

Final RMP Evaluation Report

I. Introduction & Purpose

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Record of Decision (ROD) for the Rawlins Resource Management Plan (Rawlins RMP) was approved on December 24, 2008. The Rawlins RMP provides a framework for the management of public lands resources in the RFO. The planning area includes approximately 11.2 million acres of land in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties. Within this planning area, The RFO administers approximately 3.4 million acres of public land surface and mineral estate, 0.1 million acres of public land surface where the mineral estate is state and private, and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate where the surface is privately owned or state-owned.

The Rawlins RMP has documented several amendments and maintenance actions since the approval of the ROD. A complete copy of the current approved Rawlins RMP, as amended and maintained, is available on the BLM's public ePlanning website.¹

The purpose of this land use plan (LUP used here interchangeably with RMP) evaluation is to “determine whether mitigation measures are satisfactory, whether there has been significant change in the related plans of other federal agencies, State or Local governments, or Indian tribes, or whether there is new data of significance to the plan.” (43 CFR 1610.4-9). Findings from the LUP evaluation may be used to initiate a plan revision, amendment(s), or maintenance of the approved LUP; or the evaluation may conclude that the approved plan does not require any changes. The RMP evaluation follows the procedures provided in [BLM-Wyoming Instruction Memorandum WY-2020-020](#) (“Resource Management Plan Evaluations”, September 30, 2020).

The scope of the RMP evaluation includes the 2008 approved Rawlins RMP, as amended or maintained, except for the Greater sage-grouse decisions and subsequent amendments since the BLM has announced that it has begun updates to the sage-grouse plans.²

II. Evaluation

A. Evaluation Methodology and Background Information

The BLM's procedures for evaluating its land use plans are described in the BLM's land use planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.4-9 and the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1; see Chapter V.B). BLM-Wyoming's recent Resource Management Plan Evaluations IM WY-2020-020 provides additional guidance on the procedures for completing an RMP evaluation. This RMP evaluation generally has followed the steps shown in Figure 1. District and State briefings were done simultaneously, and the Draft Findings and Recommendations were distributed shortly after the briefing instead of before.

A questionnaire designed to assess the approved Rawlins RMP was completed by the Rawlins Field Office (RFO) Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and Wyoming State Office (WYSO) specialists between May 19-June 4, 2021, 2021. All responses were consolidated and reviewed by the RFO project lead and co-lead and the WYSO Planning and Environmental Coordinator to identify planning- and implementation-level³ findings and land use planning implications. Follow-up questions were sent to the IDT and WYSO specialists, as necessary. The implementation-level findings will be used for follow-up outside of the Rawlins RMP evaluation process but are not considered further. From this information, key planning-level findings and conclusions were developed.

¹ Rawlins RMP Evaluation Report Available at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/admin/project/63197/570>

