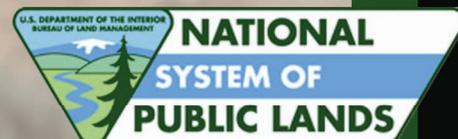


# Scoping Report for the Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP Amendments



WYOMING STATE OFFICE



January 2011

### 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.

# **Final Scoping Report**

for the

## **Wyoming Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendments**

for

**Public Lands Administered  
by the**

**Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office**

**January 2011**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
PLAN OVERVIEW .....	1
PUBLIC SCOPING AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION .....	2
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	3
CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC COMMENTS .....	5
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS .....	5
Meeting Logistics and Attendance.....	5
Number and Type of Comments Received .....	6
Summary of Meeting Comments .....	6
Fish and Wildlife.....	6
General (Process/Policy).....	7
Livestock Grazing.....	7
Minerals and Energy .....	7
Recreation.....	7
Special Status Species.....	7
WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS .....	7
Method of Submittal .....	7
Number and Type of Comments Received .....	8
Summary of Written Comments.....	9
Air Quality .....	9
Fish and Wildlife.....	9
General (Process/Policy).....	9
Lands and Realty.....	10
Livestock Grazing.....	10
Minerals and Energy .....	10
Socioeconomic.....	10
Special Designations.....	10
Special Status Species.....	11
Travel and Access Management .....	11
Vegetation.....	11
Wildland Fire Management.....	11
CHAPTER 3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING .....	13
Air Quality .....	13
Fish and Wildlife.....	13
General (Process/Policy).....	13
Lands and Realty.....	17
Livestock Grazing.....	17
Minerals and Energy .....	18
Recreation .....	19
Socioeconomic.....	19
Special Management Area Designations.....	20
Special Status Species.....	20
Travel and Access Management .....	24
Vegetation.....	25
Wildland Fire Management.....	25
CHAPTER 4 ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE RMP AMENDMENTS/EIS .....	27
JUSTIFICATION 1 .....	27
General (Process/Policy).....	27
Livestock Grazing.....	27
JUSTIFICATION 2.....	27
Livestock Grazing.....	27
CHAPTER 5 DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA .....	29

CHAPTER 6 DATA SUMMARY/DATA GAPS ..... 31  
 CHAPTER 7 WYOMING SAGE-GROUSE RMP AMENDMENTS/EIS PLANNING SCHEDULE ..... 37

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Meeting Location/Attendance..... 5  
 Table 2: Public Scoping Meetings: Comment Categories ..... 6  
 Table 3: Wyoming RMP/EIS Written Comments: Response Source Enumeration ..... 8  
 Table 4: Written Scoping Comments: Comment Categories..... 9  
 Table 5: Data and Information Submitted During the Scoping Period ..... 31

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Public Scoping Process Timeline ..... 2  
 Figure 2: Sage-grouse RMP Amendments Planning Area..... 4  
 Figure 3: Written Scoping Comments: Comment Category Totals ..... 8  
 Figure 4. Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP amendment/EIS Planning Schedule..... 37

## LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Written Comments Summary
- Appendix B: Federal Register Publication: Notice of Intent
- Appendix C: Scoping Meeting Announcement Poster, Press Release, and Legal Notice
- Appendix D: Planning Newsletter #1
- Appendix E: Scoping Meeting Materials

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report documents the public scoping process for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wyoming Field Office Programmatic Sage-grouse Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report will amend the RMP/EIS for six BLM Wyoming Field Offices: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs. The report summarizes the comments provided by the public and identifies the issues that will be considered in RMP amendment development process.

The purpose of public scoping is to identify issues important to the future management of public lands and resources. These issues will guide the development of alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIS and will ultimately guide development of the RMP. Scoping also provides the public the opportunity to learn about the management of public lands, and assists the BLM with identifying the public's concerns regarding the resources within the planning area.

Throughout the scoping period, the BLM Wyoming and the six affected field offices fostered open communication and solicited input beyond the standard requirements. Public meetings were held in six locations throughout the planning area, including Pinedale, Kemmerer, Rock Springs, Newcastle, Casper, and Rawlins. Comments were accepted in a variety of formats to ensure that those who wished to participate were able to do so effectively.

Chapter 1 describes the scoping process and gives a general overview of the current situation in the planning area. Chapter 2 reports the public scoping results and begins with a summary of BLM public outreach, which includes a description of the six public scoping meetings. A total of 42 individuals attended the public meetings. Chapter 2 also includes a general summary of the public comments that were received during the scoping period. A total of 12 hardcopy letters, 18 email comment letters, and 6 oral comment submissions were received.

Chapters 3 and 4 report on the issues identified through the scoping process. Chapter 3 identifies the issues that will be considered in the planning process. Chapter 4 identifies the issues that will not be carried forward and provides justification for not considering them beyond the scoping phase. Chapter 5 identifies the planning criteria to be used throughout the planning process. Chapter 6 reports the data identified by the public during the scoping process. Chapter 7 provides a general schedule of the planning process, identifying opportunities for public input.

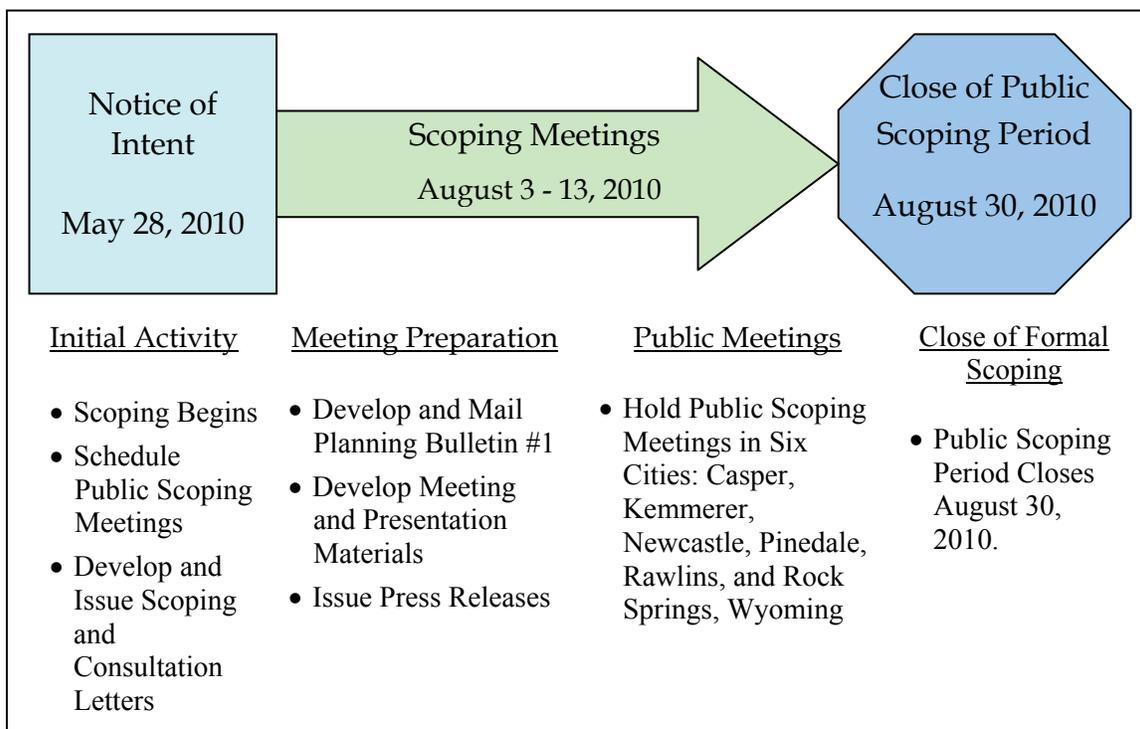
## PLAN OVERVIEW

The BLM Wyoming State Office will prepare RMP amendments with an associated EIS for the Casper, Green River, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, and Rawlins RMPs. The planning area comprises the Wyoming BLM Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices, encompassing approximately 11 million acres of public land and 20 million acres of federal mineral estate in Albany, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, and Weston counties in Wyoming.

## PUBLIC SCOPING AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

The planning process and scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on May 28, 2010. Although the 30-day scoping period ended on June 28, 2010, scoping comments were accepted for consideration in the Draft RMP Amendments through August 30, 2010. A total of six public scoping meetings were conducted during the scoping period. Figure 1 shows the scoping process timeline and associated scoping activities.

