

CHAPTER 5—CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) decision-making process for public lands in Wyoming has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, Department of Interior (DOI), Department of Agriculture (DOA), BLM, and Forest Service policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory/policy framework require that federal agencies involve the interested public in their decision-making, consider reasonable alternatives to proposed actions, and prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of proposed actions and alternatives.

Public involvement, consultation, and coordination have been at the heart of the planning process leading to this draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (hereafter, Land Use Plan [LUP]) amendment. This was accomplished through open and inclusive collaboration, public meetings, informal meetings, individual contacts, news releases, planning bulletins, a planning website, and Federal Register notices.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on May 28, 2010, to formally announce that the BLM Wyoming State Office was preparing RMP amendments and an associated EIS. The notice invited the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public to participate in determining significant issues to be addressed in the planning alternatives and analyzed in the EIS amendments. A second NOI was published on December 09, 2011 which officially started a second public scoping period and announced the addition of the Forest Service participation in the amendment process. This chapter describes the public involvement process as well as other key consultation and coordination activities conducted for the preparation of draft EIS and LUP amendments.

Table 5-1. Public Involvement, Coordination, and Consultation Events

Date	Location	Type
July 19, 2010	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting and Public Open House Meeting (following cooperators meeting)
July 20, 2010	Casper, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting and Public Open House Meeting (following cooperators meeting)
August 3, 2010	Pinedale, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
August 4, 2010	Kemmerer, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
August 5, 2010	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
August 11, 2010	Newcastle, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
August 12, 2010	Casper, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
August 13, 2010	Rawlins, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
October 5, 2010	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting/Goals and Objective Workshop
October 12-15, 2010	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting/Alternative Development
November 30-December 2, 2010	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting/Alternative Development

Date	Location	Type
March 31, 2011	Rawlins, Wyoming	Cooperators Meeting/Alternative Development
September 27, 2011	Rawlins, Wyoming	Cooperators Meeting/Preferred Alternative Development
January 30, 2012	Casper, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
January 31, 2012	Buffalo, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
February 1, 2012	Worland, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
February 2, 2012	Rock Springs, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
February 7, 2012	Douglas, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
February 9, 2012	Newcastle, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
February 15, 2012	Gillette, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting (9 Plan)
June 14, 2012	Rawlins, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting/Alternative Development (9 Plan)
June 3-4, 2013	Rawlins, Wyoming	Cooperator Meeting/Preferred Alternative Development (9 Plan)

5.1 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section documents the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by the BLM and Forest Service while developing the draft LUP amendments and EIS. Because of jurisdictional responsibilities, the BLM and Forest Service are required to consult with certain federal, Native American, and state agencies and entities (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §1502.25) during the NEPA decision-making process. The BLM and Forest Service are also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR §1500.4-5).

Title II, Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs the BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes and federal, state, and local government agencies as part of its land use planning process.

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other plans were accomplished through frequent communications, meetings, and cooperative efforts between the BLM and Forest Service interdisciplinary teams and involved federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. Coordination and consistency for the draft EIS were accomplished primarily through the assistance of cooperating agencies formally involved in the project (Section 5.1.1).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been involved in the development of the alternatives as a cooperating agency, and has been contacted for Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation.

Coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has occurred throughout the LUP amendment process by phone and through various meetings.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is participating as a cooperating agency and has provided input throughout the LUP amendment process.

5.1.1 Cooperating Agencies

The BLM Wyoming State Office extended cooperating agency status to government entities and agencies throughout the 17-county planning area. The following is a list of the cooperating agencies that have actively attended the cooperators meetings leading to the development of the draft LUP amendment and EIS.

- City of Laramie
- City of Rawlins
- City of Rock Springs
- Coalition of Local Governments
- Crook County
- Fremont County
- The Governor's Office
- Lincoln County
- Little Snake River Conservation District
- Medicine Bow Conservation District
- Representative Lummis' Office
- Rock Springs Grazing Association
- Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District
- Senator Barrasso's Office
- Senator Enzi's Office
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Sublette County Commissioners
- Sublette County Conservation District
- Sweetwater County
- Sweetwater County Conservation District
- Uinta County
- Uinta County Conservation District
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

The cooperating agencies were formally invited to participate in developing the alternatives and to provide data and other information relative to their disciplines. The BLM held meetings with the cooperating agencies on July 19 and July 20, 2010, and October 6, 2010, concerning the approach to the planning process and development of alternatives. The cooperating agencies were invited to work with the BLM interdisciplinary team in developing the alternatives during the weeks of October 25–28, 2010, November 30–December 2, 2010, and March 31, 2011, and again to develop and finalize the preferred alternative September 27, 2011.

