

# NEPA HOTSHEET

## SUMMER QUARTER 2012

### BLM Wyoming Land Use Plans and Proposed Projects

#### Resource Management Plans

**1. Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Project/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The planning area includes lands administered by the BLM Cody and Worland field offices, in all of Big Horn, Park and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. The planning area includes all lands, regardless of jurisdiction, totaling 5.6 million acres; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction. Lands within the planning area under the BLM's jurisdiction make up the decision area. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres. The revised RMPs will replace the Washakie and Grass Creek RMPs in Worland, Wyoming, and the Cody RMP in Cody, Wyoming. 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: Final EIS (FEIS)** is expected in fall 2012. The plan is currently undergoing Greater Sage-grouse conformance and consistency review. The **Notice of Availability (NOA)** published on April 22, 2011 starting the comment period which ended on September 7, 2011. **Contact: Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Lead, Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Office (307-347-5171).**  
**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html)

**2. Rock Springs RMP Revision/EIS.** The Rock Springs Field Office is in the process of revising the Green River RMP (GR RMP) that was completed in 1997. The revision has been renamed the Rock Springs RMP (RS RMP) Revision. The RS RMP covers 3.6 million acres of public land surface ownership and 3.5 million acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate, located in southwestern Wyoming. The decision area does not include private lands, state lands, tribal trust lands, or other federal lands or subsurface mineral estates not administered by the BLM. **NEPA Status: A Notice of Intent (NOI)** published in the *Federal Register* on February 1, 2011. The NOI also initiated the public scoping period which continued until April 4, 2011. Open house meetings were held in Lander, Rock Springs, Lyman and Farson from February 28, 2011 and ending March 3, 2011. The final Scoping Report has been completed and available on the project website. The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) for the project has been completed and the Draft Summary of the AMS is under review. The Final Mineral Potential Report has been accepted as complete. The Draft Socio Economic Report will be available for review by mid-July. Alternatives development is still ongoing. The projected completion date for the approved RMP is July, 2015. **Contact: Vera-Lynn Harrison, RMP Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0259).**  
**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html)

**3. Buffalo RMP Revision/EIS.** The Buffalo RMP was completed in 1985. The RMP covers approximately 780,000 acres of BLM-administered surface and approximately 4.8 million acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate located in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeast Wyoming. Revision will address main issues, including energy and mineral development, vegetation and wildlife habitat management, cultural resources management, and lands and realty management. **NEPA Status: A Notice of Intent** published in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2008. Public scoping meetings were held December 1-5, 2008. DEIS is in preparation. RMP is currently undergoing Greater Sage-grouse conformance and consistency review. A fall 2012 draft is anticipated with a 90 day public comment period. **Contact: Thomas Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133).**  
**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html)

4. **Lander RMP Revision/EIS.** The Lander 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 in west central Wyoming. Main issues requiring revision include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, management of Congressionally designated trails, Greater Sage-grouse (70% of the planning area has been designated as Core Area habitat), and management of the recreational uses of the BLM-administered surface. **NEPA Status:** A Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on February 13, 2007. Public scoping meetings were held March 19-23, 2007. The **Draft EIS (DEIS)** was published for a 90-day public comment period that began on September 9, 2011 and ended January 20, 2012. The FEIS will be released when the sage-grouse conformance review (currently set for July 24-25, 2012) has been completed. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html)

5. **Sage Grouse RMP Amendments/EIS.** This BLM proposed project will amend six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, and Pinedale), as well as three Forest Service plans (Medicine Bow, Bridger Teton, and Thunder Basin) to incorporate new management and conservation measures on priority sage-grouse habitat in an attempt to prevent the bird from being listed as a T&E species. The planning area includes nearly 15 million acres within the planning area. The BLM proposed action would impose policy contained in WY IM's 2010-012 and -013. Four planning workshops with cooperating agencies have been held. Twenty two cooperating agencies have been signed into this effort through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**. Two additional cooperating agency requests are currently being processed. This is the first BLM EIS that has allowed the public to observe the cooperating agency meetings. Booz Allen Hamilton has been contracted to help with this effort. **NEPA Status:** A Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on May 28, 2010. The scoping period ended on August 30, 2010. Conformance and consistency reviews between the document and the National Technical Team Report are being conducted. The Medicine Bow and Bridger Teton National Forests and the Thunder Basin National Grasslands have also been added as cooperating agencies; scoping for these additions closed on March 23, 2012. Scoping comments are currently being reviewed and a Scoping Report is due May 1, 2012. A citizen based alternative will now be considered in the range of alternatives as a result of scoping. The DEIS was scheduled to be released in February 2012, but due to this delay the current DEIS release date is unknown. **Contact: Lisa Solberg, Team Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5340).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html)

