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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 Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, Pinedale, Casper, and Newcastle, 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 amendment 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.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
Tuesday August 3	Pinedale, Wyoming	Sublette County Weed and Pest 12 South Bench Road, Pinedale, WY
Wednesday August 4	Kemmerer, Wyoming	Best Western Fossil Country Inn and Suites 760 U.S. Highway 189, Kemmerer, WY
Thursday August 5	Rock Springs, Wyoming	White Mountain Library 2935 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, WY
Wednesday August 11	Newcastle, Wyoming	Weston County Senior Citizens Center 627 Pine Street, Newcastle, WY
Thursday August 12	Casper, Wyoming	Best Western Ramkota Hotel 800 North Poplar Street, Casper, WY
Friday August 13	Rawlins, Wyoming	Best Western Cotton Tree Inn 2221 West Spruce Street, Rawlins, WY

To learn more about the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Management RMP Amendment Process, visit the BLM website at:
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments/sage-grouse.html>

Wyoming Sage-Grouse Management

Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement

Contact Information:

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July 2010

Resource Management Plan Amendment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office is initiating a planning effort to prepare Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendments with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, Pinedale, Casper, and Newcastle RMPs. The RMP amendments will revise sage-grouse and sagebrush management direction in the existing RMPs to incorporate policies from BLM Wyoming's Instruction Memoranda (IM) 2010-012 and 2010-013 (see <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/wildlife.html>). Amending the existing RMPs will provide consistency applying the Wyoming sage-grouse policy throughout the State of Wyoming. The RMP decisions to be amended are critical in nature and by law, all BLM actions, authorizations, and subsequent decisions must be in conformance with the RMP.

The planning area for the RMP amendments encompasses approximately 15 million acres of public land and is located in Albany, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, and Weston counties in Wyoming.

The overall objective of the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Management RMP Amendment planning effort is to provide a collaborative planning process for amending the management decisions of the existing six RMPs. Early public input is crucial to identify various RMP-level issues that should be addressed through the amendment process. The final Approved RMP amendments will identify desired outcomes, future conditions to be maintained or achieved, and specify uses or resource allocations that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited, including any restrictions needed to meet desired outcomes.

Public input is an important component of this process. The scoping period provides the public an opportunity to learn about the RMP amendment and to help identify issues, provide input, and propose alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

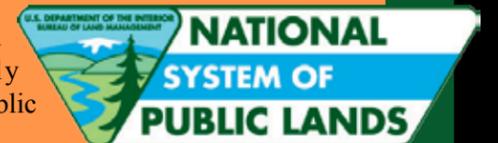


What is a Resource Management Plan?

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

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

The RMP amendment is considered a major federal action and therefore requires the BLM to prepare an EIS under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Both the RMP amendment and EIS will be developed concurrently with public participation.





Public Scoping: We Need Your Input in Amending the Resource Management Plans



The BLM planning process officially started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on May 28, 2010. The NOI announced BLM Wyoming's intent to prepare Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendments with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, Pinedale, Casper, and Newcastle RMPs.

The NOI also initiated the 30-day scoping period. Although the 30-day scoping period has passed, scoping comments can be submitted for consideration in the Draft RMP amendments through August 30, 2010. The objective of scoping is to involve the public in the planning process and comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The public scoping process will identify planning issues, develop planning criteria, and evaluate the existing land use plan decisions in the context of the needs and interests of the public.

There are many ways for you to provide scoping comments. We encourage you to attend one of the upcoming public scoping meetings, ask questions, and provide input. Details regarding the public scoping meetings are included on Page 4. In addition to the scoping meetings, BLM will accept comments through the following methods:

Mailed or Delivered to:

BLM Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Attn: Chuck Otto, Project Coordinator

Emailed to: Sagegrouse_Amendment_WY@blm.gov



In addition to the scoping meetings, public open house meetings will also be held following the Cooperating Agency training and orientation. These meetings will take place on July 19 (Rock Springs, WY) and July 20 (Casper, WY) from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the following locations: Holiday Inn, 1675 Sunset Drive, Rock Springs Wyoming 82901 (July 19); and Parkway Plaza Hotel, 123 West E Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601 (July 20).

For further information and/or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact Chuck Otto, Project Coordinator, at the BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, (307) 775-6256. Additional information can be accessed on the BLM website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments/sage-grouse.html>

The Resource Management Plan Amendment 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. Following alternatives development, the BLM will evaluate the potential environmental consequences from implementing each of the alternatives and select a preferred alternative. The BLM will issue the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS, gather public input on the draft document, and issue the Proposed RMP Amendment/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 Amendment.



Planning Issues and Criteria

The process for amending an RMP begins with identifying planning issues. Planning issues express concerns, opportunities, conflicts, and problems associated with public land management. Issues also reflect new data, new or revised policies, and changes in resource uses affecting the planning area. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel; federal, state, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. These issues include the following:

- ◆ Sagebrush habitat management practices directly applicable to the protection of sage-grouse
- ◆ Sagebrush habitat management science directly applicable to the protection of sage-grouse
- ◆ The effects of sagebrush habitat management on other public land resources.

Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules developed to guide and direct the planning amendment. Planning criteria are based on laws and regulations; guidance provided by the BLM Wyoming State Director; results of consultation and coordination with the public, other government agencies and entities, and Indian tribes; analysis of information pertinent to the planning area; public input; and professional judgment. Preliminary planning criteria have been identified, which emphasize the need to focus the RMP amendments on the review, update, and analysis of RMP-level decisions that directly conflict with the new Wyoming sage-grouse management policy. Preliminary planning criteria include the following:

- ◆ Incorporating sage-grouse policies in BLM Wyoming IMs 2010-012 and 2010-013
- ◆ Incorporating policies established by the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order on sage-grouse (Wyoming EO 2008-2)
- ◆ Considering and ensuring consistency with the BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (2004).

Wyoming Sage-Grouse Management RMP Amendment/EIS Process and Public Participation Components

