



CHAPTER 1
PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

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CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 Introduction and Background

This Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the future management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Casper Field Office. The administrative area is located in east central Wyoming and includes approximately 8.5-million acres of land in most of Natrona County, and all of Converse, Platte, and Goshen counties (Figure 1-1). The BLM's Lander Field Office administers public lands in the southwestern corner of Natrona County. Within the Casper administrative area, the BLM manages approximately 1.4-million acres of BLM-administered public land surface and 4.7-million acres of mineral estate. Current management follows the 1985 Platte River RMP (existing plan) (BLM 1985a). The existing plan has undergone more than 50 maintenance actions including updates and amendments. To reflect changes in administrative units, the revised plan is titled and referred to as the "Casper RMP." This Draft RMP/EIS is referred to as an EIS in this document.

**The Casper Field Office Administers
1,361,577 Surface Acres and 4,657,172 Acres
of Mineral Estate**

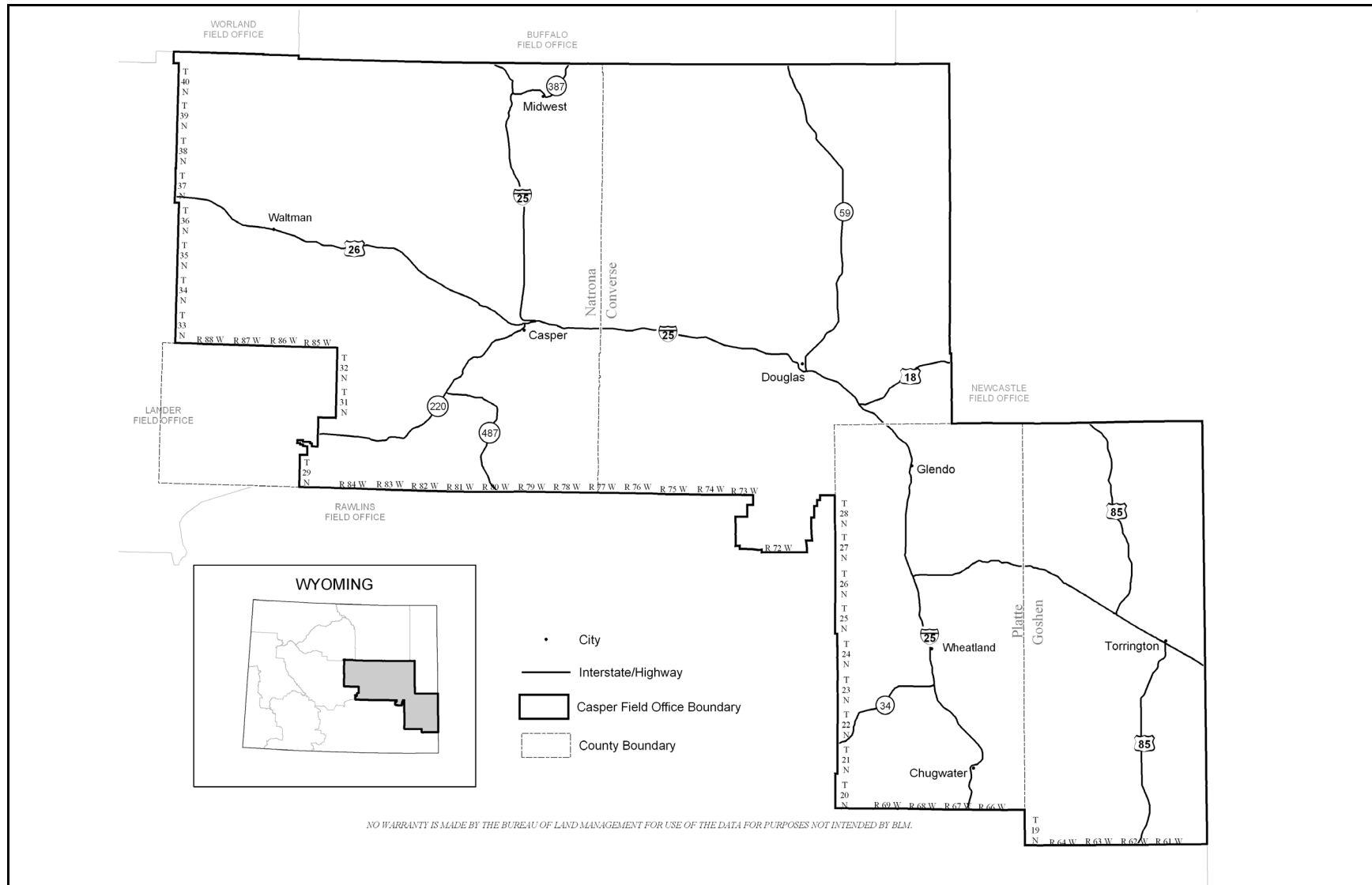
County	BLM Surface	BLM Mineral Estate
Natrona	1,124,485	2,362,582
Converse	129,947	1,619,626
Platte	81,965	422,602
Goshen	25,180	252,362

1.1.1 Historical Overview

In 1946, the U.S. Grazing Service merged with the General Land Office to form the BLM. The foundation for the BLM dates back to the Land Ordinance of 1785, which established the public domain and led to the creation of the General Land Office. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 instituted the survey and settlement of lands ceded from the 13 colonies to the federal government and lands later acquired by the government from other countries. While the Nation's westward expansion progressed and the land base expanded, the settlement of western lands was encouraged through the enactment of a variety of laws, including the Homestead acts and the Mining Law of 1872. Over time, the luring of pioneers to settle the west became less necessary and the commercial value of these lands increased. A variety of statutes established to manage mineral, timber, or livestock foraging activities on public lands followed. For example, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 allowed leasing, exploration, and production of selected commodities, such as coal, oil, gas, and sodium, on public lands. Another example is the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, which provided for management of the public rangelands.

After passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), BLM-administered lands were managed according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Since 1976, the BLM has managed for multiple use and to balance increasing and competing demands for resources on public lands.

Figure 1-1. Casper Field Office Planning Area



1.1.2 Land Ownership Within the Casper Field Office Planning Area

As defined by FLPMA, "... public lands means any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management..." The U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) BLM Casper Field Office is responsible for managing most public lands in Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte counties, Wyoming. County governments have land use planning responsibility for the private lands located within their jurisdictions.