6. **Rawlins Visual Resource Management Targeted RMP Amendment/EA.** The Visual Resource Management Class decisions in the Rawlins RMP were remanded following protest resolution on the Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS. BLM will amend the Rawlins RMP to incorporate new VRM class decisions based on a new visual resource quality inventory completed in 2010. The Rawlins planning area includes approximately 3.5 million acres of public land surface and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate in Laramie, Albany, Carbon and eastern Sweetwater counties. The decision area for the Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project VRM planning review (742,000 acres) will be excluded from the Rawlins Field Office (RFO) planning review. The RFO anticipates that those cooperating agencies that participated in the development of the Rawlins RMP would also request cooperating agency status for this VRM-targeted planning review. **NEPA Status and Other Updates:** Public scoping officially ended on June 4, 2012. An additional public scoping period is planned specific to the ACEC remand once ACEC maps are developed and placed on the project website. A cooperating agency meeting to review the results of initial scoping and initiate alternatives development was held on June 18, 2012. **Contact: John Spehar, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4264).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins/VRM.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins/VRM.html)

## Oil and Gas Development Projects

1. **Moxa Arch Area Infill Gas Development Project/EIS.** The Kemmerer Field Office received a proposal submitted by the operators in the Moxa Arch gas field 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 Moxa Arch Area is located in southwestern Wyoming, and is comprised of 476,300 acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta, and Lincoln counties. The operators estimate that approximately 1,860 new gas wells would be drilled within the project area over 10 years. **NEPA Status:** A Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on October 7, 2005. The DEIS was released for public review on October 12, 2007. The public comment period was extended through January 10, 2008. However, questions were raised by the stakeholder group as to the accuracy and timeliness of the Emissions Inventory used in the **Air Quality (AQ)** dispersion modeling. A revised air impacts analysis that includes air dispersion modeling is ongoing. **Contact: Scott M Whitesides, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4518).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/moxa\\_arch.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/moxa_arch.html)

2. **LaBarge Platform Exploration and Development Project/EIS.** Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices received a proposal in December 2009 for the La Barge Platform Project from the following four energy development companies: EOG Resources, Exxon Mobil, Chevron and Wexpro. The companies propose to drill natural gas and oil wells from new well pads over the course of 15 years in the Upper Green River Basin, in Sublette and Lincoln counties in western Wyoming. This EIS addresses the proposal to drill, complete, produce, and eventually reclaim up to 838 oil and gas (primarily natural gas) wells on an estimated 463 new well pads (vertical and horizontal) over a 40 year project life span. The project area consists of 218,000 acres of federal, state, and private lands. The area is one of the oldest oil and gas fields in the region, dating back roughly 100 years. **NEPA Status:** An NOI published in the *Federal Register* on August 3, 2009. DEIS in preparation; information was received from proponents and the **Interdisciplinary team (IDT)** has been developing final guidance for alternatives. AQ modeling work continues by the contractor and an air impacts analysis that includes air dispersion modeling is ongoing. However, ozone non-attainment status for Sublette County has complicated the air quality issue and caused a delay in development of alternatives. BLM is currently working with Wyoming DEQ on the air quality issue. **Contact: Lauren McKeever, Project Lead, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5352).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/labarge\\_platform.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/labarge_platform.html)

