



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Lewistown District Office

September 1994



**APPROVED
PHILLIPS RESOURCE AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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-95/004+1610



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phillips Resource Area

Box B

Malta, Montana 59538-0047



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dear Reader:

This is a copy of the approved resource management plan (RMP) for the Phillips Resource Area (RA). This approved RMP includes those decisions from the proposed Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP and final environmental impact statement (EIS) (JVP RMP/EIS, 1992) that pertain to the Phillips RA with the exception of those decisions for oil and gas leasing. These land use decisions will guide future management for 1,084,690 surface acres and 1,385,452 acres of mineral estate in the Phillips RA.

Based on protests received in January 1993 on the proposed JVP RMP/final EIS, the BLM will prepare a supplemental EIS to address an alternative that would avoid oil and gas leasing in areas with valuable wildlife habitat. A separate record of decision and approved plan will be issued for oil and gas leasing. Until then, oil and gas leasing will continue under the current management guidance as described under Alternative A of the proposed JVP RMP/final EIS and the BLM's decision on the September 1988 National Wildlife Federation's protest of the issuance of oil and gas leases in the State of Montana (November 28, 1988).

Additional copies of this approved RMP are available upon request, along with the Record of Decision, by writing: Phillips RMP, Phillips Resource Area, 501 South 2nd St East, Malta, MT 59538.

We are pleased to provide this copy for your reference, and we extend our appreciation for your cooperation and assistance during this planning process.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Hotaling, Area Manager

Acting

APPROVED

PHILLIPS RESOURCE AREA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 1994

Prepared by

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
Lewistown District Office
Phillips Resource Area

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.
Acting State Director, Montana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA	1
RELATIONSHIP TO THE BUREAU PLANNING SYSTEM	1
DISTRIBUTION OF THE APPROVED RMP	1
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION	1
IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING DECISIONS	1
MAINTAINING AND AMENDING DECISIONS	2
CHAPTER 2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS	5
INTRODUCTION	5
ENERGY MINERAL RESOURCES	5
Oil and Gas	5
Geothermal	5
Oil Shale	5
Coal	5
NONENERGY MINERAL RESOURCES	5
Hardrock Mining	5
Bentonite	7
Mineral Materials	7
Solid Minerals	7
GEOLOGIC FEATURES	8
CAVE RESOURCES	8
PALEONTOLOGY	8
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	8
SOILS MANAGEMENT	9
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	9
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT	9
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	10
Watershed Management	10
Wildlife and Fisheries	11
Grazing Management	11
RIPARIAN AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS	12
LAND TREATMENTS	14
NOXIOUS PLANTS	15
ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL	15
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	15
Sensitive, Threatened and/or Endangered Species	15
Wildlife Habitat	16
Fish Habitat	17
PRAIRIE DOG AND BLACK-FOOTED FERRET MANAGEMENT	17
ELK AND BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT MANAGEMENT	19
RECREATION	20
Phillips RMA	20
South Phillips RMA	21
Little Rockies RMA	21
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS	21
WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT	22
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	23
CULTURAL RESOURCES	23
FIRE MANAGEMENT	25
FOREST MANAGEMENT	26

LANDS	26
Land Acquisition And Disposal	27
Rights-of-Way and Corridor Planning	27
Leases and Permits	27
Public Sale	28
Unauthorized Use	28
Withdrawal Review	28
Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawn Lands	29
ACCESS TO BLM LAND	20
WATERPOWER AND WATER STORAGE MANAGEMENT	30
SIGNING	30
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN	30
Azure Cave ACEC	30
Big Bend of the Milk River ACEC	31
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS	31
APPENDIX A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	33
APPENDIX B RIPARIAN AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS	39
APPENDIX C PRAIRIE DOG AND BLACK-FOOTED FERRET MANAGEMENT	43
APPENDIX D LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL	51
APPENDIX E ACCESS TO BLM LAND	55