

Wyoming Sage-Grouse Management

Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Contact Information:
Lisa Solberg Schwab, Project Manager
BLM Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 367-5340

Sagegrouse_Amendment_WY@blm.gov

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan/Land Use Plan Amendments for the Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, Pinedale, Casper, and Newcastle Resource Management Plans (RMPs); as well as the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Medicine Bow National Forest, and the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land Use Plans on December 27, 2013, for public comment.

A copy of the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and Draft EIS is available for review at the following BLM Wyoming locations: Wyoming State Office, Newcastle Field Office, Casper Field Office, Rawlins Field Office, Rock Springs Field Office, Kemmerer Field Office or Pinedale Field Office. The documents are also available at: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments/sage-grouse.html.

You may submit comments related to the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- Website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments/sage-grouse.html
- Email: Sagegrouse_Amendment_WY@blm.gov
- Fax: 307-775-6129
- Mail: BLM Wyoming State Office
Attn: Sage-Grouse Nine Plan
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82003

The comment period is open from December 27, 2013 until March 24, 2014.

About the project

The EIS planning area includes approximately 40 million acres of BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, State, local, and private lands located throughout Wyoming in 11 counties (Albany, Carbon, Converse,



Fremont, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta and Weston). Within the EIS decision area, the BLM and the USFS administer approximately 16 million surface acres and 16 million acres of Federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate. Surface management decisions made as a result of this Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS will apply only to the BLM- and the USFS-administered lands in the decision area. The decision area is defined as those BLM- and USFS-administered lands and Federal mineral estate within three categories of habitat identified by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department:

- **Core Habitat** - Areas identified as having the highest conservation value for maintaining sustainable Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) populations, including breeding, late brood-rearing and winter concentration areas.
- **General Habitat** - Areas of seasonal or year-round habitat outside of priority habitat.
- **Connectivity Habitat** - Areas identified as broader regions of connectivity important to facilitating the movement of GRSG and maintain ecological processes.

Major issues considered in the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS include special



status species management (GRSG specifically), energy and mineral development, lands and realty (including transmission), livestock grazing, fire, wild horses, vegetation management, special management areas (ACEC nominations), socioeconomics (particularly impacts to local communities) and invasive species.

