as food, cover, and breeding sites for wetland dependent species; sediment transport systems; water retention/storage sites; contaminant sinks; and chemical exchange sites. To ensure the Service has sufficient information to assess project impacts on wetlands, assessments should include:

1. Enumeration of the acreage of wetlands, by type, impacted by the proposed action.
2. Discussion of why wetlands cannot be avoided.
3. Description of the functions and values of wetlands present including sediment transport, value as water storage sites, value to aquatic and terrestrial organisms, value as contaminant sinks and associated risks of water removal.
4. Measures that will reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to wetlands such as a mitigation plan to offset unavoidable impacts, protective buffers, seasonal and physical restrictions, maintenance of natural hydrograph, and development and implementation of a monitoring program to track the effectiveness of mitigation measures.
5. Results of wetland monitoring or management activities in, or adjacent to, the proposed project site.
6. The anticipated short and long term effects to wetland and riparian areas during and after project completion.

We recommend the Federal agency address each of the above concerns where applicable to the project. Without this information it may be difficult for the Service to effectively review assessments.

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NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION LETTERS

1610/Casper RMP

7003 2410 0000 4928 0535
7002 2410 0000 4928 0528

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 23 2003

Mr. Jay St. Goddard
Chairman
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Mr. Goddard:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Ms. Marilyn Parsons
Blackfeet Tribal Planning Department
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417 — 0535

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:ss:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

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1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2976-2921
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Jay St. Goddard
Chairman
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Mr. St. Goddard:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

Ms. Marilyn Parsons
Blackfeet Tribal Planning Department
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5842
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Jay St. Goddard
Chairman
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Mr. St. Goddard:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your offices to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

ACTING

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Marilyn Parsons
Blackfeet Tribal Planning Department
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _BFTL. doc:01/21/05mb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

Lslone 11-16-05 CArthur 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6218
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Mr. Jay St. Goddard
Chairman
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

Dear Mr. St. Goddard:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. ADAMICK

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Blackfeet_Tribal

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1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0467
7002 2410 0000 4928 0450

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 23 2003

Mr. Gregg Bourland, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Bourland:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Muckin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Sebastian "Bronco" LeBeau
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625 — 0467

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:sc:10/22/03:NA:consultation-emp1

1610 Casper RMP

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-3476-2438
Return Receipt Requested

AUG 0 5 2004

Mr. Gregg Bourland, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Bourland:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us

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within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. James Picotte
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
PO Box 590
Mission, SD 57625

2

1

Lalone 1-28-05
Cathy 1/28/05
D Wylde 1/28/05

1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5869
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Gregg Bourland, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Bourland:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

2

A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/DOC K LUST

FOR James Morkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James Picotte
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
PO Box 590
Mission, SD 57625

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _CRSN. doc:01/21/05mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05 CArthur 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6164
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Gregg Bourland, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

NOV 1 8 2005

Dear Mr. Bourland:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURRAY

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Cheyenne_River

2

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1103
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Johnny Wauqua
Chairman
Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
HC 32 Box 1720
Lawton, OK 73502

Dear Mr. Wauqua:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the

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within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. James Picotte
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
PO Box 590
Mission, SD 57625

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Wallace Coffey
Chairman
Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
HC 32 Box 1720
Lawton, OK 73502

Dear Mr. Coffey:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

MICK LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:

Jimmy Arterberry
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _CTO. doc:01/21/05mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05
CSOuthern 11/16/05

7005-0390 0001-6066-6171
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Wallace Coffey
Chairman
Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
HC 32, Box 1720
Lawton, OK 73502

NOV 1 8 2005

Dear Mr. Coffey:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURKIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Comanche_20051101

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1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0542

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 2 3 2003

Mr. Donald Matt
Chairman
Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Mr. Matt:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Markis
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:sc:10/22/03:NAconsultation-emp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-2510-0001-2476-1127
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Donald Matt
Chairman
Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Mr. Matt:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the

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project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:
WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _KSTL. doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5880
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Donald Matt
Chairman
Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Mr. Matt:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

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Sincerely,

/S/ROCK LUSS

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:
Clarinda Burke
Salish & Kootenai Tribe
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59885