**Figure 1: Public Scoping Process Timeline**



Throughout the scoping period, 36 individuals, agencies, and groups provided comments concerning the future management of the planning area. Analysis of 366 unique comments resulted in the identification of issues to be addressed during development of the Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP Amendments. A majority of comments emphasized process/policy and special status species. Other issues of high interest included, fish and wildlife, livestock grazing, and minerals and energy. Throughout the scoping process, issues were raised dealing with the following resources and resource uses:

- Air Quality
- Fish and Wildlife
- General (Process/Policy)
- Lands and Realty Management
- Livestock Grazing
- Minerals and Energy Resources
- Recreation
- Socioeconomic
- Special Management Area Designations
- Special Status Species
- Travel and Access Management
- Vegetation
- Wildland Fire Management

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

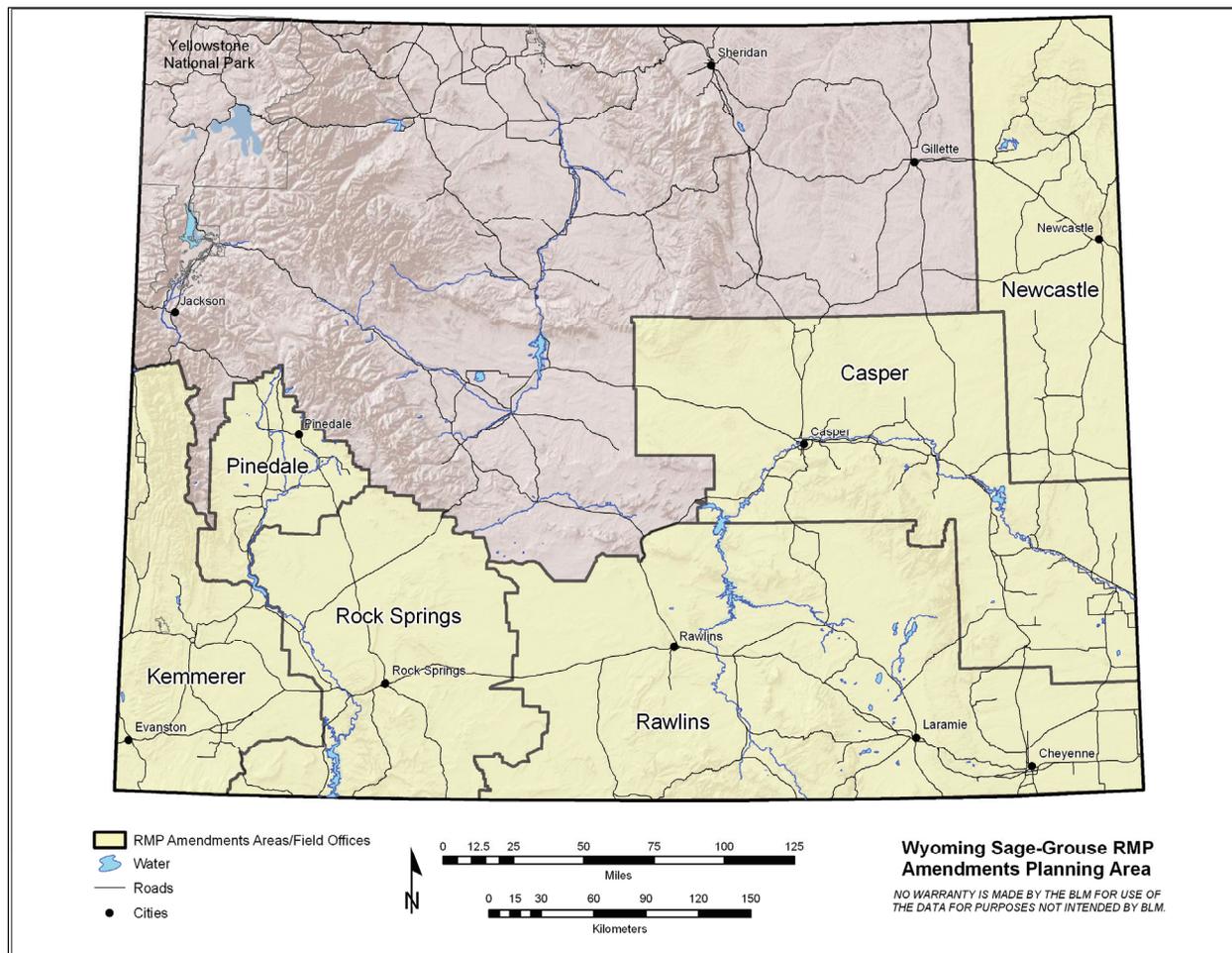
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The BLM Wyoming State Office has initiated a planning effort to prepare RMP amendments with an associated EIS for the Casper, Green River, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, and Rawlins RMPs. The purpose of the RMP amendments is to address needed changes in the management and conservation of Greater sage-grouse habitats within the six BLM field offices to support sage-grouse population management objectives for the State of Wyoming. Amending the existing RMPs will provide consistency in managing sage-grouse habitat on BLM-administered lands in Wyoming.

The need for the RMP amendments is to address the recent “warranted, but precluded” Endangered Species Act listing decision from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (75 FR 13909). The listing decision specifically discussed habitat loss and fragmentation concerns that have, along with other factors, caused continued decline in Greater sage-grouse populations throughout their range. In accordance with BLM Sensitive Species Manual 6840 and responsibilities under Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM is mandated to utilize their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the Endangered Species Act.

The planning area for the Sage-grouse RMP Amendments comprise the Wyoming BLM Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices, and includes all public lands and federal mineral estate managed by the BLM within these six field offices (Figure 2). The planning area encompasses approximately 11 million acres of public land and 20 million acres of federal mineral estate in Albany, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, and Weston counties in Wyoming. Of the 20 million acres of federal mineral estate, approximately 6 million acres are split estate (BLM-administered minerals that underlie nonfederal lands).

Figure 2: Sage-grouse RMP Amendments Planning Area



The 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 RMP amendments with an associated EIS for the Casper, Green River, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, and Rawlins RMPs. The NOI also initiated the 30-day scoping period. During the scoping period, the BLM invited 78 state, county, and local agencies to participate in the planning process as cooperating agencies and provide scoping comments. To date, the BLM has entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with 35 agencies, which formally acknowledges these agencies as cooperating agencies in the RMP amendment process.

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. The BLM held six public scoping meetings in Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs, Wyoming, which provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the RMP amendment process, ask questions, and provide comments. This scoping report describes the scoping process, provides a summary of the public scoping comments received during the scoping period, and identifies issues raised in the scoping comments.

## CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC COMMENTS

The official 30-day scoping period began May 28, 2010 with the publication of the NOI in the Federal Register. Although the 30-day scoping period ended on June 28, 2010, scoping comments were accepted for consideration in the Draft RMP Amendments through August 30, 2010. Furthermore, the BLM will consider issues brought forward any time during the planning process.

Scoping is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the early stages of developing an EIS to determine the scope and significance of issues related to the proposed action (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1501.7). Scoping helps identify issues important to the management of the area, as well as issues and conflicts to be examined in the planning process and ultimately, decisions in the RMP. The scoping process is designed to encourage public participation and to solicit public input.

### PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Public scoping meetings provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit scoping comments and to be involved early in the planning process (40 CFR 1501.7). These meetings are especially important when there is “substantial environmental controversy concerning the proposed action or substantial interest in holding the [meeting]” (40 CFR 1506.6c1).

### Meeting Logistics and Attendance

The NOI (Appendix B) announced that BLM would hold local public scoping meetings. The actual dates, meeting locations, and times were announced later in the project newsletter and a press release issued on July 20, 2010. Both the press release (Appendix C) and newsletter (Appendix D) were posted on the project website (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html>). BLM held six public scoping meetings over a two-week period in Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs, Wyoming. Attendance at each scoping meeting was recorded using a sign-in sheet at the registration station. Table 1 below shows the locations, dates, and registered attendance for each scoping meeting.

**Table 1: Meeting Location/Attendance**

Meeting Location	Meeting Date	Registered Attendance
Pinedale, Wyoming	August 3, 2010	8
Kemmerer, Wyoming	August 4, 2010	9
Rock Springs, Wyoming	August 5, 2010	5
Newcastle, Wyoming	August 11, 2010	0
Casper, Wyoming	August 12, 2010	14
Rawlins, Wyoming	August 13, 2010	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>

The meetings were conducted in an open house format from 4-7 p.m., allowing attendees to arrive and depart freely throughout the three-hour period. Informational posters were displayed throughout the meeting room, which provided specific project-related information. Additional informational handouts were provided as well. Hardcopy comment forms were provided on a separate table to allow attendees to

draft written scoping comments, which could be submitted at the scoping meetings or mailed to the BLM Wyoming State Office. All information presented at the public scoping meetings is included in Appendix E. A court reporter was present at the meetings to provide an opportunity for attendees to submit oral comments, which were documented in written transcripts. For those who could not attend the public scoping meetings or preferred not to comment at the meetings, other methods of providing comments were provided during the scoping period, including mailing, emailing, or hand-delivering written comments.

