

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Consultation and coordination have been important parts of this planning effort since its beginning in 1988. Public meetings, informational mailings and individual contacts with other governmental agencies, Native American tribes, interest groups and the general public were used to gather information for this RMP/EIS. This information helped identify the issues, planning criteria and alternatives discussed in this document. Consultation and Coordination continued throughout the review of the draft and preparation of the final RMP/EIS.

In the fall of 1988, the Lewistown District Office asked the public to comment on anticipated issues, identify additional issues, conflicting management objectives and potential impacts to adjacent landowners. BLM encouraged written comments through an issue brochure that was mailed to the public in October 1988. In addition, public meetings were held in Glasgow, Malta, Winifred, Winnett and Lewistown in November 1988, with 234 people attending. BLM received 32 letters, 15 issue brochures with comments, 75 comment forms during the public meetings and 38 comment forms following the public meetings. Records and files of this process are available from the Lewistown District Office. Table 5.1 is a summary of steps taken to complete consultation and coordination in this planning effort.

TABLE 5.1
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Date	Action
Sept. 1988	A Notice of Intent to prepare an RMP/EIS for the Judith, Valley and Phillips Resource Areas was published in the Federal Register.
Sept. 1988	A letter was sent to permittees, with prairie dog towns, informing them about the prairie dog and black-footed ferret management issue.
Oct. 1988	An issue brochure was sent to 1,897 agencies, organizations and individuals.
Nov. 1988	Public meetings to identify issues were held in Glasgow, Malta, Winifred, Winnett and Lewistown, Montana.
Nov. 1988	A Notice requesting information on coal or other resource information was published in the Federal Register.
Nov. 1988	A letter was sent to 183 organizations requesting coal resource information.
Jan. 1989	A letter was sent to 149 organizations requesting resource information on mineral commodities.
Feb. 1989	A summary of the public comments on planning issues was mailed to 527 agencies, organizations and individuals.
April 1989	Discussion with 85 residents of the planning area on the issues and resource management.
June 1989	A brochure on the issues and planning criteria was mailed to 624 agencies, organizations and individuals.
Feb. 1990	A brochure on the four draft alternatives was mailed to 747 agencies, organizations and individuals requesting input on the alternatives.
Oct. 1990	A brochure on the draft tentative Preferred Alternative was mailed to 980 agencies, organizations and individuals.
July 1991	The draft RMP/EIS was distributed for public comment. Approximately 2,000 copies were distributed during the comment period.
July 1991	Federal Register, EPA Notice of Receipt, beginning the comment period.
July 1991	Public meetings on the draft RMP/EIS.
Aug. 1991	Public meetings on the draft RMP/EIS.
Oct. 1991	Public meetings on the draft RMP/EIS.
Dec. 1991	Public comment period on the draft RMP/EIS closed.

Throughout this planning process BLM conducted numerous briefing updates for a variety of organizations and groups. The District Advisory Council and Grazing Board as well as county commissioners and a variety of citizen organizations were periodically updated as the RMP/EIS progressed.

Another form of consultation and coordination included discussions between BLM and 85 residents of the planning area early in the planning process. These discussions provided an indication of how planning area residents perceive BLM land and the issues discussed in this RMP/EIS.

The Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups, discussed later in this chapter, also provided an extended form of consultation and coordination by closely involving the public with the RMP/EIS process.

Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has been completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The final RMP/EIS contains the biological assessment and the FWS Biological Opinion on the impacts to threatened and endangered species (see Appendix F).

The following public meetings (including location and date) were held to gather comments on the draft RMP/EIS: Malta (7/23/91); Glasgow (7/24/91); Hays (7/25/91); Winifred (7/29/91); Billings (7/30/91); Winnett (7/31/91); Lewistown (8/1/91); Malta (10/1/91); and Lewistown (10/2/91).

COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

A Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) process was used to address several issues in this RMP/EIS. The intent is to closely involve the public with BLM's planning process by enlisting a cross section of private and public sector individuals to help study and solve a planning issue. The issues receiving CRMP consideration included public access to BLM land, off-road vehicle use, and the management of prairie dogs and the potential reintroduction of black-footed ferrets. A CRMP working group was formed for each of these issues with individuals representing the various interests and attitudes toward each issue. Working group members reviewed background material on the issues, public comments, economic and social conditions and draft alternatives for those issues. The working groups helped develop the draft Preferred Alternative. The following sections provide a summary of the public involvement for each of the three CRMP groups.

Public Access CRMP Group

Members

Leon Carpenter	Lewistown, Montana
Stan Celmer	Public Land Access Association, Inc.
Tom J. DeMars	Rancher, Fergus County
Richard Elsenpeter	Southeast Montana Sportsman Coalition
John Foster	CMR National Wildlife Refuge
Joe Frazier	Lewistown Bowhunters Association
Jim Gamble	Lewistown, Montana
Marlene Hassler	Rancher, Fergus County
Donna Heggem	Fergus County Commissioner
Del Henman	Southeast Montana Sportsman Coalition
Jack Hughes	Rancher, Fergus County
Dick Marshall	Rancher, Petroleum County
Bud Miller	Fergus County Commissioner
Larry Ray	Lewistown, Montana
Craig Roberts	Montana Department of State Lands
Rosey Roseland	Lewistown, Montana
Larry L. Schweitzer	Montana Bowhunters Association
Torger Sikveland	Rancher, Petroleum County
Bill Steele	Lewistown, Montana
Roger Steerman	Lewis and Clark National Forest
Wilson Stulc	Rancher, Fergus County
Bob Watts	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Bob Weingart	Rancher, Petroleum County
Pat Weingart	Petroleum County Commissioner

Meetings

Date	Action
Nov. 1989	An informational meeting on the access issue, preliminary alternatives and CRMP process.
Dec. 1989	A work group meeting to identify access needs, criteria to identify additional access and priority areas.
Feb. 1990	A work group meeting to recommend a Preferred Alternative.

Recommendations

The CRMP group advised that all BLM land initially identified for legal public access be retained and the following areas should be access priority areas: New Year Peak,

Pyramid Peak, Armells Headwaters, Chicago Gulch, Fox Peak, Lewis Peak, Lookout Peak, Black Butte, South Moccasins, North Moccasins, Missouri Breaks Chain-Buttes area and the Missouri Breaks in Phillips and Valley Counties.

The following criteria were developed to prioritize other access areas:

1. Look at recreation demand in the area and concentrate access to high-use areas.
2. Pursue public access to those areas that have existing (physical) access.
3. Consider the size of an area; look at larger areas first.
4. Evaluate the type of use an area receives, and based on the relative size of an area and the topography, determine the type of public access needed (road or trail).
5. Contact affected and adjacent landowners early in the process concerning the best route and management plan for access.
6. Provide for proper enforcement of any and all access agreements made with landowners to minimize impacts on private land.

In the Missouri Breaks Chain-Buttes area priorities for new or additional access should focus on a formal network of north-south and east-west legal public access roads. It was agreed that the Crooked Creek, Dunn Ridge, Dovetail, Musselshell and Wilder Trail roads should form the basic east-west network and be open to year-round public travel. Major north-south roads identified for an overall formal road network include the Alex Camp, Cottonwood Crossing, Chimney Crossing and Horse Camp roads. Legal public access does not exist to portions of this north-south network.