3. **Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project/EIS.** The BLM has combined two proposals for EIS analysis: Creston/Blue Gap and Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Development Projects into a new project entitled, "Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Development Project (CD-C)". The combined proposal includes 8,950 natural gas wells, including 100 to 500 coal bed natural gas wells. Proponents for this action are BP and nearly 20 other lease holders. The project area encompasses about 1.1 million acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands within the boundaries of the Rawlins Field Office. Wells would be developed using a combination of both vertical and directional drilling techniques. A 15 year construction period with a 30-50 year operational period is proposed. The new project area is located approximately 25 miles west of Rawlins, within Carbon and Sweetwater counties in southern Wyoming. **NEPA Status:** NOI for CD-C was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 2006. Scoping notice was published in April, 2006. Air quality model results for the baseline year (2008) along with associated reports were completed in January, 2012. A preliminary draft EIS has been reviewed by Rawlins Field Office staff, cooperating agencies and air quality stakeholders. Preparation of the Draft EIS is occurring at this time. The DEIS is projected for release in late summer 2012. **Contact: David Simons, Project Lead, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4328).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/cd\\_creston.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/cd_creston.html)

4. **Hiawatha Field Project/EIS.** Questar Exploration & Production Company along with Wexpro Company proposes 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 located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The proponents propose to drill up to 4,208 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 was published in the *Federal Register* on September 6, 2006. The DEIS was made available for administrative and cooperating agencies' review in the fall of 2007. Questions were raised as to the accuracy of timeliness of the emissions inventory used in the AQ dispersion modeling, and Environ is in the process of refining the emissions inventory. The air quality analysis protocol is under revision to make it consistent with Moxa Arch. The base year 2005-06 and baseline 2008 cumulative emissions inventory (**EI**) is complete and the future year emissions inventories are being developed. An air impacts analysis that includes air dispersion modeling is ongoing and is expected in September 2012. **Contact: James Speck, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0358).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/hiawatha.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/hiawatha.html)

5. **Normally-Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project/EIS.** The Normally-Pressured Lance (NPL) Project is an area encompassing 141,080 acres located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices, High Desert District, in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs, Wyoming. About 93% of the NPL Project is BLM-administered public land. Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana) currently owns leasehold interests on more than 70% of this area. Encana is proposing the NPL project to include as many as 3,500 wells (depth range from 6,500 to 13,500 feet) based on a maximum of 64 wells per section of land, drilled over 10 years to produce natural gas from the Lance Pool. To minimize surface disturbance, wells would be directionally drilled from up to four, 18 acre multi-well pad locations per section. Encana would use no more than 10 natural gas drilling rigs on average to develop its interest. Encana also proposes to construct associated access roads, pipelines, compressor stations, and other facilities. On November 5, 2010, BLM selected ICF International as the third party EIS contractor. **NEPA Status:** The NOI published in the *Federal Register* on April 12, 2011. An MOU with Encana regarding the preparation of the EIS was executed in December 2010. An assessment protocol for the air impacts analysis that includes air dispersion modeling is being developed. MOUs with nine cooperating agencies have been finalized. A Cumulative Impacts Workshop was held with cooperating agencies on September 8, 2011. The ID team continues to formulate alternatives. However, ozone non-attainment status for Sublette County has complicated the air quality issue and caused a delay in completing development of alternatives. BLM is currently working with Wyoming DEQ on the air quality issue. **Contact: Kellie Roadifer, IDT Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5309).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/npl.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/npl.html)

6. **Grieve Unit CO<sub>2</sub> Enhancement Recovery Project.** Elk Petroleum (EP) has proposed to implement a gravity stable CO<sub>2</sub> flood program in the existing Grieve Unit to enhance considerable untapped oil potential. The oil field first went into production in 1954. The proposal includes seven CO<sub>2</sub> injection wells, one new production well, four new water disposal wells, new central facilities, 3.25 mile CO<sub>2</sub> connector pipeline, 2.25 mile in-field production and CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline corridor, 2.25 mile new access roads, and a one mile new water injector pipeline. The anticipated life of the proposed project is approximately 20 years. The project area is located in central Wyoming approximately 35 miles west of Casper. The project is within the Lander Field Office and includes approximately 160 acres of new disturbance. The project is partially located within the Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse Core Area. Land ownership includes BLM-administered lands, State of Wyoming land and private lands. **NEPA Status:** An MOU with EP regarding the preparation of an EA was executed in April 2011. **Contact: Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8452).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/grieveunit.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/grieveunit.html)