## Number and Type of Comments Received

A total of 20 oral comments provided by six individuals were recorded at four public meetings; no oral comments were recorded at the Newcastle or Rock Springs meetings. Written comments were not submitted at any of the six public meetings. Individual comments were read in their entirety and all distinct comments were categorized by primary topic/issue. Some comments addressed more than one comment category. Such comments were categorized by the primary topic/issue. Comments categorized as “General” pertain to planning and policy issues or broad management concepts covering a range of resource areas.

Table 2 shows the number of comments received by topic/issue. This enumeration is not intended to show bias towards any particular issue; it is simply to convey the level of interest in a specific issue/area.

**Table 2: Public Scoping Meetings: Comment Categories**

Comment Category	Number of Comments	Percent of Total
Fish and Wildlife	5	25%
General	3	15%
Livestock Grazing	1	5%
Minerals and Energy	1	5%
Recreation	1	5%
Special Status Species	9	45%
Total	20	100%

## Summary of Meeting Comments

As explained above, each comment was categorized into one distinct resource category. Following is a summary of the comments received, organized by such categories. All comments submitted during the scoping period are included in Appendix A.

### Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife comments focused on the health and restoration of sagebrush habitat. Comments addressed how BLM management should address the entire sagebrush ecosystem, as other sagebrush obligate species’ populations are also in decline. Respondents recommended that BLM utilize all existing scientific literature regarding sagebrush ecosystems to inform its management decisions. Comments also addressed the need to consider opportunities to restore degraded sage-grouse habitat as potential mitigation measures for project proponents.

## General (Process/Policy)

General comments addressed other BLM IMs and cooperator involvement. One comment requested that BLM consider all IMs related to sage-grouse in the development of the RMP amendment, such as Wyoming IM 2010-022 (addresses fences and wind energy structures) and IM 2010-071 (addresses sage-grouse management considerations for energy development). Another comment expressed concerns with BLM's low level of communication with cooperating agencies.

## Livestock Grazing

The one comment pertaining to livestock grazing addressed the need for BLM to enhance the ability of private landowners to continue grazing on private lands that provide key sage-grouse habitat.

## Minerals and Energy

The one comment regarding minerals and energy recommended that tank batteries be consolidated into 1,000- to 10,000-barrel tanks to reduce the miles of vehicle travel required to access these facilities.

## Recreation

The one comment pertaining to recreation addressed disturbances to sage-grouse from dispersed recreation users. The respondent is concerned that managing recreation use is not a component of the new Wyoming sage-grouse management policy, as some users (e.g., OHV users) can have a greater impact on sage-grouse leks and populations than some oil and gas operations.

## Special Status Species

Comments regarding special status species primarily addressed sage-grouse and sage-grouse core areas. Respondents raised concerns that focusing sage-grouse management on core areas would lessen protections in non-core areas, which could be detrimental to the species. Respondents recommended that management address all threats to sage-grouse, including predation by other species. Comments addressed the validity of sage-grouse data and suggested BLM ensure that sufficient data has been collected to make management decisions. Other comments questioned how sage-grouse populations could be effectively managed while much of the BLM-administered lands are already leased for mineral development.

## WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

In addition to receiving comments from public scoping meetings, the BLM Wyoming State Office solicited written scoping comments. Written comments were accepted through August 30, 2010.

## Method of Submittal

A total of 30 written comment letters were received during the scoping period. These comments were submitted via mail and email (Table 3). Several comment letters were received multiple times and/or in multiple formats (e.g., mail and email). When identical letters were submitted by the same respondent, the earlier response was retained in the public record. A total of 34 emails were received during the scoping period; however, only 18 of those contained comments. Of the 16 emails that did not contain comments, 11 were requests to be added to the mailing list and 5 were junk (spam) email.

**Table 3: Wyoming RMP/EIS Written Comments: Response Source Enumeration**

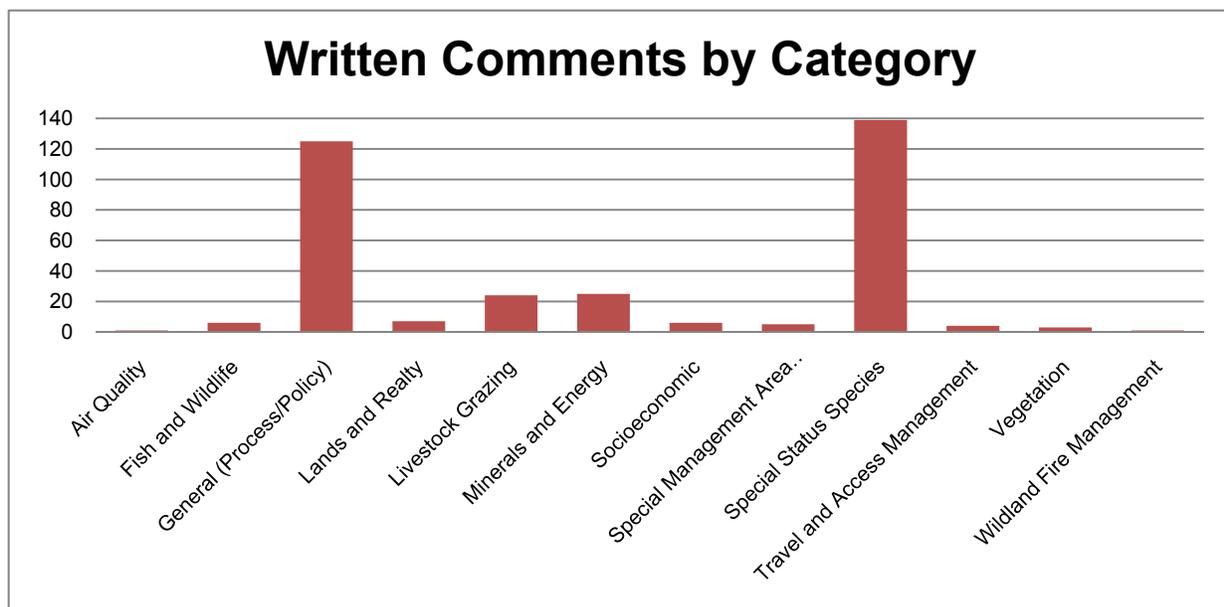
Method of Submittal	Comments Received
Email	18
Mail	12
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>30</b>

## Number and Type of Comments Received

After the scoping period ended on August 30, 2010, the comment letters were entered into a database. Each comment letter was read in its entirety and all distinct comments were recorded and coded for enumeration and analysis. Comments were enumerated using standard database and spreadsheet software.

Individual comments were categorized by primary topic regardless of the position of the comment regarding the topic. Several comments addressed more than one comment category or topic. These comments were categorized by the primary topic. Comments categorized as “General” pertain to planning or policy issues, or broad management concepts covering a range of resource areas. The comment analysis process equally considered all written and oral comments based on the issues raised and information provided.

Figure 3 and Table 4 show the number of comments received by topic/issue. This enumeration is not intended to show bias towards any particular issue; it is simply to convey the level of interest in a specific issue/area.

**Figure 3: Written Scoping Comments: Comment Category Totals**

**Table 4: Written Scoping Comments: Comment Categories**

<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Air Quality	1	0.3%
Fish and Wildlife	6	1.7%
General (Process/Policy)	125	36.1%
Lands and Realty	7	2.0%
Livestock Grazing	24	6.9%
Minerals and Energy	25	7.2%
Socioeconomic	6	1.7%
Special Designations	5	1.4%
Special Status Species	139	40.2%
Travel and Access Management	4	1.2%
Vegetation	3	0.9%
Wildland Fire Management	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Summary of Written Comments

Prior to categorizing the written comments, comment categories were developed to organize the comments. Following is a summary of the comments received, organized by comment category. All comments submitted during the scoping period are included in Appendix A.

### Air Quality

The one comment regarding air quality focused on ensuring that climate change is addressed in the RMP amendments.

### Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife comments focused on the health of sagebrush habitat, habitat restoration, and management of sagebrush ecosystems. Comments addressed the current conditions of the sagebrush habitat and threats to the health of the habitat, such as fragmentation from mineral development and other uses, livestock grazing, and the proliferation of invasive species. Concerns about the effectiveness of restoration of sagebrush habitat due to low precipitation, cheatgrass invasion, and wildland fire were addressed in the comments as well.

### General (Process/Policy)

General comments addressed the planning process, a variety of policies and policy issues, and a range of questions and recommendations. Many comments recommended using the best available science and specific documents in the development of the RMP amendments, such as BLM Instruction Memoranda (IM), BLM policy documents, other state and federal environmental policies, and scientific journal articles.

