

JACK MORROW HILLS COORDINATED ACTIVITY PLAN

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Public Open House Information

March 12 & 13, 2003

Rock Springs and Lander, Wyoming



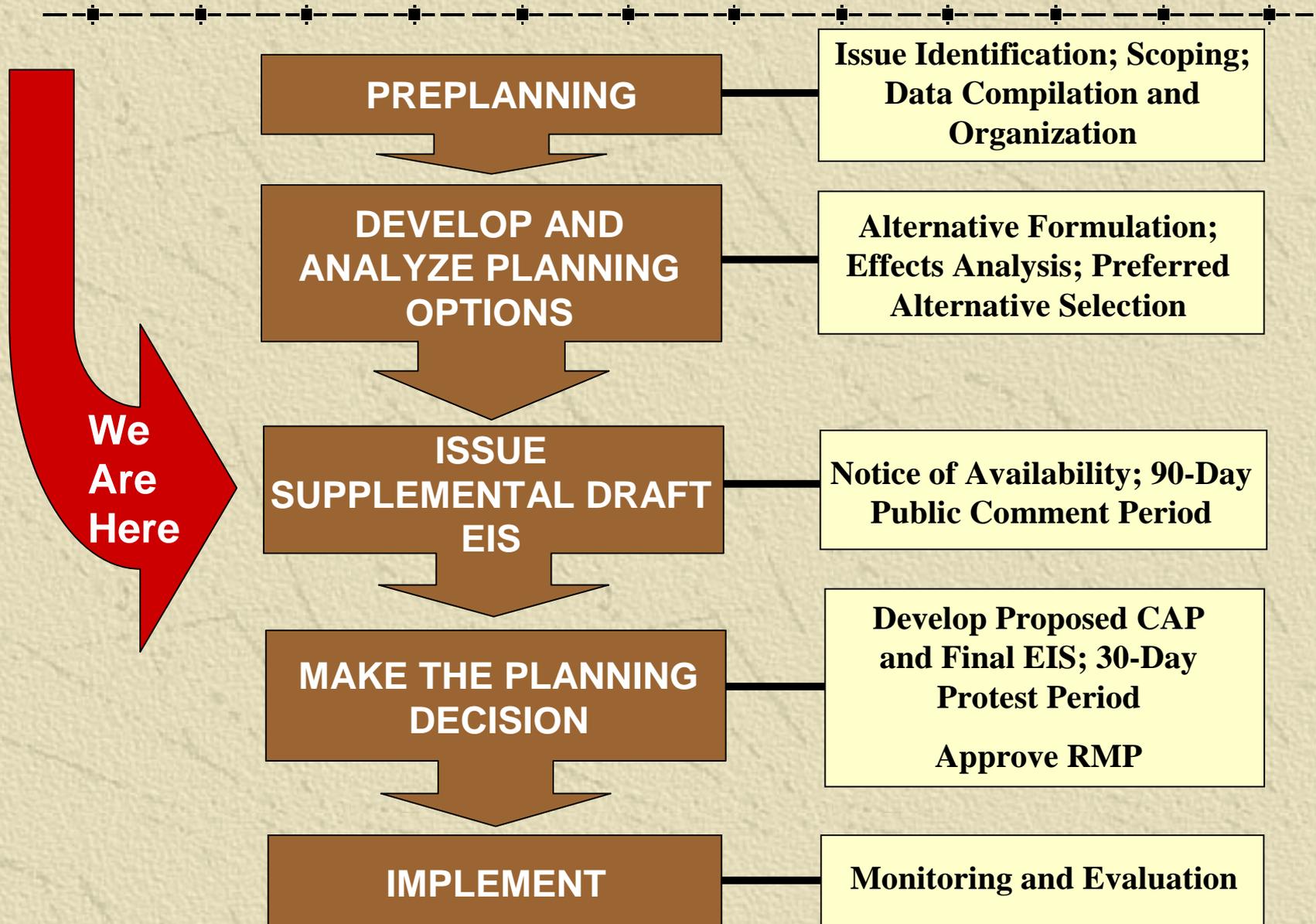
**Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office**

