

CHAPTER 5—CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decisionmaking process for public lands in Wyoming has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and Department of Interior (DOI), and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory/policy framework require that federal agencies involve the interested public in their decisionmaking, consider reasonable alternatives to proposed actions, and prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of proposed actions and alternatives.

Public involvement, consultation, and coordination have been at the heart of the planning process leading to this draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Resource Management Plan (RMP). This was accomplished through public meetings, informal meetings, individual contacts, news releases, planning bulletins, a planning website, and Federal Register notices.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on February 25, 2002, to formally announce that the BLM Pinedale Field Office (PFO) was preparing an RMP and associated EIS. The notice invited the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the planning alternatives and analyzed in the EIS. Additional public involvement was solicited to help identify issues to be addressed in developing a full range of land management alternatives (see Table 5-1 for a list of public involvement, coordination, and consultation events). This chapter describes this public involvement process as well as other key consultation and coordination activities undertaken for the preparation of a comprehensive draft EIS for the PFO.

Table 5-1. Public Involvement, Coordination, and Consultation Events

| Date | Location | Type |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| July 11, 2002 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting |
| February 6, 2003 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting |
| March 3, 2003 | Rock Springs, Wyoming | Joint Public Scoping Meeting for Pinedale RMP/Rawlins RMP |
| March 10, 2003 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Public Scoping Meeting |
| March 11, 2003 | Marbleton, Wyoming | Public Scoping Meeting |
| July 7–11, 2003 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting/Alternatives Development Workshop |
| December 3–5, 2003 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting/Development of the Preferred Alternative |
| February 1–2, 2005 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting/Preliminary Draft EIS Status and Revision |
| March 8, 2006 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting/Development of Revised Alternatives |
| May 1–5, 2006 | Pinedale, Wyoming | Cooperators Meeting/Alternatives Development Workshop |

5.1 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section documents the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by BLM throughout the process of developing this draft RMP and EIS. Because of jurisdictional responsibilities, BLM is required to consult with certain federal, Native American, and state agencies and entities (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §1502.25) during the NEPA decisionmaking process. BLM is also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR §1500.4-5).

Title II, Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes and federal, state, and local government agencies as part of its land use planning process.

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other plans were accomplished through frequent communications, meetings, and cooperative efforts between the BLM interdisciplinary team and involved federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. Coordination and consistency for the draft EIS were accomplished primarily through the assistance of cooperating agencies formally involved in the project (Section 5.1.1).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted for Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation and threatened and endangered species lists. USFWS provided an updated species list dated August 2003. BLM also coordinated with USFWS throughout the process by phone.

Coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has occurred throughout the Pinedale RMP process by phone and through various meetings.

5.1.1 Cooperating Agencies

The PFO extended cooperating agency status to the State of Wyoming, Sublette County, Sublette County Conservation District, Lincoln County, and Lincoln Conservation District for the Pinedale RMP planning effort, in addition to the EPA. Various agencies in the State of Wyoming have participated as cooperators throughout the planning process. The following is a list of the cooperating agencies that have actively attended the cooperators meetings leading up to the development of the draft EIS/RMP:

- Sublette County
- Sublette County Conservation District
- Lincoln County
- Lincoln Conservation District
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming Office of State Lands
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Transportation
- The Governor's Office
- Wyoming State Geological Survey
- Wyoming Business Council.

The cooperating agencies were formally invited to participate in the development of the alternatives and to provide existing data and other information relative to their disciplines. In addition to numerous conference calls, the PFO held meetings with the cooperating agencies on July 11, 2002, and February 6, 2003, concerning the approach to the planning process and development of alternatives. The cooperating agencies were invited to work with the BLM interdisciplinary team in developing the alternatives during the week of July 7–11, 2003, and again to develop and finalize the preferred alternative the week of December 1–5, 2003. The cooperators were also invited to a meeting at the PFO on February 1–2, 2005, to discuss the status of the RMP planning process and changes that had occurred or were being considered for the preliminary draft EIS. After the draft alternatives were revised in 2005–2006, the cooperating agencies were invited to work with BLM in finalizing the alternatives during meetings on March 8, 2006, and during the week of May 1–5, 2006.

5.1.2 Coordination and Consistency

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other agency and local and state government plans were accomplished through frequent communications and cooperative efforts between BLM and involved federal, state, and local agencies. The Wyoming Governor’s Clearinghouse received 20 copies of this draft EIS for review to ensure consistency with ongoing state plans. The interdisciplinary team reviewed county land use plans to ensure consistency. Meetings were held with the respective county planners and commissioners to promote greater understanding of goals, objectives, and resources of the counties and BLM. Table 5-2 summarizes coordination actions undertaken by various federal, state, and local agencies for the RMP development process.