Comments suggested limiting the scope of the amendments to the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy only. Respondents recommended that specific portions of the policy be changed or omitted in the RMP amendments, including the buffer distances and restrictions within core areas. There were specific questions about the policy and how the policy would be included in the RMP amendments. Respondents requested terminology definitions, such as “disruptive activity” and “suitable habitat.”

Comments contained suggestions for different management approaches, resource areas to focus on for analysis, and overall development of the RMP amendments. Other comments recommended that BLM provide adequate staff to process mineral leases and other lease-related paperwork and enforce the plan once it was finalized. Respondents requested the planning process be open and transparent, following the NEPA regulations.

## **Lands and Realty**

The main issue in the lands and realty category addressed power lines and rights-of-way (ROW) for transmission lines. Comments addressed the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy, how the policy would impact construction of transmission lines and corridors, and how power lines and corridors could impact sage-grouse.

## **Livestock Grazing**

Livestock grazing comments addressed both the continuation and elimination of livestock grazing practices. Concerns regarding the impacts of livestock grazing on sage-grouse habitat included the spread of weeds, soil loss, and range deterioration. Other comments encouraged BLM to coordinate with livestock grazing permittees in the RMP amendment process and to incorporate livestock grazing management as an important part of the RMP amendments.

## **Minerals and Energy**

Minerals and energy comments addressed the benefits and detriments to sage-grouse of wind and conventional energy development on BLM-administered lands. The comments cited a variety of concerns regarding mineral development and the impact development could have on sage-grouse and their habitat, such as lek and nest abandonment, habitat fragmentation, and overall habitat loss. Comments also noted the need for mineral and wind energy development in Wyoming and the efforts operators are making to support sage-grouse and associated habitat. There was a range of questions regarding the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy and the effects the policy could have on mineral development, such as buffer distances, reclamation requirements, well density, and regulations on development in non-core areas.

## **Socioeconomic**

The comments focused on the adverse economic impacts the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy and management decisions in the RMP amendments could have on industry and local economies in Wyoming.

## **Special Designations**

The comments recommended that core areas could be protected through designations of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the RMP amendments should consider ACECs to protect sage-grouse.

## Special Status Species

The majority of the comments focused on how the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy would or would not protect the sage-grouse and associated habitat. Suggestions for management changes were submitted, including greater buffer distances, additional seasonal stipulations, and expansion or reduction of core areas. There were also questions of clarification regarding the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy, core areas, and how the new policy would be incorporated into the RMP amendments.

The Comments also recommended ways to research and collect data for sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat for inclusion in the RMP amendments. Specific comments about ESA policy and management were included in this category. Comments addressed reasons for sage-grouse population declines and threats to the species, including intensive resource uses and development, human disturbance, predation, habitat fragmentation, and habitat loss. Specific sage-grouse habitat requirements, such as migration corridors and lek, nesting, winter, and brood-rearing habitat, were described and addressed in the comments.

## Travel and Access Management

Travel and access management comments primarily addressed roads and access routes. Some comments addressed the harmful impacts to sage-grouse and their habitat from vehicle use. Other comments raised concerns about the potential for reduced access on BLM land.

## Vegetation

Vegetation comments addressed vegetation treatments and the benefits of those treatments on sagebrush habitat. One comment addressed the threat of cheatgrass and other invasive species on sagebrush habitat.

## Wildland Fire Management

The one wildland fire comment addressed the merits of prescribed fire use in enhancing sagebrush habitat.

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## CHAPTER 3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

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Scoping is a dynamic process that assists with identifying issues to be addressed in the RMP amendments/EIS. The BLM planning handbook defines planning issues as disputes or controversies about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices. Issues include resource use, development, and protection opportunities for consideration in the preparation of the RMP amendments.

To generate the issues from public comments, all public comments were analyzed and key points were summarized. Each issue was identified as a position-neutral statement or question that sets the groundwork for development of alternative solutions to be analyzed in the EIS. The following sections include a compilation of all scoping issues that were raised during the scoping period. Since the scoping process is dynamic and continual, scoping issues are subject to change throughout the planning process as new conditions and/or information are identified. Issues are organized by comment category. Similar issues were grouped where possible. The categories below are organized alphabetically and are not ordered based on the number of comments received or perceived importance of the issues. Duplicate issues were only listed once.

### Air Quality

1. Will the RMP amendments address climate change?

### Fish and Wildlife

1. Research shows that it may be less difficult to maintain sagebrush habitat at higher elevations that receive greater precipitation.
2. Research shows that areas converted to crop agriculture, urban development, etc. have low potential for restoration.
3. Significant sage-grouse habitat overlaps with BLM special designations. BLM should increase restrictions within special designations areas to further protect sage-grouse habitat within these areas.
4. Recovery of sagebrush habitat should be emphasized in the RMP amendments.
5. Non-core areas should be managed according to science; they should not be "sacrifice" areas.
6. The BLM should manage the sagebrush ecosystem and sagebrush obligates in a comprehensive manner.
7. The BLM should consider restoration of existing degraded habitat as opportunities for mitigation.
8. The BLM should consider using adaptive management as a tool that would allow field offices to modify their management approach based upon new data acquired through activity monitoring.

### General (Process/Policy)

1. BLM must fully disclose the NEPA process, the selection of alternatives, and impacts identified in the analysis.

2. The planning process should be open and transparent with ample opportunity for public input.
3. The purpose and need of the RMP amendments should clearly state the conservation and protection goals of the BLM, and the alternatives should be designed to meet this conservation-focused purpose and need.
4. The BLM should identify a robust range of reasonable alternatives, and each alternative should be considered in detail.
5. Indirect effects and benefits to other sage-dependent species should be disclosed in the EIS.
6. The BLM should consider interim actions to protect sage-grouse pending the RMP amendments, including a leasing moratorium.
7. Pending the approval of the RMP amendments, BLM must conduct comprehensive site-specific NEPA analyses of the implementation of specific actions.
8. Will BLM's previous efforts at sage-grouse management be analyzed in the RMP amendments?
9. Will the proposed management in the RMP amendments go beyond the current management to remove stressors impacting the sage-grouse?
10. The RMP amendments should focus only on the analysis of sage-grouse habitat protection and refrain from revising other elements in the existing RMPs.
11. The RMP amendments should clearly state that BLM intends to fulfill adaptive management-related decisions and must establish a framework for ensuring this occurs.
12. Will the RMP amendments consider the efforts of local working groups, site specific research, and incorporate that information into the planning process?
13. The BLM should use the best available, peer reviewed science and sage-grouse inventories when developing the RMP amendments.
14. Will the RMP amendments conduct a thorough review of up-to-date scientific literature?
15. Effective best management practices and new stipulations, based on sound science, should be included in the amended RMPs.
16. How will impacts from actions outside the planning area be included in the RMP amendments?
17. Direct, indirect, cumulative, economic, social, and environmental effects need to be considered in the RMP amendments.
18. The BLM must consider impacts of livestock grazing, consider alternatives to the current grazing regime, evaluate the cumulative impacts of livestock grazing, energy development, and climate change; and comply with BLM's National Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Strategy.
19. The BLM must fully disclose a comprehensive reasonably foreseeable development scenario that will allow the agency to analyze cumulative impacts. This analysis must include not only foreseeable extractive mineral development (resulting from past, present, and future leasing or mineral locating) but also the possibility of large industrial facilities such as processing facilities,

refineries, coal fired-power plants, electrical substations and other transmission infrastructure, carbon sequestration facilities, wind energy, natural gas plants, and pipelines. BLM should also consider non-BLM authorized activity and climatic impacts, such as drought, fire, and climate change.

20. If the Wyoming Governor's Sage-grouse Implementation Team (SGIT) Recommendations are approved, how will BLM incorporate them into the RMP amendments?
21. The BLM should provide for management flexibility in order to reduce the need to prepare additional planning amendments.
22. Will the RMP amendments include the Governor's Executive Order (2010-4)?
23. Will BLM wait until the revisions to the Governor's Sage-grouse Policy have been made and incorporated into the IMs before the RMP amendments are initiated?
24. Will the BLM ensure the management requirements and stipulations included in the RMP amendments are consistent with the guidance from the SGIT and the WGFD?
25. The BLM should incorporate all national and state IMs related to sage-grouse into the RMP amendments.
26. The BLM should work with the Department of Energy regarding the Wildlife Decision Support System Pilot Studies and integrate the information from those studies in the RMP amendments.
27. Will BLM consider using the WAFWA approach to sage-grouse conservation?
28. How will the BLM incorporate Wyoming Executive Order 2010-4, as it replaces Wyoming Executive Order 2008-2?
29. The BLM should define/clarify "suitable habitat," "functional habitat," "disturbing activity," "disruptive activity," "surface disturbance," "eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, unleased Federal minerals," and "potential drainage issues?"
30. The BLM should incorporate language regarding exemptions for emergency activities.
31. Will the RMP amendments consider the effects on grazing permittees, agriculture producers, landowners, other citizens, and the natural resources in Wyoming?
32. Will meetings with cooperating agencies take place to help develop goals, objectives, management actions, alternatives, and Draft and Final EIS documents?
33. The amendment should allow BLM officials and grazing permittees the opportunity to work cooperatively and provide flexibility in making case-by-case decisions in the best interest of affected natural resources and area citizens.
34. Will BLM consider non-government agencies, organizations, and groups as stakeholders in the RMP amendment process?
35. Will BLM provide a sufficient number of staff members to prepare the RMP amendments, process APDs, and prepare other NEPA documents in an efficient and timely manner while managing other resource programs?