² <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse>

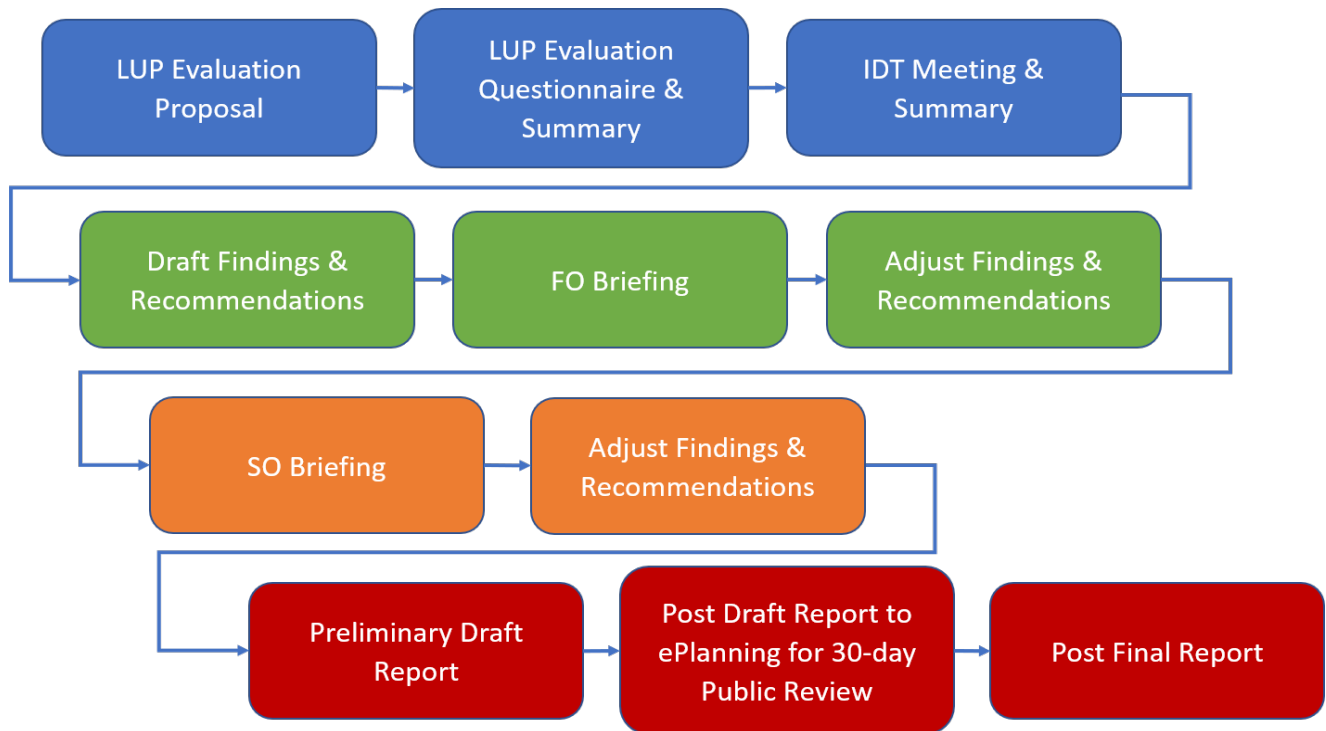


Figure 1

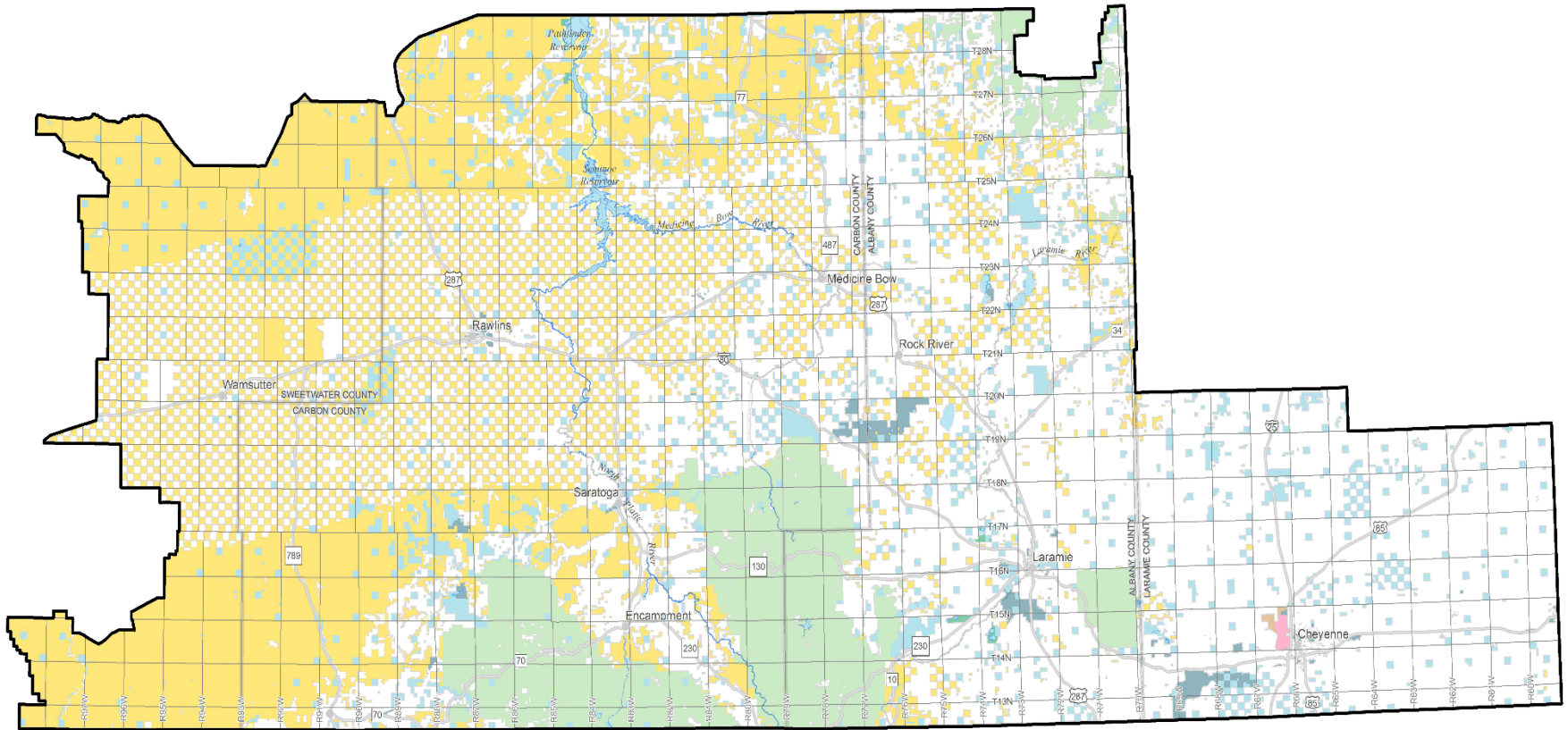
The completed and anticipated project milestones are provided, below:

Task	Completed
I. Initiate LUP Evaluation and Prepare the <i>LUP Evaluation Proposal</i>	May 18, 2021
II. Complete <i>RMP Evaluation Questionnaire</i>	June 4, 2021
III. Conduct Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Meeting and Prepare <i>Summary of the IDT Meeting</i>	May 5, 2021- January 23, 2024
IV. Prepare and Distribute <i>RMP Evaluation Findings and Recommendations</i>	January 29, 2024
V. Conduct Field Office LUP Evaluation Briefing	January 24, 2024
VI. Conduct State Office LUP Evaluation Briefing	January 24, 2024
V. Post Draft RMP Evaluation Report to ePlanning for Public Review, Prepare <i>Summary of Public Comments</i>	April 3, 2024
VII. Post and Distribute <i>Final RMP Evaluation Report</i>	July, 2024 (anticipated)

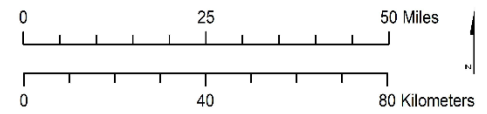
See Attachment No. 1 for a Summary of RMP Implementation NEPA Analyses.