Except for Natrona County, most of the BLM-administered surface land in the planning area is in scattered tracts intermingled with state and private lands. Throughout the planning area, there are also intermingled mineral ownerships, as well as federal minerals under privately owned surface, usually referred to as split-estate land. The scattered surface land pattern and varied mineral ownerships, along with split-estate lands, strongly impact management options. Appendix A provides details regarding split-estate lands and the BLM's administrative responsibilities for managing the federal minerals. Tables 1-1 and 1-2 contain summaries of the surface and mineral ownership and administrative relationships for the planning area. The approved RMP will not include planning and management decisions for (1) lands or minerals privately owned or owned by the State of Wyoming or local governments or (2) lands and minerals administered by other federal agencies (see Maps 1 and 2 in Volume 2).

Table 1-1. Acreage of Surface Land Within each Jurisdiction of the Casper Planning Area

Agency	Converse County	Goshen County	Natrona County	Platte County	Total
Bureau of Land Management	129,947	25,180	1,124,485	81,965	1,361,577
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	158	282	7,034	10,604	18,078
Department of Defense	0	0	9,323	30,722	40,045
National Park Service	0	795	0	0	795
State of Wyoming	255,709	88,051	363,916	130,482	838,158
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	0	0	7,458	0	7,458
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service	174,073	0	5,521	1,172	180,766
Other federal agencies	0	81	0	0	81
Other (water and private lands)	2,103,619	1,313,003	1,499,025	1,094,398	6,010,045
Bankhead Jones Act (USDA)	64,344	0	0	0	64,344
Total	2,727,850	1,427,392	3,016,762	1,349,343	8,521,347

Source: BLM 2005a

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Table 1-2. Acreage of Subsurface Mineral Ownership Within each Jurisdiction of the Casper Planning Area

Agency	Mineral Ownership				
	Converse County	Goshen County	Natrona County	Platte County	Total
Bureau of Land Management	1,619,626	252,362	2,362,582	422,602	4,657,172
Other (state, federal, and private)	1,108,224	1,175,030	654,180	926,741	3,864,175
Total	2,727,850	1,427,392	3,016,762	1,349,343	8,521,347

Source: BLM 2005a

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Resource Management Plan Revision

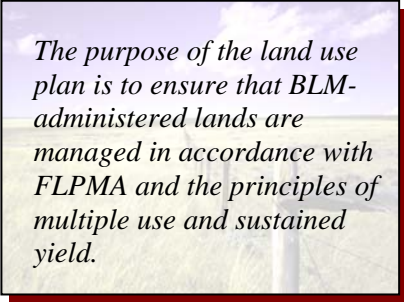
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulation [CFR] 1502.13) require the purpose and need of an EIS to “briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action.” The purpose and need section of this EIS provides a context and framework for establishing and evaluating the reasonable range of alternatives described in Chapter 2.

1.2.1 Purpose

Section 102 of the FLPMA sets forth the policy for periodically projecting the present and future use of public lands and their resources using the land use planning process. Sections 201 and 202 of the FLPMA establish the BLM’s land use planning requirements. BLM Handbook H-1601-1, *Land Use Planning Handbook*, provides guidance for implementing the BLM land use planning requirements established by Sections 201 and 202 of the FLPMA and the regulations in 43 CFR 1600 (BLM 2005b).

The purpose, or goal, of the land use plan is to ensure BLM-administered lands are managed in accordance with the FLPMA and the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The purpose of revising the existing plan is to address the growing needs of the planning area and to select a management strategy that best achieves a combination of the following:

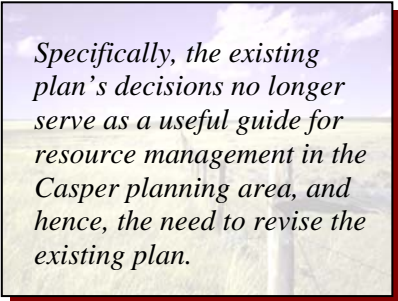
- Employ a community-based planning approach to collaborate with federal, state, and local cooperating agencies
- Establish goals and objectives (desired outcomes) for management of resources and resource uses within the approximately 1.4-million surface acres and 4.7-million acres of federal mineral estate administered by the BLM Casper Field Office in accordance with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield
- Identify land use plan decisions to guide future land-management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions
- Identify management actions and allowable uses anticipated to achieve the established goals and objectives and reach desired outcomes
- Provide comprehensive management direction by making land use decisions for all appropriate resources and resource uses administered by the BLM Casper Field Office
- Provide for compliance with applicable tribal, federal, and state laws, standards, implementation plans, and BLM policies and regulations
- Recognize the Nation’s needs for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber, and incorporate requirements of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Reauthorization of 2000
- Retain flexibility to adapt to new and emerging issues and opportunities and to provide for adjustments to decisions over time based on new information and monitoring
- Strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies and consistent with federal law, regulations, and BLM policy.



The purpose of the land use plan is to ensure that BLM-administered lands are managed in accordance with FLPMA and the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

1.2.2 Need for Revising the Existing Plan

BLM identified the need, or requirement, to revise the existing plan through a formal evaluation of the existing plan (BLM 2000a), consideration of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA) (BLM 2005c), examination of issues identified during the public scoping process and through collaboration with cooperating local, state, and federal agencies. In the 20 years since the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed (July 1985) for the existing plan, new data have become available, new policies have been established, and old policies have been revised. This, along with emerging issues and changing circumstances, resulted in the need to revise the existing plan. In addition, the existing plan's decisions no longer serve as a useful guide for resource management in the Casper planning area. For example, the EPCA Reauthorization of 2000, coupled with the Nation's growing demand for domestic energy, resulted in different priorities than were foreseen when the existing plan was established in 1985. These and other select examples of new data, new and revised policies, and emerging issues and changing circumstances demonstrate the need to revise the existing plan.



Specifically, the existing plan's decisions no longer serve as a useful guide for resource management in the Casper planning area, and hence, the need to revise the existing plan.