Purpose

To provide information regarding:

- ✦ NEPA/Planning Process
- ✦ Alternatives contained within the Jack Morrow Hills (JMH) supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- ✦ Impacts of those alternatives on land and resource uses
- ✦ Supplemental draft EIS comment period

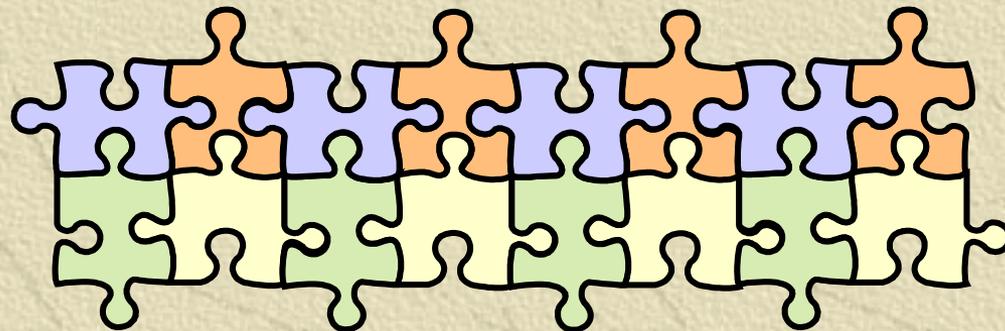
NEPA / Planning Process



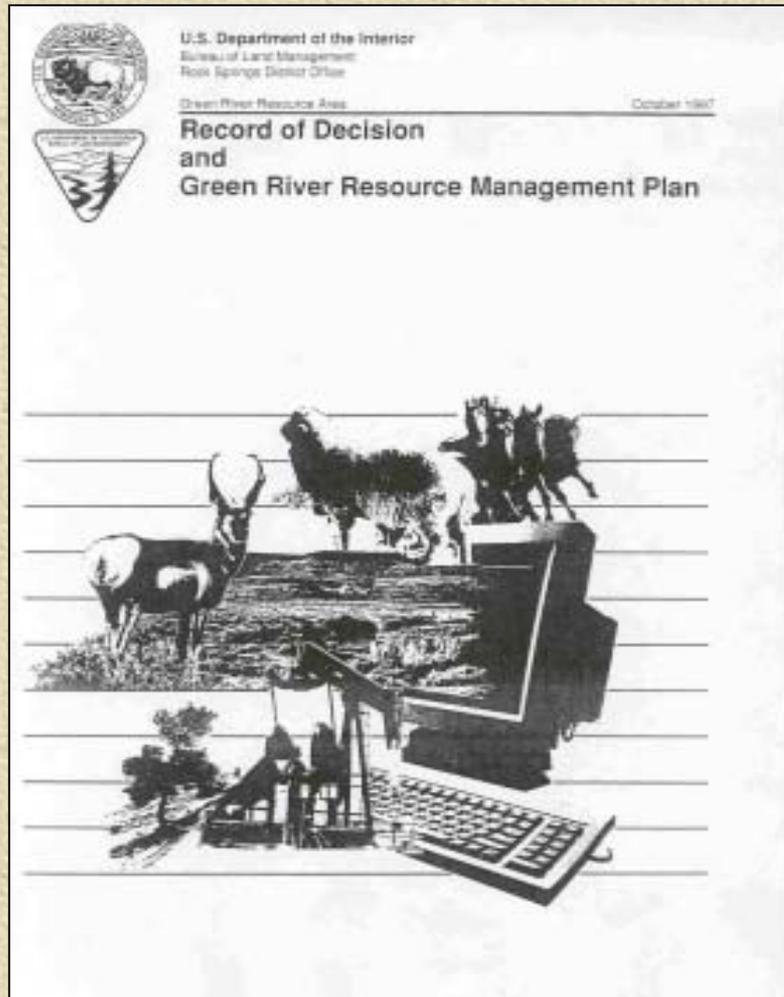
NEPA / Planning Process



Where Have We Been?



