



Resource Management Plan

Rawlins Field Office

April 2002

Revising the Plan

RThe 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/Seminole 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.