New Data

Monitoring, availability of new information, and advances in science and technology provide new data to consider in the revision of the existing plan. Select new data can be found in the following documents and sources:

- BLM Assessing the Potential for Renewable Energy on Public Lands (BLM 2003e)
- BLM Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2001a)
- BLM Evaluation of the Platte River RMP (BLM 2000a)
- BLM Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report (BLM 2004c)
- BLM MSA (BLM 2005c)
- BLM Wyoming Statewide Biological Assessments for Species Regulated by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (published between 2004 and 2005)
- Cultural Class I Regional Overview (BLM 2004g)
- Designation of Critical Habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and Colorado Butterfly Plant (USFWS 2003c; USFWS 2003c)
- EPCA Scientific Inventory of Onshore Federal Lands Oil and Gas Resources and Reserves and the Extent and Nature of Restrictions or Impediments to their Development (USDI 2003)
- Preliminary Final Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario for Oil and Gas, Casper Field Office (BLM 2005f)
- Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States (BLM 2005h)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Draft EIS Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (USBR and USFWS 2003)
- Visual Resource Inventory (BLM 2004h)

- Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (Wyoming Sage Grouse Working Group 2003) and Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitats (Connelly et al. 2004).

New and Revised Policies

Numerous policies either have been revised or developed since the ROD for the existing plan was signed in 1985. Some of the more important and relevant policy changes since 1985 to consider when revising the existing plan include the following:

- BLM National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use on Public Lands (BLM 2001b)
- BLM Instruction Memoranda (IM), including, but not limited to
 - Washington Office IM-2002-034 – Guidance on Fire Management, Prescribed Fire, and National Fire Plan (BLM 2002a)
 - Washington Office IM-2002-196 – Additional Guidance on Right-of-Way Management in Land Use Planning (BLM 2002b)
 - Washington Office IM-2003-137 – Guidance on Integrating the Energy Policy Conservation Act Inventories into Land Use Planning (BLM 2003a)
 - Washington Office IM-2005-024 – National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (BLM 2005i)
 - Washington Office IM-2006-073 – Weed-Free Seed Use on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM 2006d)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (USCS 2005)
- EPCA Reauthorization of 2000 (EPCA 2000)
- Executive Orders
 - Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
 - Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)
 - Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)
 - Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Birds)
- Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005b)
- Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (USC 2003)
- Manual H-8410-1, BLM Visual Resource Inventory, Section V. Visual Resource Classes and Objectives (BLM 2003h)
- National Fire Plan (USFS 2000)
- Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the BLM in the State of Wyoming (BLM 1998b)
- Wyoming Weed and Pest Control Act Designated List of Designated Noxious Weeds and Declared List of Weeds and Pests (Wyoming Weed and Pest Council 2005a and 2005b)
- Wyoming Weed Management Strategic Plan (Wyoming State Weed Team 2003).

Emerging Issues and Changing Circumstances

Emerging issues and changes in local, regional, and national circumstances to consider when revising the existing plan include the following:

- Increasing and conflicting demands on the planning area's resources and resource uses
- Increasing complexity of resource management issues
- Increasing energy prices and interest in energy exploration and development
- Changes in the legal status of plants and wildlife potentially occurring in the planning area
- Growing Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas and fire management
- Changes in the National Historic Trail (NHT) setting related to adjacent development
- Urbanization of rural areas and the WUI
- Addressing habitat fragmentation given BLM's requirement for multiple use management and sustained yield
- Trespass on private lands and public access to public lands
- Spread of invasive nonnative plant species (INPS) on public lands
- Increasing use of OHV use on public lands.

The BLM uses a nine-step planning process when developing and revising RMPs.

1.3 Planning Process

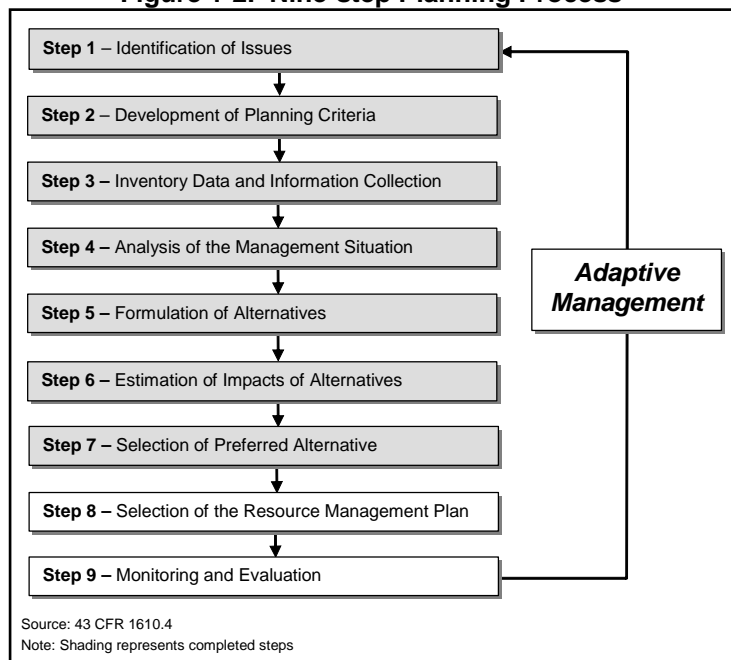
Revision of an existing plan is a major federal action for the BLM. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, requires federal agencies to prepare an EIS for major federal actions; thus, this EIS accompanies the revision of the existing plan. This EIS analyzes the impacts of five alternative RMPs for the planning area, including the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative reflects current management (the existing plan). NEPA requires analysis of a No Action Alternative.

1.3.1 Nine-Step Planning Process

The BLM uses a nine-step planning process (see Figure 1-2) when developing and revising RMPs as required by 43 CFR 1600 and planning program guidance in the BLM Handbook H-1601-1, *Land Use Planning Handbook* (BLM 2005b). The planning process is designed to help the BLM identify the uses of BLM-administered lands desired by the public and to consider these uses to the extent they are consistent with the laws established by Congress and the policies of the executive branch of the federal government.

As depicted in Figure 1-2, the planning process is issue-driven (Step 1). The BLM utilized the public scoping process to identify planning issues to direct (drive) the revision of the existing plan (see Appendix C). The scoping

Figure 1-2. Nine-step Planning Process




process also was used to introduce the public to preliminary planning criteria, which set limits to the scope of the RMP revision (Step 2).

As appropriate, the BLM collected data to address planning issues and to fill data gaps identified during public scoping (Step 3). Using these data, the planning issues, and the planning criteria, the BLM conducted an MSA (Step 4) to describe current management and to identify management opportunities for addressing the planning issues. Current management reflects both management under the existing plan and management that would continue through selection of the No Action Alternative.

Results of the first four steps of the planning process clarified the purpose and need and identified key planning issues that need to be addressed by the RMP revision. Key planning issues reflect the focus of the RMP revision and are described in more detail in the Planning Issues section.

