

email address, and affiliation (at the commentor's discretion).

**Shawn Carter,**

*Chief Scientist, National Climate Adaptation Science Center.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_ID\_FRN\_MO4500168909]

#### Opportunity To Comment on Changes to the Proposed Four Rivers Field Office Resource Management Plan, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of significant change.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is soliciting comments on clarifications and significant changes (collectively 'changes') to the Proposed Four Rivers Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released in February 2020. The environmental consequences of the proposed changes and clarifications have been analyzed as part of the RMP/EIS process. Following consideration of any comments on these changes, the BLM will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Four Rivers Field Office RMP.

**DATES:** Written comments on the changes to the proposed plan will be accepted June 7, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *e-planning:* <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1250/510>
- *Fax:* (208) 384-3326.
- *Mail:* BLM Four Rivers Field Office, Attn: Lonnie Huter, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lonnie Huter, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone: (208) 384-3300; address: BLM Four Rivers Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705; email: [Lhuter@blm.gov](mailto:Lhuter@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Mr. Huter. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make

international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft RMP and EIS on May 24, 2019, which initiated a 60-day public comment period. The EPA published the NOA for the Proposed RMP and Final EIS on February 14, 2020, which initiated a 30-day BLM protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review period. The BLM received eight protest letters. In response to new information and based on additional policy discussions, the BLM has determined that it will clarify and make changes to the proposed plan.

The clarifications and changes will include separating the fluid mineral allocation management action into two allocation management actions—one for oil and gas and one for geothermal. The allocation will identify additional 'closed' areas for oil and gas leasing and development. In addition, one fluid mineral management action regarding prioritization of mineral leasing within high potential areas will be added. There are also other minor clarifications and editorial corrections. This notice initiates a 30-day public comment period on the changes and clarifications (43 CFR 1610.2(e)).

These changes will reduce the potential for speculative oil and gas exploration in areas with low or no potential for oil and gas. The Proposed RMP/EIS contains a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) for oil and gas exploration, development, production, and reclamation activity. The RFDS provides the basis for the effects analysis described in the Draft and Proposed RMP. Since oil and gas development was projected to occur in high and moderate oil and gas potential areas, and since these areas retain the same allocation management action as in the Proposed RMP, the effects of the revised management actions are the same as those described within the effects analysis included in the Proposed RMP.

Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Further information regarding the changes can be found at [https://](https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1250/510)

[eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1250/510](https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1250/510).

(Authority: 43 CFR 1610.2.)

**Karen Kelleher,**

*BLM Idaho State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_HQ\_FRN\_MO# 4500169335]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan, Montana

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLMPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved RMP that is available for public review and comment.

**DATES:** This notice announces the opening of a 90-day comment period for the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS beginning with the date following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 90-day comment period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

The BLM will be holding two public meetings on the following dates at the following locations:

- June 6, 2023, at the Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. MT.
- June 7, 2023, virtual meeting from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. MT. Registration for meeting in the ePlanning project website (see **ADDRESSES**).

**ADDRESSES:** The Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS is

available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021155/510>.

Written comments related to the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS may only be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021155/510>

- Mail: Miles City Draft Supplemental EIS/RMP Amendment, Attn: Irma Nansel, Project Manager, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021155/510> and at the Miles City Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Irma Nansel, Project Manager, telephone 406-233-3653; or at the address BLM Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT, 59301; email [inansel@blm.gov](mailto:inansel@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Nansel. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document provides notice that the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director has prepared a Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS and provides information announcing the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS. The RMP amendment would change the existing 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved RMP.

The planning area is located in Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux, and portions of Big Horn and Valley Counties, Montana, and encompasses approximately 2.7 million surface acres and 11.7 million acres of Federal coal mineral estate of public land.

#### Purpose and Need

The purpose of this Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS is to address a United States District Court of Montana order (*Western Organization of Resource Councils, et al. v. BLM*; CV 00076-GF-BMM; 8/3/2022). The purpose and need of this Draft Supplemental EIS is to provide additional land use planning level

analysis that considers no-leasing and limited coal leasing alternatives; to disclose the public health impacts, both climate and non-climate, of burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas); and to complete new coal screens in accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-4 to determine the lands to be made available for further consideration for coal leasing in the planning area.

#### Alternatives Including the Preferred Alternatives

The BLM has analyzed four alternatives in detail, including the no action alternative, varying the amount of BLM-administered Federal coal available for further consideration for coal leasing.

The No Action Alternative is the decision from the 2019 Approved RMP Amendment and brings forward the decisions that preclude coal leasing and development in the Miles City Field Office. It identified approximately 1,214,380 acres of Federal coal as available for further consideration for coal leasing across the Miles City Field Office.

The Action alternatives applied the coal screens (43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)) using current data and evaluated the issues identified through internal and public scoping. Application of coal screen 1 (development potential) identified approximately 1,745,000 Federal coal acres as having development potential. The Action alternatives also address the NEPA deficiencies identified by the court order associated with the application of the multiple-use screen. Specifically, they apply a multiple-use climate change criterion that uses greenhouse gas emissions as a proxy for climate change. Reducing availability of Federal lands reduces contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from the development and combustion of Federal coal from the planning area.

