APPENDIX D—PLANNING NEWSLETTER #1

Bureau of Land Management - Rock Springs Field Office

Rock Springs
Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Contact Information:
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BLM

Rock Springs Field Office, Wyoming

Resource Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office is initiating a planning effort to revise the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated environmental impact statement (EIS). The Rock Springs planning area includes 3.6 million acres of surface land and 3.5 million acres of mineral estate, administered by BLM in portions of Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta, Sublette, and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyoming. The field office administers a variety of programs, including mineral exploration and development, renewable energy, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, wild horses, livestock grazing, and historic trails.

BLM is revising the existing Green River RMP to provide an updated, comprehensive and environmentally adequate framework for managing and allocating uses of public lands and resources administered by the BLM in the Rock Springs Field Office. The need to develop a land use plan is established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). In the 13 years since the Record of Decision (ROD) for the existing RMP was signed (August 1997), new data has become available, new policies established, and old policies revised. These, along with emerging issues and management concerns, including renewable energy and transmission corridors, have resulted in the need to revise the existing plan.

The following elements also contributed to the need to revise the existing plan: 1) an amendment for the Jack Morrow Hills planning area was completed in July 2006; those decisions need to be incorporated into the revised RMP; 2) multiple maintenance actions have been completed; 3) numerous RODs for Programmatic EISs have been completed or are ongoing such as the *Designations of Energy Corridors on Federal Lands in Eleven Western States* (2008) and *Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States* (2008), which need to be reviewed and incorporated as needed; and 4) an amendment regarding sage-grouse management is in progress and will need to be incorporated into the revised RMP.

What is a Resource Management Plan?

An RMP is a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of resources administered by the BLM. RMPs ensure that public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in FLPMA, under the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield.

Decisions in RMPs guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation determinations. These decisions establish goals and objectives for resource management (desired outcomes), as well as the measures needed to achieve the management actions and allowable uses.

The RMP is considered a major federal action and requires the BLM to prepare an EIS under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Both the RMP and EIS will be developed with public participation. Public participation is a cornerstone in this process. It is important that the public become involved in this process and take their opportunities for input into this document.

www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html

Public Scoping: We Need Your Input in Revising the Resource Management Plan

The BLM planning process officially started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on February 1, 2011. The NOI announced the Rock Springs Field Office's intent to prepare a resource management plan (RMP) with an associated environmental impact statement (EIS). The NOI also initiated the scoping period, which will continue until April 4, 2011. The objective of scoping is to involve the public in the planning process. **The BLM seeks comments from the public that will aid in identifying planning issues, developing planning criteria, and evaluating the existing land use plan decisions in the context of the needs and interests of the public.** Comments are the most useful in developing the Draft RMP/EIS when the comments are specific, identify additional relevant issues, and/or determine the extent of the relevant issues. There are many ways to provide comments during the scoping period. We encourage you to attend one of the upcoming public scoping meetings, ask questions, and provide input. In addition to the scoping meetings, the BLM will accept comments through the following methods:

- **Mailed or Delivered to:**
  Rock Springs Field Office
  Attn: Vera-Lynn Harrison
  Project Manager
  280 Highway 191 North
  Rock Springs, WY 82901
- **Emailed to:** RockSpringsRMP_WY@blm.gov

Additional information can be accessed on the BLM project website:
www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html

To add your name to the project mailing list, send an email to RockSpringsRMP_WY@blm.gov with "RS RMP Mailing List" in the subject field.

The Resource Management Plan Process

The RMP process starts with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* and follows through with scoping and alternatives development. After a range of alternatives are developed, the BLM will evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with implementing each of the alternatives. BLM will select a preferred alternative and share that in the form of a Draft RMP/EIS. This is the next major public participation component. After gathering, analyzing, and incorporating public comment on the Draft into the document, BLM issues the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Following the 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's Consistency Review, the BLM will resolve any protests and sign a Record of Decision (ROD) and issue the Approved RMP.