**7. Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project/EIS (formerly GMI).** Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, LP is proposing a 4,250 natural gas project in central Wyoming. The project was initially proposed as a 1,400 well development known as the Gun Barrel, Madden Deep and Iron Horse Units (GMI) Natural Gas Development Project. The project was expanded to include three new Federal Units and additional leasehold lands. The life of the proposed project is estimated to be 40 years. The gas development area consists of approximately 265,000 acres of Federal, State, and private lands with the majority of the project on BLM-administered surface located in Fremont and Natrona Counties Wyoming near the town of Lysite. The majority of the project area will be within the Lander Field Office, with a lesser portion in the Casper Field Office. Additional development will include pipelines to transport natural gas from the gas field to downstream pipelines near Wamsutter, Wyoming. Also proposed are pipelines to transport treated produced water to Boysen Reservoir and untreated and/or by-product brine from treated produced water to deep water disposal wells located approximately 10 to 20 miles south of the gas field. The Casper Field Office has identified a possible need to amend the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) as part of this project. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare EIS is in the process of being published in the *Federal Register*. **Contact:** Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8452). **Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gmi.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gmi.html)

**8. Beaver Creek Natural Gas 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 **coal bed natural gas (CBNG)** and 20 would produce conventional natural gas. Devon proposes to drill the CBNG wells at a density of one well per 40 acres. The project area is approximately 16,515 acres and is located about nine miles southeast of Riverton, Wyoming, in Fremont County, within the Lander Field Office. Approximately 82% of the project area is public lands and federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Drilling would occur during a 5-10 year period over the course of a 20 to 40 year project life. Existing development in the Beaver Creek unit includes 133 producing conventional natural gas and oil wells. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in the *Federal Register* on July 29, 2008. An air impacts analysis that includes air dispersion modeling is ongoing. A DEIS without the AQ analysis was developed and sent to cooperating agencies in late February. The Air AQ modeling protocol has been approved by the air resources stake holders. After the model is run and impacts incorporated into the DEIS it will be released for public review, currently scheduled for early in 2013. **Contact:** Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8442). **Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/beavercreek\\_cbng.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/beavercreek_cbng.html)

### Wind Energy Projects

**1. Sierra Madre/Chokecherry Wind Farm Project/EIS.** Power Company of Wyoming has submitted an application requesting **right of way (ROW)** across public lands to site approximately 1,000, 2-3 **megawatt (MW)** wind turbines, access roads, transmission lines and associated infrastructure. The project area is located south of Rawlins, Wyoming within the checkerboard land pattern. The project is separated into two areas; the Chokecherry and the Sierra Madre, encompassing approximately 227,000 acres of which 100,000 acres are public lands. This project is categorized as a Priority Project, meaning it is part of federal efforts to diversify the Nation's energy portfolio in an environmentally responsible manner, in addition to being sited in an area that minimizes impacts to the environment. The EIS will be a two volume document. The first volume is the planning amendment volume and the second is the project analysis volume. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* July 25, 2008. Four public scoping meetings were held in Wyoming August 16- 19, 2008. The DEIS was released by the BLM and **Notice of Availability (NOA)** announcing publication of the DEIS was published July 22 2011. Public comment meetings were held August 22-23, 2011. Public comment period concluded on October 19, 2011. EPA

published its NOA announcing availability of the FEIS on June 29, 2012. Public protest period will conclude on July 30, 2012. An Avian Protection Plan (APP) is currently being developed by Power Company of Wyoming in coordination with the USFWS. **Contact: Pamela Murdock, IDT Leader, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6259).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html)

