# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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October 20, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** John Ruhs, District Manager, High Desert District

**FROM:** Shane DeForest, Field Manager, Pinedale Field Office 10-20-10

**SUBJECT:** **Pinedale Anticline Project Area Record Of Decision Adaptive management Process**

As formalized in the Pinedale Anticline Record of Decision (ROD) (pages 18,19, & E1), the BLM will utilize an Adaptive Management approach in analyzing and, when needed, adapting or revising decisions, policies and processes used for delineation, development, managing and monitoring in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA). Although the overall concept for use of Adaptive Management is found in Appendix E of the Record of Decision, it does not provide a detailed process on how to adopt Adaptive Management recommendations.

A core concept of Adaptive Management is to give the BLM the ability to clarify and react to the dynamic nature of energy development and, in particular, to changes in the biological environment in a timely manner. Adaptive Management allows for changes in mitigation, monitoring or field operations when monitoring results or other indices suggest that a change is necessary or desirable. The PAPA ROD does not constrain the BLM from making any changes until an annual meeting. Adaptive Management is not intended as a method to revise the original intent and philosophy of the ROD.

The annual planning meeting sets the general framework, i.e., public involvement and discussion for the Adaptive Management process and satisfies another core concept of Adaptive Management; public consultation.

Some Adaptive Management decisions require immediate action, while others may be deferred until a regularly scheduled annual planning meeting. An example of a change that could be postponed until an annual meeting would be a change that would not have immediate ramifications to the biological resources of concern in the Pinedale Anticline area. An example of an Adaptive Management change which may require convening of a special meeting would be if a significant event or opportunity arises which requires immediate consideration and action. Holding to the original intent and philosophy of the ROD, proposed changes would be made after consultation with the PAWG, the operators, and the public and in consideration of their comments.

The following steps will be followed when proposing Adaptive Management changes:

1. When, due to changing conditions, new monitoring results, or the need for document revision occurs, Adaptive Management changes can be proposed to provide clarification to the ROD. The proposal will be formally written as a memo to the Pinedale Field Manager requesting an Adaptive Management clarification.

2. The Field Manager would convene a Review Team to review the proposal. The Review Team will be made up of PAPO, BLM and other agency staff specialists.

3. Any proposal adopted must be consistent both with the intent of and the processes laid out in the ROD. Proposals outside these parameters would need to have new NEPA analysis conducted before adoption could occur. Therefore, the Review Team will evaluate the proposal and determine if it is consistent with the intent of the ROD. During its review, the Review Team will also make a determination as to whether or not the proposed change requires immediate attention or if it can be deferred until the next planning meeting and whether or not additional NEPA compliance would be necessary to implement the change. This deliberation would be documented in a memorandum from the Review Team to the Field Manager.

4. Two fundamental concepts of the Adaptive Management process are timely reaction and public coordination/consultation. After review, should the proposal be judged to have merit by the Field Manager, it will be posted to the JIO/PAPO and Field Office website for public comment for at least 14 days and forwarded to the Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) for their review, which will also be at least 14 days. The proposal will also be sent to the PAPO Board of Directors for their information and review; however, a decision by the Board is not necessary for Adaptive Management changes.

5. After the receipt of public and PAWG comments, discussions will be held with the operators. Comments received from the public, PAWG, and operators will be considered by the Review Team.

6. The Review Team will prepare a recommendation and forward it to the Field Manager who will accept or deny the proposal.

7. The record of the Adaptive Management process including the original proposal, Review Team deliberations, public, operator and PAWG comments, and Field Manager Decision will be documented to the file and released to the public. Decisions adopting proposed changes will be considered formal amendments to the Final Record of Decision.

The proposal submission and review process laid out here is considered consistent with the ROD. Given the complexities of the Adaptive Management process, future adjustments to this outline may be made. Changes to this process could be considered at annual planning meetings.