36. The BLM should use a collaborative planning process to make any adjustments to key habitat areas.
37. The scope of the RMP amendments should be limited to management of the sage-grouse core areas set forth by the SGIT and should consider all resources and resource uses impacted by the new policies.
38. The RMP amendments should address how BLM plans to honor valid existing lease rights within sage-grouse core areas.
39. Will the RMP amendments consider areas with disturbance densities within sage-grouse core areas that are greater than specified in the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy, and would these areas be excluded from the core areas?
40. What basis will be used to determine sage-grouse connectivity areas and corridors, and will the corridors be located outside of the core areas?
41. Will projects with impacts in core areas be required to include offsite mitigation and if so what ratio of impacted area to offsite mitigation acres will be required; will BLM impose this mitigation consistently on all proposed projects within core areas; and will offsite mitigation be required outside core areas?
42. The planning criteria for the Sage-grouse amendments should be expanded to address potential restrictions on wind development, transmission corridors, and other non-oil and gas related activities in sage-grouse core areas.
43. Does the BLM intend to incentivize development outside of sage-grouse core areas?
44. BLM should consider alternatives and mitigation measures which include larger buffers between sage-grouse habitat and surface activity, protecting sage-grouse nesting and winter habitat, changing boundaries of core areas identified by the state, reducing mineral development infrastructure, increasing well spacing, locating wells outside of sage-grouse habitat, requiring underground power lines, reducing human activity through travel plans (requiring site visits to occur outside dawn or dusk hours and/or be limited to several times a week), reducing noise of development through preventing diesel generators, minimizing the spread of West Nile virus through evaporation ponds, and phased development (with reclamation requirements for habitat before future development is allowed to proceed).
45. Wyoming's Core Areas Framework must be fully vetted and discussed in the RMP amendments/EIS, including mitigation measures for both core areas and non-core areas.
46. Will the RMP amendments consider habitat conditions when evaluating individual oil and gas projects?
47. Will the West Nile virus management practices apply to existing reservoirs?
48. Will the BLM develop a "no net loss" policy for sagebrush habitat?
49. Will the RMP amendments address all potential disturbing/disruptive activities, including wind farms, mining operations, recreation sites, campgrounds, etc.?

50. How will BLM decide which use or user will have priority to create new disturbances?
51. Will disturbance caps apply only to new disturbance after adoption of the RMP amendments?
52. The RMP amendments should discuss the various reasons why the goal of consolidating anthropogenic features on the landscape cannot be achieved in many instances due to various reasons, including economic, land ownership patterns, geologic, practicality, and others.
53. The RMP amendments should clarify how the density of one disturbance location per 640 acres will be calculated. Will standard PLSS sections be used to define the 640 acres within which the disturbance will be evaluated?
54. Does IM 2010-012 apply to transmission lines, and does each tower constitute a separate “disturbance” or can the project footprint across the 640-acre area be considered one “disturbance?”
55. The “11 square miles of contiguous habitat” filter that is available for oil and gas disturbance, should also be available for transmission line construction and operation as well?
56. Will sage-grouse hunting be addressed in the RMP amendments?
57. The RMP amendments should address if and how a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) would affect future planning decisions.
58. The planning criteria in the RMP amendments should include an objective ensuring management decisions are complimentary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties.

## Lands and Realty

1. The RMP amendments should address lek buffers for transmission lines.
2. How will ROWs be managed in the RMP amendments?
3. Consider excluding the West-wide energy corridors and existing transmission line corridors from the sage-grouse core areas in the RMP amendments.
4. The RMP amendments should consider the requirement for line separation when developing recommendations and stipulations pertaining to transmission.

## Livestock Grazing

1. Will the RMP amendments prohibit livestock grazing activities?
2. Impacts from livestock grazing on sage-grouse habitat should be considered in the RMP amendments.
3. Livestock grazing in sage-grouse habitat should be re-assessed to prevent habitat loss from grazing.
4. The RMP amendments should analyze the impacts on livestock grazing management from implementing the Wyoming sage-grouse management policy.

5. The efficacy of range improvements, land treatments, and grazing practices should be considered in the RMP amendments.
6. Grazing utilization rates should be thoroughly analyzed in the RMP amendments using all available science and policy.
7. The RMP amendments should consider a no grazing alternative, a reduction of grazing, or reduction of AUMs in the alternatives.
8. Will the indicators listed in the Rangeland Health Standards or other standards be included in the RMP amendments?
9. Will the BLM consider a federally-funded permit retirement program in the RMP amendments?
10. Will BLM inform and work with the grazing permittees in the development of the RMP amendments?
11. Will the RMP amendments/EIS chapters on affected environment and environmental consequences acknowledge the improvements of rangeland health that have occurred through the coordinated efforts of BLM and grazing permittees?
12. Chapter 2 of the RMP amendments should be written with the understanding that livestock grazing is an important resource value and the goals, objectives, and management actions for livestock grazing management include the promotion of livestock grazing management.

## Minerals and Energy

1. Will wind energy be withdrawn in core areas?
2. The BLM should acknowledge the need for new research and information specifically related to wind and uranium development.
3. The RMP amendments should not preclude wind development in the sage-grouse core areas.
4. The Wind Energy Development Policy (IM-2009-043) should guide the RMP amendments.
5. Consideration for the amount of natural gas in Wyoming and the impacts of limiting the access to the resource should be included in the RMP amendments.
6. Will the planning process amend the Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios for the RMP amendments to accommodate more management requirements?
7. If the Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios are amended, they should use the most recent data for resource potential.
8. Will the negative impacts to sage-grouse from coalbed natural gas development be considered in the RMP amendments, including impacts to breeding season and winter populations?
9. Will the impacts of habitat fragmentation, loss, and disturbance from oil and gas development be included in the RMP amendments?

10. Nesting and lek location and nesting success near natural gas development should be analyzed in the RMP amendments.
11. Well density should be considered in the RMP revision, including density no greater than one well per section within 3 km of a lek.
12. How does BLM intend to resolve the potential conflict of well spacing and geologic structure without destroying the viability of a proposed project?
13. Will the RMP amendments a decision-tree approach to determining appropriate recommendations for leasing lands in core areas for wind energy and uranium development?
14. Improvements for safety and efficiency regarding oil and gas development should be addressed in the RMP amendments.
15. The RMP amendments should discuss the dynamic mitigation measures that have been utilized by the oil and gas industry for over two decades to protect sage-grouse.
16. Has the BLM formulated specific criteria that will be used to determine the degree to which mineral reductions should occur? How can a reduction of existing production be accomplished without abrogating operators' valid existing rights?
17. The RMP amendments should address the level of activity will be permitted outside of the sage-grouse core areas?
18. What will be expected from industry in terms of data collection and post-project monitoring? The RMP amendments should explain the degree to which BLM's authorities allow imposition of monitoring requirements on operators.
19. Will the RMP amendments consider timing flexibility for seeding activities and reclamation efforts in the Powder River Basin?
20. The BLM must recognize that some operators have financial limitations or return on investment expectations that would preclude the use of subsurface injection or other more costly water management options.

## Recreation

1. The level of allowable recreation use should be considered in the RMP amendments, as such use can create substantial impacts to sage-grouse habitat.

## Socioeconomic

1. Will the EIS consider the socioeconomic impacts on the oil and gas industry in the RMP amendments?
2. Will the EIS consider the socioeconomic impacts on the economies of the state, local, and national governments from implementing new sage-grouse management policies?

3. These amendments will directly affect the continuation of livestock grazing and other agricultural operations on federal and private lands within and adjacent to the planning area and associated evaluations of economic impacts should be included in the EIS.
4. The RMP amendments should consider how the core area restrictions will reduce economic activity, will reduce jobs in the private sector, and will reduce royalty and tax payments to all levels of government.
5. BLM should thoroughly analyze the socioeconomic impacts related to BLM's discretionary ability to defer leasing to protect sage-grouse habitat.
6. The RMP amendments/EIS should disclose any uncertainties in the socioeconomic analysis to allow the reader to understand agency decision making.