During alternative formulation (Step 5), the BLM collaborated with cooperating agencies to identify goals and objectives (desired outcomes) for resources and resource uses in the planning area. These desired outcomes addressed the key planning issues, were constrained by the planning criteria, and incorporated the management opportunities identified by the BLM.



The alternatives represent a reasonable range for managing resources and resource uses within the planning area.

The details of alternatives were filled in through the development of management actions and allowable uses anticipated to achieve the goals and objectives. The alternatives represent a reasonable range for managing resources and resource uses within the planning area. Chapter 2 of this document describes and summarizes the alternatives.

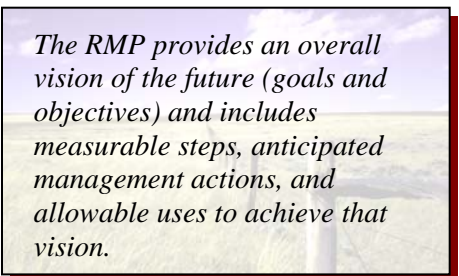
This EIS also includes an analysis of the impacts of each alternative in Chapter 4 (Step 6). With input from cooperating agencies and BLM specialists, and consideration of planning issues, planning criteria, and the impacts of alternatives, the BLM selected a Preferred Alternative from among alternatives A through D (Step 7). Alternative E (Preferred Alternative) is the fifth alternative and is analyzed in Chapter 4 of this EIS.

Step 8 of the land use planning process will occur following receipt and consideration of public comments on the Draft EIS. Step 9 occurs through implementation of the selected RMP.

1.3.2 Resource Management Plan Implementation

Planning and decisionmaking for the management of BLM-administered lands is a tiered, ongoing process. Documents produced during each successive tier are progressively more focused in scope and more detailed in terms of their identification of specific measures to be undertaken and impacts that may occur. The four tiers are described briefly below:

- The RMP provides an overall vision of the future (goals and objectives) and includes measurable steps, anticipated management actions, and allowable uses to achieve that vision.
- Upon approval of the RMP, subsequent implementation decisions are carried out by developing activity-level or project-specific plans.



The RMP provides an overall vision of the future (goals and objectives) and includes measurable steps, anticipated management actions, and allowable uses to achieve that vision.

- If an activity-level plan is developed, it usually describes multiple projects for a single resource program (e.g., habitat management plan) or multiple projects for multiple resource programs.
- If a project-specific plan is developed, it usually describes a single project or several related projects.

In general, a planning-level EIS is prepared at the RMP tier and a more detailed EIS or Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared at the implementation tier. The activity- or project-level plans reflect the management direction and vision articulated in the revised RMP. In most cases, these subsequent plans include additional public review and environmental compliance. Only the first of these tiers, the RMP, is involved in the present document. As a result, activity- and project-level plans are not considered further in this document.

The RMP provides basic program direction with the establishment of goals, objectives, and allowable uses. The RMP focuses on what resource conditions, uses, and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time. Since this involves consideration of natural processes with long-term timeframes, the RMP must take a long-term view.

1.4 Decision Framework

As described in the previous section, defining the planning issues and planning criteria represent the first steps in narrowing the scope of the RMP revision. The planning issues and planning criteria provide the framework in which RMP decisions are made. RMP decisions refer to what is established or determined by the final RMP. For example, the BLM received several nominations (issues) for ACEC during the scoping process for the RMP revision. These issues fall within one of the planning criteria (see Planning Criteria section), the need to identify and analyze areas potentially suitable for ACEC designation. The RMP revision will establish (decide) whether any ACEC will be designated within the planning area. In this example, the land use planning decision is referred to as *allowable use*. The RMP provides guidance for land use planning decisions in accordance with the following categories:

- Physical, biological, and heritage resources
- Resource uses and support
- Special designations.

In the context of these categories, the planning team develops management strategies aimed at providing viable options for addressing planning issues. The management strategies provide the building blocks from which general management scenarios and, eventually, the more detailed resource management alternatives, are developed. The resource management alternatives reflect a reasonable range of management options that fall within limits set by the planning criteria. The planning issues and planning criteria used to revise the existing plan are described in the following sections.

1.4.1 Planning Issues

The BLM conducted an early and open scoping process to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in this EIS. As part of the scoping process, the BLM solicited comments and issues from the public, organizations, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies, as well as from BLM specialists. The BLM's Land Use 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." (BLM 2005). Issues identified during the scoping and RMP revision process for this EIS comprise two categories:

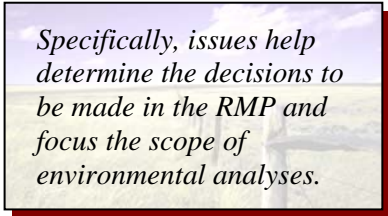
- Issues within the scope of the EIS and used to develop alternatives or otherwise addressed in the EIS

- Issues outside the scope of the EIS or that could require policy, regulatory, or administrative actions

Those planning issues determined to be within the scope of the EIS are used to develop one or more of the alternatives or are addressed in other parts of the EIS. For example, as planning issues were refined, the BLM collaborated with cooperating agencies to develop a reasonable range of alternatives designed to address and (or) resolve key planning issues such as what areas are suitable for energy and mineral resource development. A reasonable range of alternatives provides various scenarios for how BLM and cooperating agencies can address this and other key planning issues including the management of resources and resource uses in the planning area. In other words, key planning issues serve as the rational for alternative development. The key planning issues identified for developing alternatives in this EIS are listed below:

Energy and Mineral Resources

- What areas are suitable or not suitable for energy and mineral resource development?
- What level of development should be allowed in areas suitable for energy and mineral resource development?



Specifically, issues help determine the decisions to be made in the RMP and focus the scope of environmental analyses.

Vegetation and Habitat Management

- How should soil, water, and vegetation be managed to reduce fuel loads, achieve forest health and healthy rangelands while providing for livestock grazing and fish and wildlife habitat?
- How should special status species conservation strategies be applied given BLM's requirement for multiple use management and sustained yield? How will these strategies affect other public land resources?

Land Ownership Adjustments, Access and Transportation

- What land adjustments are necessary to improve access and management of public lands?
- How should travel be managed to provide access for recreation, commercial uses, and general enjoyment of the public lands while protecting cultural and natural resources?

Special Designations

- What areas, if any, contain unique or sensitive resources requiring special management?

