



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE**

Buffalo Field Office

**Release Date:** 06/28/13**Contacts:** Lesley A. Elser  
307-261-7603**Buffalo Field Office Announces Availability of Draft RMP/EIS for Public Review**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office (BFO) announces the release of a draft resource management plan (RMP) and supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) for a 90 day public review. The Draft RMP/EIS were prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMP/EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft RMP/EIS in the Federal Register, scheduled for June 28.

Public meetings will be held in the afternoon at the following locations: Buffalo Aug. 5, Gillette Aug. 6, Sheridan Aug. 19, and Kaycee Aug. 20. Times will be announced at a later date. The BLM will announce meetings or hearings and any other public participation activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and the RMP revision web site:

[www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html). The Draft RMP/EIS is also available on the RMP revision website.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- BLM NEPA Web site: [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)
- Email: [BRMP\\_Rev\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:BRMP_Rev_WYMail@blm.gov);
- Fax: (307) 684-1122;
- Mail: Thomas Bills, Buffalo RMP, BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834; or
- By personal delivery to the Buffalo Field Office or at a BLM-hosted public meeting.

The planning area for the project includes Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties. The BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction. BLM-administered surface totals approximately 782 thousand acres, and federal mineral estate totals 4.8 million acres.

The revised RMP will replace the 1985 Buffalo RMP. The Draft RMP/EIS includes a series of management actions, within four management alternatives, designed to address management challenges and issues raised during scoping. These include, but are not limited to, energy development (coal, oil and gas, renewable energy, and uranium), wildlife habitat management including that of the Greater Sage-Grouse, livestock grazing, air quality, special management areas including areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), and travel management.

In accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b), there is a concurrent public comment period on proposed ACECs. There are no ACECs in the existing BFO land use plan (Alternative A) or proposed for designation in Alternative C. Alternative B proposes 8 ACECs while Alternative D proposes 3 ACECs.

BLM's preferred alternative is alternative D. While a preferred alternative has been identified, selection of the final plan has not been made. The final decision will be made only after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS.

For more information on the BFO RMP revision contact Thomas Bills at (307) 684-1133.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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