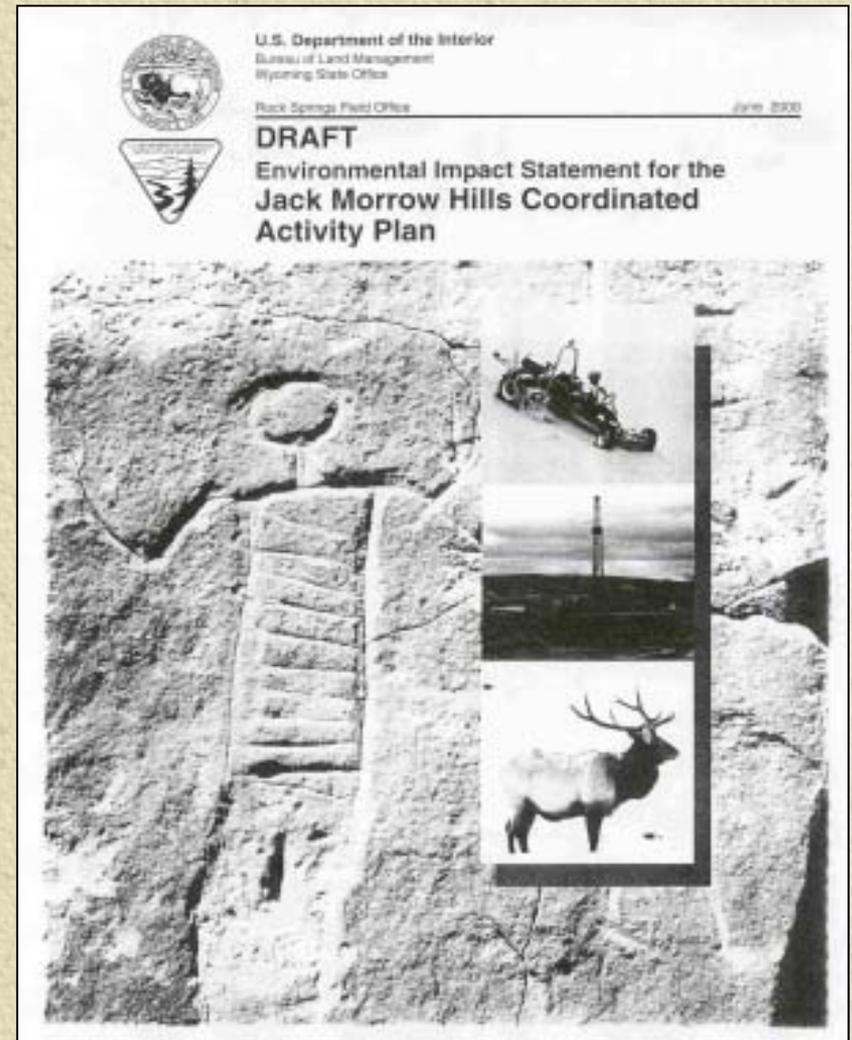
Background



- ✦ Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) completed in 1997
- ✦ The Green River RMP determined:
 - ◆ Mineral management decisions deferred from “Core Area”
 - ◆ Planning area, referred to as Jack Morrow Hills, would cover more than 600,000 acres to address resource and land use inter-relationships and cumulative impacts
 - ◆ Management of public lands and resources to be addressed in the JMH Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP)

Background

- ✦ Draft Environmental Impact Statement published in 2000
 - ◆ Identified new resource information
 - ◆ Raised significant public concern
- ✦ Prepare a comprehensive supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for full public review and comment



Information Meetings and Scoping

- ✦ December 6, 2001 – Notice of Intent to prepare a supplemental draft EIS
- ✦ December 11 & 13, 2001 - Public information open houses
- ✦ December 18, 2001 - Public scoping notice
- ✦ January 8 & 9, 2002 - Public scoping meetings
- ✦ January 11, 2002 – Public scoping period ends