See Attachment No. 2 for a list of IDT members.

³ BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) at pages 29-30: “Implementation decisions generally constitute BLM’s final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. These types of decisions require appropriate site-specific planning and NEPA analysis.”



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management | U.S. Forest Service |
| Bureau of Reclamation | State |
| Military Reservations and Corps of Engineers | Local Government |
| Other Federal | Private |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Water |



Rawlins Field Office Planning Area

NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BLM FOR USE OF THE DATA FOR PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM.

B. Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

The BLM's principal findings are:

1. IDT conclusions do show that current management prescriptions are meeting the goals and objectives described in the RMP.
2. IDT conclusions also show a need for large scale data collection, changes in existing management, and found that while the RFO is still meeting goals and objectives in line with national priorities, there were several recommendations that field, district, and state office decision makers should consider:
3. The interdisciplinary review of the approved RMP identified at least seven significant amendments. A cultural resources amendment, a fire and fuels amendment, four amendments under Lands and Realty, and a wildlife migration corridor amendment. Additionally proposed projects may require more amendments if approved.
4. The BLM is not aware of significant changes in the related plans of other federal agencies, State or Local governments, or Indian tribes requiring modifications to the approved Rawlins RMP. A revision of the RMP should be considered in lieu of numerous amendments.

C. Draft Findings

Air Quality and Climate Change

Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change need to be addressed in the RMP to address current policy.

Cultural Resources

There are several archaeological districts that need management plans to insure protection of cultural resources and engagement with the public and Tribal governments.

Fire and Fuels

The RMP does not provide appropriate objectives and management actions for use of unplanned ignitions and hazardous fuel treatments. The RMP does identify areas where wildland fire for resource benefit will be used, but not specific management actions for those areas.

Forestry

The RMP has very restrictive acreage caps for treatments in forest and woodland communities, impeding landscape level projects, proper forest management and fuels reductions. The Acreages available for treatment and Capped Board footage do not correspond to each other and cannot be met the way they are written.

Appendix 19 States: "An average of 75 to 100 acres of forestland "forestland ecosystem management areas and 75 to 100 acres of woodland will be treated annually by mechanical methods." The goals identified later in the appendix Follow a 100-year rotation by age class distribution to 10,30,30,30 by percent in each age class. These goals cannot be met at the above mechanical treatment restrictions. There is no science that backs acres restrictions on treatments, within forest ecosystems, especially those restricting the ability for proper management. This would also restrict habitat and fuels treatments within these systems. Appendix 19 also states: "Annual probable sale quantity of 650 MBF..." This small of a PSQ allows for little ability to meet the other management objectives laid out in the appendix and little to no ability to respond to mortality associated with wildfire or insect and disease outbreaks.

Forest Management (2.3.4) identifies management for commercial and/or non-commercial timber product harvesting however does not specify areas that are restricted or closed beyond other resource value restrictions. There is also no mention of non-timber commercial harvesting e.g., seeds.

Appendix 19 States: "Old growth management areas include conifer trees greater than 150 years..." Stand and tree characteristics are listed later in the Appendix. Old Growth guidelines should follow current established policy.

Lands and Realty findings

Lands for disposal is not current. additional lands, not identified in appendix 7, need to be evaluated and added to the list for disposal. Or RFO will try and pursue easements so the public can access. A Field office review of all land locked parcels needs to take place so each piece can be identified. No specific lands for Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP's) are identified through the RMP. Communication site locations are not designated within the RMP. The City of Rawlins requested a withdrawal amendment for lands around the city water source that has not been accomplished. There is no language for Hydroelectric and Nuclear exclusion areas or designated areas. These would require resource evaluations and management objectives..

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under 1.4.2.2 Governor’s Consistency Review 4.a “All WSAs (Adobe Town, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountain, Encampment River Canyon, and Ferris Mountain) (Map 2-6; Table 2-7) will be managed according to the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates each WSA as wilderness or releases it from consideration and the land reverts to multiple-use management.

Livestock Grazing Management

The ID Team identified numerous instances where specific terms are outdated. They also found that the RMP decisions fall short of addressing LUP Handbook H-1601-1, Appendix C, pp 14-15. There has been some confusion and conflict with Blowout Penstemon language, and the impacts of grazing as associated with known habitat verses “potential habitat”. “Potential habitat” is not defined and supported. “Necessary Tasks” definition doesn’t include the herding of Livestock with motorized equipment.

Minerals

Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) is addressed in the Mineral Development Potential report, but it was never addressed how these scenarios will be kept up to date. Rare earth elements/critical minerals were not addressed within the RMP/Mineral Development Potential Report specifically. Reasonably foreseeable development scenarios (RFDs), or similar reports, need reviewed.