## Special Management Area Designations

1. Will the RMP amendments create large-scale sage-grouse ACECs over large areas of nesting, brood rearing and winter habitat with enforceable objectives and requirements specific to sage-grouse recovery?
2. BLM should designate large, interconnected patches of intact sagebrush as ACECs and establish appropriate management practices to protect these habitats for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species.

## Special Status Species

1. Will the BLM incorporate an exception request BMP in the RMP amendments?
2. All factors, including agricultural conversion, invasive species, high intensity grazing, fire, off-road vehicle activities, tree encroachment, and climate change, should also be considered as cumulative impacts to sage-grouse.
3. Will the RMP amendments expand core areas beyond what the State of Wyoming has recommended?
4. The BLM should enforce its authority over all of the sage-grouse core area lands to protect key habitat.
5. The BLM will need to continuously update and improve data to effectively manage the sage-grouse core areas.
6. Will sage-grouse core areas be classified as low risk and high risk and managed accordingly?
7. Will the sage-grouse core areas be subject to revision?
8. The RMP amendments should consider lease deferral in small, high quality areas of sage-grouse habitat.
9. The RMP amendments should address the shortcomings of the sage-grouse core area approach, including the excluding areas of intensive development, inadequate protections for seasonal habitats, and the ability to change core area boundaries.

10. Are stipulations/restrictions needed to control, reduce, and/or reroute traffic (related to mineral development [salable minerals]) on roadways within sage-grouse core areas?
11. In core areas where there is no sage-grouse habitat, what is the basis for the minimum 725-acre patch size?
12. The RMP amendments should limit analyses to 4 miles from leks that are contained within the project area and eleven miles where there is evidence that the populations are migratory. The BLM should explain the type and components of these evaluations as well as identify how the results of the evaluation might be used to modify a project outside of the sage-grouse core areas.
13. Will the RMP amendments support the establishment of the 2-mile wide corridor in sage-grouse core areas?
14. Surface disturbing activities, surface occupancy, and disruptive activities should be prohibited or restricted within 4 miles of the perimeter of leks in core areas year-round. Outside of core areas the same types of surface disturbing activities and disruptions should be prohibited or restricted within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied or undetermined leks throughout the year.
15. Will BLM consider buffers larger than 0.25 miles outside of core areas?
16. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities should be prohibited or restricted on nesting/early brood-rearing habitat from the 4 mile core area lek buffer out to 11 miles surrounding the leks from March 15 to June 30.
17. Density goals inside the sage-grouse core areas should prohibit disturbances cumulatively exceeding 5%.
18. How will the RMP amendments address habitats adjacent to or nearby a sage-grouse core area where there is no documented evidence of use by core area birds?
19. How will the BLM determine the degree of supporting information required to constitute winter habitat that supports sage-grouse core areas?
20. Will sage-grouse winter habitat be managed the same as core areas?
21. Will sage-grouse winter habitat/concentration area seasonal restrictions apply to any area where a bird from a core area lek winters?
22. Sage-grouse migration routes and seasonal habitat should be identified and included in the RMP amendments.
23. Seasonal habitat is important, as it provides for the connectivity of populations to maintain genetic viability. Connectivity areas should be identified and included in the RMP amendments.
24. Surface disturbing and disruptive activities should be prohibited or restricted from November 15 to March 30 within all known sage-grouse winter habitat/concentration areas.
25. More research needed regarding sage-grouse migratory patterns and habitat use.
26. The BLM needs to survey for winter habitat using habitat models in conjunction with on-the-ground information/data.

27. Will the sage-grouse winter habitat/concentration area restrictions include limitations of one hour or more during a 24-hour period? Will this same standard be applied during the nesting season for production, maintenance and operations of oil and gas wells?
28. Will fences be marked in winter concentration areas, nesting habitat, or within 3 miles of a lek?
29. What types of restrictions will be imposed in sage-grouse concentration areas where the origin of the birds is unknown?
30. Sustainability of non-core area populations and core area populations from connectivity corridors should be considered in the RMP amendments.
31. Will the BLM defer to the Wyoming Governor's identification of important connectivity corridors for the State of Wyoming, and what criteria will BLM use to identify connectivity areas?
32. Will the BLM re-consider the allowable levels of resource extraction in the RMP amendments?
33. The BLM should refrain from adopting all new sage-grouse management recommendations; rather the BLM should study all available data before adopting increasingly restrictive management goals and objectives.
34. BLM should consider predator control measures to protect sage-grouse.
35. Will the RMP amendments have a goal to expand suitable sagebrush habitat?
36. The RMP amendments should consider the vegetation cover and other habitat recommendations that are described in Connelly et al. 2000.
37. Will active habitat restoration of sage-grouse habitat be included in the RMP amendments?
38. Would sagebrush canopy cover be managed to achieve specific cover rates for nesting and other habitat?
39. Range-wide conservation of Greater sage-grouse will require broad-scale characterization of habitat quality and an understanding of the influence of landscape condition on the persistence of populations.
40. Research should be conducted to ensure that activities such as "habitat improvement" are beneficial to sagebrush habitat.
41. The BLM must develop goals for the protection and restoration of sagebrush habitat, including both "active" and "passive" restoration techniques.
42. Will herbicide, prescribed burning, or mechanical treatments be allowed within sage-grouse habitats in the RMP amendments?
43. BLM land use plans across the sage-grouse range should be amended, including establishing Sagebrush Reserve ACECs and adopting other protective management measures necessary to implement the conservation plan and ensure the survival and recovery of Greater sage-grouse.

44. The research cited to by the BLM does not indicate that a 0.6 mile buffer is sufficient for the protection of sage-grouse leks.
45. Sage-grouse lek buffers should be measured from the center of a lek, not from lek boundaries, as lek boundaries are not always identified; and that buffers be applicable unless the transmission line is sited within identified or designated corridors. In addition, perch discouragers should not be required when transmission or distribution is located outside of the 0.6 mile buffer.
46. Will BLM manage Special Status Species as defined in BLM Manual 6840?
47. The RMP amendments must provide specific requirements to meet the primary objective of recovering sage-grouse. The requirements should be placed into all land use permits as terms and conditions of use.
48. Annual breeding population assessments should be included in the RMP amendments.
49. Will the RMP amendments consider sage-grouse population trends?
50. Will monitoring for fall survival rates of sage-grouse populations be included in the RMP amendments?
51. A band of habitat extending from northern, central and southwestern Wyoming, to northeastern Utah, southern Idaho and northern Nevada, and to southern and central Oregon is shown to be most important for sage-grouse.
52. The BLM should ensure that uses that do not conflict with sage-grouse management are not unnecessarily restricted.
53. How will lands with existing leases and existing rights be handled in the RMP amendments?
54. Criteria for identification of sage-grouse habitats, their suitability and future resource management actions in these potential areas should be disclosed and BLM should include consideration of population augmentation as a mitigation measure.
55. The RMP amendments must not become so prescriptive that incorporation of new and evolving science and data into management of sagebrush habitats would be prohibitive or unnecessarily restricted absent new planning decisions.
56. The BLM should refrain from utilizing the WGFD's "Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas within Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats" (Recommendations) as the basis for development of significance criteria. BLM must first take into account the conservation benefits derived from adopting the Strategy on a statewide basis.
57. When using Adaptive Management, feedback mechanisms need to be created between monitoring results (ecosystem response) and management adjustments.
58. What uses would fall under the lesser restrictions of 2 miles and 0.25 mile?
59. What criteria would be utilized to identify sage-grouse functional habitats?
60. The BLM must ensure that WGFD management goals for sage-grouse do not become the sole driver for resource use allocations.

61. What elements will monitoring protocols contain and will they be incorporated into project permits? How will monitoring redundancy be avoided?
62. Has BLM adopted standards and criteria regarding the application of non site-specific studies for areas not actually addressed in a local study?
63. The BLM should set forth a mechanism for providing a public status report in each field office on projects benefiting sage-grouse or sagebrush. BLM must be responsible for monitoring the lands it is responsible for managing and setting forth mechanisms to allow individual project exceptions based on positive growth in local sage-grouse populations.
64. Will the BLM commit to honoring actual data over modeling exercises when designating various habitats?
65. The RMP amendments should address the significant work already done by the BLM and industry to ensure the long-term survival of the sage-grouse.
66. We believe the RMP amendments should include minimal additional restrictions on use, as the Greater sage-grouse is not listed under the ESA.
67. Will the BLM consider the funding of research as an acceptable form of mitigation or component of a mitigation strategy? Will the BLM consider the establishment of a mechanism or program which project proponents may voluntarily use to facilitate the allocation and management of mitigation dollars to fund appropriate projects for the improvement of sagebrush habitat?
68. BLM should follow the guidance of FLPMA to manage Greater sage-grouse habitat.
69. BLM should follow the recommendations of BLM Manual 6840 and start planning for the sage-grouse in a manner that protects habitat, reduces conflict with energy development (and other factors), and allows the BLM flexible management strategies that result in the ultimate conservation of the sage-grouse.
70. Field offices and other agencies must coordinate regarding all development plans and RMPs, including sharing information with regard to how new development may affect sage-grouse habitat.
71. The RMP amendments should consider regional populations of sage-grouse and the impact on populations outside of Wyoming.
72. The RMP amendments should address the year-round habitat needs of sage-grouse.
73. Because the sage-grouse is a landscape-scale species, ensuring the species' survival requires comprehensive analysis of remaining habitats and populations on a range-wide basis, and then adopting a range-wide conservation plan to ensure that adequate regulatory mechanisms are in place to protect the species across its range.

