

**Wyoming BLM Land Use Planning & Projects
February 2009**

1. **3. Pinedale RMP Revision EIS.** The Pinedale RMP was completed in 1988. It covers 931,000 acres of public surface ownership and 1,185,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Main issues include oil and gas development and big game habitat. **NEPA Status: FEIS** released August 22, 2008 for 30 day review and protest period. **ROD** signed Nov. 26, 2008. *Federal Register* Notice of Availability of **ROD** January 8, 2009. **Contact: Kellie Roadifer, IDT Leader, Pinedale FO (307-367-5309).** Web site is: www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale
2. **4. Rawlins RMP Revision EIS.** The Great Divide (Rawlins) RMP was completed in November 1990. The RMP covers 3.5 million acres of public land surface ownership and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate. Specific issues addressed in the RMP include oil and gas development, coal leasing, livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat. **NEPA status: FEIS** released for 30 day review; protest period ended February 4, 2008. **ROD** signed December 24, 2008. *Federal Register* Notice of Availability pending. **Contact: John Spehar, IDT Leader, Rawlins FO (307-328-4264).** Web site is www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins
3. **17. Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision**
The Kemmerer Resource Management Plan was completed in 1986 and addressed 1.4 million acres of public land surface ownership and 1.6 million of federal mineral estate. **NEPA Status: DEIS** released July 13, 2007. The 90 day comment and review period ended on October 11, 2007. Proposed RMP/**FEIS** released August 22, 2008 for 30 day review and protest period. Protest period ended 22 Sept 2008; protests in resolution. **Contact: James Roberts, IDT Leader, Kemmerer, (307-828-4506).** Web site: www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer
4. **22. Seminoe Road Gas Development Project EIS**
This EIS addresses a proposal to drill and operate 1240 CBM wells over a 30-40 year project life span. The project area encompasses about 127,000 acres of federal, state and private lands in Carbon County. NOI published March 13, 2003. Preliminary issues are: water management, visual impacts and road development. Previously approved (EA/DR) activities include: an 18 well CBM pilot project and a 16" dia. gas transmission pipeline that would serve the proposed project area in 2002. **NEPA status: DEIS** issued November 25, 2005. 60 day public comment period began December 2, 2005. Public meeting held February 26, 2006. Comment period ended March 3, 2006. **FEIS** is preparation. This project has been put on hold by the proponent pending new proposed activities. **Contact: Dave Simons, IDT Leader, Rawlins (307-328-4328).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/seminoeroad.html
5. **50. Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance Project EIS.** Under the provisions of Public Law 106-485 the Secretary of the Department of the Interior has been directed to convey all right, title and interest (excluding the mineral interest) in a parcel of public land to the Westside Irrigation District. The parcel of land to be conveyed is approximately 16,500 acres and is located in Big Horn and Washakie Counties, Wyoming approximately 5 miles northwest of Worland, WY. **NEPA Status: DEIS** released for 45 day public review and comment period starting January 18, 2008 and ended March 3, 2008. **Contact: Andrew Tkach, IDT Leader, Worland FO (307- 347-5160).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/wfodocs/westside.html
6. **60. Continental Divide - Creston EIS.** Devon Energy Corporation representing themselves and other lease holders in the area has submitted a proposal to drill and develop up to 1,250 wells on an estimated 1,000 well pads. The proposal is within the same project area analyzed under the

184,000 acres in the Creston Blue Gap EIS 1994. The project area is a mix of federal, private and some state lands, and is located approximately 40 miles southwest of the city of Rawlins, WY. Operators in the Continental Divide/Wamsutter II area have submitted a proposal to drill and develop natural gas resources. The CD/W2 new proposal is adjacent to the CBG2. Projects have been combined due to proximity, similarity of proposed action, and timing. Project area is approx. 1.1 million acres with an estimated 8,950 wells proposed possibly including 500 CBNG wells. **NEPA Status:** NOI for CD-C was published in *Federal Register* March 3, 2006. **Contact: Eldon Allison, IDT Leader, Rawlins FO (307-328-4467).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/cd_creston.html