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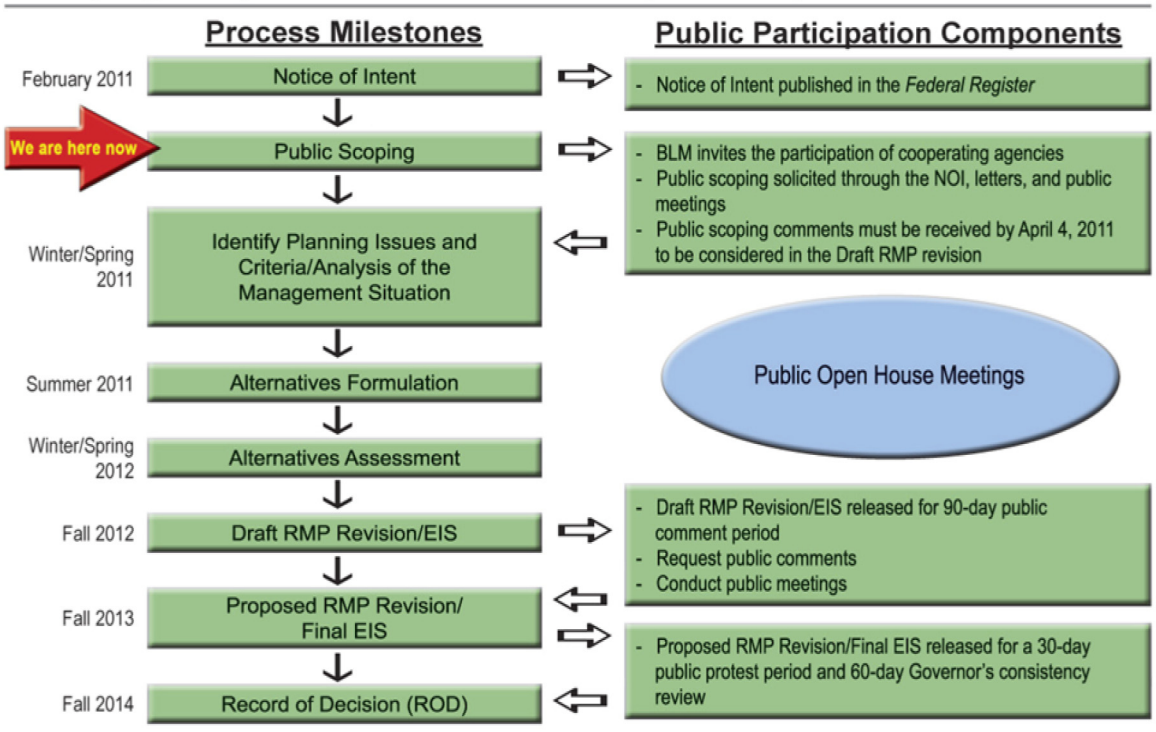
Planning Issues

Planning issues are topics of interest or concern about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices. Preliminary issues have been identified by BLM personnel through an interdisciplinary process. The public; federal, state, and local agencies; and other stakeholders have the opportunity to identify preliminary issues the RMP will address. The following preliminary issue topics represent important considerations in the development of the Draft RMP/EIS. You may wish to consider these issues when submitting comments but you do not need to limit your comments to these issues.

- Renewable energy development and associated transmission infrastructure
- Energy and minerals development
- Lands and realty actions
- Special designations, lands with wilderness characteristics, and Wild Lands
- Visual resource management
- Cultural and historic resources and Native American concerns
- Urban interface issues
- Recreation management
- Healthy landscapes initiative
- Wild horse management
- Livestock grazing/rangeland management
- Wildlife habitat management, including protection of sensitive species habitat
- Fire and fuels management
- Air quality and global climate change

Rock Springs RMP/EIS Process and Public Participation Components



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Rock Springs RMP and Environmental Impact Statement

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280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

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Public Scoping Open House Meetings . . . *Be part of the process!*

The BLM encourages you to attend one of the public scoping open house meetings that will be held in Lander, Rock Springs, Lyman, and Farson, Wyoming. The open house meetings will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Several information stations will be located within the meeting venue that will present information on key issues and the planning process. Attendees can learn about the RMP process, ask questions, and provide written comments. A court reporter will be available to document oral comments, if individuals want to comment in that manner.

Date	Location	Address
February 28	Lander	Best Western, The Inn at Lander 260 Grand View Drive Lander, Wyoming
March 1	Rock Springs	White Mountain Library 2935 Sweetwater Drive Rock Springs, Wyoming
March 2	Lyman	Lyman Town Hall Courtroom 100 East Sage Street Lyman, Wyoming
March 3	Farson	Farson Branch Library 30 Highway 28 E Farson, Wyoming

To learn more about the Rock Springs RMP process, visit the BLM website at:
www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html

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