Table 5-2. Key Coordination Actions

| Agency | Coordination/Responsibility |
|--|--|
| FEDERAL AGENCIES | |
| U.S. Department of the Interior | |
| Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) | Coordinates mineral leasing and other activities that affect lands administered by the BOR. Reviews the Pinedale RMP EIS for consistency with BOR planning. |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | Reviews actions affecting threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife, or plants. Performs Section 7 consultation, coordination, and review. |
| Geological Survey (USGS) | Reviews Pinedale RMP EIS for consistency with USGS planning. |
| Minerals Management Service (MMS) | Reviews Pinedale RMP EIS for consistency with MMS planning. |
| U.S. Department of Agriculture | |
| Forest Service | Coordinates mineral leasing and other activities that affect lands administered by the Forest Service. Reviews the Pinedale RMP EIS for consistency with Forest Service planning. Proposed actions would also be discussed with the Wyoming State Forestry Division and other agencies involved in wildland fire management. Coordinates and cooperates with EPA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on monitoring and collection of air quality data. |
| Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Wildlife Services | Coordinates annual management plan for animal damage control activities on public lands. |

| Agency | Coordination/Responsibility |
|---|--|
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Coordinates with the Forest Service and DEQ on monitoring and collecting air quality data. Reviews air quality monitoring data. Files Federal Register notices. |
| STATE AGENCIES | |
| State of Wyoming | <p>Participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues for which the State of Wyoming has jurisdiction by law or special expertise. Provides information from state records on matters including Pinedale RMP EIS project impacts on air quality and Class 1 airsheds, fish and wildlife, domestic livestock grazing, social and economic impacts, minerals, and State of Wyoming permitting requirements.</p> <p>Cooperates in the development of watershed improvement and restoration plans. This includes a focus on restoration activities where the state has identified water bodies impaired by pollutants for which BLM through best management practices can provide positive benefits and improvements.</p> |
| Wyoming DEQ | Coordinates and cooperates on water quality, development of monitoring for visibility standards and guidelines, and collecting of air quality data. |
| Wyoming State Forestry, Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshall's Office | Coordinates on management of prescribed fire and wildland fire. |
| Wyoming Game and Fish Department | Coordinates and cooperates on vegetation manipulation projects, wildlife habitat management, and Special Status Species. |
| Wyoming Department of Transportation | Coordinates and cooperates on transportation planning and highway access. |
| State Historic Preservation Office | Consults on compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in accordance with the National Programmatic Agreement, as implemented in the Wyoming Protocol to that agreement. |
| COUNTY AGENCIES | |
| Sublette County | Participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues for which the county has jurisdiction by law or special expertise. Provides information on Pinedale RMP EIS project impacts on domestic livestock grazing and social and economic impacts relating to the county. |
| Lincoln County | Participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues for which the county has jurisdiction by law or special expertise. |

| Agency | Coordination/Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| CONSERVATION DISTRICTS | |
| Sublette County Conservation District | Assists with the conservation of Wyoming's soil and water resources, promotes the control of soil erosion, promotes and protects the quality of Wyoming's waters, reduces siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promotes wise use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, preserves and enhances wildlife habitat, protects the tax base and promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of this state through a responsible conservation ethic. |
| Lincoln Conservation District | Assists with the conservation of Wyoming's soil and water resources, promotes the control of soil erosion, promotes and protects the quality of Wyoming's waters, reduces siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promotes wise use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, preserves and enhances wildlife habitat, protects the tax base and promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of this state through a responsible conservation ethic. |

5.1.3 Native American Interests

BLM maintains ongoing communications with relevant Native American groups. Meetings were conducted in early 2004 to continue discussions regarding this RMP.

5.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation in the EIS process includes a variety of efforts to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists the agencies in—

- Broadening the information base for decisionmaking
- Informing the public about the RMP EIS and the potential impacts associated with various management decisions
- Ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are understood by the agency.

5.2.1 Scoping Period

The public is provided a scoping period to identify potential issues and concerns associated with the RMP EIS. Information obtained by BLM during public scoping is combined with issues identified by the agencies to form the scope of the EIS.

Publication of an NOI on February 25, 2002, announced BLM's intention to update the Pinedale RMP and served as a call for coal and other resource information for the BLM PFO.

Scoping Notice

The official 60-day scoping period began when a public scoping notice was prepared and mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; interest groups; and members of the general public on January 31, 2003. The notice invited the public to participate in the scoping process and requested input in identifying resource issues and concerns, management alternatives, and other ideas in determining future land use

decisions for the Pinedale planning area. The notice also announced the availability of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA) on the Pinedale RMP project website. The scoping period ran from February 3, 2003, through April 7, 2003. Also included with the Scoping Notice was information on the PFO management area, background information on the planning process, and preliminary planning issues and planning criteria.

Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings were held in Rock Springs, Pinedale, and Marbleton, Wyoming, on March 3, 10, and 11, 2003, respectively. During the three scoping meetings, more than 140 people registered their attendance. The meetings were structured in an open house format, with various information tables representing issues such as livestock grazing, mineral development, and other resource areas. Comments from the public were collected during the scoping meetings and throughout the scoping period through the following methods: mail, e-mail, and through the project website.

