

HEADWATERS RESOURCE AREA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Butte District, Montana

NOVEMBER 1983

FINAL



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 36800
222 North 32nd Street
Billings, Montana 59107

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

November 1983

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and future reference is the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Headwaters Resource Management Plan (RMP). This document also includes the proposed plan, which is a slightly modified version of the preferred alternative discussed in the draft RMP/EIS published in May 1983. The proposed plan incorporates all RMP-level guidance needed to resolve the eleven land management issues identified earlier in the planning process.

Although this plan continues to refer only to "the Headwaters Resource Area," it now involves the newly established Great Falls Resource Area as well. In April 1983, administrative responsibility for public land in Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Meagher, and the northern half of Lewis and Clark counties was transferred from the Headwaters Resource Area office of the Butte District to the Great Falls Resource Area office of the Lewistown District. This transfer of responsibilities was a direct result of the merger of the BLM and the former Minerals Management Service. The net result of these changes is that two offices, rather than one, will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Headwaters RMP.

With the exception of the recommendations for the Black Sage and Yellowstone River Island Wilderness Study Areas, all parts of this proposed plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director (202), Bureau of Land Management, 1800 C Street NW, Washington, DC, 20240, prior to December 31, 1983—the end of the thirty-day protest period—and should include the following information:

The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.

A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

A statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested.

A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.

A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be wrong.

At the end of the thirty-day protest period, the proposed plan, excluding any portion under protest, will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed.

Any significant change to the proposed plan made as a result of a protest will be made available for public review and comment prior to final approval and implementation.

I want to personally thank those of you who have contributed to and participated in the development of this plan. The Headwaters RMP is one of the first land use plans to be prepared under the BLM's new resource management planning procedures, and it has been a learning process for all of us. I hope your involvement will continue as we move forward into the implementation and monitoring phases of the Headwaters Plan, and also as we develop RMPs for other BLM lands in Montana and the Dakotas.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Penfold
State Director

FINAL

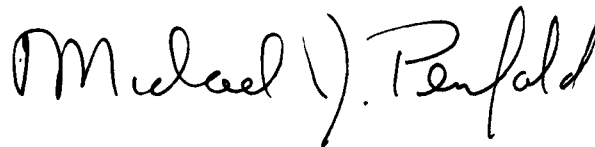
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

For The

HEADWATERS RESOURCE AREA
BUTTE DISTRICT MONTANA

Prepared By

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Penfold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

STATE DIRECTOR
MONTANA STATE OFFICE
NOVEMBER 1983

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**HEADWATERS RESOURCE AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) addresses future management options for approximately 311,337 surface acres and 655,505 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Headwaters Resource Area office in Butte, Montana, and through its Great Falls Resource Area office in Great Falls, Montana. The plan primarily focuses on resolving eleven key resource management issues. These issues are: oil and gas leasing and development, grazing allotment and riparian habitat management, wilderness study recommendations, forest management, land ownership adjustments, mineral exploration and development, motorcycle use areas, motorized vehicle access, utility and transportation corridors, coal leasing in the Great Falls coal field, and special designations.

Four RMP alternatives are considered in detail in this document, which incorporates by reference much of the material presented in the Draft RMP/EIS. Alternative A, the proposed Resource Management Plan, represents a balance between resource production and environmental protection. Alternative B, the no action alternative, is a continuation of present management direction. Alternative C, environmental protection, represents an emphasis on maintaining or improving important environmental values. Alternative D, resource production, represents an emphasis on making public land and resources available for use and development. When the RMP is finalized, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating public land during the next ten or more years. For further information, contact Lyle Fox, Headwaters Area Manager, Butte District Office, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702; Telephone (406) 494-5059, or contact Nancy Cotner, Great Falls Area Manager, 215 First Avenue North, P.O. Drawer 2865, Great Falls, Montana 59403, Telephone (406) 727-0503.

November 1983