



U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

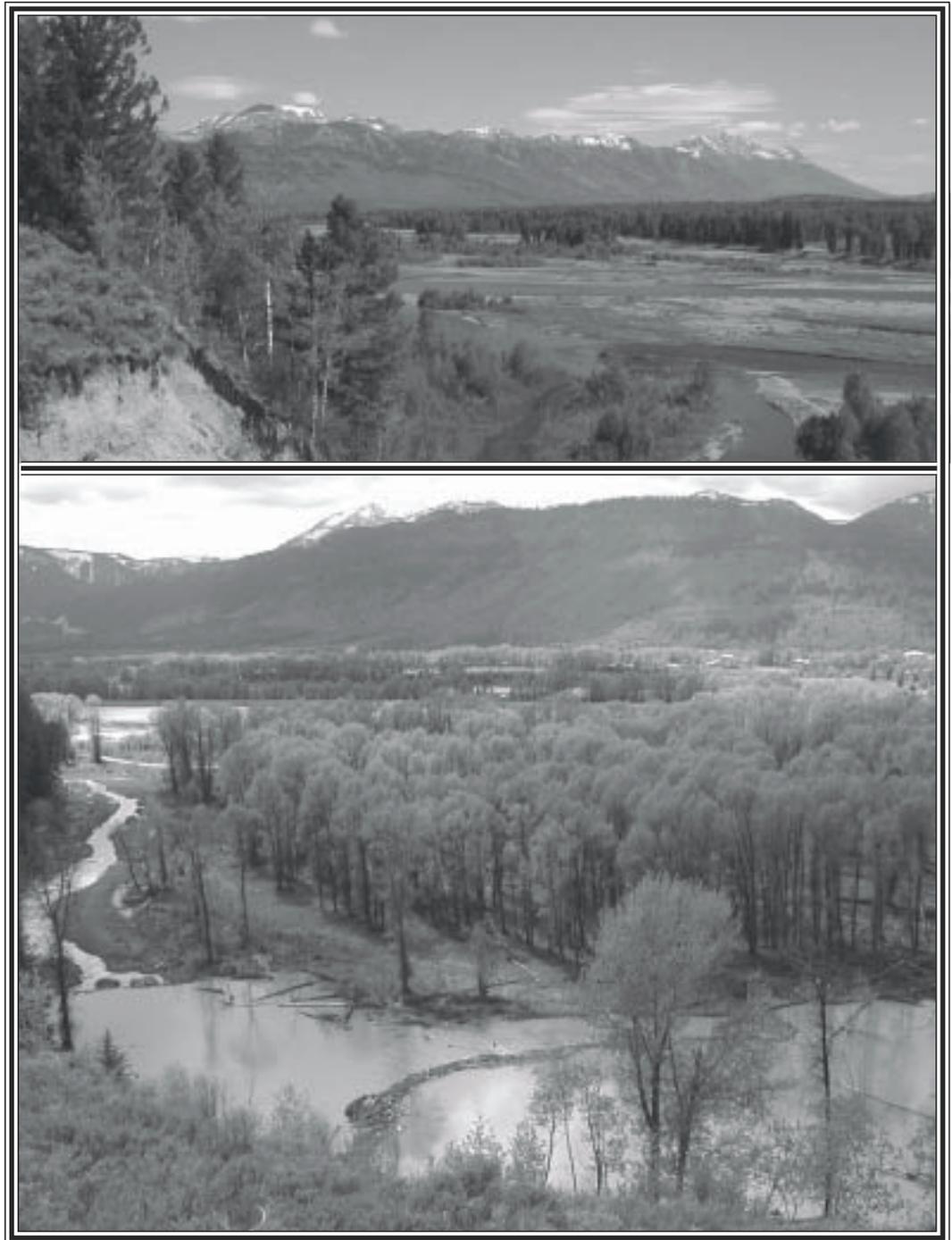
Wyoming State Office

Pinedale Field Office

January 2003

DRAFT

Environmental Impact Statement for the Snake River Resource Management Plan



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/WY/PL-03/007+1610



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

1610 (930)
Snake River RMP

JAN 21 2003

Dear Reader:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Snake River Resource Management Plan is submitted for your review and comment. The Snake River planning area includes approximately 1,073 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public land surface along the Snake River in Jackson Hole, Teton County, Wyoming, along with approximately 15,123 acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate underlying privately-owned surface lands in Jackson Hole.

This DEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of six alternative Resource Management Plans (RMP) that have been developed for the Snake River planning area. These alternatives were designed to address four land management issues that were identified during the planning process. The environmental consequences of the alternatives have also been analyzed.

Please review the document and direct any written comments to the Snake River RMP Team Leader, Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941. Comments may also be submitted electronically to pinedale_wymail@blm.gov (reference **Snake River RMP** in the subject field) or by Fax to 307-367-5329. All submissions must include legible full name and return address on the envelope, letter, postcard, or e-mail.