In addition to key planning issues, other issues, themes, and positions were identified during the scoping process. Those issues determined to be outside the scope of the EIS or that could require policy, regulatory, or administrative actions to address were not used to develop alternatives and were not carried forward in this EIS. For example, issues that should be addressed by other agencies or by industry were considered out of scope for this EIS. Similarly, issues related to the conflicting rights of split estate could require policy, regulatory, or administrative actions and were not addressed in detail in this EIS.

Items that were considered but not carried forward for detailed study in the EIS because they were outside the scope of the RMP revision, could not be acted upon or did not require action, or because they required the BLM to exceed its authority, are summarized below:

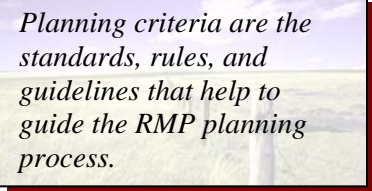
- BLM should consult, work, and coordinate with or otherwise recognize specific organizations, agencies, and (or) authorities.

- BLM should analyze impacts from specific actions or activities that will occur or be addressed during subsequent RMP implementation decisions.
- BLM should conduct site-specific analyses, inventories, or surveys, or adopt specific measures or mandates.
- BLM should adopt or otherwise ensure the RMP revision is compatible with specific regulations, policies, mandates, guidance, or plans, or integrate one or more of these items into the planning process.
- BLM should adopt or require site-specific stipulations, resource protection measures, or technologies.

For a detailed description of all issues identified during scoping, please refer to the Casper Field Office Final Scoping Report (BLM 2004b). The scoping report is available on the Casper RMP web site <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/>.

1.4.2 Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and guidelines that help to guide the RMP planning process. These criteria influence all aspects of the planning process, including inventory and data collection, development of issues to be addressed, formulation of alternatives, estimation of impacts, and selection of the Preferred Alternative. In conjunction with the planning issues, planning criteria ensure that the planning process is focused and incorporates appropriate analyses.



Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and guidelines that help to guide the RMP planning process.

Planning criteria are developed from appropriate laws, regulations, and policies. The criteria also help to guide the final plan selection and are used as a basis for evaluating the responsiveness of the planning options.

Planning criteria used in this RMP revision are as follows:

- The revised RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- Planning decisions will cover BLM-administered public lands, including split-estate lands where the subsurface minerals are severed from the surface right, and the BLM has legal jurisdiction over one or the other.
- The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to its planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties within the boundaries described by law and regulation.
- The environmental analysis will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values of resources and respond to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.
- The BLM will consider current scientific information, research, new technologies, and the results of resource assessments, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems.
- The Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands will apply to all activities and uses (BLM 1998b).
- The BLM will address socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice.

- The BLM will provide for public safety and welfare relative to fire, hazardous materials, and abandoned mine lands (AMLs).
- Visual resource management class designations will be analyzed and modified to reflect present conditions and future needs.
- The BLM will consider current and potential future uses of the public lands through the development of reasonable foreseeable future development and activity scenarios based on historical, existing, and projected levels of use.
- Planning decisions will include the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of cultural, historical, paleontological, and natural components of public land resources, while considering energy development and other surface-disturbing activities.
- The BLM will coordinate with tribes to identify sites, areas, and objects important to their cultural and religious heritages.
- Planning decisions will comply with the ESA and BLM interagency agreements with the USFWS.
- Areas potentially suitable for ACEC or other special management designations will be identified and, where appropriate, brought forward for analysis in the EIS.
- Waterway segments are classified and determinations of eligibility and suitability will be made in accordance with Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Appropriate management prescriptions for maintaining or enhancing the outstanding remarkable values and classifications of waterway segments meeting suitability factors will be part of the RMP revision.
- OHV use management decisions in the revised RMP will be consistent with the BLM's National OHV Strategy (BLM 2001b).
- Decisions in the revised RMP will comply as appropriate with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and guidance.
- Known areas in the planning area with coal development potential are located in northeastern Converse County. Coal screening determinations were made on these areas during planning efforts for the Buffalo RMP (BLM 2001a) and Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 2001). No additional coal-screening determinations or coal-planning decisions are anticipated for the Casper Field Office RMP, unless public submissions of coal resource information or surface resource issues indicate a need to update these determinations.

1.4.3 Relevant Statutes, Limitations, and Guidelines

Numerous federal and state laws and applicable regulations, policies, and actions could impact the alternatives analyzed in this EIS. The FLPMA is the primary authority for the BLM's management of public lands. This law provides the overarching policy by which public lands are managed and establishes provisions for land use planning, land acquisition, administration, range management, ROW, designated management areas, and the repeal of certain laws and statutes. The FLPMA also requires the BLM to provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic species. In addition, the BLM is integrating the results of EPCA Reauthorization of 2000 and Public Law (P.L.) 106-469 (discussed in Chapter 2) into all RMPs.

NEPA provides for public input regarding issue identification and consideration of the environmental impacts of major federal actions that impact the quality of the human environment. Additional laws, regulations, and policies guiding management of public lands are identified in Appendix B.

1.4.4 Other Related Plans

BLM planning policies require that the BLM review approved or adopted resource plans of other federal, state, local, and tribal governments and, where practicable, be consistent with those plans. Table 1-3 identifies plans that are related to the management of land and resources that apply to this RMP revision.

Table 1-3. Plans Related to the Management of Land and Resources that Apply to the Casper Resource Management Plan Revision

Related Plans	Related Plans
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 2003b)	General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Interpretive Prospectus for the Fort Laramie National Historic Site (BLM 1993)
Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 2001)	Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2001a)
Converse County Land Use Plan (Converse County Planning Commission 2003)	Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 1987)
Natrona County Land Use Plan (Natrona County Planning Commission 1998)	Newcastle Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2000b)
The Casper Mountain Land Use Plan (Worthington et al. 2004)	Rawlins Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2004f)
Goshen County Land Use Plan (Oblinger-Smith Corporation 1977)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pathfinder Interim Management Plan (USFWS 2004a)
Washakie Resource Management Plan (BLM 1988a)	

BLM Bureau of Land Management
 USFS U.S. Forest Service
 USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In addition, Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (designation of West-wide energy corridors) is being implemented through the current development of an interagency Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Final PEIS will provide plan amendment decisions that will address numerous energy corridor related issues, including the utilization of existing corridors (enhancements and upgrades), identification of new corridors, supply and demand considerations, and compatibility with other corridor and project planning efforts. It is likely that the identification of corridors in the PEIS will affect the Casper Planning Area, and the approved PEIS would subsequently amend the Casper RMP.