Native American Concerns and Coordination

References to the Tribal Consultation Manual Handbook M-1780 and H-1780 are not incorporated into the RMP. Tribal concerns encompass, not just archaeological resources, but distinct landmarks, wildlife, plants, and water resources. Tribal consultation should include all these resources. As per Executive Order 13007, tribal sacred/respected places that do not qualify as NHRP eligible need protected. We need Cultural Resource Management Plans for these resources.

Off Highway Vehicle Use and Travel Management Areas –

Current planning direction for travel management has been reduced to the open/closed/limited designation. There is no Travel Management Plan that further defines “limited”. A trail map is required and currently there is no road /trail map for the Rawlins Field Office.

Paleontological Resources

The Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) rankings for geological units in the State of Wyoming were updated July 2020. Acreages within the RMP with moderate to high PFYC rankings have been revised. The RMP has not yet been maintained to include the updated PFYC data.

Recreation

The current Rawlins RMP uses a “Dispersed Recreation Use Area “(DRUA) designation that the Field Office made up. This designation is inconsistent with national BLM planning. The current (2021) Recreation Program planning direction provides for Field Offices to make designations for recreation special areas. There are no buffers to allow for future expansion and development of developed and undeveloped recreation sites. Renewable energy development has strong viewshed characteristics on public recreation sites and hinders public land recreation development. Recreation Site Characteristics (RSC) will change over time and BLM needs RSC flexibility to effectively manage recreation. Non designated dispersed airstrips are being used in the RFO on BLM surfaced managed lands. There is no specific management for this use in the RMP.

Reclamation

Appendix 36 is outdated. The requirement for 2-foot topsoil piles for topsoil stored beyond one year does not have exceptions. The Reclamation Plan, Appendix 36 does not include a monitoring standard. Our land use plan is missing the limited reclamation potential discussion and definition. We are also missing some of the elements found in the policy related to waste management, ground water/sub surface integrity, geomorphic stability and some details on hydrology that could be added.

Renewable (Wind, Solar, hydro, geothermal)

The RMP does not adequately address current demand for renewable energy facilities. The RMP doesn’t cover Solar, Hydro, or adequately cover transmission lines associated with these. It does not identify Designated Development Areas or Existing Communication sites. Wind development should follow BMPs such as from [Best Management Practices for Reducing Visual Impacts of Renewable Energy Facilities on BLM-Administered Lands](#). Mitigation is not established to address impacts from these types of projects. There is no language for Hydroelectric.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EJ)

Executive Order’s 12898, 13985, 13990, and 14008 have not been addressed as well as “Presidential Memorandum Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships January 26, 2021.”

Soils

Soil data is limited for Sweetwater County. RMP Record No. 1009 states “Pursue and support the completion of Order 3 soil surveys” which would support the efforts to collect this data for site specific projects in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

The current RMP States:

Goal 1. Manage public lands according to VRM classes that are determined based on land use allocation decisions made in this RMP.

- *Management Objectives*

1. *Establish VRM classes for the RMPPA.*

2. *Maintain the overall integrity of visual resource classes while allowing for development of existing and future uses.*

- *Management Actions*

1. *Manage visual resources to meet the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.*

2. *VRM classes are designated as shown on Map 2-50 (Table 2-9 and Appendix 25).*

This should be updated to reflect current standards more specific to the resource being protected. See recommendations.

Water Quality, Watersheds, and Soils Management

Appendix 11 Water Quality and Watershed Management Within the planning area discusses water quality, quantity, and current uses in the planning area. Foreseeable beneficial uses in the planning area are not discussed as in detail as they could be. Ongoing evaluations (PFC, AIM, etc.) have been effective at identifying where we can improve water availability.

Wildlife, Fish, and Threatened/Endangered and Special Status Species

The Exception request language is confined to oil and gas. Appropriate mitigation for bats, migratory birds, big game migration corridors, and other special status species regarding Utility-scale Renewable Energy projects are not identified. RFO has additional data needs for mapping of migration corridors, however, land uses are not expected to change dramatically based on those efforts. Since the 2008 RMP was completed, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has designated several big game migration corridors in Wyoming, including for the Platte Valley and Baggs mule deer herds, which intersect a portion of the Rawlins planning area.

Wild horses

The boundary and AML of the Adobe Town HMA has been changed by the Rock Springs Wild Horse RMP Amendment. The next version of the Rawlins RMP will have to show these changes.

Special Area Designations

Seminole Reservoir to Alcova qualifies as a **National Back Country Byway**.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: The RMP discusses that comments submitted through scoping included recommendations for designating ACECs to protect the following areas, habitats, or species: McCarty Canyon, North Platte Reservoirs, Flattop Mountain (including any habitat for Gibbens penstemon), Ferris Dunes (including the large dune field, grass-dominated wetland communities, and any habitat for the kangaroo rat), Ferris Mountain (including any habitat for Cedar Rim thistle north of the area). These recommendations were mistakenly overlooked in documentation and should be considered as part of the next planning process conducted in the RFO.

Blowout Penstemon ACEC

Neither seed collection permits nor area designations were addressed in the RMP. There are cases where the fire management goals and objectives conflict with the ACEC. The RMP is written in such a manner that site specific plans must be written to change fire management to meet the goals and objectives for vegetation, wildlife, and other resources in certain cases. The RMP does allow for site-specific fire prescriptions for resource management.

Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP)

Currently, there are no TCPs designated in RFO and no language to address them.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA

Future protection and development of surrounding landscape is not addressed. Utility-scale Renewable development is the largest viewshed obscuring on public lands and viewshed impacts are greater than that of oil and gas.

North Platte River SRMA

The North Platte River SRMA management plan has addressed any of the RMP decisions for this SRMA that need changed and given specific guidance on management of the SRMA. Monitoring studies and adaptive management practices and triggers are in place to assess and respond to changing conditions in areas within this SRMA, but not in the RMP. These have been identified in the management plan for the North Platte River SRMA.

Shirley Mountain SRMA

The Shirley Mountain SRMA will be retained and expanded.

National (and Other) Historic Trails (NHTs)

NSO, which is an oil and gas leasing term, is used to define historic trail corridors.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Under 1.4.2.2 Governor's Consistency Review 4.a "All WSAs (Adobe Town, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountain, Encampment River Canyon, and Ferris Mountain) (Map 2-6; Table 2-7) will be managed according to the Interim Management

Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress either designates each WSA as wilderness or releases it from consideration and the land reverts to multiple-use management.

D. Draft Recommendations

To (1) ensure the RMP remains adequate until the next RMP evaluation is completed (unless resource/resource uses conditions and other circumstances change) and (2) update or improve upon the BLM's implementation of the approved RMP, the following recommendations have been proposed for consideration by BLM managers and decision-makers:

Air Quality and Climate Change

Develop Goals Objectives and potential management actions in at minimum, a Maintenance Action.

Cultural Resources

We need an amendment(s) establishing appropriate protection zones around appropriate cultural and archaeological sites using the existing data and SHPO coordination. There are several archaeological districts that need management plans.

Fire and Fuels

The RMP should be maintained or amended to provide appropriate objectives and management actions for use of unplanned ignitions and hazardous fuel treatments. The RMP should identify specific management actions for areas where Wildland fire for resource benefit will be used.

Fluid Minerals

City Drinking Water Sources RMP amendment. [an amendment considering changes to the fluid minerals allocations.](#)
Forestry

Appendix 19 needs updated to remedy acreage caps, probable sale quantity, and to follow old growth designations in EO 14072. Non-forest commercial harvest, seed collection, sage collecting, pine straw, etc. should be considered and included in the RMP, tiering to State Office Guidance.

Lands and Realty

Several amendments are recommended.

- Energy Corridor Amendment: Consider updating the Renewable Energy Coordination Office section with designated Energy Corridors.
- Communication site Amendment: locations need designated within the RMP.
- Lands for Disposal Amendment: descriptions need updated.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Management direction for WSAs, should they be released from wilderness consideration by Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act of 2023, will be evaluated through the planning process which may result in the following future RMP amendments:

- Encampment River Canyon Wilderness Amendment
- Prospect Mountain Wilderness Amendment
- Bennett Mountains Special Management Area Amendment

Black Cat Special Management Area was omitted from discussions of lands with wilderness characteristics (see also Sec. C. "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" and "Wilderness Study Areas"). Black Cat SMA, Encampment River Wilderness, Prospect Mountain Wilderness, and Bennett Mountains Special Management Area are included in S.1348 "To redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, for other purposes"

Livestock Grazing Management

The ID Team identified numerous instances where specific terms should be updated if there were a revision.

Minerals

Review and update reasonably foreseeable development scenarios (RFDs).

Native American Concerns and Coordination --

Develop Cultural Resource Management Plans and ACECs or Traditional Cultural Landscapes for tribal sacred/respected places that do not qualify as archaeological resources as defined under the National Historic Preservation Act. There also should be a Tribal Consultation and Coordination Amendment that updates Native American Concerns and Coordination processes.

Off Highway Vehicle Use and Travel Management Areas

Travel Management Plans need developed. Travel management designations need reduced to open/closed/limited. Further defining of "limited" should be completed in an EA-level document, likely a Travel Management Plan, tiering off the RMP. A road/trail map needs to be created for the Rawlins Field Office.

Paleontological Resources –

Complete a maintenance action to update the RMP with the PFYC data and maps prepared in 2020.

Recreation

There are several RMP revisions required for recreation management.

- Revise the RMP to be consistent with current national BLM planning designations. Designations would include a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and/or a Back Country Area (BCA). This will be corrected in the next RMP.
- A 1-mile buffer corridor should be considered to allow future expansion and development of developed and undeveloped recreation sites.
- The Adobe Town Dispersed Recreation Use Area will be a priority for reclamation after oil and gas development ceases. Special recreation permits will not be issued for prairie dog hunting or coyote hunting contests in the Adobe Town DRUA.
- Recreation Site Characteristics (RSC) will no longer be a Land Use Plan level decision.
- Airstrips need to be identified and properly managed with SRPs.

Reclamation

Appendix 36 needs updated to modify the topsoil pile management and the reclamation plan to include a monitoring standard. We need to add to the RMP limited reclamation potential discussion and definition, and elements found in the policy related to waste management, ground water/sub surface integrity, geomorphic stability. Details on hydrology need added.