The draft alternatives were revised in 2012 due to the release of the BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. The cooperating agencies were invited to work with BLM and Forest Service in additional alternative development meetings on June 14, 2012 and January 16, 2013. Cooperating agencies met with the BLM and Forest Service on June 3–4, 2013 to formulate the preferred alternative for the draft LUP amendments.

5.1.2 Coordination and Consistency

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with other agencies and local and state government plans were accomplished through frequent communications and cooperative efforts between the BLM, Forest Service, and involved federal, state, and local agencies. The Wyoming Governor’s Clearinghouse received 20 copies of the draft LUP/amendments and EIS for review to ensure consistency with ongoing state plans. The interdisciplinary team reviewed county land use plans to ensure consistency. Meetings were held with the respective county planners and commissioners to promote greater understanding of goals, objectives, and resources of the counties, BLM and Forest Service. Table 5-2 summarizes coordination actions conducted by various federal, state, and local agencies for the draft LUP development process.

Table 5-2. Key Coordination Actions

Agency	Coordination/Responsibility
FEDERAL AGENCIES	
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	Coordinates mineral leasing and other activities that affect lands administered by the BOR. Reviews the LUP amendments and EIS for consistency with BOR planning.
Fish and Wildlife Service	Reviews actions affecting threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife, or plants. Performs Section 7 consultation, coordination, and review.
U. S. Geological Survey (USGS)	Reviews LUP amendments and EIS for consistency with USGS planning.
Minerals Management Service (MMS)	Reviews LUP amendments and EIS for consistency with MMS planning.
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Wildlife Services	Coordinates annual management plan for animal damage control activities on public lands.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Coordinates with the Forest Service and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality on monitoring and collecting air quality data. Reviews air quality monitoring data. Files Federal Register notices.
STATE AGENCIES	
State of Wyoming	Participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues for which the State of Wyoming has jurisdiction by law or special expertise. Provides information from state records on matters that include LUP/EIS project impacts on air quality and Class 1 airsheds, fish and wildlife, domestic livestock grazing, watershed and water quality, social and economic impacts, minerals, and State of Wyoming permitting requirements.
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality	Coordinates and cooperates on water quality, development of monitoring for visibility standards and guidelines, and collecting of air quality data.
Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Coordinates and cooperates on vegetation manipulation projects, wildlife habitat management, and Special Status Species.

Agency	Coordination/Responsibility
State Historic Preservation Office	Consults on compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in accordance with the National Programmatic Agreement, as implemented in the Wyoming Protocol to that agreement.
COUNTY AGENCIES	
Converse County	Participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues for which the county has jurisdiction by law or special expertise.
Crook County	
Fremont County	
Lincoln County	
Sublette County	
Sweetwater County	
Uinta County	
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	
Little Snake River Conservation District	Assists with the conservation of Wyoming's soil and water resources, promotes the control of soil erosion, promotes and protects the quality of Wyoming's waters, reduces siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promotes wise use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, preserves and enhances wildlife habitat, protects the tax base, and promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of this state through a responsible conservation ethic.
Medicine Bow Conservation District	
Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District	
South Goshen Conservation District	
Sublette County Conservation District	
Sweetwater County Conservation District	
Uinta County Conservation District	

5.1.3 Native American Interests

The BLM and Forest Service maintain ongoing communications with relevant Native American groups, including:

- Bannock Tribes (Fort Hall Reservation)
- Blackfeet Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai (Flathead Indian Nation) Crow Tribe
- Ft. Peck Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (Crow Creek Reservation)
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
- Ute Tribe (Uintah and Ouray Reservation)
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe (Wind River Reservation)
- Arapaho Tribe
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Crow Tribe

5.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation in the EIS process includes a variety of efforts to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists the agencies in the following areas:

- Broadening the information base for decision-making
- Informing the public about the LUP/EIS and the potential impacts associated with various management decisions
- Ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are understood by the agencies

5.2.1 Scoping Period

The public was provided a scoping period to identify potential issues and concerns associated with the LUP amendments. Information obtained by the BLM and Forest Service during public scoping is integrated with issues identified by the agencies to form the scope of the EIS.