Prairie Dog and Black-Footed Ferret CRMP Group

BLM used a multi-step process to design a Preferred Alternative for prairie dog and black-footed ferret management. This process involved representatives from the BLM, the FWS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) and a CRMP group. Part of this process included meeting with the landowners within the potential reintroduction area. These efforts refined the Preferred Alternative, provided guidance to the FWS and MDFWP for the Cooperative Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction and Management Plan and meets the USFWS public involvement requirement of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Members

Ken Blunt	Rancher, Phillips County
Don Burke	Rancher, Phillips County
Michael Comstock	International Varmint Association
Ron Crete	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Arnold Dood	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Candy Kalal	Business, Zortman, Montana
Jim Richard	Montana Wildlife Federation
Ron Scott	Business, Malta, Montana
Dan Wiederrick	Rancher, Phillips County

Meetings

Date	Action
Jan. 1990	An informational meeting on the prairie dog and black-footed ferret issue, existing situation, preliminary alternatives and comments or recommendations.
June 1990	A meeting on the draft Preferred Alternative and public involvement process.
July thru Nov. 1990	Individual meetings with landowners to discuss the draft Preferred Alternative.
Dec. 1990	A briefing on the status of the draft Preferred Alternative for prairie dog and black-footed ferret management.

Recommendations

The Preferred Alternative should consider the following:

1. Continue the present activities (shooting, poison, etc.) during and after reintroduction of the ferret.
2. Manage prairie dogs at some level and prevent expansion.
3. Control all towns by poison on a cyclical basis (8-10 years) and eliminate all new towns.
4. Use range improvements (chiseling, seedings, etc.) to mitigate impacts from prairie dogs.
5. Use land exchanges only as a last resort.
6. Provide prairie dog towns near Malta and Saco for local shooting.
7. Provide for shooting after reintroduction of the ferret.

8. Defer allocation of habitat for the ferret until the Montana Ferret Management Plan is completed.
9. Determine management for prairie dogs outside the reintroduction area described as Complex 7k.
10. Promote shooting in the Valley and Judith Resource Areas.
11. Provide for prairie dog viewing near major highways.
12. Develop a shooting program to provide a quality experience.
13. Develop tools that could be used to mitigate potential impacts to private landowners and permittees and demonstrate control of prairie dog populations.

Off-Road Vehicle CRMP Group

Members

Jim Alfonso	CMR National Wildlife Refuge
Art Arnold	Valley County Commissioner
Ralph Atchley	Montana Army National Guard
Bill Black	Rancher, Valley County
Gary Chambers	Recreation, Valley County
Mark Combs	Recreation, Valley County
Dave Copper	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Betty Cople	Realty/Rancher, Phillips County
Bud Cornwell	Rancher, Valley County
Lynn Cornwell	Rancher, Valley County
Paul Cornwell	Rancher, Valley County
Connie Cox	Rancher, Phillips County
Mike Crater	Recreation, Valley County
Scott Denson	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Skip Erickson	Valley County Sportsmen
Joe Etchart	Rancher, Valley County
Owen Funk	Rancher, Valley County
D. M. Garrison	Rancher, Phillips County
Leonard Gilman	Montana Army National Guard
Andy Hicks	Recreation, Valley County
Rick Kinzell	Recreation, Valley County
James Liebelt	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Scott Markle	Recreation, Valley County
Ted McIntyre	Rancher, Valley County
Keith Morehouse	Recreation, Valley County
Duke Nieskens	Recreation, Valley County
Milton Olsen	Grazing Association
Rob Putzker	Montana Department of State Lands
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Steve Schindler	Valley County Sportsmen
Scott Smith	Recreation, Valley County

Lloyd Sundy	Montana Army National Guard
Jim Vralsted	Recreation Valley County
Art Warner	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Sam Waters	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Harold Wentland	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Margaret Yeska	Rancher, Valley County

Meetings

Date	Action
Feb. 1990	An informational meeting on the off-road vehicle issue, existing situation and preliminary alternatives.
Mar. 1990	A work group meeting to identify areas needing limitations and criteria to designate roads and trails open or closed.
Apr. 1990	A work group meeting to recommend a Preferred Alternative.
Aug. 1990	A briefing on the draft Preferred Alternative for off-road vehicles.

