



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

**FINAL**

Montana State Office

October 1992

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# Judith Valley Phillips

## Resource Management Plan

## Environmental Impact Statement

### VOLUME ONE

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-ES-93-001-4410



IN REPLY TO:

# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office  
222 North 32nd Street  
P.O. Box 36800  
Billings, Montana 59107-6800

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the proposed final Judith-Valley-Phillips Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

The proposed final RMP/EIS presents the Preferred Alternative for multiple-use management of public lands administered by BLM within the Judith, Valley and Phillips Resource Areas and analyzes the environmental impacts of implementing the proposed plan and four other alternatives. It incorporates comments and suggestions made on the draft RMP/EIS during the public review period which began in July, 1991 and ended in December, 1991. Volume 1 of the final RMP/EIS contains the alternatives, environmental analysis and supporting information. Volume 2 contains the public comments received along with the Bureau's responses to those comments. Changes to the draft and new information are highlighted in the final RMP/EIS.

Changes were made to the Preferred Alternative in the draft RMP/EIS including: specific tracts of land for acquisition are not listed or shown; the document clearly states that BLM would not use condemnation to implement land tenure adjustment under this land use plan; off-road vehicle travel would be allowed for game retrieval on BLM lands limited to designated roads and trails; elk habitat management is consistent with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks 1992 elk management plan; the South Moccasin Mountains are not included in the Judith Mountains Scenic Area ACEC; and Collar Gulch would not be designated an ACEC and would remain open to mineral entry. Other changes have been made to the Preferred Alternative and are summarized on pages ii through v, and described in detail on pages 84 through 97 of the final RMP/EIS. The proposed plan includes the Preferred Alternative to resolve the issues and Management Common To All Alternatives which is described on pages 9 through 36.

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM's Director. Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of an RMP may protest such approval. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues which were commented on during the planning process. New issues may be raised at any time but should be directed to the Lewistown District for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate.

The period for filing protests begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes in the *Federal Register* its Notice of Receipt of the final environmental impact statement containing the proposed RMP. The protest period extends for 30 days. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests must be filed in writing to:

Director (760)  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 "C" Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the proposed RMP.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records (i.e. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the Montana State Director's proposed decision, without any data will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the BLM may issue a Record of Decision, approving implementation of any portions of the proposed plan not under protest. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until the protest has been resolved.

We thank the individuals and organizations who participated in our planning process, helping us to prepare a plan that will lead to more effective and efficient management of public lands and minerals. Your interest is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert H. Lawton". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

State Director

# FINAL

## JUDITH—VALLEY—PHILLIPS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 1992

Prepared by

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
Lewistown District Office  
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Oct. 1992  
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October, 1992  
Date

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Oct. 1992  
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Oct. 1992  
Date

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State Director, Montana

Oct. 1992  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LEWISTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE  
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

PROPOSED FINAL

JUDITH-VALLEY-PHILLIPS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ABSTRACT

This proposed final resource management plan and environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) addresses future management options for approximately 2.8 million surface acres and 3.4 million acres of federal mineral estate in northcentral Montana. These lands are administered by the Bureau of Land Management through the Judith, Valley and Phillips Resource Areas and includes BLM land and federal minerals in Fergus, Petroleum, Judith Basin, Phillips and Valley Counties and the southern half of Chouteau County.

The plan focuses on management options to resolve these nine issues: land acquisition and disposal, access to BLM land, off-road vehicle designations, oil and gas leasing and development, hardrock mining, riparian and wetland management of watersheds, elk and bighorn sheep habitat management, prairie dog and black-footed ferret management, and areas with special management concerns.

The preferred alternative and four other alternatives have been developed to provide management options for resolving the issues. The alternatives include Alternative A-Current Management (No Action); Alternative B; Alternative C; Alternative D; and Alternative E-The Preferred Alternative. The preferred alternative plus the guidance given in the Management Common To All Alternatives section constitutes the proposed final plan.

# ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	MLA	Mineral Leasing Act
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	MMBF	Million Board Feet
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle	MMCF	Million Cubic Feet
AMP	Allotment Management Plan	MMS	Minerals Management Services
AO	Authorized Officer	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
APD	Application for Permit to Drill	MTNHP	Montana Natural Heritage Program
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	NAERC	North American Electric Reliability Council
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act	NAWMP	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
AUM	Animal Unit Month	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
BACT	Best Available Control Technology	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	NOS	Notice of Staking
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
BMP	Best Management Practices	NSO	No Surface Occupancy
BR	Bureau of Reclamation	NTL	Notice To Lessee
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
CER	Categorical Exclusion Review	OPT	Ounces per Ton
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	ORV	Off-Road Vehicles
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PD	Public Domain
CMR	Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge	PILT	Payment In Lieu of Taxes
COE	Corps of Engineers	PL	Public Law
CRMP	Coordinated Resource Management Plan	PLO	Public Land Order
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program	PNC	Potential Natural Community
DSL	Montana Department of State Lands	PSC	Powersite Classification
EA	Environmental Assessment	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	PSR	Powersite Reserve
EO	Executive Order	RA	Resource Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	RFD	Reasonable Foreseeable Development
ESA	Endangered Species Act	RMA	Recreation Management Area
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act	RMP	Resource Management Plan
FMZ	Fire Management Zone	ROD	Record of Decision
FOOGLRA	Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act	ROW	Right-of-Way
FR	Federal Register	R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes
FS	United States Forest Service	SCS	Soil Conservation Service
FUP	Free Use Permit	SEP	State Equalization Payment
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
HMP	Habitat Management Plan	SO	Secretarial Order
IBLA	Interior Board of Land Appeals	SOP	Standing Operating Procedures
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	SPG	Supplemental Program Guidance
ITRR	Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
JVP	Judith Valley Phillips	SSS	Special Status Species
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area	TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
LCNHT	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	T&E	Threatened and Endangered
LU	Land Utilization	TPD	Tons per Day
MBF	Thousand Board Feet	UMNWSR	Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River
MBFCC	Montana Black-Footed Ferret Coordination Committee	URA	Unit Resource Analysis
MCF	Thousand Cubic Feet	USDI	United States Department of Interior
MDFWP	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	USGS	United States Geological Survey
MFP	Management Framework Plan	VRM	Visual Resource Management
		VUD	Visitor User Day
		WSA	Wilderness Study Area
		WSR	Wild and Scenic River System
		WSRA	Wild and Scenic River Act