

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE JACK MORROW HILLS COORDINATED ACTIVITY PLAN ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: Portions of Sweetwater, Fremont, and Sublette Counties

Abstract: This final environmental impact statement (EIS) addresses alternative coordinated activity plans (CAP) for the Jack Morrow Hills (JMH) planning area. When completed, the JMH CAP will provide more specific management direction to prevent or address conflicts among potential development of energy resources, recreational activities and facilities, and wildlife and wildlife habitat and provide more specific management direction for other land and resource uses in the planning area, including livestock grazing, important wildlife habitat, and other important resources. The planning area comprises approximately 574,800 acres of federal land and federal mineral estate in southwestern Wyoming. This final EIS contains five alternative coordinated activity plans, including a Proposed JMH CAP, that provide management direction for the protection of certain resources (e.g., desert elk and other big game habitat, unique sand dune–mountain shrub habitat, unstabilized and stabilized sand dunes, cultural sites) and allow leasing and development of energy resources, recreational activities, grazing practices, and other activities at varying levels.

When the JMH CAP planning effort is completed, it will provide an integrated multiple use activity plan for a balanced level of resource uses and provide protection for sensitive and important resource values on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered public lands in the area. The fluid minerals leasing decisions and locatable mineral decisions for the JMH CAP planning area, which were deferred in the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP), will be determined in the JMH CAP, which will result in amendment of the Green River RMP. Other management prescriptions resulting from this planning effort include some refinement of designations of roads for use, grazing practices, surface disturbance practices, cultural resource management prescriptions, recreational activities and facilities, identification of right-of-way windows and concentration areas, and prescriptions for managing wildlife habitat. Determining some of these prescriptions might also result in amendment of the Green River RMP.

Five alternatives that address the issues in the JMH CAP planning area have been considered. They are continuation of present management (No Action Alternative) and four other alternatives, including a Proposed JMH CAP, that provide a variety of management choices ranging from restricting management actions or development to actively mitigating the effects of resource management actions or development. The Proposed JMH CAP is, in part, a combination of the No Action Alternative and Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. The five alternatives presented in Chapter 2 of the final EIS focus on allocating public lands and resources among the uses and prescribing the general management actions that would be taken. The various impacts that would be expected from implementing each of the alternatives are documented in Chapter 4.

When the JMH CAP is completed, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing the BLM-administered public lands and resources and allocating their uses in the planning area. Further information regarding this final EIS can be obtained from the address below. Protests will be accepted for 30 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of filing for this final EIS in the *Federal Register*. Protests should be mailed to:

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director (210)
Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, DC 20035