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _KSTL. doc:01/21/05mlb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LLSlone 11-16-05
CA 11/14/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6119
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 18 2005

Mr. Donald Matt
Chairman
Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear Mr. Matt:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

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1

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Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORGAN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Salish_Kootenai

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1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0511
7002 2410 0000 4928 0504

OCT 2 3 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Carl Venne, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. Venne:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

1

In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Darrin Old Coyote
Cultural Director
Crow Tribal Administration
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022 — 0511

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

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1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1097
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Carl Venne, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. Venne:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological

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sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

Mr. Darrin Old Coyote
Cultural Director
Crow Tribal Administration
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _CTL. doc:07/30/04mtb

1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3050-5866
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Carl Venne, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. Venne:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I can come to your office one day or evening during the week of February 21, 2005. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/DOC E LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Darrin Old Coyote
Cultural Director
Crow Tribal Administration
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Mr. George Reed
Crow Cultural Committee
PO Box 1094
Crow Agency MT 59022

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)
ch/Letter3 _CTL. doc:01/21/05mb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

APR 2 6 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. George Reed
Crow Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1094
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. Reed:

On February 23, 2005, I met with you and discussed the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) the Casper Field Office is preparing. BLM has prepared a new map to help you and the Elders show us the general locations of cultural and spiritual interest to the Tribe. Surface ownership as well as areas of high development potential for oil and gas are shown on the map. I have enclosed two copies -- one for you to mark on and return to me, and another copy for you to keep.

The map of the Crow area of interest in Montana and Wyoming is still being prepared. As soon as the map is completed, I will mail it to you.

I would be happy to meet you again after you have had a chance to examine the maps. I would also be happy to arrange tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest to you. Should you have any questions, please either contact me at the above address and phone number or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURKIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Darrin Old Coyote
Cultural Director
Crow Tribal Administration
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Mr. Carl Venne, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

bcc: WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)

LCollins:so:4/26/05:LETTER4_CTL

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1610/Casper RMP Revision

7005-0390-0001-6066-6188
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Mr. Carl Venne, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear Mr. Venne:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORRIS

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Crow_TC

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Yellow 11-27-03
1610 Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0375
7002 2410 0000 4928 1181
7002 2410 0000 4928 1174

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 2 3 2003

Mr. Vernon Hill, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Markin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Richard Burnett
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514 — 1181

Arlen Shoyo
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY — 0375

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610 Casper RMP

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1196
Return Receipt Requested

AUG 0 6 2004

Mr. Vernon Hill, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Hill:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us

within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of assistance to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. Richard Burnett
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Arlen Shoyo
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ms. Reba Tehran
Shoshone Cultural Office
P.O. Box 1008
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5972
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Posey:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I can come to your office one day or evening during the week of February 21, 2005. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/ERIC K LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Arlen Shoyo
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ms. Reba Tehran
Shoshone Cultural Office
P.O. Box 1008
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _STL. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

Llone
11-16-05
Conf 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6170
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Mr. Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Posey:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORRISON

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05-Shoshone_BC

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1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2936-1134
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Bill Evens Horse
Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Carnegie, OK 73015

Dear Mr. Evens Horse:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological

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sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of assistance to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

Rev. George Daingkau
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Carnegie, OK 73015

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _KTO, doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Bill Evens Horse
Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Carnegie, OK 73015

Dear Mr. Evens Horse:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Armintio/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 1000 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/RICK LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:

Rev. George Daingkau
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Carnegie, OK 73015

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3_KTO. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

7005-0390-0001-6066-6195
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

LSlone 11-16-05
CAuthur 11/16/05

Mr. Bill Evens Horse
Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Carnegie, OK 73015

NOV 1 8 2005

Dear Mr. Evens Horse:

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In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORRIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Kiowa_

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5903
Return Receipt Requested

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Attn: Scott Jones
Director of Cultural Resources and Public Relations
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548

Dear Mr. Jones:

Ie wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

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I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Clair Green
PO BOX 842
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/letter3 _LBST. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

7005-0390-0001-6066-6157
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Attn: Scott Jones
Director of Cultural Resources and Public Relations
187 Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548

Dear Mr. Jones:

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We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORRISON

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Lower_Brule_Sioux

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Yellow 10-23-03
1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0481
7002 2410 0000 4928 0474

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 23 2003

Mr. Sam Penney, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

Dear Mr. Penney:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Allen P. Shickpoo, Jr.
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID

– 0481

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1158
Return Receipt Requested

ANTHONY JOHNSON

Mr. Sam Pinney, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

Dear Mr. Pinney:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and developement interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us

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within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Elies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. Allen P. Shickpoo, Jr.
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Nez Perce Tribe
PO Box 305
Lapwai, ID 58335

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _NPT. doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3050-5934
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Anthony Johnson, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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Sincerely,

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Allen P. Shickpoo, Jr.
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Nez Perce Tribe
PO Box 305
Lapwai, ID 58335

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _NPT. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05
CArthur 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6089
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Anthony Johnson, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

NOV 1 8 2005

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Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURRAY

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Nez_Perce

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C Sa 4 10/23/03
Yellow 10-23-03
1610 Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0399
7002 2410 0000 4928 0382

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 2 3 2003

Mr. Burton Hutchinson, Sr.
Chairman
Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

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We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. "Bobby" Goggles
P.O. Box 54 Star Route
Arapahoe, WY 82510

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO) – 0399

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1110
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Burton Hutchinson, Sr., Chairman
Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us

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within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. Robert "Bobby" Goggles
328 17 Mile Road
Arapahoe, WY 82510

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2_NATL. doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

Lplane 1-28-05 CAA 110 Dlk 1/21

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-2750-0003-3080-5710
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Richard Brannon, Chairman
Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Brannon:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I can come to your office one day or evening during the week of February 21, 2005. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

ANECK LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert "Bobby" Goggles
328 17 Mile Road
Arapahoe, WY 82510

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3_NATL. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

APR 2 6 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Joann White
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P.O. Box 1056
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Ms. White:

On March 9, 2005, I met with you and the Elder Council to discuss the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) the Casper Field Office is preparing. BLM has prepared a new map to help you and the Elders show us the general locations of cultural and spiritual interest to the Tribe. Surface ownership as well as areas of high development potential for oil and gas are shown on the map. I have enclosed two copies – one for you to mark on and return to me, and another for you to keep.

I would be happy to meet you again after you have had a chance to examine the maps. I would also be happy to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest to you. Should you have any questions, please either contact me at the above address or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURICN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert "Bobby" Goggles
328 17 Mile Road
Arapahoe, WY 82510

Mr. Richard Brannon, Chairman
Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

bcc: WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)
LCollins:so:4/26/05:LETTER_NATL

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05
11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6225
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Mr. Richard Brannon, Chairman
Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Dear Mr. Brannon:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you the opportunity to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include several federal agencies, the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. LAURION

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:CAS_Invitations

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CSA 10/21/03
Yellow 11-23-03
1610/Casper RMP

7003 2410 0000 4928 0566
7003 2410 0000 4928 0412
7003 2410 0000 4928 0405

OCT 2 3 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Geri Small
President
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Ms. Small:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Markis
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Gilbert Brady, Chairman
Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043 — 0566

Mr. Steven Brady
Traditional Spokesperson
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043 — 0442

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2776-1141
Return Receipt Requested

Ms. Geri Small, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Ms. Small:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the

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project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

Gilbert Brady, Sr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Mr. Steven Brady
Traditional Spokesperson
P.O. Box 542
Lame Deer, MT 59043

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2_NCTL. doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003 3086-6927
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Eugene Littlecoyote, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Littlecoyote:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I can come to your office one day or evening during the week of February 21, 2005. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

AVERIC K LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:

Gilbert Brady, Sr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Mr. Steven Brady
Traditional Spokesperson
P.O. Box 542
Lame Deer, MT 59043

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3_NCTL. doc:01/21/2005mb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

APR 2 6 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Conrad Fisher
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Fisher:

On March 1, 2005, I met with you and discussed the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) the Casper Field Office is preparing. BLM has prepared a new map to help you and the Elders show us the general locations of cultural and spiritual interest to the Tribe. Surface ownership as well as areas of high development potential for oil and gas are shown on the map. I have enclosed two copies – one for you to mark on and return to me, and another copy for you to keep.