Publication of an NOI in the Federal Register on May 28, 2010 announced BLM's intention to amend the Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs RMPs and served as a call for input and comments for amending the plans. The publication of a second NOI on December 9, 2011 opened the second public scoping period and announced the addition of the Forest Service to the planning process to amend the LRMPs for the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF), Medicine Bow National Forest (MBNF) and Thunder Basin National Grasslands (TBNG). Additional planning criteria were also announced.

Scoping Notice

The first official 60-day scoping period began when the NOI was published in the Federal Register. The notice invited the public to participate in the scoping process and requested comments on issues and planning criteria related to the BLM RMP amendments. The first scoping period ran from May 28, 2010 through August 30, 2010. The scoping notice also included information on the six field offices, the reasons for the plan amendments, and how to participate in the scoping process. The publication of a second NOI on December 9, 2011 officially started the second public scoping period for the addition of the National Sage-grouse planning strategy to the amendment effort and the amendment of the three Forest Service LRMPs. Additional planning criteria were also announced. The second public scoping period ended on March 23, 2012.

Scoping Meetings

The initial public scoping meetings for the six BLM RMP amendments were held in Pinedale, Kemmerer, Rock Springs, Newcastle, Casper, and Rawlins, Wyoming, on August 3, 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13, 2010, respectively. During the six scoping meetings, a total of 42 people registered their attendance. The meetings were structured in an open-house format, with various information tables representing issues such as Greater Sage-Grouse, fish and wildlife habitat, mineral development, and other resource areas. Public comments were collected during the scoping meetings and throughout the scoping period through mail, e-mail, and the project website.

Comments were categorized by topic areas for analysis purposes. Special Status Species and general (process/policy) were the two categories that received the most comments. The comments in these categories related to incorporation of the Wyoming Sage-grouse Policy or ways to protect sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat.

Although fewer in number, comments pertaining with livestock grazing, minerals and energy, fish and wildlife habitat, lands and realty, and socioeconomics were also received. A summary of all comments was compiled in the *Scoping Report for the Wyoming Sage-grouse RMP Amendments*, January 2011, which can be viewed on the project website.

The second series of public scoping meetings associated with the National Sage-grouse Strategy and the addition of the Forest Service planning units were held in Casper, Buffalo, Worland, Rock Springs, Douglas, Newcastle and Gillette, Wyoming. The dates, in order of the cities listed in the previous sentence, were January 30 and 31, and February 1, 2, 7, 9, and 15. A total of 98 people attended the seven meetings, and the format was similar to the first series of scoping meetings. Public comments were collected during the scoping meetings and throughout the scoping period through mail, e-mail, and the project website.

For the second scoping effort, comments were organized into four planning classifications:

- 1) General comments related to the planning area
- 2) Issues that will be addressed through BLM or Forest Service policy or administrative action (Forest Service or BLM policy)
- 3) Issues that are beyond the scope of the planning effort
- 4) Planning issues related to the planning effort

A summary of all comments was compiled in the *National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy Land Use Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statements Scoping Summary Report*, May 2012, which can be viewed on the project website.

5.2.2 Mailing List

The mailing list for public scoping started with the cooperating agencies that have participated in past planning efforts and was updated throughout the planning process. Scoping meeting participants were given the option of adding their names to the mailing list. In addition, individuals could visit the project website and add themselves to the mailing list or contact the BLM or Forest Service and ask to be placed on the list.

5.2.3 Newsletters

A newsletter was developed to keep the public informed of the LUP amendments planning process. The July 2010 Wyoming Sage-grouse Management RMP and EIS newsletter provided basic background information regarding the project, including the purpose and need for amending the RMPs and issues that the project may address. The newsletter also extended an invitation to the public to become involved in the process and advertised the project website.

5.2.4 Website

The project website can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html>. The site serves as a virtual repository for documents related to the development of the LUP amendments,

including announcements, bulletins, and draft and final documents. These documents are maintained in PDF format to ensure their availability to the widest range of users. The website also provides the opportunity for the general public to submit their comments for consideration as part of the scoping process and draft LUP amendments comment period and to add themselves to the project mailing list to receive periodic newsletters and announcements.