Comments were categorized by topic areas for analysis purposes. Mineral development and wildlife management were the two categories that received the most comments. Almost all comments in these categories expressed a desire for preservation of wildlife over continued industrial development. A major concern identified in the comments was the potential disruption of migration corridors for big-game herd animals and the degradation of environmentally sensitive areas.

Although fewer in number, comments were also received dealing with rangeland health and livestock grazing, recreation and off-highway vehicles (OHV), special management areas, wilderness, transportation and access, and cultural and historic resources. A summary of all comments was then compiled as the *Pinedale RMP Scoping Report*, May 2003, which can be viewed at: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale>.

5.2.2 Mailing List

The mailing list for public scoping was developed from the PFO mailing list and added to throughout the planning process. Scoping meeting participants were given the option of being added to the mailing list. In addition, individuals were able to go to the project website and add themselves to the mailing list as well as request to be placed on the list by contacting BLM staff. The PFO mailing list has been used as the basis for the distribution of the draft EIS for the Pinedale RMP (Section 5.3).

5.2.3 Newsletters

Periodic newsletters have been developed to keep the public informed of the Pinedale RMP revision planning process. The April 2002 Pinedale RMP EIS planning bulletin 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 get involved in the process and advertised the Pinedale RMP project website.

The January 2004 Pinedale RMP revision bulletin described the scoping meetings that took place in March, as well as presented a brief summary of the main issues that were brought forward into the EIS process through public comment. The bulletin also described the process of working with cooperating agencies, alternatives development, and impact analysis, as well as future public involvement opportunities.

The November 2006 Pinedale RMP revision bulletin described the overall RMP development process and development of the alternatives and impact analysis. The bulletin also provided information regarding the release of the draft EIS, the public comment period, and public meetings and hearings.

5.2.4 Website

The Pinedale RMP project website can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale>. The site serves as a virtual repository for documents related to RMP development, including announcements, bulletins, and draft and final documents. These documents are maintained in PDF to ensure their availability to the widest range of users.

The website also provided the opportunity for the general public to submit their comments for consideration as part of the scoping process and to add themselves to the project mailing list to receive periodic newsletters and announcements.

5.2.5 Future Public Participation

Public participation efforts will be ongoing throughout the remainder of this EIS process. One substantial part of this effort will be the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the content of this draft EIS during the specified comment period. The final EIS will respond to all substantive oral and written comments received during the comment period. After BLM issues the final EIS, public protest during a 30-day period will also occur before the record of decision (ROD) is issued.

5.3 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Tribal Governments

- Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council
- Arapaho Business Council
- The Uintah and Ouray Ute Tribe
- The Blackfoot Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Offices

- Bureau of Indian Affairs—Billings Area Office
- Bureau of Indian Affairs—Wind River Agency.

Local Governments (counties, cities, towns)

- Sublette County, Wyoming
 - Big Piney
 - Bondurant
 - Cora
 - Marbleton
 - Pinedale
 - Boulder
 - Daniel
- Lincoln County, Wyoming
 - Afton

- Alpine
- Cokeville
- Diamondville
- Etna
- Kemmerer
- LaBarge
- Thayne
- Carbon County, Wyoming
- Sweetwater County, Wyoming
- Teton County, Wyoming
- Lincoln Conservation District
- Sublette County Conservation District.

Wyoming State Agencies

- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
- Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Wyoming Office of Information, Planning, and Coordination
- Wyoming Business Council, Economic and Community Development
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming State Geologic Survey
- Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments—Office of Federal Land Policy
- Wyoming State Clearinghouse—Office of Federal Land Policy
- Wyoming State Engineer’s Office
- Wyoming State Museum
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

Wyoming State Boards/Commissions

- Land Quality Advisory Board
- Wyoming Livestock Board
- State Mining Council
- Wyoming Business Council
- Natural Gas Pipeline Authority
- Trails Council
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Air Quality Advisory Board
- Groundwater Advisory Committee
- Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association
- Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Congressional Delegations (House and Senate)

- Senator Mike Enzi
- Senator Craig Thomas
- Congresswoman Barbara Cubin.

DOI (non-BLM) Offices

- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Office of Surface Mining
- Minerals Management Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

Non-DOI Federal Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters
- Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
- Department of Transportation
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Department of Agriculture
 - US Forest Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Energy.

Regional Associations

- Wyoming Association of Municipalities
- Wyoming Association of County Officials.

5.4 LIST OF PREPARERS

As required by NEPA regulations (40 CFR §1502.17), Table 5-3 lists the people primarily responsible for preparing this EIS and presents their qualifications. Booz Allen Hamilton, a contractor selected to prepare the EIS as directed by BLM, has, in accordance with 40 CFR §1506.5(c), certified that it does not have any financial or other interest in the outcome of decisions to be made pursuant to this EIS. In addition to the specific responsibilities listed, many BLM employees also contributed substantial time consulting with other agency personnel in preparing this EIS.

Table 5-3. List of Preparers and Contributors

| Name | Education | Project Role |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Bureau of Land Management | | |
| Rey T. Adame | AAS, Public Affairs BA, Public Relations MS, Political Science | Public Affairs |
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| Name | Education | Project Role |
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| Name | Education | Project Role |
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