7. **61. Pinedale Anticline Oil & Gas Exploration and Development Supplemental EIS.** In response to requests for the BLM to consider year-round drilling activities in areas previously subject to timing lease stipulations in big game winter range, the BLM has initiated the preparation of a supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the Pinedale Anticline project area (PAPA) FEIS/ROD 2000. The FEIS is being supplemented in response to operators' requests to drill or complete or both natural gas wells in big game winter range. **NEPA Status: ROD** issued September 17, 2008. **Contact: Lauren McKeever, Pinedale FO (307-367-5352).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfodocs/anticline/seis.html. *This is the last time this project will appear in the Hot Sheet.*
8. **64. Moxa Arch Area Infill Gas Development Project EIS.** The operators in the Moxa Arch gas field have submitted a proposal to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource and extend the production life of the field. The operators estimate that approximately 1,860 new gas wells would be drilled within the project area over a 10 year period. The project area under consideration is approximately 476,300 acres of mixed federal, state and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties. **NEPA Status: NOI** published in *Federal Register* October 7, 2005. **DEIS** released October 12, 2007. General comment period was extended through January 10, 2008. Comments on air quality accepted until further notice. **Contact: James Roberts, IDT Leader, Kemmerer, (307-828-4506).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/kfodocs/moxa_arch.html
9. **65. Jones Draw Petroleum, LLC Underground Access Oil Recovery Project EA.** Proposed development of an underground access oil recovery facility in the Fales Creek drainage approximately 50 miles west of Casper in the Rattlesnake Mountains. The project area is 3,875 acres of which an estimated 35 to 40 acres would need to disturb the land surface. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated October 1, 2005, comment period ended November 1, 2005. Public meeting held October 18, 2005. **EA** is in preparation. State of Wyoming is a cooperating agency. **Contact: Patricia Karbs, IDT Leader, Casper FO (307-261-7612)** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/jones.html
10. **70. Fortification Creek Area EA Amendment to Buffalo RMP (formerly Plan of Development EAs.)** The Buffalo Field Office has announced its intentions to initiate the NEPA process and amend the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (1985, amended 2003) to develop additional management direction and objectives for the Fortification Creek area east of Buffalo, WY. Land use decisions currently in place need to be evaluated to determine whether those decisions are still relevant. BLM continues to receive requests for oil and gas exploration and development in the 100,000 acres Fortification Creek area, a mix of federal, state and private surface ownership. There has been interest expressed by the public for other uses. **NEPA Status: NOI** published in *Federal Register* August 20, 2007. **NOA of EA** with 60-day public comment period published in *Federal Register* August 8, 2008. **Contact: Tom Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo**

Field Office, (307-684-1133). Web site:

www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification_creek.html

11. **72. Hiawatha Field Project EIS.** Questar Exploration & Production Company and Wexpro Company propose to drill exploratory and development wells within existing natural gas fields in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The project area of approximately 157,335 acres is generally located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, WY. The proponents propose to drill up to 4,207 new conventional natural gas wells mainly within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado. About 66% of the proposed wells would be located in Wyoming with the remainder in Colorado. **NEPA Status:** NOI issued in Sept. 6, 2006 Federal Register. Public meetings held at Little Snake FO - Sept 27, 2006 and Rock Springs FO - Sept 28, 2006. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: John MacDonald, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office. (307-352-0321).** Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/hiawatha.html>

12. **73. West Antelope II Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received a competitive coal lease application from Antelope Coal Company for a maintenance tract of Federal coal adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY. As filed the application includes approximately 430 million tons of in-place Federal coal. The approximately 4,109 acres of surface estate overlying the Federal coal is privately owned. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in Federal Register October, 2006. Scoping meeting held November 1, 2006 in Douglas, Wyoming. **DEIS** issued February 8, 2008 for a 45-day public review period. Public meeting and hearing was held March 24, 2008 in Douglas, Wyoming. Public comment period ended April 8, 2008. **FEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Sarah Bucklin, IDT Leader, Casper FO, (307-261-7600).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/West_Antelope_II.html