## **Travel and Access Management**

1. How will the new sage-grouse policies affect access to public lands for mineral exploration and other uses?

2. Will vehicle traffic for activities other than oil and gas development be addressed in the RMP amendments?

## **Vegetation**

1. How will the RMP amendments address vegetation treatments?
2. Vegetation treatment methods should be carefully considered before being incorporated into the RMP amendments.
3. Will the proliferation of invasive plant species from surface disturbing activities, such as livestock and mineral development, be considered in the RMP amendments?

## **Wildland Fire Management**

1. The use of prescribed fire use should be addressed in the RMP amendments.

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## CHAPTER 4 ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE RMP AMENDMENTS/EIS

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Three issues were raised during scoping that are outside the scope of the purpose and need for the RMP amendment/EIS, and therefore will not be considered in the planning process. There are two justifications for removing these issues from consideration:

1. The issue is beyond the scope of the planning effort, or the issue is addressed through implementation/site-specific planning actions.
2. The BLM does not have authority to resolve the issue.

Issues in this chapter are grouped by the appropriate justification, organized by comment category.

### JUSTIFICATION 1

An issue is not germane to the planning process if it is beyond the scope of a particular planning effort, or if it involves a matter normally addressed in plan implementation. Issues that are not germane to the planning process will not be considered as scoping issues but treated as comments.

#### General (Process/Policy)

1. The three other RMP revisions should also include the new policies in their documents.

The focus of this planning effort is to amend the Casper, Green River, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, and Rawlins RMPs. The Wyoming RMP revision efforts that are currently underway will address the Wyoming sage-grouse policy separately from this amendment effort.

#### Livestock Grazing

1. Will cumulative impacts of oil and gas development be considered in issuing grazing permit renewals?

Issuing grazing permit renewals are not planning-level actions and are more appropriately addressed during implementation-level planning. Issuing grazing permits is outside the scope of the planning effort, which is to incorporate and analyze sage-grouse policy for six existing RMPs. Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development and other management actions will be considered in the RMP amendments.

### JUSTIFICATION 2

BLM does not have the authority to resolve the issue. BLM is granted certain authorities through federal law which are implemented by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

#### Livestock Grazing

1. BLM should ensure the continuation of livestock grazing on private lands.

BLM does not have any authority or jurisdiction over private lands. BLM only has authority of public lands and subsurface mineral estate. This issue is beyond BLM's mission and will not be addressed in the RMP amendments.

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## CHAPTER 5 DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA

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Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that are 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 agencies and governmental entities, and Indian tribes; analysis of information pertinent to the planning area, public input, and professional judgment. The planning criteria focus on the development of management options and alternatives, analysis of the related effects, and selection of the Preferred Alternative and the Proposed RMP amendment. Additional planning criteria may be identified as the planning process progresses. Preliminary planning criteria include the following:

1. The amendment will be in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
2. Impacts from the preferred alternative will be analyzed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 1610 and 40 CFR 1500.
3. Lands covered in the RMP amendment will be public land managed by BLM within the designated planning areas. No decisions will be made relative to non-BLM administered lands.
4. For program specific guidance of land use planning level decisions, the process will follow the Land Use Planning Manual 1601 and Handbook H-1601-1, Appendix C.
5. Broad-based public participation will be an integral part of the planning process.
6. Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Federal, and Tribal agencies, as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law and regulations applicable to public lands.
7. The RMP amendments will recognize the State's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife. BLM will consult with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
8. The RMP amendments will recognize valid existing rights.
9. The RMP amendments will incorporate management decisions brought forward from existing planning documents whenever possible.
10. The planning team will work cooperatively and collaboratively with cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
11. The BLM and cooperating agencies will jointly develop alternatives for resolution of common resource management issues and management concerns.
12. GIS and metadata information will meet Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards, as required by Executive Order 12906. All other applicable BLM data standards will be followed.
13. The planning process will involve American Indian Tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses.

14. All proposed management actions will be based on current scientific information, research and technology, and inventory and monitoring information.
15. The RMP amendment may include adaptive management criteria and protocol to address with future issues.
16. The planning process may use mitigation to develop management options and alternatives. NEPA will analyze the impacts, and is part of the planning criteria for developing the options and alternatives and for determining mitigation requirements.

## CHAPTER 6 DATA SUMMARY/DATA GAPS

The Preparation Plan for the Sage-grouse RMP Amendments, Section D (Data and GIS Needs) discloses the data needed for development of the RMP amendments and EIS, and identifies gaps in the data that may need to be addressed. Some data gaps may persist throughout development of the RMP amendments, as specific inventories may not be conducted before they would be used for alternatives development or analysis.

During the scoping period, individuals, organizations, and agencies were encouraged to provide BLM with applicable data and/or identify data gaps that could assist in the development of alternatives or analysis of environmental consequences. However, no additional data gaps were identified beyond those identified in the Preparation Plan for the Sage-grouse RMP Amendments. Data and information provided during the public scoping period is listed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Data and Information Submitted During the Scoping Period**

<b>Data/Information Title</b>	<b>Author/Preparer</b>	<b>Data/Information Type</b>
Guidelines to Manage Sage-grouse Populations and Their Habitats	John W. Connelly, et. al.	Article
A Framework to Assist in Making Sensitive Species Habitat Assessments for BLM-Administered Public Lands in Idaho	BLM, Idaho	Gov. Document
An Inexpensive Opportunity to Reduce the Hazard to Greater Sage Grouse and Lesser Prairie Chickens From Fencing	Environmental Defense Fund	Article
Miles of BLM Fencing Constructed by State and Year	BLM Annual Report	Table
Miles of USDA-Funded Fencing During 2005 - 2008 in Counties Where Sage Grouse or Lesser Prairie Chickens Live	USDA's Performance Results System	Table
Thresholds and Time Lags in Effects of Energy Development on Greater Sage-Grouse Populations	Seth M. Harju, et. al.	Article
Are Wyoming Range Practices Working at Cross-purposes with Wildlife Habitat Goals?	Environmental Defense Fund	Article
Audubon Wyoming's Greater Sage-grouse Suggested Mineral Development Mitigation Measures	Audubon Wyoming	Article
Effect of Imazapic on Cheatgrass and Native Plants in Wyoming Big Sagebrush Restoration for Gunnison Sage-grouse	William L. Baker	Article
Multi-state Sage-grouse Coordination and Research-based Recommendations	Wyoming Game and Fish	Memorandum
Big Horn Basin Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Effectiveness Modeling	Biodiversity Conservation Alliance	Article
Influence of Behavior on Bird Mortality in Wind Energy Developments	K. Shawn Smallwood, et. al.	Article
Bureau of Land Management National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, 1.3.1	Department of Interior	Guidance Strategy