**2. White Mountain Wind Farm/EA.** Teton Wind, LLC, filed an application for a wind energy project known as the White Mountain Wind Energy Project. The project area comprises of approximately 13,145 acres of private, state, and public lands and is located on top of White Mountain, located west-northwest 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 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 power generated to an existing 230 kV power line. This project is categorized as a Priority Project, meaning it is part of the Administration's efforts to diversify the Nation's energy portfolio in an environmentally responsible manner, in addition to being sited in an area that minimizes impacts to the environment. **NEPA Status:** Preliminary EA released for public comment in February 2010. Comments were received in March 2010. EA is complete and the Decision Record and FONSI are on hold pending an acceptable APP approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Notice to prepare an **Avian Protection Plan (APP)** has been received by the FWS based on spring data collected, and cost recovery for development and implementation of an APP is underway. Currently, the Service is evaluating a 145 turbine layout for the developer based on the data collected. **Contact: Carol Montgomery, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0344).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/whitemtnwind.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/whitemtnwind.html)

**3. Miller Mountain Wind Farm/anticipated EIS.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 300 MW wind energy facility. The proponent proposes to construct 200 turbines on 5,088 acres of BLM-administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office in Sweetwater County, located in southwest Wyoming. Initial planning and application were completed prior to sage-grouse core areas being designated. At the present time the entire project is wholly within Greater Sage-grouse core area habitat and has been put on hold by the applicant. **NEPA Status:** If the project area moves forward in core sage-grouse areas, an EIS will need to be prepared. **Contact: Carol Montgomery, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0344).**

**4. Quaking Aspen Mountain Wind Farm/EIS.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 160 MW wind energy facility. The proponent proposes to construct 79 turbines upon 5,157 acres of BLM-administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwest Wyoming. Initial notice has been sent to all field offices to assign members to ID team for resource review in the project area. Pre-application meeting was held on September 28, 2010. This project has recently downsized to accommodate current revisions due to the State of Wyoming core sage-grouse habitat area designation in the original project footprint. Forty-one wind turbines have been removed from the original application. Cost recovery is being drafted for this project and NEPA should be initiated once cost recovery is accepted by the proponent and the Rock Springs Field Office. **NEPA Status:** Cooperating agencies kick-off meeting was held on April 12, 2012 in Rock Springs. The revised draft Plan of Development is out for the cooperators' review.

**Contact: Carol Montgomery, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0344).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/quaking-aspen.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/quaking-aspen.html)

**5. White Mountain Wind Project/EA or EIS.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 200 MW wind energy facility. Assembly of 63 turbines has been suggested by the proponent on 5,000 acres of BLM-administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwestern Wyoming. Approximately 15 miles of new turbine string corridor (16-20 foot wide

permanent roads plus turbine foundations) would be constructed. Approximately 30 miles of new roads would be required. Project is currently on hold. The applicant would like to continue collecting data for this project. **NEPA Status:** Initial internal interdisciplinary resource review required after cost recovery. Anticipate EIS if construction is proposed in core sage-grouse areas. The testing ROW has expired and the project has subsequently been closed. **Contact: Carol Montgomery, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0344).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/whitemtnwind.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/whitemtnwind.html)

**6. Sweeney Ranch Wind Energy Facility/EIS.** Wasatch Wind Development proposes to construct a 150 turbine, 270 MW wind energy facility on 5,360 acres of BLM-administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwestern Wyoming. Cost Recovery has been completed and signed. ID team has been established. SWCA has been selected as the contractor to complete the NEPA. The Proponent has suspended activity on this project until it finalizes a Power Purchase Agreement and Interconnect Agreement. When Applicant re-initiates the project, a schedule of the NEPA process will be completed and an NOI will be finalized. The FWS has notified BLM and Proponent that an Avian Protection Plan is warranted for this project. Adjustments to the project have been made to move away from known raptor nests in the south end of the project. **NEPA Status:** An EIS will likely be prepared unless the Proponent reinitiates the project with material change in scope. **Contact: Carol Montgomery, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0344).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/sweeneyranch-wind.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/sweeneyranch-wind.html)