13. **78. Lander RMP Revision EIS.** The Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in 1987. The RMP covers approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM administered surface and approximately 2.7 million acres of BLM administered federal mineral estate located in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon and Hot Springs Counties. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM administered surface. **NEPA Status:** Revision of the RMP was initiated by Federal Register publication of a NOI on February 13, 2007. Public Scoping meetings were held during the week of March 19-23, 2007. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8400)** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfo/lander_rmp.htm

14. **79. South Gillette Area Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received 4 competitive coal lease by applications (LBAs). All 4 applicants have filed for maintenance tracts. Because these applications have been filed for tracts all within the Powder River Basin, Campbell County, Wyoming and are generally similar actions, the BLM has decided to prepare one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the environmental impacts of approving the 4 LBAs. The four applicants and subject maintenance tracts are:
Foundation Coal Coal West, **Belle Ayr North** for a tract adjacent to the Belle Ayr Mine for approximately 200 million tons of federal coal; Caballo Coal Company, **Caballo West**, for a tract adjacent to the Caballo Mine for approximately 87 million tons of federal coal; Cordero Mining Company, **Maysdorf II**, for a tract adjacent to the Cordero-Rojo Mine for approximately 483 million tons of federal coal; and Ark Land Company, **West Coal Creek**, for a tract adjacent to

the Coal Creek Mine for 57 million tons of federal coal. **NEPA Status:** A **NOI** was published in the Federal Register March 29, 2007. A scoping meeting that considered all 4 applications was held in Gillette, Wyoming on April 11, 2007. **DEIS** is in preparation. **Contact: Teresa Johnson, IDT Leader, Casper Field Office, (307) 261-7600.** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/south_gillette.html

15. **80. Wright Area Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received 4 competitive coal lease by applications (LBAs). One applicant has filed for 2 separate maintenance tracts, the other two applicants have filed for one maintenance tract each. All 4 LBAs were submitted for federal coal within the Powder River Basin, Campbell County, Wyoming. Because all 4 applications were for coal in the same general area and the actions are similar in nature the BLM has decided to prepare one EIS to address the environmental impacts of approving the 4 LBAs. The applicants and subject maintenance tracts are: Ark Land Company, **Hilight Field** and **West Hilight Field** for 2 maintenance tracts, with each tract being adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine, for approximately 588 million tons and 428 million tons, respectively of federal coal; Jacobs Ranch Coal Company, **West Jacobs Ranch**, for a maintenance tract adjacent to the Jacobs Ranch Mine for 598 million tons of federal coal; and BTU Western Resources, Inc., **Porcupine**, for a maintenance tract adjacent to the North Antelope Rochelle Mine for approximately 598 million tons of federal coal. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** published in the Federal Register July 3, 2007. Scoping meeting was held on July 24, 2007 in Gillette, Wyoming regarding all four applications. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Sarah Bucklin, IDT Leader, Casper Field Office, (307) 261-7600.** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/WrightCoal.html
16. **81. Meeteetse 3 D Geophysical Project EA** The Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office received an application from Saga Petroleum, LLC for authorization to conduct geophysical exploration operations on 5144 acres of public lands in the Meeteetse Rim – Greybull River area north of Meeteetse, WY. The proposed seismic project area is located approximately 5 miles north of Meeteetse, east of State Highway 120. **NEPA Status:** Scoping Notice released February 27, 2008. Comments will be accepted through April 2, 2008. **EA/FONSI/DR** issued October 4, 2008. **Contact: David Seward, IDT Leader, Cody FO.** http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cyfodocs/meeteetse_3d.html. *This is the last time this project will appear in the Hot Sheet.*
17. **82. Encana Natural Gas Development within NPL (Normally Pressurized Lance) Area.** Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc has announced plans to develop natural gas resources within the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) area south and west of the Jonah Field. The NPL is located immediately adjacent to the Jonah Field about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs, Wyo affecting lands approximately 70,155 acres located in both the Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices. EnCana proposes to drill 70 wells in the core area, and an additional 15 wells scattered throughout the project area over a 5-year period beginning in 2009. Wells within the core area would be drilled at an average density of one well per 80 acres, and a maximum density of one well per 40 acres. EnCana also proposes to construct associated access roads, pipelines, compressor stations, and other facilities. **NEPA Status:** The 30-day **Scoping Period** ended March 30, 2008. **Contact: Joanna Nara-Klopper, IDT Leader, Rock Springs FO, 307-352-0321.** Web site: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/encana_npl.html
18. **83. GMI Natural Gas Development Project EIS.** Three companies have submitted a proposal to develop natural gas resources within three units near Lysite, Wyoming. Development within the Gun Barrel, Madden and Iron Horse Units is proposed by EnCana Oil & Gas, Inc., Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company LP, and Noble Energy, Inc. Natural gas resources would be developed in each unit be as follows: Gun Barrel: Encana; Madden: Burlington; and Iron Horse:

