Rawlins Field Office
April 2002

Revising the Plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Rawlins Field Office. The plan, currently known as the Great Divide Resource Management Plan, will be modified and renamed the "Rawlins Resource Management Plan." The plan will provide future direction for managing 3.5 million acres of BLM-administered public land and 4.5 million acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming.

The planning area includes the Rawlins BLM Field Office administration area in south central and southeastern Wyoming. All BLM planning decisions, however, will only apply to the BLM-administered public land and federal mineral estate within the Rawlins Field Office administrative area in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties.

Areas administered by other federal agencies within the planning area include the Medicine Bow National Forest; Pathfinder/Seminoe Reservoirs, administered by the Bureau of Reclamation; and two small wildlife refuges, administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The BLM land use plan decisions do not apply to these areas.

The Planning Approach

The BLM will use a collaborative community-based planning approach in order to update the management objectives, management actions, and resource allocation decisions in the RMP. The existing Great Divide Resource Management plan, which was finalized in 1990, needs to be modified due to new data, changing resource conditions, and changing uses of BLM-administered public lands and resources. In addition, a boom in mineral development activity necessitates revision to the plan.

Throughout the RMP modification process, local interest groups and residents will have opportunities to participate and share their insights and comments.

The Rawlins Resource Management Plan will address a wide variety of important issues, including:

- Development of Energy Resources & Minerals Related Issues
- Special Management Designations
- Resource Accessibility
- Wildland/Urban Interface
- Special Status Species Management
- Air & Water Quality
- Vegetation Management
- Recreation, Cultural Resources, & Paleontological Resources Management

Public Participation

A critical component of the Rawlins RMP planning effort is public involvement. Public input is very important in developing a RMP that will provide guidance and direction for management of the planning area.

This newsletter, and others that will follow, have been developed to keep you informed about the progress of the planning effort and upcoming involvement opportunities. The BLM encourages you to get involved. The official scoping period will begin in fall 2002. The BLM will mail notices informing the public about the times and places of the scoping meetings.

The Rawlins Field Office of the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management is modifying the Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP).

From scoping meetings to public workshops, bulletins, and newsletters like this one, BLM wants to keep you informed of the process.

For more information, contact:

John Spehar
Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407
(307) 328-4264
rawlins_wymail@blm.gov

Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301-2407