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## **Public Comment Period Begins for the BLM Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office has issued a Notice of Intent to revise the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) and conduct public scoping for resource information, issues, and concerns.

As part of the RMP preparation, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be prepared. The EIS will analyze the impacts of various resource uses and include alternatives for managing approximately 3.6 million surface land acres and 3.5 million acres of mineral estate administered by the BLM in portions of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette, and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyoming.

The Rock Springs RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP as necessitated by emerging resource issues and legislative changes. The current Green River RMP is available at [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps.html).

An RMP provides a framework for managing BLM-administered lands over the next 15 to 20 years. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires the BLM to revise its RMPs periodically and to manage for multiple use and sustained yield. This RMP will:

- Establish goals and objectives that describe the desired future condition for resources and resource uses in the Rock Springs planning area;
- Identify management actions anticipated to achieve stated goals and objectives;
- Provide a framework for subsequent implementation level decisions for the next 15 to 20 years; and
- Identify lands that are open, closed, and restricted for various resource uses.

The BLM will hold public scoping meetings to inform interested parties and obtain comments. The dates, times, and locations for the meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance of the meeting through local media, news releases, e-mail, mailings and posting to the BLM Wyoming website at [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html).

The 60-day public comment period will open on Feb. 2, 2011 and close on April 4, 2011. Written comments should be mailed or brought to the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Attention: Vera-Lynn Harrison, RMP Project Manager, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901. Electronic comments may be sent to [RockSpringsRMP\\_WY@blm.gov](mailto:RockSpringsRMP_WY@blm.gov). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For more information or to have your name added to the RMP mailing list, contact Vera-Lynn Harrison at (307) 352-0259 or e-mail [Vera\\_Harrison@blm.gov](mailto:Vera_Harrison@blm.gov).

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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