Noble . Collectively approximately 1,470 wells would be drilled across an estimated 146,000 project area over the course of 10-15 years. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register June 5, 2008. Scoping meetings in Casper and Lander conducted in June 2008. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact:** Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office, 307-332-8452. **Website:** www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/gmi.html

19. **84. Beaver Creek CBNG Development Project EIS.** Devon Energy Production Co. has submitted a proposal to drill up to 228 natural gas wells of which approximately 208 would produce CBNG and about 20 would produce conventional natural gas. The project area is approximately 16,516 acres and is located about 9 miles southeast of Riverton, WY. Drilling would occur during a 5-10 year period over the course of a 20 to 40 year life of project. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register July 29, 2008. Scoping in progress. **Contact:** Curtis Bryan, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office, 307-332-8444. **Website:** www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfodocs/beavercreek_cbng.html
20. **85. Gateway West Transmission Line EIS.** Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain have submitted to the BLM an application requesting right of way (ROW) across public lands to site a series of 11 transmission line segments of 230 to 500kV. These segments would ultimately carry up to 3000 Mw from the Windstar substation near the Dave Johnston Power Plant at Glenrock, WY to the Hemingway substation approx. 20 miles southwest of Boise, ID. The total length of all proposed segments would be approx. 1,100 miles. The requested ROW would be 300 feet wide which is not an uncommon width used for this type of transmission line. Approx. 160 miles of proposed ROW would cross public land administered by the following BLM Field Offices: Casper, Kemmerer, Rawlins & Rock Springs. Because a portion of the ROW would cross 2 National Forests (NFs), the Medicine Bow-Routt NFs and the Caribou-Targhee NFs, the USDA Forest Service is a key cooperating agency in assisting BLM prepare the EIS. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register May 16, 2008. Nine public scoping meetings were held in WY and ID between May 16, 2008 through July 3, 2008. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact:** Walt George, National Project Leader, WY State Office, 307-775-6116. **Website:** http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west
21. **86. Sierra Madre/Chokecherry Wind Farm EIS.** Power Company of Wyoming has submitted to the BLM an application requesting right of way (ROW) across public lands to site approximately 1000 2-3MW wind turbines, access roads, transmission lines and associated infrastructure. The project area is located south of Rawlins within the checkerboard land pattern. The project is separated into two areas, the Chokecherry and the Sierra Madre. Approximately 675 turbines are proposed in the Chokecherry area and 325 turbines in the Sierra Madre area. The total project area is 98,500 acres with approximately 50% on federal lands and 50% on private and state lands. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register July 25, 2008. Four public scoping meetings were held in WY between August 16-19, 2008. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact:** Pamela Murdock, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office, 307-328-4215. **Website:** <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/Chokecherry.html>
22. **87. White Mountain Wind Energy Project EA.** Teton Wind, LLC, filed an application for a wind energy project known as the White Mountain Wind Energy Project. The project area comprises approximately 13,145 acres of private, state, and public lands and is located on top of White Mountain, west-northwest of the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming (Townships 19 and 20 North, Ranges 105 and 106 West, 6th P.M.). The 3-5 year phased development could result in a maximum build out of a 350 megawatt (MW) electrical generating facility consisting of up to 240, 1.5 MW turbines. Associated facilities include access roads, staging areas, operation/maintenance building, underground collection system, and a substation to connect the