Renewable (Wind, Solar, hydro, geothermal)

At the time the RMP is revised, the BLM may consider alternatives that include identification of Designated Leasing Areas (DLAs), per 43 CFR 2802.11. A RMP revision should consider addressing wind development avoidance areas adjacent to WSA's, SRMA's, RMA's, Trails, and Recreation Sites as mentioned in the RMP.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EJ)

Address Executive Order's 12898, 13985, 13990, and 14008 as well as "Presidential Memorandum Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships January 26, 2021. Update policies on Environmental Justice and define ways to identify and consider EJ populations within the planning area when implementing the RMP goals and objectives.

Soils

Contact the NRCS to explore coordination and funding for an Order 3 soil survey in portions of Sweetwater County.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

Updated mapping is needed for existing and proposed ACEC'S and amendments. We also need to create and map more extensive exclusion areas for VRM, cultural, sage-grouse core, and future designations such as migration corridors.

Update the wording in the RMP to meet the following:

- **Identify the VR goal**, such as
 - VIS-GOAL-01. Protect the natural physiographic character of the land, the natural aesthetics, and scenic vistas that are considered a social, economic, and environmental asset.
- **Identify VR objectives**, such as
 - VIS-OBJ-01. Maintain the allowable levels of change to the natural forms, lines, colors and textures of the land's and allowable levels of human noticeability in accordance with VRM classes.
- **Identify VR management direction**, such as
 - VIS-MA-01. Manage all WSAs under VRM Class I objectives to support BLM Manual 6330 - Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas guidance to retain a natural landscape. If a WSA is designated at wilderness, the area would continue to be managed as VRM Class I. Exceptions: (Case-by-case exceptions for valid rights and grandfathered uses; (2) If the WSA is released by Congress.
 - VIS-MA-02. Manage the area around the following NSHT as VRM Class [I, II, III] to protect contributing scenic landscape elements to support BLM Manual 6280....
 - call out specific Trail or Trail segment by VRM Class. If possible, name any land features or vistas that are in the line-of-site to be protected as a contributing scenic element.
 - VIS-MA-03. VIS-MA-04. Manage all Wild and Scenic Rivers...
 - call out specific rivers. (already in RMP)
 - VIS-MA-04. Manage the ACECs in accordance with VRM Class I or II to preserve unique natural, geologic, or cultural features.
 - VIS-MA-05. Manage X area (see map) in accordance with VRM Class [I, II, III, IV]
 - list areas

List any visual best practices to achieve desired conditions. Include select best practices or identify BMP publications and say something like, "as applicable BMPs from..." [BLM TN 457](#) to protect natural dark environments; [Best Management Practices for Reducing Visual Impacts Renewable Energy Facilities on BLM Administered Lands](#); The [Gold Book](#)-Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development; etc.

Water Quality, Watersheds, and Soils Management

Discuss foreseeable beneficial uses in an RMP revision.

Wildlife, Fish, and Threatened/Endangered and Special Status Species

We need a **Migration Corridor Amendment**. In coordination with the Wyoming State Office and Wyoming Game and Fish Department, changes to the RMP are necessary to address the recently designated migration corridors.

The RMP should be revised to update exception request language to encompass more than oil and gas and include Utility-scale Renewable Energy Development.

The RMP should be revised to identify mitigation for bats, migratory birds, big game migration corridors, and other special status species regarding Renewable Energy projects.

Special Designations:

The RMP should designate from Seminole Reservoir to Alcova as a **National Scenic Backcountry Byway**. There should be a minimum 1-mile buffer on BLM surface managed lands to preserve the back country byway designation for future consideration as National Scenic Backcountry Byway.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Consider McCarty Canyon, North Platte Reservoirs, Flattop Mountain (including any habitat for Gibbens penstemon), Ferris Dunes (including the large dune field, grass-dominated wetland communities, and any habitat for the kangaroo rat), Ferris Mountain (including any habitat for Cedar Rim thistle north of the area) for designating as ACECs.

Blowout Penstemon ACEC

An RMP revision should address seed collection permits and remedy fire management goals and objectives conflicts.

TCPs

A revision of the RMP should include language for managing newly identified TCPs.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA

An RMP revision should impose a no surface occupancy of renewable energy corridor, of one mile.

North Platte River SRMA

Update the RMP to match the management plan.

Shirley Mountain SRMA

Update the RMP to impose a 1-mile buffer closed to energy development.

National (and Other) Historic Trails (NHTs)

Revise the language in the RMP to define more inclusive historic trail corridors as opposed to NSO.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Management direction for WSAs, should they be released from wilderness consideration by Congress, will be evaluated through the planning process which may result in a future RMP amendment.