Recommendations

The CRMP group recommended county wide limitations from September 1 to December 1. Off-road vehicles should be restricted to existing roads and trails with the following exceptions: allow off-road travel for the handicapped (non-ambulatory), retrieval of game and camping.

Criteria to open or close roads in the future should include: quality hunting (measurable), resource damage and user conflict.

The main concerns of the group were that of enforcement, big game populations in limited areas, retrieval of downed big game, and how we would inform the public of the roads open and closed in limited areas.

PLAN CONSISTENCY

BLM planning regulations require that resource management plans be "consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans of other federal agencies, state, and local governments, and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law, and regulations applicable to public lands..." (43CFR1610.3a).

DISTRIBUTION LIST

BLM requested comments on the draft RMP/EIS from interest groups and individuals; from federal, state, local agencies and Native American tribes. The following is a partial list of organizations and agencies that received this document.

County Commissioners and Boards of Planning

Blaine County Commissioners
Chouteau County Commissioners
Fergus County Commissioners
Garfield County Commissioners
Hill County Commissioners
Judith Basin County Commissioners
Petroleum County Commissioners
Phillips County Commissioners
Valley County Commissioners

Montana Chamber of Commerce
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Lewistown Chamber of Commerce
Malta Chamber of Commerce

Chouteau County Conservation District
Fergus County Conservation District
Judith Basin County Conservation District
Petroleum County Conservation District
Phillips County Conservation District
Valley County Conservation District

Libraries

Carnegie Public Library
Chouteau County Library
Glasgow City/County Library
Judith Basin County Library
Parmly Billings Library
Petroleum County Community Library
Phillips County Public Library

State

Honorable Stan Stephens
Bureau of Mines and Geology
Department of Agriculture
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Department of State Lands
Environmental Quality Council
Montana Army National Guard
Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit
Montana Hardrock Impact Board
State Department of Highways
State Historic Preservation Office

Congressional

Honorable Conrad Burns
Honorable Max Baucus
Honorable Pat Williams
Honorable Ron Marlenee

Federal

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Bonneville Power Administration
Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge
Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Blackfeet Agency
 Crow Agency
 Fort Belknap Agency
 Fort Peck Agency
 Northern Cheyenne Agency
 Rocky Boy Agency
 Wind River Agency
Bureau of Mines
Bureau of Reclamation
CMR National Wildlife Refuge
Department of Energy
Department of the Army
Minerals Management Service
National Park Service
Office of Environmental Project Review
Pentagon
Soil Conservation Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Border Patrol
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey

Tribal Councils and Committees

Arapahoe Business Council
Assiniboine/Sioux Tribal Council
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
Chippewa Cree Business Committee
Crow Tribal Council
Fort Belknap Community Council
Fort Peck Tribal Council
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Shoshone Business Council

Organizations

Alberta Environmental Planning
American Canoe Association
American Fisheries Society
American Mining Congress
American Rivers
American Wilderness Alliance
American Wildlands