1.5 Consultation and Coordination

This section describes specific actions taken by BLM to consult and coordinate with tribes, government agencies, and interest groups; and to involve the interested general public during preparation of the EIS. A Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 2003, formally announced the intent of BLM to revise the existing plan and prepare the associated EIS. Publication of the NOI initiated the scoping process and invited participation of affected and interested agencies, organizations, and the general public in determining the scope and issues to be addressed by alternatives and analyses in the EIS. Additional detail regarding actions taken by BLM to involve the public and consult and coordinate with tribes, government agencies, and interest groups is provided in Appendix C.

1.5.1 Consultation and Coordination

This section documents the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by the BLM throughout the process of revising the RMP and developing the Draft EIS. Title II, Section 202, of the Federal Land

Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes, other federal departments, and agencies of the state and local governments as part of its land use planning process. The BLM is also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500.4-5). The BLM accomplished coordination with other agencies and consistency with other plans through on-going communications, meetings, and collaborative efforts with the ID Team, which includes BLM specialists and federal, state, and local agencies.

Cooperating Agencies

The Casper Field Office extended cooperating agency status to the State of Wyoming, Converse County, Natrona County, Platte County, Goshen County, various conservation districts, and tribal governments. The BLM invited these agencies to participate because they have jurisdiction by law or because they offer special expertise. A list of the cooperating agencies that have actively participated in cooperators' meetings leading up to the development of the RMP revision and Draft EIS include the following:

Local Governments

- Converse County Commissioners
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Platte County Commissioners
- Converse County Conservation District
- Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District
- North Platte Valley Conservation District
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Natrona County Conservation District

Federal Government

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- USDI National Park Service, Fort Laramie National Historic Landmark

State of Wyoming

- Wyoming State Planning Office
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources – State Historic Preservation Office
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources – State Trail Program
- Wyoming State Oil and Gas Commission
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

BLM formally invited the cooperating agencies to participate in the development of RMP alternatives and to provide existing data and other information relative to their agency responsibilities, goals, mandates, and expertise. Cooperating agencies provided input during the initial scoping process on issues of special expertise or legal jurisdiction. In addition, cooperating agencies participated in a series of alternative formulation workshops, reviewed draft information and documents, and met with BLM management and

resource specialists periodically throughout the revision process to discuss planning issues and provide input to the process. Table 1-4 lists these meetings and workshops.

Table 1-4. Meetings with Cooperating Agencies

Date	Location	Type of Meeting
September 25, 2003	Casper, Wyoming	Introduction to the BLM Planning Process (For Cooperating Agencies)
January 2004	Douglas, Wyoming	Consistency Review with USFWS
February 9-13, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #1: Alternative Formulation (All Cooperating Agencies)
March 1-5, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #2: Alternative Formulation (All Cooperating Agencies)
October 25-28, 2004	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #3: Cooperators' Review of the Preferred Alternative (All Cooperating Agencies)
April 7, 2005	Douglas, Wyoming	Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperating Agencies
May 2005	Casper, Wyoming	Alternatives Reformulation – Biological Resources WGFD
August 3-4, 2005	Casper, Wyoming	Workshop #4: Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperators on Reformulated Alternatives
May 18, 2006	Douglas, Wyoming	Field Manager's Meeting with Cooperating Agencies

BLM Bureau of Land Management
 USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 WGFD Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Section 7 Consultation

The Casper Field Office contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BLM sent a letter to the USFWS concerning Section 7 consultation presenting the approach for consultation and the process of Programmatic Species-Specific Section 7 Consultations on Wyoming BLM RMPs. The USFWS provided the following species lists to the Casper Field Office for evaluating BLM Section 7 responsibilities:

- List of Threatened and Endangered species in the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, dated March 18, 2004
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, and Designated Critical Habitat in Wyoming State, dated March 23, 2004.

Consultation letters between the USFWS and the Casper Field Office are located in Appendix C. The Casper Field Office will continue consultation with the USFWS through completion of the final biological assessment and final RMP.

Native American Interests

Consultation with Native American tribes is part of the NEPA scoping process and a requirement of FLPMA. The Casper Field Office took multiple steps to contact the tribes and include them in the scoping process. On October 23, 2003, the BLM sent letters to the following tribes inviting them to be a part of the planning process through consultation and public scoping meetings, as well as requesting information to be considered in the planning process:

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

- Comanche Tribes of Oklahoma
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe
- Crow Tribe
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Lakota Nation
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
- Ute Tribe

Following the scoping process, the BLM sent a letter to each of the above-listed tribes on August 6, 2004, requesting specific information in identifying areas of special concern for the tribes and presented the opportunity for meetings or field trips with representatives from the tribes. Representatives from the Casper Field Office followed up on these letters with telephone calls to each tribe. In letters and during the follow-up calls the BLM stressed the desire for the tribes to review and comment on the Draft EIS.

On January 31, 2005, the BLM sent letters to the tribes concerning the Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) located in the planning area. The letters informed the tribes on how the Preferred Alternative would impact the TCP and asked for any information or concerns that the tribes had concerning the TCP.

Members of the Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow tribes met with representatives from the Casper Field Office between February and March 2005, to discuss details of the RMP. After the meetings, the tribes received maps of the general locations of cultural and spiritual interest to the tribes, as well as an offer to meet again and take part in a tour of the planning area. On November 18, 2005, BLM sent letters to the above-listed tribes inviting them to become cooperating agencies in the preparation of the Caser RMP.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe was the only tribe that declined participation in consultation during the planning process. The other tribes expressed intent to participate in future steps during consultation. Native American consultation letters are in Appendix C.

1.5.2 Public Involvement

The BLM decisionmaking process is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the NEPA, CEQ regulations implementing NEPA, and the USDI and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory and policy framework require federal agencies involve the interested general public in their decisionmaking.

In accordance with CEQ scoping guidance, the BLM provided avenues for public involvement as an integral part of revising the RMP and preparing the EIS. CEQ scoping guidance defines scoping as the “process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated” (CEQ 1981). The scoping report, which summarizes issues identified during the scoping process, is available on the Casper RMP web site at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/casper>.

The intent of the scoping process is to provide opportunity for the general public tribes, other government agencies, and interest groups to scope the planning process and to identify planning issues to be addressed by alternatives or analysis in the EIS. In general, public involvement assists the agencies by the following:

- Broadening the information base for decisionmaking
- Informing the public about the Draft EIS and proposed RMP and the potential impacts associated with various management decisions
- Ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are brought to the attention of the agency.