Review and Consider Public Input

Overall Scoping Issues

- ✦ Maintain the multiple-use directive of the BLM
- ✦ Consider impacts of restrictions on development activities
- ✦ Use scientifically-based strategies that can be realistically implemented and properly monitored by BLM staff
- ✦ Allow for development to sustain the local economy
- ✦ Respect the existing lifestyles of the area
- ✦ Protect the unique and sensitive resources of the JMH planning area

Review and Consider Public Input

Cooperating Agency Involvement

- ✿ Have special expertise or have legal jurisdiction for resources or lands in the project area
- ✿ Assist in the preparation of the EIS by providing special expertise, information, staff support, and/or data
- ✿ BLM Wyoming State Director granted Cooperating Agency Status to the State of Wyoming, Fremont County, and Sweetwater County. Sublette County and the three local conservation districts participated under the State of Wyoming Cooperating Agency umbrella memorandum of understanding

Develop Management Alternatives

What Are Alternatives and Their Purpose?

- ✦ Each alternative is a Coordinated Activity Plan
- ✦ Meet requirements of NEPA to consider a full range of alternatives
- ✦ Provide a basis for analyzing the comparative impacts of alternatives
- ✦ Respond to scoping issues and planning criteria
- ✦ Reflect current resource data and guidance

Develop Management Alternatives

Supplemental DEIS Alternatives Presentation

- ✦ Incorporate public comments on the 2000 DEIS
- ✦ Eliminate redundancies where possible
- ✦ Provide clearer illustration and comparison of alternatives
- ✦ Develop Coordinated Activity Plan management category objectives
- ✦ Define “across-the-board” management actions for each management category
- ✦ Include cross-references as necessary

Develop Management Alternatives

Management Categories

- Land and Water Resources
- Heritage Resources
- Travel Management, Access,
and Realty
- Recreation Resources
- Minerals and Alternative
Energy Resources
- Visual Resources
- Special Management Areas
- Air Resources



Develop Management Alternatives

Range of Alternatives

✦ **No Action Alternative**

- ◆ Continuation of existing management

✦ **Alternative 1**

- ◆ Focus on development and intensive management
- ◆ Least emphasis on sensitive resource protection

✦ **Alternative 2**

- ◆ Reduces opportunities for development
- ◆ Greatest emphasis on sensitive resource protection

✦ **Alternative 3**

- ◆ Provides opportunities for development while protecting sensitive resources

Develop Management Alternatives

Public Input

- ✦ April 9 & 10, 2002 – Preliminary draft alternative meetings held in Rock Springs and Lander, Wyoming
- ✦ 30-day public comment period on preliminary draft alternatives
- ✦ Input reviewed and considered by BLM and Cooperating Agencies

Analyze Impacts of Alternatives

- ✿ Develop assumptions and significance criteria for each management category
- ✿ Develop impact analysis for the No Action Alternative as baseline for analysis of other alternatives
- ✿ Determine the type of impact (direct, indirect, or cumulative) resulting from management under each alternative
- ✿ Determine whether impact is beneficial or adverse (undesirable)
- ✿ Determine whether adverse impacts are significant
- ✿ Identify mitigation measures which may offset or eliminate adverse impacts

Develop Preferred Alternative

- ✿ Developed after preliminary CAP alternatives formulation and analysis
- ✿ Identified BLM's preference of the best mix and balance of land and resource multiple uses and management for the BLM-administered public lands in the planning area
- ✿ Utilized management actions derived from the other CAP alternatives analyzed in detail and, where necessary, developed management actions unique to the Preferred Alternative
- ✿ Conducted impact analysis consistent with process for analysis of other alternatives