I would be happy to meet you again after you have had a chance to examine the maps. I would also be happy to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions, please either contact me at the above address or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURKIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Eugene Littlecoyote, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Mr. Steven Brady
Traditional Spokesperson
P.O. Box 542
Lame Deer, MT 59043

bcc: WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)
LCollins:so:4/26/05:LETTER4_NCTL

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05
CArthur 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6096
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Mr. Eugene Littlecoyote, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Littlecoyote:

The Casper Field Office began revision of its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURKIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:ao:11/14/05:Northern_Cheyenne

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1610/Casper RMP

OCT 2 3 2003

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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele
President
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box H
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Dear Mr. Steele:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:ss:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

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1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1165
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele,
President
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Dear Mr. Yellow Bird Steele:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and developement interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological

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sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of assistance to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _OSN. doc:07/30/04mtb

1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003-3080-5941
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele,
President
Olglala Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Dear Mr. Yellow Bird Steele:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/DUCK LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:
WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _OSN. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6201
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele
President
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

NOV 1 8 2005

Dear Mr. Yellow Bird Steele:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MUTHIAN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Oglala_Sioux

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Charles Colombe, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Mr. Colombe:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

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I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/ERIC K LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Terry Gray
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Sinte Gleska College
PO Box 675
Mission, SD 57555

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3 _RSN. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1172
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Charles Colome, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Mr. Colome:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and developement interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us

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within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of assistance in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael L. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc: Mr. Terry Gray
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Sinte Gleska College
PO Box 675
Mission, SD 57555

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

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Hellme 10-22-03
1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0443
7002 2410 0000 4928 0436

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 23 2003

Mr. William Kindle, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Mr. Kindle:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

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If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Terry Gray
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Sinte Gleska College
P.O. Box 675
Mission, SD 57555

– 0443

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:se:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6102
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 18 2005

Mr. Charles Colombe, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570

Dear Mr. Colombe:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

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Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURRAY

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

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1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4938 0498
7002 2410 0000 4938 0214

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 2 3 2003

Mr. Fredrick Auck, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
Business Council
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Dear Mr. Auck:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

cc: Mr. Willie Preacher
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306 – 0498

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:so:10/22/03:NAconsultation-rmp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1185
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Fredrick Auck, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
Business Council
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Dear Mr. Auck:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

We would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

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We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:
WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/letter2 _SBTL. doc:07/30/04mfb

1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003 3080-5965
Return Receipt Requested

Ms. Nancy E. Murillo, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
Business Council
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Dear Ms. Murillo:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

Cedar Ridge is the only known Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the planning area. Under the Preferred Alternative, the TCP would be 1) open to oil and gas leasing subject to no surface occupancy; this restriction would be applicable to all other types of surface development including but not limited to rights-of-way, and range improvements, 2) withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, 3) closed to disposal of mineral materials, and 4) livestock grazing would continue but use would be managed to meet TCP objectives. Additionally, a controlled surface use restriction would be applied to all surface development proposals in a viewshed surrounding the TCP as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and Badwater Road to the north. Surface disturbing activities in this viewshed area would be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well-twinning wherever practicable. Under all alternatives no surface development would be allowed on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry. Under the Preferred Alternative, the minimum cultural resource block inventory size on Pine Ridge in Natrona and Converse counties, Wyoming would be 40 acres with linear inventories covering a minimum of 100 feet either side of surface disturbance.

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A key part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites. I am sharing this pre-decisional deliberative information with you to help facilitate the identification of areas that have special interest to Tribes, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. This information is not for release to the public at this time. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating either areas of general or specific concern within the planning area. If necessary I will maintain the confidentiality of these locations as allowed by federal law. A map is enclosed which shows the Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge, and Spanish Diggings areas that have previously been identified as of special interest to Tribes. I need to know if there are any other areas I may not have considered.

I would also appreciate knowing any concerns you may have with this RMP or about sites significant to the history, culture, or religion of American Indians within the Casper Field Office area pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, or any sacred sites pursuant to Executive Order 13007 signed May 24, 1996.

