

# THE WIND RIVER BREEZE

SEPTEMBER 2007

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## BLM RMP REVISION TO BEGIN IN 2007!

Welcome to the first issue of *The Wind River Breeze*, the official publication for the Lander Field Office's (LFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision.

The RMP revision will be a huge task to complete over the next four years. *The Wind River Breeze* addresses the RMP revision and how you can participate. As the revision progresses, future issues will explore the steps in the revision process in greater depth.

There are many ways to obtain information about and participate in the planning process.

Please start by completing and returning the contact card supplied in this newsletter. In addition to this publication, there will be open houses, public meetings, and field trips. Additionally, information is always available from the LFO web site at: [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/lander\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/lander_rmp.html).

Your comments and questions are always welcome. Please feel free to call or visit the LFO in Lander, Wyoming. Contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

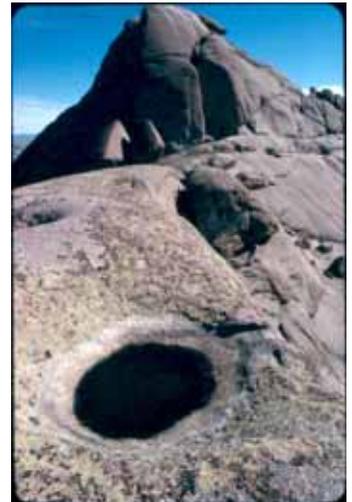


Photo of Moonstone Peak in the Sweetwater Rocks, Fremont County, WY  
*BLM photo*

## FROM THE LANDER FIELD OFFICE, FIELD MANAGER:

BOB ROSS, LFO  
FIELD MANAGER



Dear Neighbor,

I extend an invitation to everyone that cares about the future of public lands in the LFO planning area to participate in the revision of the RMP. Working together, we can create a vision for the future of the LFO planning area and design strategies to take us there. My staff and I are committed to a collaborative revision process that keeps you in the loop and at the table. This approach

provides an excellent opportunity for you to influence the future management of the landscapes and resources you care about.

The revised plan will guide BLM managers in fulfilling our responsibilities for stewardship of the LFO planning area to best meet the needs of the American people.

Lander's employees are proud to work in this area, and we

take seriously the BLM's vision—to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

We think the LFO planning area is a special place, and we think you'll agree. Please join us in this important planning process.

Sincerely,  
*Bob Ross*

**THE REVISION PROCESS:**

The BLM uses a multi-step planning process when developing an RMP. Some of the steps may occur concurrently and some situations may require the manager to supplement previous work as additional information becomes available. These steps have been fully integrated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines and include:

**1) Identification of Issues:** The BLM issues a Notice of Intent to begin the scoping process to identify issues and develop planning criteria and to begin public participation. This sets the tone and scope for the entire planning process and is done with full public participation.

**2) Develop Planning Criteria:** Planning criteria are constraints or side boards that determine what will or will not be done or considered during the planning process. Public comments and final planning criteria are published in a scoping report for public review.

**3) Inventory Data and Information Collection:** Collection of inventory data and information is an ongoing activity and is not governed solely by the planning process.

**4) Analyze the Management Situation:** Information is gathered on the current management situation describing pertinent physical and biological characteristics. This information is compiled into the Management Situation Analysis (MSA) to evaluate the capability and condition of the resources and to identify management opportunities.

**5) Formulate Alternatives:** Alternative formulation is the step where alternative RMPs are developed to address the issues identified during scoping and the management opportunities identified in the MSA.

**6) Estimate Effects of Alternatives:** Once alternatives are developed, the next step is to estimate the impact or effects of each on the environment and management situation.

**7) Select Preferred Alternative:** In the judgment of management, the preferred alternative best addresses the planning issues and promotes balanced multiple use objectives. Once all alternatives are analyzed, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is released and a Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft RMP/EIS is published; this begins a 90-day public review.

**8) Select the Resource Management Plan:** Public comments, opinions, suggestions, and recommendations are considered in preparing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Once the Final EIS is complete, an NOA of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is published, beginning a 30-day protest period and concurrent 60-day Governor's consistency review. After protests are resolved, the BLM issues an NOA for the Record of Decision/Final RMP.

**9) Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing decisions and monitoring and evaluating the RMP (these actions - tracking changes and trends [both short and long term] are taken to keep plans viable).



Bighorn sheep in the Whiskey Mountain area near Dubois.  
*BLM photo*

**THE REVISION TIMELINE:**



The Notice of Intent begins “the scoping process to identify issues ... and begin public participation.”

## WHAT IS AN RMP?

An RMP is a land use plan that describes broad multiple-use direction for BLM-managed public lands. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to develop land use plans to provide for appropriate uses of public land. Decisions in a land use plan guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The RMP will:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; and
- Provide comprehensive management direction and allocate use of all resources.