Develop Preferred Alternative

Summary

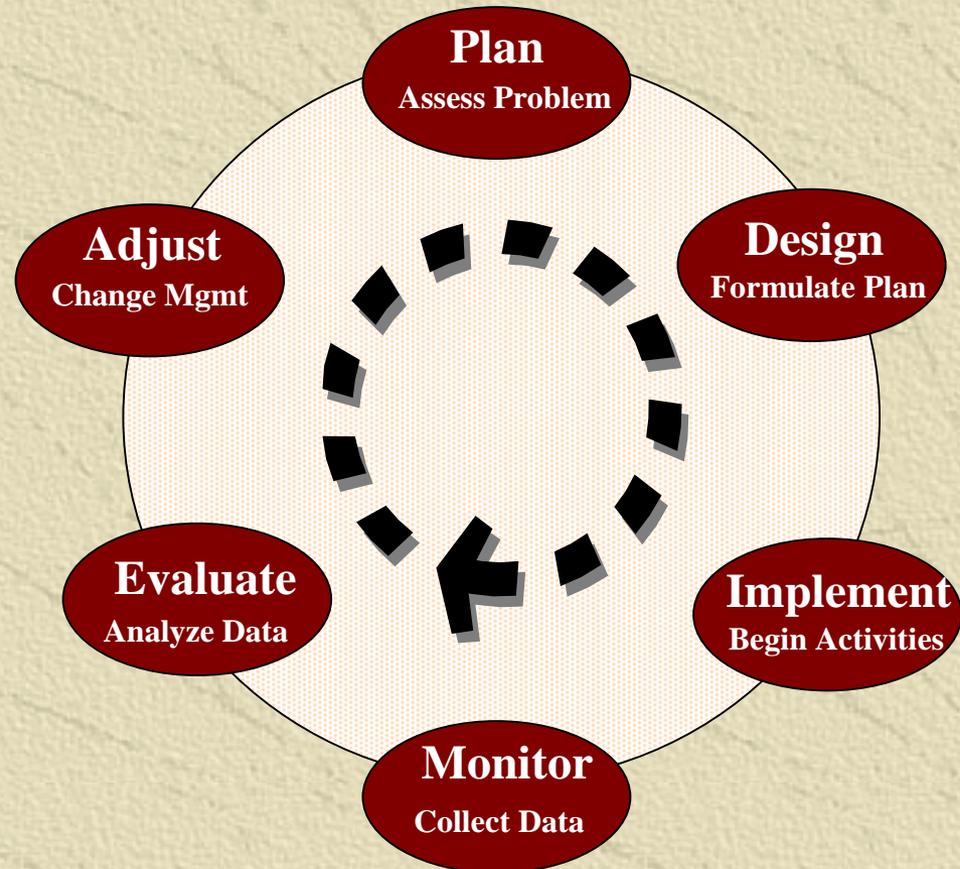
- ✦ Generally composed of a complementary culmination of appropriate elements from each of the other alternatives, but also contains management actions unique to the Preferred Alternative
- ✦ Provides opportunities for use and development within the planning area while ensuring resource protection through timing and sequencing of events
- ✦ Establishes the West Sand Dunes Archeological District special management area
- ✦ Applies use of an adaptive management strategy applicable to all land and resource programs

Develop Preferred Alternative

Adaptive Management

Definition: a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of actions over time

Process



Develop Preferred Alternative

Adaptive Management Approach

- ✦ Surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be allowed to occur in portions of the planning area
- ✦ Initial selection of portions of the planning area to remove or hold suspensions on existing mineral leases would take into consideration factors affecting the planning area such as current industry interest and wildlife migration
- ✦ Identification of future areas for allowing surface disturbing and disruptive activities would be made by monitoring the implementation of management actions for specific resource indicators and public participation.
- ✦ BLM would also accept proposed actions for the entire planning area to evaluate on a case-by-case basis

Develop Preferred Alternative

Adaptive Management Resource Indicators

- ✦ Elk Distribution
- ✦ Elk Numbers (total and cow/calf ratio)
- ✦ Mule Deer Distribution
- ✦ Mule Deer Numbers (total and doe/fawn ratio)
- ✦ Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Use (Presence/Absence)
- ✦ Standards for Healthy Rangelands
- ✦ Roads and Trails Creation
- ✦ Road Density
- ✦ Changes in Stability of Dunes
- ✦ Disruptive Activity and Surface Disturbance
- ✦ Recreation Use (Survey, Traffic Counts)

Develop Preferred Alternative

Adaptive Management Steps to Complete for Implementation

- ✦ Clarify and finalize list of resource indicators based on public comment
- ✦ Develop specific monitoring plans for each resource indicator
- ✦ Determine methods by which supportive information for resource indicators will be collected
- ✦ Develop decision tree for adaptive management based on resource indicator results
- ✦ Identify the sequence of areas to remove existing mineral lease suspensions over time based on public comment and industry interest
- ✦ Develop public participation plan for the adaptive management strategy

Overall Management Alternatives

No Action

Continues management from Green River RMP.