III. Concurrence and Approval

Timothy Novotny
Field Manager (acting)
Rawlins Field Office

Date of Concurrence

District Manager
High Desert District Office

Date of Concurrence

Andrew Archuleta
State Director
Wyoming State Office

Date of Approval

Draft Evaluation Report – Attachment 1: Summary of RMP Implementation NEPA Analyses

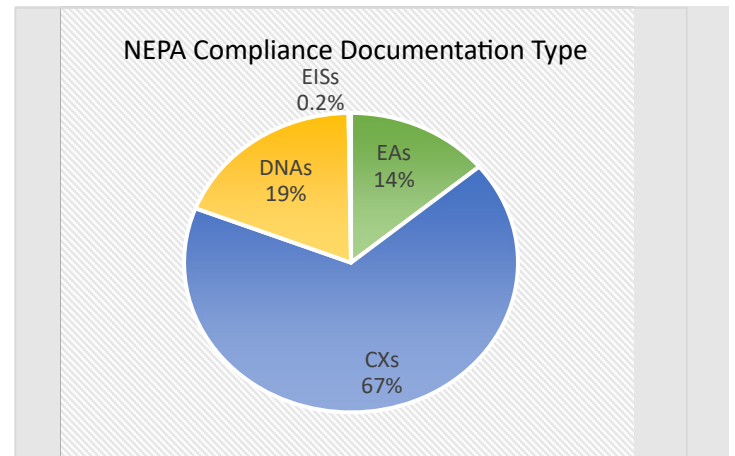
A. Summary of Recent RMP Implementation NEPA - Methodology

Using the Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE) reporting tools for BLM’s ePlanning database, summary statistics were calculated for all complete and available fiscal years (FY2016-FY2020), as of 01/25/2021.

B. NEPA Compliance Documentation Types

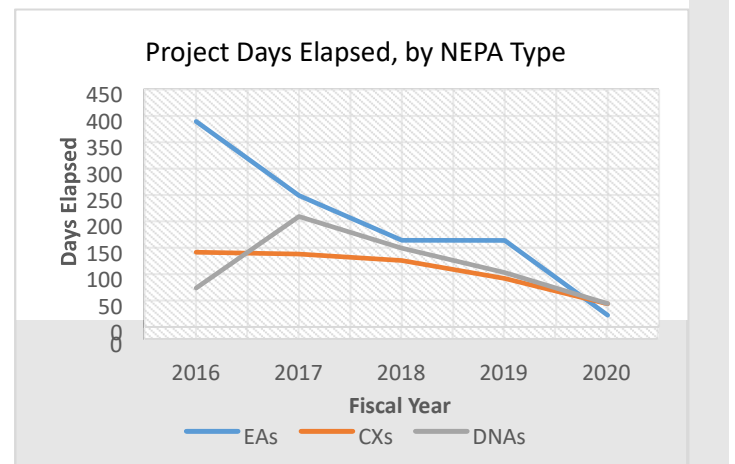
Projects by NEPA Compliance Documentation Type

Fiscal Year	EAs	CXs	DNAs	EISs
2016	42	94	31	1
2017	42	138	36	1
2018	10	219	39	0
2019	15	56	16	0
2020	7	51	35	0
Total	116	558	157	2



Average Project Time Elapsed by NEPA Type (Days)

Fiscal Year	EAs	CXs	DNAs	EISs
2016	389.4	141.6	73.6	1634.0
2017	249.2	138.2	209.3	925.0
2018	164.1	125.9	149.2	
2019	163.9	91.8	103.1	
2020	22.3	43.7	44.2	
Average	197.8	108.2	115.9	1279.5



C. Project Status

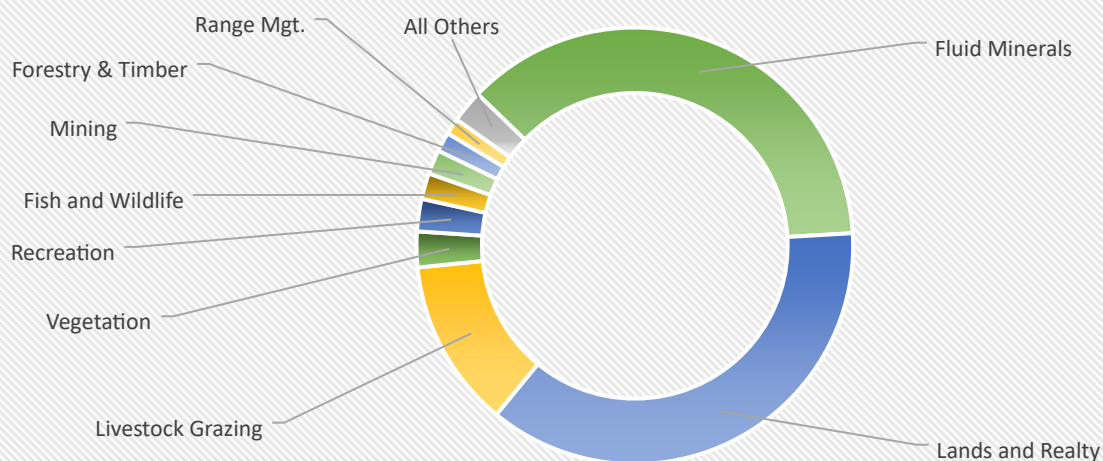
<i>Project Status</i>								
Fiscal Year	Analysis & Document Preparation	Closed	Completed	Completed and Monitoring	Decision and Appeal	Paused	Preparation and Planning	Withdrawn
2016	0	0	145	0	0	1	1	21
2017	0	0	188	0	0	0	2	27
2018	0	0	247	0	0	1	0	20
2019	4	0	79	0	0	0	0	4
2020	17	0	74	0	0	1	0	1
Total	21	0	733	0	0	3	3	73
%	3%	0%	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%