Badlands Cooperative State Grazing District
 Bear Paw Sentinel
 Big Open Project
 Billings Rod and Gun Club
 Blue Ribbon Coalition Inc
 Canada Park Service
 Canadian Park Service
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 College of Mineral Science and Technology
 Colorado Division of Wildlife
 Consolidated State Grazing Districts
 Cottonwood Grazing Association
 Defenders of Wildlife
 Department Forestry, Lands and Wildlife-Alberta
 Department of Renewable Resources-Saskatchewan
 Disabled Recreation and Environmental Access Movement
 Ducks Unlimited Inc
 Ecology Center
 Environmental Information Center
 Fauna West Wildlife Consultants
 Fergus County Farm Bureau
 Fishing and Floating Outfitters Association of Montana
 Flathead Wildlife
 Havre Rifle and Pistol Club
 Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
 Indian Butte State Grazing District
 International Society for the Protection of Mustangs
 and Burros
 International Varmint Association
 Land and Water Fund
 Lewistown District Grazing Advisory Board
 Lewistown Rod and Gun Club
 Malta Bowhunters
 Malta Wildlife Club
 Milk River Land and Cattle Association
 Minerals Exploration Coalition
 Minnesota-MT Cattlemen's Association
 Missouri Breaks Bowhunters
 Missouri Breaks Multiple Use Association
 Montana Association of State Grazing Districts
 Montana Audubon Council
 Montana Black Footed Ferret Working Group
 Montana Bowhunters
 Montana Bowhunters Association-Region 6
 Montana Environmental Information Center
 Montana Farm Bureau
 Montana Geological Society
 Montana Historical Society
 Montana Mining Association
 Montana Native Plant Society
 Montana Natural Heritage Program
 Montana Nature Conservancy
 Montana Petroleum Association
 Montana Policy Center
 Montana Preservation Alliance
 Montana Public Lands Council
 Montana State University
 Montana Stockgrowers Association
 Montana Wilderness Association
 Montana Wildlands Coalition
 Montana Wildlife Federation
 Montana Woolgrowers
 National Audubon Society
 National Audubon Society - Upper Missouri Valley Chapter
 National Audubon Society - Yellowstone Valley Chapter
 National Wildlife Federation
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Nature Conservancy
 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 New Mexico Dept of Game and Fish
 New York Zoological Society
 North Dakota Game and Fish
 North Phillips County Cooperative Grazing District
 Northern Montana College
 Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association
 Northern Plains Resource Council
 Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative
 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 Northwest Mining Association
 Northwest Rivers Council
 Phillips County Grazing District
 Phillips County Livestock Association
 Political Economy Research Center
 Public Land Access Inc
 Public Lands Council
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
 Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
 Rocky Mountain Overthrust Energy Foundation
 Sierra Club
 Silver Dollar Grazing Association
 Society of Mining Engineers
 South Dakota Dept of Game Fish and Parks
 South Phillips County State Cooperative Grazing District
 Southeastern Montana Sportmans Association
 Square Butte Grazing Association
 State Grazing District Association
 Trout Unlimited
 Trust for Public Land
 University of Alberta
 University of Nebraska
 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
 Valley County Development Council
 Valley County Grazing Districts
 Waterton Lakes National Park
 Western Environmental Trade Association
 Wilderness Society
 Wilderness Watch
 Wildlife Society
 Winnett State Grazing District
 Wittmayer Grazing Association
 World Wildlife Fund Canada
 Valley County Sportmen's Club
 Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society