Alternative 1 *Development*

Focuses on providing development and use opportunities, while providing required sensitive resource protection. Does not include expansion of ACECs or designate new WSAs.

Alternative 2 *Preservation*

Focuses on protection of sensitive resources, while providing for compatible development and use. One new WSA, one new ACEC, and three expanded ACECs.

Alternative 3 *Conservation*

Provides for development and use while placing a greater emphasis than Alternative 1 on other sensitive resource values. Employs adaptive management techniques to control development and mitigate impacts. One new WSA, one new ACEC, and three expanded ACECs.

Preferred Alternative

Provides development opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. Employs timing and sequencing of events through adaptive management based on sensitive resource indicators. Does not include expansion of ACECs or designate new WSAs.

Publish Supplemental Draft EIS for the JMH Coordinated Activity Plan

- ✿ February 21, 2003 - Notice of Availability of the Supplemental DEIS for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan
- ✿ February 22, 2003 – Public comment period begins
- ✿ Supplemental DEIS available on the BLM website, at local libraries, on CD, or hard copy

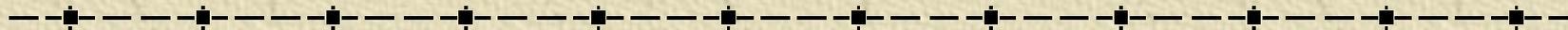
Public Comment Period



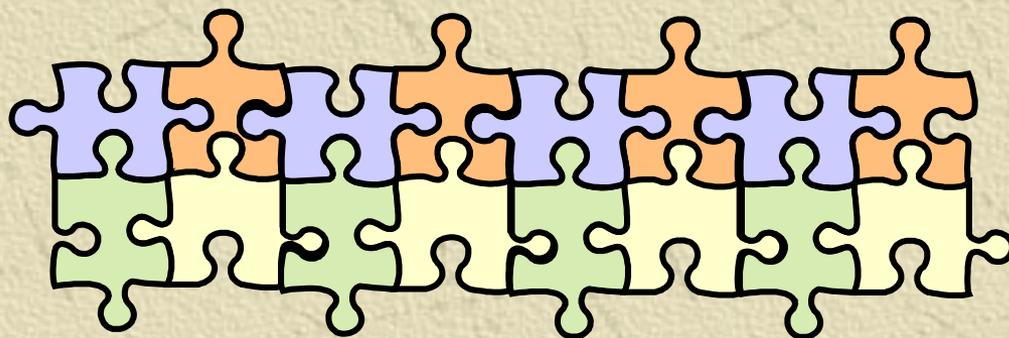
We are here

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- ✿ 90-day comment period: February 22, 2003 through May 23, 2003
 - ✿ Public hearings: April 9, 2003 in Rock Springs and April 10, 2003 in Lander
 - ✿ Public submits comments to BLM on the supplemental DEIS via website, email, or written comments

NEPA / Planning Process



Where Are We Going?



Steps Remaining in the Process

- ✦ Review and consider public input on supplemental Draft EIS
- ✦ Publish final EIS
- ✦ 30-day public protest period
- ✦ Resolve protest issues, as necessary
- ✦ Record of Decision announcing the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan
- ✦ Amend Green River Resource Management Plan, as necessary

Comments?



Submit on our website:

<http://www.wy.blm.gov/jmhcap>

Email us: wymail_jmhcap@blm.gov



Write us: JMH CAP Team Leader
BLM Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901-3447

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES MAY 23, 2003