5.2.5 Future Public Participation

Public participation efforts will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the EIS process. After the BLM and Forest Service issue the final LUP EIS amendments, public protest during a 30-day period will occur before the record of decision (ROD) is issued.

5.3 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Tribal Governments

- Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Fort Hall Reservation)
- Blackfeet Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai (Flathead Indian Nation) Crow Tribe
- Ft. Peck Assiniboine/Sioux Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (Crow Creek Reservation)
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
- Ute Tribe (Uintah and Ouray Reservation)
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe (Wind River Reservation)
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Yankton Sioux Tribe
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Crow Tribe

Local Governments (counties, cities, towns)

- City of Casper
- City of Cheyenne
- City of Green River
- City of Laramie
- City of Lusk
- City of Newcastle
- City of Rawlins
- City of Rock Springs
- City of Sundance
- Carbon County, Wyoming
- Converse County, Wyoming

- Converse County Conservation District
- Crook County, Wyoming
- Crook County Natural Resource District
- Laramie County, Wyoming
- Laramie Rivers Conservation District
- Lincoln Conservation District
- Lincoln County, Wyoming
- Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District
- Little Snake River Conservation District
- Medicine Bow Conservation District
- Natrona County, Wyoming
- Natrona County Conservation District
- Niobrara County, Wyoming
- Niobrara County Conservation District
- Platte County, Wyoming
- Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Sublette County, Wyoming
- Sublette County Conservation District.
- Sweetwater County, Wyoming
- Sweetwater County Conservation District
- Uinta County, Wyoming
- Uinta County Conservation District
- Weston County, Wyoming
- Weston County Natural Resource Conservation District

Wyoming State Agencies

- Office of the Governor
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office
- Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Wyoming Legislature
- Wyoming Office of Information, Planning, and Coordination
- Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments—Office of Federal Land Policy
- Wyoming Office of Tourism
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming State Clearinghouse—Office of Federal Land Policy
- Wyoming State Engineer's Office
- Wyoming State Forestry Division
- Wyoming State Geologic Survey

Wyoming State Boards/Commissions

- Natural Gas Pipeline Authority
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Congressional Delegations (House and Senate)

- Senator Mike Enzi

- Senator John Barrasso
- Representative Cynthia Lummis

Department of the Interior (non-Bureau of Land Management) Offices

- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Office of Surface Mining
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Reclamation

Non-Department of the Interior Federal Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
- Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Energy

5.4 LIST OF PREPARERS

As required by NEPA regulations (40 CFR §1502.17), Table 5-3 lists the people primarily responsible for preparing the LUP amendments and presents their qualifications. Booz Allen Hamilton, a contractor selected to prepare the EIS, as directed by BLM, has, in accordance with 40 CFR §1506.5(c), certified that it does not have any financial or other interest in the outcome of decisions to be made pursuant to the EIS. In addition to the specific responsibilities listed, many BLM and Forest Service employees contributed substantial time consulting with other agency personnel in preparing the EIS.

Table 5-3. List of Preparers and Contributors

Name	Education	Project Role
Bureau of Land Management		
Spencer Allred	BS, Rangeland Management	Kemmerer Field Office, Range Specialist
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Kimberlee Foster	BS, Biochemistry	High Desert District, Resource Advisor
Mark Goertel	BS, Zoology MS, Animal and Range Sciences	Wyoming State Office, Rangeland Management Specialist

Name	Education	Project Role
Caleb Hiner	BS Geology	Wyoming State Office, Planning
Chris Hite	BS, Geology MS, Geology/Hydrogeology	Wyoming State Office, Physical Scientist
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Name	Education	Project Role
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Booz Allen Hamilton		
Kristin Altieri	BS, Biology MPA, Master of Public Affairs MSES, Environmental Science	Resource Specialist—Livestock Grazing, Wild Horses
Kim Bibbs	BS, Business Information Technology (Global Concentration)	Public Participation, Website Specialist
Vincent Bonifera Jr.	AS, Technical Management BS, Chemical Engineering MS, Chemical Engineering MS, Technical Management	Resource Specialist—Air Quality
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Name	Education	Project Role
Tymeri Schlecher	BS, Environmental Science MPA, Natural Resource Management MS, Environmental Science	Resource Specialist—Water, Soils
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