I would be happy to meet you or your representatives at this office or in your office to discuss the RMP alternatives. I would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area to discuss important archeological sites or other areas of interest you identify. Should you have any questions please contact me at the above address, or Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/ERIC K LUSE

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Willie Preacher
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
PO Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0190

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/letter3 _SBTL. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

LSlone 11-16-05
CAA 11/16/05

7005-0390-0001-6066-6126
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 1 8 2005

Ms. Nancy E. Murillo, Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
Business Council
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Dear Ms. Murillo:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

In an effort to keep you informed of the status of our planning effort, we are again contacting tribes who have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or whose traditional lands coincide with the planning area. To date, consultation on the RMP revision process with your tribe has included correspondence, telephone contacts, and meetings when requested.

We greatly appreciate the coordination we have accomplished with you in the past and would like to continue our relationship. BLM recently modified its policy on working with tribal governments during land use plan revisions. This new policy affords you opportunities to provide further input into this process. In addition to the government-to-government consultation that has been ongoing throughout the process, we would also like to invite you to become a cooperating agency. Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. A cooperating agency provides staff to the BLM planning team to develop analysis for which they have particular expertise. The cooperating agency must develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal agency and must fund its own participation. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not satisfy the BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

Some of the other government entities who are cooperating agencies on the Casper RMP include the State of Wyoming, the local County Governments, and the local Conservation Districts. Although alternatives have been developed, you still have the opportunity to help us refine the management actions as we work through completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final EIS, and Record of Decision. This opportunity is available to you both through the cooperating agency process and through the existing government-to-government consultation process.

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We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. If you would like further information regarding cooperating agency status, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at 307-261-7520. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Christopher Arthur, Archaeologist, at 307-261-7501. Thanks for your continued participation in the Casper RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

JAMES K. MURDOCH

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Shoshone_Bannock

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1610/Casper RMP

7002 2410 0000 4928 0559

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 2 3 2003

Ute Tribe
Tribal Chairman
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

Dear Sirs:

The Casper Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning a revision of its land use plan, the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). The management plan serves as BLM's general direction for all resource and land use decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Casper Field Office planning area. This will include guiding the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in much of Natrona, Converse, Platte and Goshen counties in Wyoming (see enclosed map). Developing the RMP will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing the RMP and the EIS. We would like to begin consultations with you, and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The Casper Field Office planning area contains a large number of archeological sites representing occupation of the area for at least the last 10,000 years. We have numerous sites with stone alignments and cairns, as well as many camp sites and tool manufacturing areas. The only formally recognized sacred site that we know of is Cedar Ridge, on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. No other sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other traditional use areas have been identified at present. The planning area contains other significant cultural resources that have yet to be discovered.

We are contacting tribes who have oral traditions or have previously expressed cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented to have occupied or used the area during historic times. We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of this planning area. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of the planning area, such as places of traditional, religious, or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. Any information you provide will be used in a respectful manner, and anything you would like to share with BLM but would prefer not be made public will be kept confidential.

The Cedar Ridge site represents our major success in the consultation effort. An open exchange among tribal council representatives, representatives of the elders, BLM officials and cultural resource staff has resulted in recognizing this highly important site as a Traditional Cultural Property with great significance for the Eastern Shoshone. The result is additional protection for an area traditionally used for ceremonial purposes, and a well-defined zone in which future land uses will be approved only after very careful consideration of the effects to Cedar Ridge. Without consultation, we would have had an enormous archaeological site, valuable for scientific purposes, but might have lost the equally, if not more, important values as a ceremonial site. Normal cultural resource procedures would have captured the scientific information, but irreparable harm would have come to the intangible traditional values.

The Casper Field Office requests a consultation with your tribe at a time and location convenient for you. We would like to discuss the Casper RMP revision and why your involvement is vital to the success of this revision. We would also like to receive any information or concerns you may have about the RMP revision. We would be pleased to offer tours of the planning area, including significant archeological sites or other areas of interest.

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In addition, we will be conducting a formal public involvement process during the next six months, including public scoping meetings the week of November 10, 2003. We would be very pleased if you participate in this process. You should have already received an invitation to participate in this process. Your invitation included specific meeting dates and locations.