D. RMP Implementation NEPA Type by Program Area

Fiscal Year	Fluid Minerals	Lands and Realty	Livestock Grazing	Vegetation	Recreation	Fish and Wildlife	Mining	Forestry & Timber	Range Mgt.	All Others†
2016	36	91	21	2	3	5	1	1	0	8
2017	60	90	33	13	7	3	1	1	0	9
2018	123	89	30	2	9	5	3	5	0	2
2019	45	24	8	2	1	1	4	1	0	1
2020	43	13	12	3	0	2	6	4	10	0
Total	307	307	104	22	20	16	15	12	10	20
%	37%	37%	12%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%

† “All Others” includes the program areas provided in ePlanning that each individually comprise <1% of RFO projects over the FY16-FY20 time period, including the Renewable Energy, Soil-Water-Air, Cultural, Wild Horses, Other, Riparian-Wetlands, and Fire program areas)

NEPA Compliance Documentation by Program Area



Average NEPA Time Elapsed by Program Area (Days)

Fiscal Year	Fluid Minerals	Lands and Realty	Livestock Grazing	Vegetation	Recreation	Fish and Wildlife	Mining	Forestry & Timber	Range Mgt.
2016	215.4	169.7	206.0	70.5	301.0	103.7		104.0	
2017	147.9	175.9	191.5	319.0	78.7	75.7	35.0	105.0	
2018	134.7	148.0	110.5	79.5	85.8	72.0	56.3	54.6	
2019	105.5	98.3	156.5	52.0	52.0	45.0	148.0	38.0	
2020	39.2	74.2	39.2	40.7		36.0	42.0	37.5	18.9
Average	128.5	133.2	140.7	112.3	129.4	66.5	70.3	67.8	18.9

E. Summary

For the five years of available data from ePlanning (which includes metrics regarding the quantities of documents prepared by program types and elapsed periods for completion, but cannot provide information about the quality of NEPA compliance documentation), several conclusions can be made:

1. The RFO typically issues between 7-20% of all BLM-Wyoming NEPA compliance documents, and 1.3-3.5% of all BLM-nationwide NEPA compliance documents.
2. The RFO prepares a large proportion, on average, of CXs (67%) when issuing RMP implementation decisions, with the remainder approximately split between DNAs (19%) and EAs (14%).
3. The time period elapsed for completing the NEPA compliance documentation has decreased over the last five fiscal years (the average time elapsed from FY16 to FY20 was -69% for CXs, -40% for DNAs and -94% for EAs).
4. Most NEPA compliance documentation in the RFO is prepared for Fluid Minerals projects (37%) and Lands and Realty projects (37%), followed by Livestock Grazing (12%).

Rawlins Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Draft Evaluation Report – Attachment 2: Interdisciplinary Team Members

Role	Individual
State Director	Andrew Archuleta
Associate State Director	Kristina Kirby
Deputy State Director (DSD) – Resource Policy and Management (WY930)	Jennifer Fleuret McConchie
Branch Chief for Planning, Social, and Cultural Resources (WY933)	James Halperin
Planning and Environmental Coordinator/Specialist (P&EC), WY933	Jennie Frankus
District Manager (DM)	Jason Gay
Resource Advisor – Biological Resources	
Resource Advisor - Energy	
Acting Field Manager (FM)	Timothy Novotny
Assistant Field Manager – Resources	
Assistant Field Manager – Minerals & Lands	Andrew Kauppila
Field Office (FO) LUP Evaluation Lead	Kirk Warrington
IDT-Air Resources	Ryan McCammon
IDT-Archaeological and Historical Resources	Wade Haakenson, Natasha Keibler, Buck Damone
IDT-Fire and Fuels	Rebecca Swenson/Chris Otto
IDT-Fluid Mineral Resources	Ray Ogle/Ryan Shively
IDT-Fisheries	Mitch Mischke
IDT-Forest Resources	Maureen Hartshorn
IDT-Geospatial Data	[vacant]
IDT-Hazardous Materials	Anne Haverhals
IDT-Abandon Mine Lands (AML)	Mitch Lane
IDT-Invasive, Nonnative Plant Species (INPS) and Pest Control	Michael Murry, Anna Collins
IDT-Lands and Realty	Todd Smith/ Carla Fiedor
IDT-Outdoor Recreation Resources	Timothy Novotny / Andy Williams
IDT-Paleontological Resources	Craig Thomas
IDT-Rangeland Resources	Cheryl Newberry, Michael Murry
IDT-Riparian and Wetland Communities	Jacob Stout
IDT-Socioeconomic Resources	Amy Stillings
IDT-Soil Resources	Ray Ogle/Ryan Shively
IDT-Solid Mineral Resources (including coal)	Mitch Lane
IDT-Special Designations and Other Management Areas	Timothy Novotny / Andy Williams
IDT-Transportation/Travel Management	Timothy Novotny / Andy Williams
IDT-Vegetation/Botany Resources	Frank Blomquist, Cheryl Newberry
IDT-Visual Resources	Timothy Novotny / Andy Williams / Wade Haakenson
IDT-Petroleum Engineer	Jerry Dickinson
IDT-Water Resources	Jacob Stout
IDT-Wildlife (including T&E/6840)	Mary Read
IDT-Wild Horses	Eddie Vandenburg
IDT-Wind, Solar, and Geothermal Energy	Janelle Wrigley / Carla Fiedor