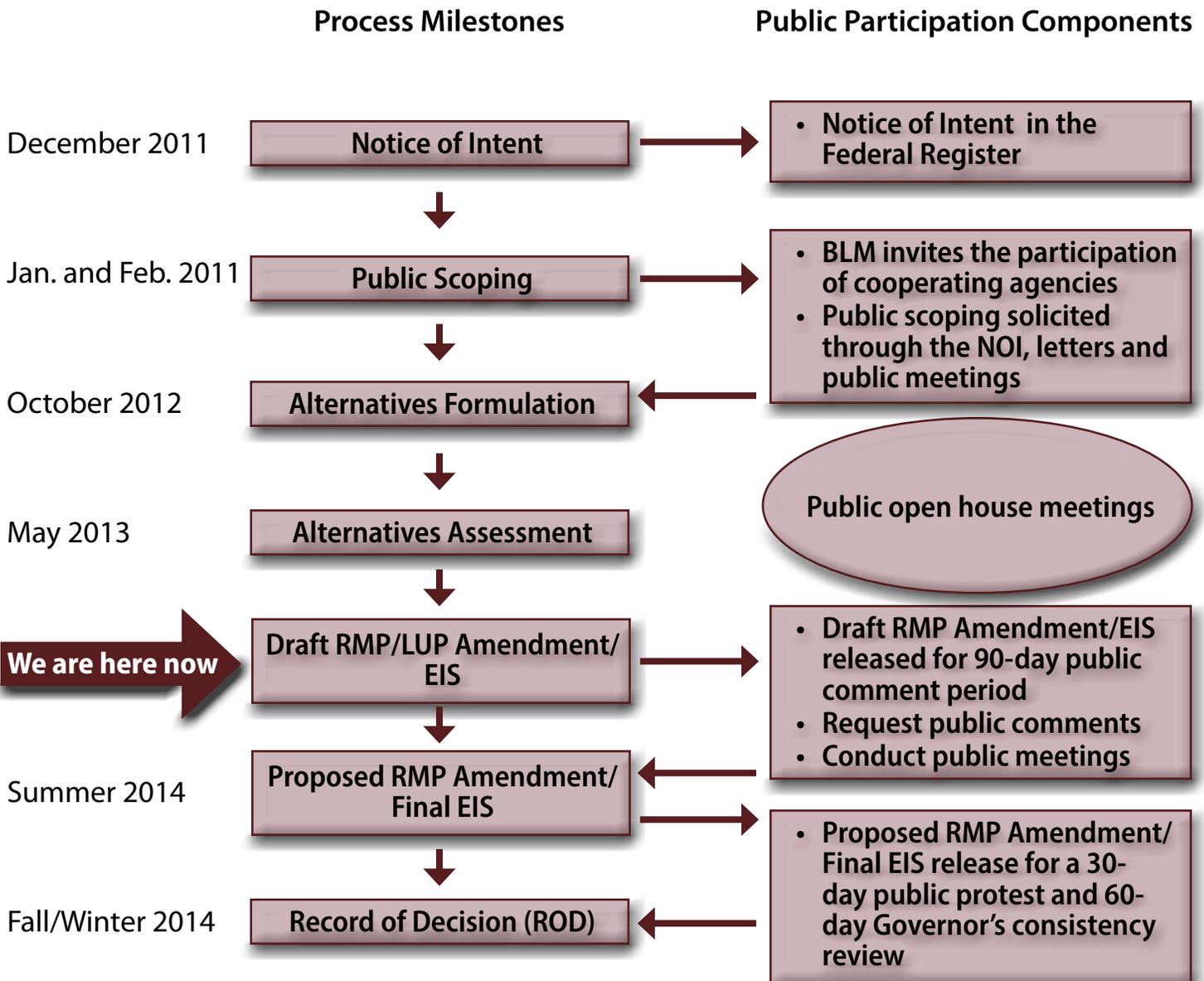
The Draft RMP Amendment /Draft EIS evaluates five alternatives in detail, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and four action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, D, and E). The BLM identified Alternative E as the preferred alternative. Identification of this alternative, however, does not represent final agency direction, and the Proposed RMP Amendment may reflect changes or adjustments based on information received during public comment, from new information, or from changes in BLM policies or priorities. The Proposed RMP may include objectives and actions described in the other analyzed alternatives.

Alternative A would retain the current management goals, objectives, and direction specified in the current RMPs for each BLM field office and the land and resource management plans (LRMPs) for the Bridger-Teton, Medicine Bow, and Thunder Basin National Forests/Grasslands. Alternative B includes conservation measures from the BLM Sage-Grouse National Technical Team Report. Alternative C includes conservation measures submitted by various conservation groups to the BLM. Alternatives D and E include conservation measures the BLM developed with the cooperating agencies.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b), this notice announces a concurrent public comment period on proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). One ACEC is proposed in Alternative C. The Sage-Grouse Habitat ACEC (approximately 9,876,565 acres) would include the following management prescriptions: close to fluid mineral leasing; designate as a right-of-way exclusion area; close to livestock grazing; allow vegetation treatments only for the benefit of GRSG; and petition to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mineral entry.



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



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

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

The BLM encourages you to attend one of the DEIS public comment open house meetings that will be held in Rawlins, Rock Springs, Pinedale, Casper, Douglas, and Laramie, 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, the planning process, and the public commenting process. A presentation will be given at 5 p.m. Attendees can learn about the RMP amendment comment process, ask questions, and provide comments in electronic and written formats.

Date	Address
Tuesday February 4	USFS Douglas Ranger District 2250 East Richards Street Douglas, WY 82633
Wednesday February 5	BLM Casper Field Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, WY 82604
Thursday February 6	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Supervisor's Office 2468 Jackson Street Laramie, WY 82070
Tuesday February 11	BLM Pinedale Field Office 1625 West Pine Street Pinedale, WY 82941
Wednesday February 12	BLM Rock Springs Field Office 280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, WY 82901
Thursday February 13	BLM Rawlins Field Office 1300 N Third Street Rawlins, WY 82301

Public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the address below during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

BLM Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.