**7. Sandhills Ranch Wind Energy Project/EA.** Shell Wind Energy proposes to construct a wind energy facility consisting of 25, 2 MW wind turbines, totaling 50 MW on 115 acres of land, 21 of which are administered by the BLM. Facilities would include one substation, 16 miles of new roads, and overhead transmission lines. This project was initially categorized as a Priority Project, meaning it is part of the federal efforts to diversify the Nation's energy portfolio in an environmentally responsible manner, in addition to being sited in an area that minimizes impacts to the environment, but that status has been removed. The project area is located within the Rawlins Field Office, in southeastern Wyoming. The proponent has agreed to participate in formal conferencing for Mountain Plover; however the formal conferencing does not need to be completed prior to a decision. **NEPA Status:** EA was made available for public comment on May 31, 2011. Comments to the EA are currently being processed. APP has been submitted to the USFWS. **Contact: Mark Ames, Project Lead, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4294)**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/sandhills\\_wind.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/sandhills_wind.html)

**8. Sand Creek Wind Project.** Big Wind Power Company may submit an application for a wind energy project located in the Shirley Basin area in the northern portion of the Rawlins Field Office. The proponent has plans to develop a 1 GW wind energy facility, consisting of approximately 419 wind turbine sites, likely to be built in economically viable stages, mostly on BLM land. A Type III ROW application and POD are expected from the proponent by the end of the year. (On Hold) **Contact: Mark Ames, Project Manager, Renewable Energy, Rawlins Field Office, (307-328-4294).**

### Uranium Projects

**1. Gas Hills In Situ Leach (ISL) Uranium Project/EIS.** Cameco Resources filed a Plan of Operation for an *in situ* leach uranium project in the Gas Hills area on the eastern portion of the Lander Field Office and a small portion within the Casper Field Office. The mine area will exceed 640 acres, triggering an EIS. **NEPA Status:** NOI published on September 7, 2010, in the *Federal Register*. Public scoping meetings were held in Casper, Riverton, and Lander October 26- 28, 2010 and in Jeffery City on November 18, 2010. Public comments were due by December 15, 2010. The BLM met with cooperating agencies and the public on March 28, 2011 on the range of alternatives. The **PDEIS** was reviewed in the spring of 2012 and comments incorporated. The NOA for the DEIS is being reviewed by the State Office

and should be available for review by the WO in July, 2012. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gashills.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/gashills.html)

2. **Lost Creek ISR Uranium Project/ EIS.** In November 2009, the Rawlins Field Office received a 43 CFR 3809 Plan of Operations for a proposed uranium mining operation titled the Lost Creek *In Situ Recovery (ISR)* Project. The Lost Creek ISR proposal includes an ore recovery plant site, road access to the site, a pipeline gathering system for extraction of the uranium minerals and transport to the plant site, and associated facilities such as parking lots, power lines, etc. Development and recovery of the uranium resource consists of dissolving underground uranium-bearing minerals into solution and then bringing them to the surface facility for concentration. The proposed project area consists of approximately 4,250 acres, with no more than 324 acres of surface disturbance. Mining operations are expected to last for a period of about eight years while start-up and closure operations are expected to add approximately three years to the total project. The Lost Creek ISR project is located about 40 miles northwest of Rawlins, Wyoming in Sweetwater County. **NEPA Status:** The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on February 11, 2011. A public scoping meeting was held on March 7, 2011 at the Rawlins Field Office. A meeting with cooperating agencies to discuss EIS alternatives occurred on March 30, 2011. The scoping comments received in response to the NOI were used during the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify potential impacts and to help develop three action alternatives. A 45-day comment period for the DEIS began April 27, 2012, as published in the *Federal Register* (77 FR 25193). The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is currently in review in the Washington Office. **Contact: John Russell, Project Manager, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4252).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/lostcreek.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/lostcreek.html)

3.) **Nichols Ranch/Hank Unit Uranium ISR Project** (not started). The proposal is to construct, operate, conduct aquifer restoration, and decommission an ISR uranium facility. The size of the project area is 3,371 acres, located 46 miles southwest of Gillette, Wyoming in Campbell and Johnson counties. Approximately 280 acres of BLM-administered lands are included in the project area. **NEPA Status:** The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)** released their Final **Supplemental EIS (SEIS)** for this project in January 2011. BLM determined that the NRC SEIS was insufficient for some issues, cultural and wildlife in particular. A revised Plan of Operations was received March 2012. BFO determined that the Plan of Operations was complete on June 8 and began a 30 day public notification and scoping period. A decision is anticipated in late 2012. **Contact: Thomas Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/nichols-ranch.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/nichols-ranch.html)