Data/Information Title	Author/Preparer	Data/Information Type
Habitat Restoration for Gunnison and Greater Sage-grouse	BLM, Gunnison	Literature Review
Bureau of Land Management National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, 1.4.1	Department of Interior	Guidance Strategy
Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Guidelines for Wyoming	Joe Bohne, WGFD, et. al.	Gov. Document
Management Considerations for Sagebrush in the Western United States: A Selective Summary of Current Information about the Ecology and Biology of Woody North American Sagebrush Taxa	BLM	Gov. Document
A Blueprint for Sage-grouse Conservation and Recovery	Clait E. Braun, Ph.D.	Article
Seasonal Habitat Requirements for Sage-Grouse: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter	Clait E. Braun, Ph.D., et. Al	Article
Causes and patterns of mortality in lesser prairie-chickens <i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i> and implications for management	Donald H. Wolfe, et. al.	Article
Effects of Environmental Factors on Incubation Patterns of Greater Sage-grouse	Peter S. Coates and David J. Delehanty	Article
Predators of Greater Sage-Grouse nests identified by video monitoring	Peter S. Coates, John W. Connelly, and David J. Delehanty	Article
Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats	John W. Connelly, Michael A. Schroeder, Alan R. Sands, and Clait E. Braun	Article
Setting the Record Straight: A Response to "Sage-Grouse at the Crossroads"	J. W. Connelly, C. E. Braun, M. A. Schroeder, and C. A. Hagen	Article
Energy Development and Conservation Tradeoffs: Systematic Planning for Sage-grouse in their Eastern Range	Kevin E. Doherty, et. al.	Article
Greater Sage-grouse Winter Habitat Selection and Energy Development	Kevin E. Doherty, et. al.	Article
Don't Fence Them In: For prairie-chickens, airspace is habitat, too	Donald Wolfe	Article
Ecology and management of sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat	John A. Crawford, et. al.	Synthesis Paper
Effects of Livestock Grazing on Neotropical Migratory Landbirds In Western North America	Carl E. Bock, et. al.	Article
Fence Marking to Reduce Greater Sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> ) Collisions and Mortality near Farson, Wyoming – Summary of Interim Results	Tom Christiansen, Wyoming Game and Fish	Article
Food Habits of Juvenile Sage-grouse	Donald E. Klebenow	Article
Evaluating Greater Sage-grouse Brood Habitat Using Human-imprinted Chicks	Sherri Lynn Huwer, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology	Thesis
Synthesis of Livestock Grazing Management Literature Addressing Grazing Management for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat in the Wyoming		Article

Data/Information Title	Author/Preparer	Data/Information Type
Basin - Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregions		
BLM Review of Livestock Grazing Management Literature Addressing Grazing Management for Sage-Grouse Habitat		Article
Reducing Grouse Collision Mortality by Marking Fences (Oklahoma)	Donald H. Wolfe	Article
Newsletter of the Grouse Group of the IUCN/SSC-WPA Galliformes Specialist Group		Article
Yearling Greater Sage-Grouse Response to Energy Development in Wyoming	Matthew J. Holloran, et. al.	Article
Impact of Wind Energy and Related Human Activities on Grassland and Shrub-steppe Birds	Prepare for the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative by the Ornithological Council	Literature Review
Influences of Livestock Grazing on Sage-grouse Habitat	Jeffrey L. Beck and Dean L. Mitchell	Article
Fire and Restoration of Sagebrush Ecosystems	William L. Baker	Article
Habitat, Topographical, and Geographical Components Structuring Shrubsteppe Bird Communities	Steven T. Knick, et. al.	Article
Greater Sage-grouse Population Response to Natural Gas Field Development in Western Wyoming	Matthew J. Holloran	Article
Montana Fish, Wildlife @ Parks: Sagebrush Bulletin	<a href="http://fwp.mt.gov/insidewfp/fwplibrary/sagebrushbulletin.asp">http://fwp.mt.gov/insidewfp/fwplibrary/sagebrushbulletin.asp</a>	Website
Bureau of Land Management National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy	U.S. Department of Interior	Article
Sage-grouse Population Response to Coal-bed Natural Gas Development in the Powder River Basin: Interim Progress Report on Region-wide Lek-count Analysis	Dr. David E. Naugle, et. al.	Article
West Nile virus: pending crisis for greater sage-grouse	Dr. David E. Naugle, et. al.	Article
Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Habitat Selection and Success in Wyoming	Matthew J. Holloran, et. al.	Article
Energy and Infrastructure Development Guidelines to Conserve Greater Sage-grouse Populations and their Habitats in Nevada	Nevada Governor's Sage-grouse Conservation Team	Article
Mapping Oil and Gas Development Potential in the US Intermountain West and Estimating Impacts to Species	Holly E. Copeland, et. al.	Article
Exotic plants increase and native plants decrease with loss of foundation species in sagebrush steppe	Janet S. Preve'y, et. al.	Article
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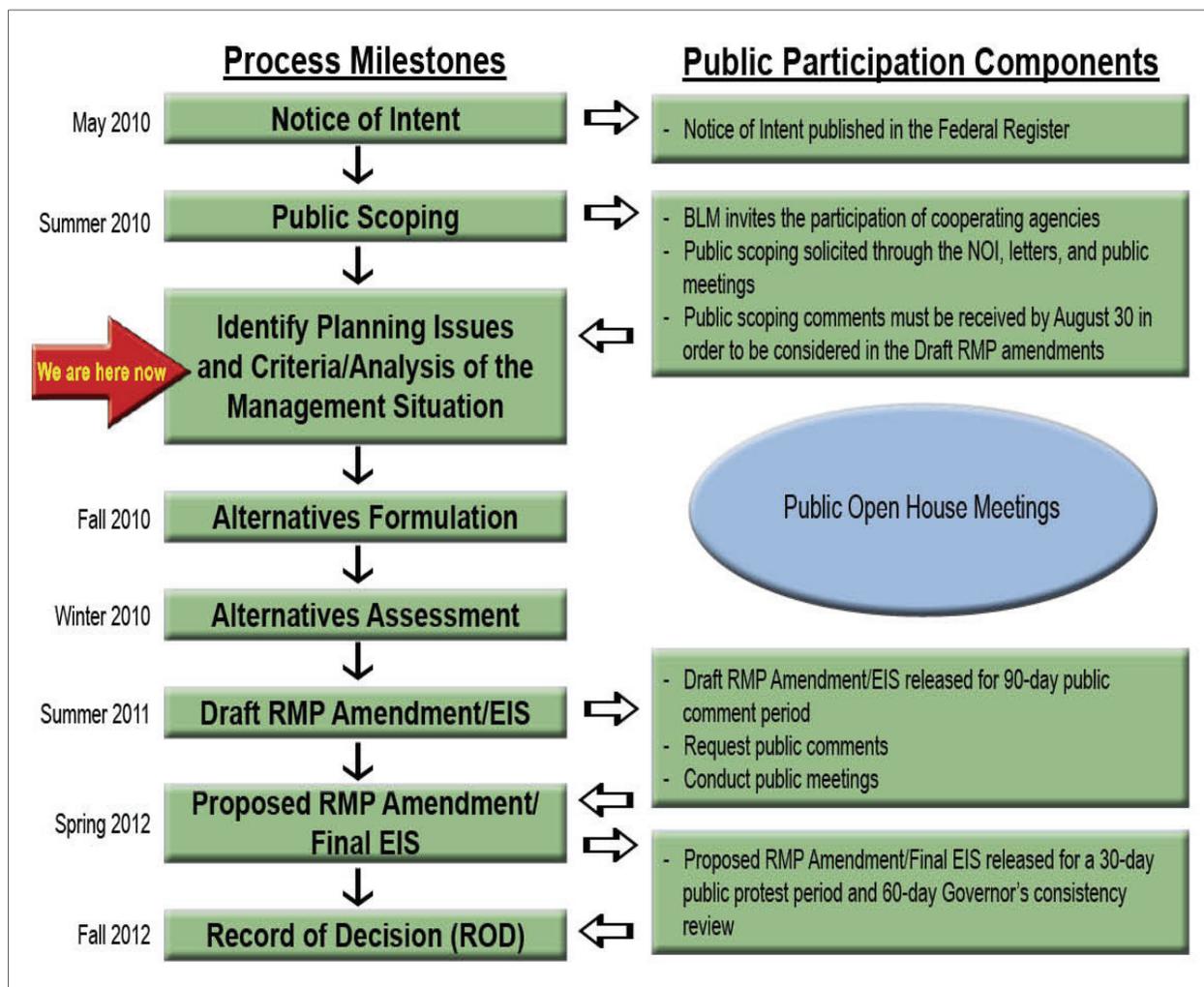
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Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Status Update	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region Wyoming Ecological Services Office	Article
greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> ) Ecological Integrity Table1	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Table
Wildlife Integrity Tables Utah Division of Wildlife Resources / The Nature Conservancy	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Article
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A Framework to Assist in Making Greater Sage-Grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> ) Habitat Assessments for BLM-Administered Public Lands in Wyoming	U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming	Article
Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2001-047	BLM, Wyoming	IM
Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2001-047, Change 1	BLM, Wyoming	IM

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# CHAPTER 7 WYOMING SAGE-GROUSE RMP AMENDMENTS/EIS PLANNING SCHEDULE

The Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP amendment interdisciplinary (ID) team will use the data collected during the scoping process and issues identified in this report to develop management decisions and generate a range of management alternatives. Following alternatives development, the ID team will evaluate the potential environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives and select the preferred alternative. The BLM will issue the Draft RMP Amendments/EIS, which will be followed by a 90-day public comment period. BLM will review the public input on the draft document, make any needed revisions, and issue the Proposed RMP Amendments/Final EIS. Following a 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 Amendments. Figure 4 presents the general planning schedule for the RMP Amendments/EIS, including opportunities for public involvement.

**Figure 4. Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP amendment/EIS Planning Schedule**



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