

**DRAFT**

**Butte Resource  
Management Plan  
and  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**VOLUME I**

June 2007



Butte Field Office



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation; rangelands; timber; minerals; watershed; fish and wildlife; wilderness; air; and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

BLM/MT/PL-07/010+1610



# United States Department of the Interior



In Reply To:  
1610 (070)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Butte Field Office  
106 North Parkmont  
Butte, Montana 59701-3388  
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June 2007

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the Butte Field Office. The Draft RMP/EIS considers and analyzes four alternatives that address future management of approximately 302,000 acres of federal surface and 678,000 acres of federal mineral estate in southwest Montana administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Butte Field Office. Alternative B is identified as the agency's preferred alternative. While a preferred alternative has been identified, a final decision has not been made. The final decision, which will be documented in a Record of Decision, will be made after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS and after a Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been released. Additional copies of the document may be obtained by contacting the Butte Field Office or from the website at [http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte_field_office.html).

There are two volumes to the Draft RMP/EIS. Volume I includes an Executive Summary, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and a portion of Chapter 4. Volume I ends with discussion of environmental consequences of the RMP alternatives. Volume II begins in the middle of Chapter 4 with the discussion of environmental consequences of site-specific travel plan alternatives for five Travel Planning Areas. This is followed by Chapter 5, References Cited, Glossary, Index, and Appendices. There is also a packet of oversized maps with an envelope provided for storage.

Enclosed with the Draft RMP/EIS is a compact disk of "Supplemental Electronic Files". This disk contains a "Readme.txt" file and four folders: "Acrobat Reader", "AMS Figures", "Grazing Allotment Maps", and "Travel Plan Maps". The "Readme.txt" file contains guidance on the additional information contained on the disk and how to access it. The "Acrobat Reader" folder contains a version of Adobe Acrobat Reader that will enable you to view the maps in other folders.

You are invited to review and comment at this time on the Draft RMP/EIS to ensure that your concerns are adequately addressed in the planning process. The public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS is 90 calendar days from the publication date of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additional information on public meeting dates and times to discuss the plan and provide comment will be released via news media and on the website identified above after publication of the EPA notice. Written comments should be sent to Tim La Marr, Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701, or via email to [MT\\_Butte\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:MT_Butte_RMP@blm.gov). Comments will be fully considered and evaluated in the preparation of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, and all substantive comments will be addressed.

Comments will be most useful if they are specific, mention particular pages where appropriate, and address one or more of the following:

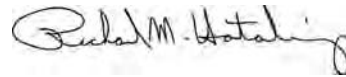
- Inaccuracies or discrepancies in information
- Identify new information that would have a bearing on the analysis
- Identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures
- Make specific suggestions for improving management direction

Comments, including name and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Butte Field Office during regular business hours between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. You may request confidentiality if you are commenting as an individual, but you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent

allowed by law. 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. Anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials or organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your help in this planning effort and look forward to your continued interest and participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Tim La Marr, RMP Project Manager, at (406)533-7645.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Hotaling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Richard M. Hotaling  
Butte Field Manager

**DRAFT**  
**BUTTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**AND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**BUTTE FIELD OFFICE**  
**BUTTE, MONTANA**

**JUNE 2007**

**DRAFT**  
**BUTTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**AND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

1. Responsible Agency:

United States Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Land Management

2. Draft (X)                      Final ( )

3. Type of Action: Administrative (X)                      Legislative ( )

4. Abstract: The Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement describes and analyzes four alternatives for managing the public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Butte Field Office and located in southwestern Montana in Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Silver Bow, Park, and Beaverhead Counties. These alternatives are: Alternative A (continuation of current management, or the No Action Alternatives); Alternative B (Preferred Alternative) and Alternatives C and D. Major RMP issues include vegetation communities; wildlife, wildlife habitat, special status and priority plant and animal species; travel management and access; recreation; and special designations including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness Study Areas. The alternatives present a range of management actions to achieve goals and desired future conditions for the Butte Field Office.

5. Comments on the Draft RMP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted for 90 days following publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register. The close of the comment period will be announced in news releases, newsletters, and on the RMP website at [www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/butte_field_office.html).

6. For further information, contact:

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