4.) **Sheep Mountain Uranium Project/EIS.** The project consists of an open pit and underground uranium mine with onsite heap leach processing and includes a total of 3,625 acres, of which 2,313 acres are BLM surface and 2,836 acres are federal minerals. The NOI for this project was published on August 23, 2011, with a 45 day public scoping period. The scoping report was made available to the public on November 30, 2011. The project was put on hold during merger negotiations between the proponent and a Colorado uranium company. The merger was completed in February, 2012, and the project is moving forward with a modified Plan of Operations. Information from the proponent is needed before the PDEIS can be completed. The DEIS is expected by the end of 2012. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448).**

**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html).

### Transmission Projects

1. **Gateway South Transmission Line Project/EIS.** PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain Power, has submitted an application to the BLM requesting a ROW across public lands to site a single



circuit 500 kV transmission line from the Aeolus Substation (near Medicine Bow, Wyoming) to the Clover (Mona Annex) Substation, near Nephi, Utah, a total distance of approximately 400 miles. This line would carry renewable wind and thermal energy from Wyoming to Rocky Mountain Power customers in Utah, to serve load and growth needs for transmission, and provide reliability and redundancy to their system. The requested ROW width is 250 feet. The route would cross the Rawlins and possibly Rock Springs field offices, as well as other BLM offices in Colorado and Utah, and three Forest Service Offices in Utah. The Forest Service is a key cooperating agency in assisting BLM (lead) to prepare the EIS. **NEPA Status:** NOI published April 1, 2011. Public scoping completed June 3, 2011. DEIS is anticipated June 2013. **Contact: Tamara Gertsch, National Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6115).**  
**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway\\_south.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html)

**2. Gateway West Transmission Line Project/EIS.** Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power submitted a right of way application in May 2007 and most recently revised it in February 2012. The project involves constructing a major transmission line to carry 1,500 MW from Glenrock, Wyoming to a substation 20 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho. Total proposed length of the line is approximately 1,000 miles of which about 490 miles is on federal land including four BLM field offices in Wyoming, seven field offices in Idaho, two USFS Ranger Districts, and Bureau of Reclamation lands. Major issues include multiple alternate line segments to avoid communities and private lands, visual resources, impacts to National Historic Trails, and analysis of impacts to Sage-grouse. **NEPA Status:** DEIS public comment period closed on October 28, 2011. 375 submissions containing over 2,600 comments were received. A 30-day public review period for Sage-grouse analysis is scheduled for the fall of 2012. **Contact Walt George, Project Manager, Wyoming State Office, (307-775-6116).**  
**Project website:** [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/)

**3.) TransWest Express Transmission Line Project/EIS.** TransWest Express, LLC., submitted a ROW application to cross public lands for an extra high voltage direct current line (600 kV DC) to south central Wyoming to the Eldorado Valley south of Las Vegas, with the potential to connect at the Intermountain Power Project, near Delta, Utah. The 725 mile line would cross southern Wyoming, northwestern Colorado, central Utah and southern Nevada. The line would carry renewable energy generated in Wyoming to the desert southwest. The ROW is expected to be 250 feet wide, with the potential to cross 16 BLM field offices, 15 counties within the four states, and four National Forests in Utah. The ROW in Wyoming may cross the Rawlins and Rock Springs field offices. **Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)** is joint lead for the EIS. The FS, FWS, NPS, USACE, BOR, Navy, Army, the four states and most counties are cooperators assisting in the EIS preparation. Approximate length on public lands is 450 miles. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in January, 2011. A 90-day public scoping period occurred January - April, 2011, with 23 public meetings held in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Nevada. The administrative draft EIS is currently underway. The first internal review for the administrative draft EIS was in February, 2012, with a second internal review planned for October 2012. The public comment review for the Draft EIS is scheduled for spring, 2013. **Contact: Sharon Knowlton, Project Manager, Wyoming State Office, (307-775-6124).**  
**Project website:** [www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html)