Scoping Period

Publication of the NOI on June 20, 2003, initiated the scoping period and announced the BLM's intention to revise the Casper RMP and prepare a Draft EIS. Scoping for the RMP revision and Draft EIS took place from June 20, 2003, to November 20, 2003. BLM regulations require a 30-day scoping period; however, the Casper revision scoping period remained open for 5 months.

The BLM utilized the public scoping process to identify planning issues to direct (drive) the formulation of alternatives and to frame the scope of analysis in the EIS. The scoping process also was used to introduce the public to preliminary planning criteria, which set limits to the scope of the RMP revision. Approximately 45 comment letters were received during the scoping period. The scoping report provides a general summary of the issues found in these letters.

Scoping Notice

The BLM prepared a public scoping notice and mailed the notice to 1,104 federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and members of the general public on October 20, 2003. In the scoping notice, the BLM solicited written comments on the RMP revision process, issues, and impacts and invited the public to a series of four public scoping meetings held throughout the planning area. The scoping notice served to remind the public of the opportunity to view the Summary of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA), the project schedule, and other relevant project information on the Casper RMP revision web site. In addition, the scoping notice provided general information on the planning area, background information on the planning process, and dates and locations scheduled for the public scoping meetings.

Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings were held in Wheatland, Torrington, Douglas, and Casper, Wyoming, on November 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2003, respectively. BLM structured the meetings in an open-house format, with two formal presentations made by the Casper Field Office Manager during each meeting. Resource specialists and other representatives of the BLM were on hand to personally address questions and provide information to meeting participants. The BLM provided four fact sheets, an executive summary of the MSA, and a series of four display boards at each scoping meeting. The BLM encouraged attendees to comment using a variety of media, including written comment forms, flip charts, planning area maps, and a computer kiosk. Table 1-5 identifies the public scoping meetings.

Table 1-5. Public Involvement, Coordination, and Consultation Meetings (2003)

Date	Location	Type of Meeting
November 10, 2003	Wheatland, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 11, 2003	Torrington, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 12, 2003	Douglas, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting
November 13, 2003	Casper, Wyoming	Public Scoping Meeting

Opportunities to Comment

The BLM provided a variety of avenues through which the public could submit comments during the scoping period. These avenues are listed below:

- **Mail** – The NOI and the scoping notice invited interested parties to submit comments by mail to the Casper Field Office.
- **E-mail** – The NOI provided the following e-mail address for submitting comments electronically: crmpwymail@blm.gov.
- **Online** – The Casper RMP revision web site at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/ was launched on November 3, 2003. The web site provides history about the project, a project schedule, a document library, a mailing-list screen, and a comment screen. The public can enter their comments on the website and submit them electronically throughout the RMP revision process.
- **Telephone** – The scoping notice and all four fact sheets provided a phone number so interested parties could call and submit verbal comments.
- **In Person at the Scoping Meetings** – The BLM provided the public the opportunity to comment at all four public meetings. Comment methods included a computer kiosk, through which interested individuals could type in their comments; forms that could be filled out and submitted at the meetings or mailed in at a later date; and flip charts for expressing comments and concerns to share with BLM and other members of the public.

Mailing List

The mailing list for public scoping was initially developed from the Casper Field Office mailing list, but was updated throughout the planning process. The BLM encouraged scoping meeting participants to add their names to the mailing list. Some individuals added themselves to the project mailing list by registering on the project web site, as well as through personally contacting the BLM and requesting placement on the mailing list. Currently, the Casper Field Office mailing list includes 1,492 addresses.

Newsletters

Periodic newsletters are published to keep the public informed of the Casper RMP revision and Draft EIS planning process. The January 2004 newsletter provided background information on the project, including the purpose and need for updating the RMP and issues that the plan may address. The newsletter also extended an invitation to the public to be involved in the process, advertised the Casper RMP revision web site, and summarized public scoping comments.

The February 2005 newsletter described the development of the alternatives, the process of selecting a preferred alternative, announced the schedule of the Draft EIS, and offered avenues for public involvement. The third newsletter, distributed three weeks before release of the Draft EIS, announced the publication of the Draft EIS and provided details on how to provide comments.

Website

The Casper RMP revision and Draft EIS web site is located at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/casper>. The site serves as a virtual repository for documents related to the development of the RMP revision and Draft EIS, including announcements, bulletins, and draft and final documents. These documents are available in PDF format to ensure they are available to the widest range of interested parties. The web site gives the public the opportunity to submit comments and be added to the project mailing list.

Future Public Involvement

Public participation is ongoing throughout the planning process. Members of the public have the opportunity to comment on the content of the Draft EIS during the specified 90-day comment period. The Final EIS will consider all substantive oral and written comments received during the 90-day comment period. The Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued by the BLM after the release of the Final EIS, the Governor's Consistency Review, and a potential Protest Resolution.

Distribution List

A copy of the Draft EIS has been provided to the following governments, individuals, and institutions:

Tribal Governments

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe
- Crow Tribe
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Lakota Nation
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
- Ute Tribe

Local Governments (Counties, Cities, Towns)

Converse County, Wyoming

- Converse County Commissioners
- Converse County Conservation District
- Converse County Farm Bureau
- Douglas Chamber of Commerce

Natrona County, Wyoming

- Casper Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Casper Chamber of Commerce
- City of Casper
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Natrona County Conservation District

Platte County, Wyoming

- Platte County Commissioners
- Platte County Conservation District
- Wheatland Chamber of Commerce

Goshen County, Wyoming

- Goshen County Commissioners
- Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District
- North Platte Valley Conservation District
- South Goshen Conservation District
- Torrington Chamber of Commerce

State of Wyoming

- Senator Jim Anderson, Converse/Platte
- Senator John Barrasso, Natrona
- Senator Bill Hawks, Natrona
- Senator Kit Jennings, Natrona
- Senator Charles K. Scott, Natrona
- Senator Curt Meier, Goshen/Platte
- Representative James C. Hageman, Goshen/Platte
- Representative Ross Diercks, Converse/Goshen
- Representative Edward Buchanan, Goshen
- Senator Charles Townsend, East Converse/North East Goshen
- Representative Deborah Alden, Converse/Platte
- Representative Bob Brechtel, Natrona
- Representative Roy Cohee, Natrona
- Representative Dave Edwards, Converse
- Representative Gerald Gay, Natrona
- Representative Mary Meyer Gilmore, Natrona
- Representative Steve Harshman, Natrona
- Representative Thomas A. Lockhart, Natrona
- Representative Ann Robinson, Natrona
- Representative Tom Walsh, Natrona