Greater sage-grouse  
BLM photo

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

A common question we hear at public meetings and presentations from folks is, "How can I get involved?"

NEPA is clear that environmental information should be made available to citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. Our regulations instruct us to reach out to citizens during scoping and public comment periods. Further, we believe your comments and input are critical to our effective management of the public lands, and welcome them throughout the revision process. We would like to foster principles of Community Based Ecosystem Stewardship: the interaction among citizens, government, and scientists to support healthy natural systems

and processes, diverse and productive economies, and social well-being.

We also hear questions about what BLM means by "substantive comments." Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with a reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS.
- Question, with a reasonable basis or facts, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis.
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS or Environmental Assessment.

- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

Comments that are not considered substantive include the following:

- Comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives without reasoning.
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy or resource decisions without justification or supporting data.
- Comments that don't pertain to the project area or the project (such as "the government should stop all gas drilling," when the project is about a new campground).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

The BLM will be hosting community assessment (Focus: travel management) meetings in November. The dates, locations and schedule for these meetings is located on the back page of this newsletter. All four of these meetings are open to the public.

All four meetings will be a causal, open house format and are designed as an opportunity for the BLM to learn about specific recreational and travel issues and/or uses associated with this RMP. All members of the public are highly encouraged to attend a meeting to provide input related to recreation and travel issues in the LFO planning area. Your input is vital in ensuring this RMP is inclusive and accurate.

If you are unable to attend a community assessment meeting, you can provide your comments and stay involved in other ways. You may send in your comments or questions via email or U.S. postal mail. Both addresses are located on the back page of this newsletter. In addition, your organization may want to invite the BLM to one of your upcoming meetings to provide your travel management input.

The LFO encourages all members of the public to return the enclosed postcard and to stay involved. Any questions can be addressed to the LFO. We look forward to seeing you in November.

### **BLM's Mission:**

*To maintain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

### **BLM's Vision:**

*To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.*

## Mark Your Calendars:

*Please attend a community assessment  
(Focus: Travel Management)  
meeting near you. Meetings will be held  
3:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.:*

### **Monday, November 5, 2007:**

Lander, WY, Best Western Conference Room  
(260 Grandview Dr. 307-332-2847 ext. 164)

### **Tuesday, November 6, 2007:**

Lander, WY, Best Western Conference Room  
(260 Grandview Dr. 307-332-2847 ext. 164)

### **Wednesday, November 7, 2007:**

Dubois, WY, Headwaters Arts & Conference Center  
(20 Stalnaker St. 307-455-2687)

### **Thursday, November 8, 2007:**

Dubois, WY, Headwaters Arts & Conference Center  
(20 Stalnaker St. 307-455-2687)



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Lander, WY 82520

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Fax: (307) 332-8444

Email: [lrmp\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:lrmp_wymail@blm.gov)

### COMMON ACRONYMS:

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

LFO: Lander Field Office

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

NOA: Notice of Availability

RMP: Resource Management Plan

BLM Lander Field Office  
ATTN: RMP Team Leader  
P.O. Box 589  
Lander, WY 82520

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# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



## CONTACT CARD

The Lander Field Office (LFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) over the next four years. Please complete and return this card to ensure BLM establishes an accurate mailing list to keep you informed of all activities and public meetings associated with this project.

**Let us know if you would like to stay informed of the RMP revision by checking a box below:**

- Remove me from the BLM LFO mailing list.
- Keep me on the BLM LFO mailing list to receive newsletters and notifications of this project.

**If you would like to remain on BLM's LFO mailing list, please let us know the best way to provide notices to you. To save paper, BLM's preference is that you select website or email:**

- By WEBSITE! I will visit the website: [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/lander\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/lander_rmp.html) whenever I am interested in knowing more about this project.

By EMAIL! My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

By mail. My mailing address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office or organization you represent (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city) (state) (zip)

**As part of this process, BLM will distribute an extensive Draft EIS (several hundred pages long). If you are interested in reviewing the Draft EIS, please help us conserve resources by letting us know your preference:**

- By WEBSITE! Email (see address above) me when the document is available and I will download it from the website.
- Public Repositories. Email (see address above) me when the Draft EIS is available and I will visit the local library, LFO, or other public repository to view a copy.
- Mail me a CD to the address listed above.
- Mail me a hard copy to the address listed above.

**PLEASE READ:**

Your contact information is for public notification purposes only. It will not be distributed to other entities, nor will it be published in the RMP or EIS documents.

----- To mail, fold on line and tape the three open sides. -----

**BLM Lander Field Office  
ATTN: RMP Team Leader  
PO Box 589  
Lander, WY 82520**

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