Alternative B analyzes approximately 57,690 acres of Federal coal as available for further consideration for coal leasing. Alternative C analyzes approximately 810 acres of Federal coal as available for further consideration for coal leasing, and Alternative D analyzes 0 (zero) acres of Federal coal as available for further consideration for coal leasing. The BLM revised the coal reasonably foreseeable development scenario from the 2015 Miles City RMP using the most current publicly available coal production data to forecast development during the planning period, to 2038. The revised reasonably foreseeable development scenario was applied to all alternatives.

The BLM further considered one additional alternative but dismissed it

from detailed analysis, as explained in the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS.

Identifying a preferred alternative(s) does not indicate any final decision commitments from the BLM. In developing the final supplemental EIS and potential RMP amendment, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various components from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft Supplemental EIS. The Final Supplemental EIS and Potential RMP Amendment may also reflect changes and adjustments based on comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities.

The BLM used the impact analysis, along with recommendations from cooperating agencies; consideration of planning criteria; and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to identify Alternatives B and D as co-preferred alternatives from the suite of alternatives analyzed. Specifically, the identification of the co-preferred alternatives was based on the following.

- Two different alternatives have been identified as co-preferred alternatives for the purpose of public comment and review;
- Satisfaction of statutory requirements and the court order; and
- Provision of an acceptable approach to addressing key planning issues.

#### Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation consistent with the NEPA and land use planning processes, including a 30-day public protest period and a 60-day Governor's consistency review on the Proposed RMP Amendment. The Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS is anticipated to be available for public protest in September 2023 with an Approved RMP and Record of Decision in December 2023.

The date(s) and location(s) of any additional meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, the ePlanning project page (see **ADDRESSES**), and the BLM website (see **ADDRESSES**).

The BLM will continue to consult with Indian Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM MS 1780, and other Departmental policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2.)

**Sonya I. Germann,**  
State Director.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[BLM\_WY\_FRN\_MO4500169330]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2015 Buffalo Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan, Wyoming

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2015 Buffalo Field Office Approved RMP and by this notice is providing information announcing the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS.

**DATES:** This notice announces the opening of a 90-day comment period for the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS beginning with the date following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 90-day comment period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

The BLM will hold one in-person public meeting on May 31, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m. MT in Gillette, Wyoming, at the George Amos Building, 412 South Gillette Avenue, Gillette, Wyoming 82716. The BLM will also host one online public meeting on June 5, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m. MT.

**ADDRESSES:** The Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS is available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021239/510>.

Written comments related to the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021239/510>.
- **Email:** [BLM\\_WY\\_Buffalo\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_WY_Buffalo_WYMail@blm.gov).

- **Mail:** Buffalo RMP Amendment SEIS, Attn: Thomas Bills, Project Manager, BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021239/510> and at the Buffalo Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas Bills, Project Manager, telephone 307-684-1131; address BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834; email [tbills@blm.gov](mailto:tbills@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Mr. Bills. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document provides notice that the BLM Wyoming State Director has prepared a Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS and provides information announcing the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS. The RMP amendment provides additional analysis for land use planning in accordance with the Montana District Court's order and would change the existing 2015 Buffalo Field Office Approved RMP and 2019 Buffalo Field Office Approved RMP Amendment.

The Buffalo planning area is located in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties, Wyoming. The Coal Development Potential Area is located within Campbell County, Wyoming, and encompasses approximately 48 billion

short tons of recoverable BLM-administered Federal coal.

#### Purpose and Need

The purpose of this Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS is to address a United States District Court of Montana order (*Western Organization of Resource Councils, et al. v. BLM*; CV 00076-GF-BMM; 8/3/2022). In relation to land use planning, the BLM must prepare a Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS to address the following direction in the court order:

(1) complete new coal screening and NEPA analysis that considers no-leasing and limited coal leasing alternatives, and

(2) disclose the public health impacts, both climate and non-climate, of burning fossil fuels (coal and oil and gas) from the planning areas.

#### Alternatives Including the Preferred Alternatives

The BLM has analyzed three alternatives in detail, including the no action alternative, varying the amount of BLM-administered Federal coal authorized to be available for leasing. The alternatives are: (1) approximately 48.0 billion short tons of recoverable BLM-administered coal within the Coal Development Potential Area established in the 2019 RMP amendment/Final Supplemental EIS would be suitable for further consideration of leasing (No Action); (2) the Coal Development Potential Area would be unavailable for leasing (no leasing alternative); and (3) a reduced level of coal (1.24 billion short tons of recoverable BLM-administered coal) would be available for leasing within the Coal Development Potential Area.

The BLM considered three additional alternatives but dismissed these alternatives from detailed analysis as explained in the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS.

Identifying a preferred alternative(s) does not indicate any final decision commitments from the BLM. In developing the Final SEIS and Potential RMPA, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various components from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft SEIS. The Final SEIS and Potential RMPA may also reflect changes and adjustments based on comments received on the Draft SEIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities.

The BLM used the impact analysis, along with recommendations from cooperating agencies; consideration of planning criteria; and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to