Businesses

Adkins Ranch Inc
AGRI-NEWS
Amax Exploration
American Colloid Company
American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc
Amoco Production Company
Antelope Ranch
Acheson Outfitting
Barthelme Ranch Inc
Beil Ranch Inc
Berg Lumber Company
Betz Ranch
BI LO JI Farms Inc
Big Blue Sapphire Company
Big Flat Electric Cooperative Inc
Big View Ranch
Billings Gazette
Biota Research and Consulting
Black Ranch Inc
Blatter Ranch
Blue Range Engineering Company
Blue Range Mining Company
Blunt Ranches Inc
Bohn Ranch
Boucher Ranch Inc
Bozeman Chronicle
Brocksmith Land and Livestock Company
Bruckner Farms Inc
Canen Ranch Inc
Canyon Resources Corporation
Captive Breeding Specialist Group
Casino Creek Concrete
Chemical Dependency Center
Chevron Resource Company
Christensen and Hubble Attorneys at Law
Cimarron Exploration
Coast to Coast
College Park Medical Center
Cominco American Resources
Conoco Inc
Copper Petroleum
Cornwell Ranch
CR Kendall
Cyprus Minerals
Deer Valley Ranch
Doane-Western and Aetna Realty Investment Company
Double O Ranch Inc
ECON Inc
Economic Consultants Northwest
Eickhoff Ranch
Elenburg Exploration
Engstrom Ranch Inc
Environmental Media Centre
Etchart Ranch
Explosives Technologies International
Exxon Company USA
Falcon Oil and Gas Company Inc
Farm Credit Services
Fauna West Wildlife Consultants
Fergus Electric Cooperative Inc
First Creek Ranch
First National Bank-Glasgow
First State Bank-Malta
FMP Operating Company
Francis J McCarvel Attorney at Law
Fraser Land and Livestock
Fuel Resources Development Company
Funk Ranch Inc
Gateway Simmentals
Georesearch Inc
Geortz Brothers Farming
Gerspacher Ranch
Glasgow Courier
Gold Cup Exploration Inc
Gordons Warehouse
Great Falls Tribune
Havre Answering Service
High Country News
Hinsdale Livestock and N3 Company
Homestake Mining Inc
Horizon Gold Shares
Hughes Livestock Company
Hydrometrics Inc
Iverson Ranch-Dovetail
James D Rector Attorney at Law
J.D. Lumber, Inc
Jenni Ranch
Joe King and Sons Inc
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co
Johnson Family Partnership
Johnson Ranch Inc
Judith Gold Corporation
Kelly Ranch
Kendall Venture
KLCM-FM/KXLO-AM
KLTZ/KLAN Radio
K-M Livestock Company
KMMR FM Radio
KN Energy
Konitz Contracting Inc
KVCK/KYZZ
Larcon and Haroldson
Lawrence J McCarthy and Association
Lazy J5 Ranch Company
Lazy JD Cattle Company
LCM, Ltd
Lehmann and Associates
Lewistown Insurance
Little Rockys Inc
Loving U Ranch Inc
Lund Ranch Inc
M Cross Cattle Company
Magma Copper
Marathon Oil

Marian River Electric Coop Inc
Matador Ranch Inc
McColly Ranch Inc
McIntyre Ranch Inc
Meridian Oil Production Inc
Montana Oil Journal
Montana Power Company
Montana Ranch Products
Montco
Mountain Moods
N A Degerstrom Inc
News Argus
Norman Ranch
North American Exploration Inc
Northern Ag Service
Office Suppliers
Peabody Development Company
Pegasus Gold Corporation
Peterson Ranch & Feedlot
Phillips Bar Diamond Ranch
Phillips Cattle Company
Phillips County News
PN Ranch
Prairie Wind Architecture
Rector & Hickel Attorneys at Law
River Bend Ranch Company
Robert Hurly Attorney at Law
Robert Westland Association
Robinson Ranch
Rocky Ridge Ranch Inc
Salsberry Family Limited Partnership
Sand Creek Ranch
Schammel Ranch
Schell, Stephens, Riley and Huffine CPAs
Schlenker and Carry Livestock Inc
Schlumberger Well Service
Schultz Ranch
Scott's Track and Wheel
Setter Mining Company Inc
Shell Oil Company
Snowy Mountain Recreation Products
Socha Cattle Company
Stillwater PGM Resources
Surenuff Cattle
Swanson Ranch Inc
Swinging H Cattle Company
TEE Bar Land & Livestock Inc
Teigen Land & Livestock Company
Tex Inc
Texaco Inc
The Hanson Ranch
Timm Ranch Inc
Triangle Telephone Coop Association Inc
Triple "L" Ranch Inc
Union Pacific Resources Company
Veseth and Veseth Livestock Inc
Wesco Resources Inc
Westech Inc

Western Energy Company
Western Environmental Trade Association
Whiting Petroleum Corporation
Wicks Ranch Corporation
Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company
Winnett Times
Wittmayer Grazing
Y3 Cattle Company
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The final RMP/EIS was also mailed to an additional 1,000 individuals.

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The draft RMP/EIS was prepared by a BLM interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the Judith Resource Area, Valley Resource Area, Phillips Resource Area, Lewistown District Office and Montana State Office.

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