



The Environmental Impact Statement Process

Presented to the Wyoming BLM Resource
Advisory Council

January 19, 2012

Walter George, National Project Manager

EIS or EA

- O* Prepare an EIS when a federal action has a significant effect on the human environment (CEQ Regulations, paraphrased)**
- O* Wyoming BLM prepares 100s of EAs on routine actions such as, oil and gas drilling, roads, pipelines, and range improvements**

Categories of EISs

o Bureau Motion

- o* Regulatory (Washington Office)

- o* Planning (State Office)

o Response to Applications

- o* Linear (pipelines, transmission lines)

- o* Site (Oil and gas fields, mines, wind farms)

EIS Process Steps (1 of 8)

Review Action/Proposal for Land Use Plan Consistency

- 0 Avoid ‘show stoppers’ (WSAs, ROW exclusion areas)**
- 0 Discuss planning objectives with applicant (seasonal construction restrictions, set back distances)**
- 0 Redesign/Revise Proposal**

EIS Process Steps (2 of 8)

Identify and Contact Cooperators (Other Federal Agencies, State and local governments, Indian Tribes)

- o* Execute Memorandum of Understanding**
- o* Learn cooperators authorizing and/or
consultation needs and incorporate those
into EIS**

EIS Process Steps (3 of 8)

0 Develop Preliminary Alternatives

0 Siting/routes for linear proposals

0 Area/scope for sites

0 Intensity or range of mitigation for all proposals

0 Timing/phases for all proposals

EIS Process Steps (4 & 5 of 8)

- 0 Finalize Alternatives and Issues to analyze in detail in the Draft EIS**
- 0 Prepare Draft EIS and Take Public Comments**
 - 0 Identify prospective land use plan amendments**

EIS Process Steps (6 – 8 of 8)

- O* Respond to Draft EIS Comments, Revise and Amend Analysis; Prepare Final EIS**
- O* Take Public Comments on Final EIS**
- O* Respond to Comments and Prepare Record of Decision**