If you wish to comment on the DEIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies.

An open house will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, in Jackson, Wyoming, in the Teton County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 200 South Willow St., from 1 to 5 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to answer any questions you may have about the DEIS. The open house will be followed by a formal public hearing on the DEIS, in the same location, on the same date, from 5 to 8 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive formal public comments, verbal and written, on the DEIS.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations: Public comments submitted for this planning effort, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review in their entirety after the comment period closes at the Pinedale Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals or officials representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Through your participation in this effort, we may move forward together toward a common goal of improved public land management in the Snake River planning area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Robert A. Bennett
State Director

SNAKE RIVER

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Pinedale Field Office
Pinedale, Wyoming

January 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
CHAPTER 1, PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PLANNING EFFORT	1
INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE AND NEED	2
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA	2
PLANNING ISSUES AND PLANNING CRITERIA	4
CHAPTER 2, DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE BLM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	8
ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION	8
ALTERNATIVES AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS	9
ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL	11
CHAPTER 3, AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	43
INTRODUCTION	43
AFFECTED RESOURCES	43
Climate and Air Quality	43
Cultural and Natural History Resources	48
Fire Management	50
Lands and Realty	51
Livestock Grazing	54
Minerals and Geology	55
Off-Highway Vehicles	61
Paleontological Resources	62
Recreation	62
Socioeconomics	64
Soils	68
Special Status Plant Species	68
Vegetation	70
Visual Resources	71
Watershed	72
Wild and Scenic Rivers	74
Wildlife and Fisheries	75
CHAPTER 4, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	84
INTRODUCTION	84
ASSUMPTIONS AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES	84
IMPACT ANALYSIS	98
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES	154
CHAPTER 5, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	159
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	160
CONSISTENCY	161
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	161

REFERENCES	165
AIR QUALITY REFERENCES	165
CULTURAL REFERENCES	165
FIRE REFERENCE	166
MINERALS REFERENCES	166
SOCIOECONOMIC REFERENCES	167
SOILS REFERENCE	167
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFERENCE	167
WATERSHED REFERENCES	167
WILDLIFE REFERENCES	168

GLOSSARY	174
----------	-----

ACRONYMS	187
----------	-----

APPENDIX 1, STANDARDS FOR HEALTHY RANGELANDS AND GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT	189
---	-----

APPENDIX 2, WYOMING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR SURFACE-DISTURBING AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES	199
--	-----

APPENDIX 3, AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS	205
-------------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX 4, DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC LAND PARCELS	209
--	-----

APPENDIX 5, DISPOSAL CRITERIA	213
-------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX 6, CONTINGENT VALUATION METHODOLOGY STUDY	215
--	-----

APPENDIX 7, PUBLIC LAND ORDER 7143	218
------------------------------------	-----

MAPS	221
------	-----

List of Maps

- 1 - General Location and Land Status
- 2 - Federal Mineral Estate
- 3 - Parcels 3-6
- 4 - Parcels 7-8
- 5 - Parcels 9-14
- 6 - Parcels 15-19
- 7 - Parcels 20-22
- 8 - Parcels 23-24
- 9 - Parcels 25-27
- 10 - Mineral Withdrawal PLO 7143
- 11 - Areas Closed to Mineral Leasing, Alternative B
- 12 - Right-of-Way Exclusion Areas, Alternative C
- 13 - Right-of-Way Avoidance Areas, Preferred Alternative and Alternatives A and E
- 14 - Grazing Allotments
- 15 - Designated Roads, Preferred Alternative and Alternatives C and E
- 16 - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
- 17 - Big Game Crucial Winter Range

List of Tables

Table 1-1, Land & Mineral Ownership	3
-------------------------------------	---

Table 2-1, Comparison of Alternatives	13
Table 2-2, Off-Highway Vehicle Classification by Alternative	42
Table 2-3, Visual Resource Management Classification by Alternative	42
Table 3-1, Concentrations of Criteria Air Pollutants	44
Table 3-2, USGS Conventional Play Data for the Southwestern Wyoming Province	57
Table 3-3, Population	64
Table 3-4, Personal Income, Teton County	65
Table 3-5, Personal Income, Wyoming	66
Table 3-6, Per Capita Income, Teton County and Wyoming	67
Table 3-7, Sensitive Species	69
Table 3-8, Water Flow of the Snake and Gros Ventre Rivers	73
Table 4-1, Assumptions for Analysis by Alternative	85
Table 4-2, Comparison of Environmental Consequences	99
Table 5-1, List of Preparers	159
Table 5-2, Key Coordination Actions	161

List of Appendices

Appendix 1, Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Appendix 2, Wyoming BLM Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities
Appendix 3, Air Quality Regulations
Appendix 4, Description of Public Land Parcels
Appendix 5, Disposal Criteria
Appendix 6, Contigent Valuation Methodology Study Summary
Appendix 7, Public Land Order 7143