Wyoming State Agencies

- Office of the Governor, Environmental Policy Division
- Wyoming Business Council
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 - Air Quality Division
 - Land Quality Division
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
 - State Museum
- Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Wyoming State Planning Office
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 - Casper Office
- Wyoming State Geologic Survey
- Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments
- Wyoming State Engineer's Office
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- Wyoming Department of Administration and Information
- Wyoming Federal Highway Administration
- Wyoming Department of Employment, Research, and Planning Division

Wyoming State Boards/Commissions

- Air Quality Advisory Board
- Board of Wildlife Commissioners
- Natural Gas Pipeline Authority
- Natural Gas Pipeline Authority
- Wyoming Agriculture Board
- Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
- Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
- Wyoming Land Quality Advisory Board
- Wyoming Livestock Board
- Wyoming Mining Council
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Wyoming Recreation Commission
- Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides
- Wyoming State Grazing Board
- Wyoming Trails Council

Associations/Councils

- Coalbed Methane Coordination Coalition
- Mormon Trails Association
- Oregon-California Trails Association
- Petroleum Association of Wyoming
- Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Wildlife Habitat Council
- Wyoming Association of Municipalities
- Wyoming County Commissioners Association
- Wyoming Mining Association
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
- Wyoming Outdoor Council
- Wyoming Sportsman's Association
- Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
- Wyoming Wilderness Association
- Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
- Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Clubs/Alliances/Societies/Groups

- American Wildlands
- Audubon Society
- Audubon Wyoming
- Back Country Horsemen of America
- Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
- Casper Dirt Riders
- Conservancy of the Phoenix
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
- Izaak Walton League
- Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
- Murie Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Pronghorn Foundation
- Outdoor Women of Wyoming
- Pathfinder Back Country Horsemen
- Platte River Parkway Trust
- Platte River Rod and Gun Club
- Public Lands Advocacy Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Sierra Club
- The Conservation Fund
- The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
- The Land Trust Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- The Wildlife Society
- Trout Unlimited
- Western Land Exchange Project
- Wyoming Fly Casters Association
- Wyoming Motorcycle Trails Association
- Wyoming Nature Conservancy
- Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Congressional Delegation

- U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
 - Washington, D.C., Casper, Cheyenne, Gillette
- U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
 - Washington, D.C., Cheyenne, Sheridan, Casper
- U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
 - Washington, D.C., Cheyenne, Casper

U.S. Department of the Interior Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - Washington, D.C., and Casper and Provo, Wyoming, offices
- Minerals Management Service
- National Park Service
 - Washington, D.C., and Denver, Colorado, offices
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- Natural Resources Library
- Office of Surface Mining
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; and Cheyenne, Wyoming, offices
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - Washington, D.C., and Cheyenne, Wyoming, offices

Other Federal Agencies

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service
 - » Big Horn National Forest
 - » Black Hills National Forest
 - » Bridger-Teton National Forest
 - » Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest
 - » Shoshone National Forest
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - » Casper and Baggs, Wyoming, offices
- Army Corp of Engineers
- Department of Energy
 - Western Area Power Area
 - » Loveland and Lakewood, Colorado, offices
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Government Printing Office
- National Weather Service

Other Governmental Agencies

- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- State of Colorado, Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Routt County Planning Director
- Platte River Power Authority

Bureau of Land Management

- Buffalo Field Office
- Cody Field Office
- Kemmerer Field Office
- Lander Field Office
- Newcastle Field Office
- Pinedale Field Office
- Rawlins Field Office
- Rock Springs Field Office
- Worland Field Office
- Wyoming State Office - Cheyenne
- Washington Office

Libraries

- Library of Congress
- University of Wyoming Library
- Converse County Public Library
- Goshen County Public Library
- Natrona County Public Library
- Casper College Library
- Eastern Wyoming College Library
- Platte County Public Library

Educational Institutions

- Eastern Wyoming University
- Casper College
- University of Wyoming
 - Trustees
 - Geology Museum
 - Department of Rangeland Ecology
 - Department of Geology and Geophysics
- Western Wyoming Community College
 - Archeological Services

Media

Cheyenne

- Cheyenne Newspaper
Wyoming State Tribune Eagle
- Cheyenne Radio
KRAE
KJJL
KFBC
KGAB
- Cheyenne TV
KGWN-TV5
KLWY
KKTU

Casper

- Casper Newspapers
Casper Star Tribune
Casper Journal
- Casper Radio
KASS
KQLT
LVOC
KMCD
KYOD
- Casper TV
KTWO
KWYF
KGWC
KCWY
KFNB

Douglas

- Douglas Newspaper
Douglas Budget
- Douglas Radio
KPTY

Glenrock

- Glenrock Newspaper
Glenrock Independent

Guernsey

- Guernsey Newspaper
Guernsey Gazette

Moorcroft

- Moorcroft Newspaper
Moorcroft Leader

Paonia, CO

- Paonia, CO Newspaper
High Country News

Torrington

- Torrington Newspaper
Torrington Telegram
- Torrington Radio
KGOS

Wheatland

- Wheatland Newspaper
Platte County Record Times
- Wheatland Radio
KYCN
KZEW

Statewide Newspapers

- *Wyoming Business Report*
- *Wyoming Livestock Roundup*

Statewide Radio

- Wyoming Public Radio
- Northern Broadcasting System
- KYCN

Wire Services

- Wyoming Associated Press

1.6 Topics Not Addressed in This Resource Management Plan Revision

Laws, regulations, policies, and executive orders require specific resource topics be examined during the NEPA process. In some instances, initial evaluation reveals topics that are not relevant to the planning area or do not require further analysis. Examples of these topics are listed below.

- Prime and Unique Farmlands—In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the BLM determined that no prime or unique farmlands or farmland of statewide or local importance occur on public lands in the planning area. None of the actions proposed in this RMP revision would disturb farmlands; therefore, impacts on prime and unique farmlands were not analyzed further in this RMP revision.

Topics Not Addressed in This Resource Management Plan Revision

- Wild Horses and Burros—Herd areas are limited to areas of the public lands identified as being habitat used by wild horses and burros at the time of passage of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. A horse area had been identified in the planning area at Deer Creek in Natrona County, but it was determined that the area was used only by privately owned, feral horses (BLM 1977). Wild horses and burros, therefore, were eliminated from further discussion in this RMP revision.