If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted in addition to yourself, to express their interests or concerns regarding the Casper RMP. We look forward to working with you and your tribal members or authorized representatives who have considerable knowledge of tribal history and concerns.

While your input and involvement are welcomed throughout the planning process, there are certain points in the process where your participation is very important. Initially, we are requesting data, input, and identification of issues during the formal scoping period. Your input will also be important during the early stage of developing the alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Later, during the 90-day public review and comment period for the draft EIS, your input will help us prepare the final EIS and the Record of Decision for the Casper RMP.

We will devote careful consideration to all of your comments as we make decisions about the future management of the BLM-administered public lands and resources. We will keep you informed of the status of the planning effort throughout the process. We look forward to working cooperatively to address your tribe's concerns in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

The enclosed Return Form is provided for your convenience in responding to this letter, should you wish to reply in that manner.

If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Linda Slone, Project Manager, at (307) 261-7520 or email Linda_Slone@blm.gov. With regard to cultural heritage issues, please contact Christopher Arthur, the cultural resource specialist on the planning team, at (307) 261-7501 or email Chris_Arthur@blm.gov. We will contact you soon by telephone to discuss your tribe's concerns and issues. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures:
Map of Planning Area
Return Form

bcc: Linda Slone (CFO)

LSlone:xo:10/22/03:NAconsultation-emp1

1610 Casper RMP

AUG 0 6 2004

Certified Mail Number 7004-0550-0001-2476-1262
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Chairman
Ute Tribe
PO Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We wrote several months ago to advise you that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP). This plan will define how various resources are managed within our area for the next several decades. One part of this plan deals with cultural resources and how the BLM cultural resources staff will work with Tribal Representatives and development interests to protect important sites.

A critical step in this process is the identification of what we call traditional cultural properties, like Cedar Ridge on Badwater Creek near Waltman, Wyoming. These are areas where you have traditional interests such as ceremonial sites, places of special spiritual value, areas where important plants have been gathered or other areas of importance to your Tribe. We can find and document camps and workshop areas through the normal process of inventory and recording that occurs as we permit various actions. However, we need to work with you to identify areas of special concern for your Tribe. We also need to know the appropriate Tribal cultural resources people or representatives of the Elders to contact to work out ways to provide adequate protection for these places.

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We would be happy to meet you or your representatives here in the area or in your offices to discuss the project. We would also be pleased to conduct tours of the planning area, including important archeological

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sites or other areas of interest you identify. If you have comments concerning this RMP, please advise us within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We have attached a form that may be of use to you in responding to this request for information. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael T. Bies, our Archaeologist at the above address, by email at mike_bies@blm.gov or by telephone at (307) 347-5154. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Murkin
Field Manager

cc:

WSO 930 (Nowak)

WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter2 _UTE. doc:07/30/04mtb

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1610 Casper RMP

JAN 3 1 2005

Certified Mail Number 7004-0750-0003 3080-6989
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Chairman
Ute Tribe
PO Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I wrote several months ago to advise your Tribe that the Casper Field Office is preparing a new resource management plan (RMP). We have now completed the alternatives to be considered in the RMP and selected a Preferred Alternative. Alternative A continues our existing management without change, Alternative B emphasizes protection of resources, Alternative C emphasizes a balanced approach of both protection and development of resources, Alternative D emphasizes development of resources, and Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and consists of a combination of the other four alternatives we hope will meet the needs of our area.

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

FOR James Murkin
Field Manager

Enclosure

cc:
WSO 930 (Nowak)
WSO 930 (Capron)

arch/Letter3_UTE. doc:01/21/2005mtb

1610/Casper RMP Revision

NOV 1 8 2005

7005-0390-0001-6066-6133
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Chairman
Ute Tribe
PO Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Casper Field Office began revising its land use plan in 2002. The Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) will serve as our general direction for all resource and land use management decisions for the BLM-administered public lands and resources in our administrative area. The plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources on the public lands in most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen and Platte counties in Wyoming. BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

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Sincerely,

JAMES K. MORRIN

Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures
Return Form
Self-addressed Stamped Envelope

LSlone:so:11/14/05:Ute_Tribe

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