power generated to an existing 230 kV powerline. **NEPA Status:** public scoping through December 22, 2008. **EA** in preparation. **Contact: Teri Deakins, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office, 307-352-0211.**
Website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/whitemtnwind.html

Cooperating Agency Projects Completed or *In Progress*

A. Northern Great Plains Plan Revision, Thunder Basin National Grassland- updated October 2007. Forest Service has initiated NEPA process to address program specific direction for oil and gas leasing in the Thunder Basin.

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie, WY. National Grasslands in NE WY, located S. of Gillette, and NE of Casper. Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ngp/>

B. Medicine Bow National Forest Plan Revision, Oil & Gas Leasing

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests/Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie, WY. National Forest located in S.E. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. **FEIS and ROD** issued December 29, 2003. Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/

C. Bridger -Teton National Forest Plan Revision –updated April 2008

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Bridger – Teton National Forest, Jackson, WY. National Forest located in N.W. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. A **NOI** to prepare a supplemental **EIS** regarding leasing approximately 44,720 acres within the Big Piney Ranger District was published in the Federal Register February 4, 2008 and March 28, 2008. **NEPA Status:** Supplemental EIS in preparation. Revision of Forest Plan pending. Contact: Melissa Blackwell, (801-625-5275) Web site: www.fs.fed.us/btnf/oil&gas.htm

D. State-wide Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Management

Lead agency: USDA- Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). A Memorandum of Understanding between APHIS and the BLM-WY was issued on April 23, 2003 regarding management of the agricultural pests, grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. The MOU provides specific guidance, procedures and practices concerning the management of grasshoppers and Mormon cricket populations on public lands administered by the BLM-WY. Contact: Bruce Shambaugh, APHIS, Wyoming Plant Director, (307-772-2323)

E. Wind River Reservation, Wind River Natural Gas Field Development

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Tom Brown Inc. Sampson Resources and Saba Energy of Texas to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** NOA for **FEIS** published in Federal Register December 17, 2004. Record of Decision issued February 8, 2005. Contact: Ray A. Nation, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718)

F. Riverton Dome Coalbed Natural Gas Project.

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Devon Energy to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated

ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** Public Notice was sent out Sept. 26, 2005; Public meeting held Oct. 12, 2005. **EIS** preparation in progress. Contact: Ray A. Nation or Charlie Dillahunty, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718.

G. Pathfinder/Bison Pipeline Project

Lead agency: FERC. The proposed TransCanada, Pathfinder Pipeline, encompasses approximately 673 miles of 36-inch natural gas pipeline coming out of the Piceance Basin near Meeker, Colorado, and heading north, northeast across, Wyoming, Montana, and into North Dakota, to connect to a compressor station in Morton County, for gas delivery into the Chicago markets. The Bison Pipeline would be a 24-inch natural gas segment from near a compressor station at Dead Horse, Wyoming (west of Gillette, WY), to the same interconnect in Morton County, North Dakota. Only one segment (Pathfinder or Bison) will ultimately be built from Dead Horse to Morton County. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** for scoping was published in the Federal Register on October 6, 2008. The initial public scoping period ended on November 3, 2008.

