

NEPA HOTSHEET

Spring 2016

BLM Wyoming Land Use Plans and Proposed Projects

Resource Management Plans (RMP)

RMP planning areas include all lands, regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction.

1. Worland Field Office Approved RMP Implementation: The Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD), Signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the Washakie and Grass Creek RMPs in Worland. The Worland Field Office is currently preparing a Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy and expects to continue cooperator and stakeholder input in Spring 2016 and host public meetings early Summer 2016.

Contact: Holly Elliott, P&EC, Worland Field Office (307-347-5193)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>

2. Cody Field Office Approved RMP: The Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD), signed September 21, 2015, replaces the 1990 Cody RMP. The Cody Field Office has prepared a Land Use Implementation Plan, held an initial Cooperating Agency meeting on April 18th, and held initial RMP implementation public meetings on April 26th and 27th.

Contact: Bradley Johnson, P&EC, Cody Field Office (307-578-6404).

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>

3. Buffalo Field Office Approved RMP Implementation: The Approved RMP and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, replaces the 1985 Buffalo RMP. The planning area includes lands within the BLM Buffalo Field Office administrative boundary in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeastern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 780,000 acres, and the federal mineral estate totaling 4.8 million acres.

An initial implementation meeting with cooperating agencies is planned for the second quarter of year 2016.

Contact: Thomas Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

4. Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments Implementation: The Approved RMP Amendment and ROD, signed Sept. 21, 2015, amends six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer and Pinedale), and three U.S. Forest Service (USFS) plans (Medicine Bow, Bridger-Teton and Thunder Basin National Grassland) to incorporate new management and conservation measures on priority sage grouse habitat. The planning area contains approximately 16 million acres of public surface land administered by the BLM and USFS and 16 million acres of federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate.

Contact: Pam Murdock, Senior Resource Advisor, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6259)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments.html>

5. Lander Field Office Approved RMP Implementation: The 2014 ROD and Approved RMP, published on June 26, 2014, replace the 1987 Lander RMP. The RMP covers approximately 2.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 2.8 million acres of federal mineral estate 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 conservation (70 percent of the planning area has been designated as priority habitat), and management of recreational uses on BLM-administered lands. Implementation of the RMP and development of an adaptive management strategy for sage-grouse has begun. Cooperating agency and public meetings were held in September 2014. Implementation meetings started in March 2015.

Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8448)

6. Rock Springs RMP Revision EIS: The planning area includes lands within the BLM Rock Springs Field Office administrative boundary in Sweetwater, Lincoln, Uinta, Sublette, and Fremont counties in southwestern Wyoming. The decision area consists of BLM-administered surface, totaling 3.5 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 3.6 million acres. The revised RMP will replace the 1997 Green River RMP. 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. A Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Plan for the entire field office, as well as an additional socioeconomic modeling effort coordinated with cooperating agencies are being incorporated into the RMP Revision. In April 2013, the Department of the Interior, the BLM and the Rock Springs Grazing Association signed a consent decree requiring the BLM to initiate NEPA analysis to consider the environmental effects of modifying management levels of wild horses in specified herd management areas. An NOI was issued, initiating public scoping to amend the 2008 Rawlins RMP in conjunction with the Rock Springs RMP revision. Work on the RMP resumed in February 2015 following a twelve month hold to allow the Wyoming Sage-Grouse RMP Amendments to get ahead of the revision effort.

NOI Issued: Feb. 1, 2011

NOI to re-open scoping period for Wild Horse Management: Aug. 16, 2013

Estimated Publication of Draft RMP/Draft EIS: Second Quarter 2017

Estimated Publication of Proposed RMP/Final EIS: Third Quarter 2018

Estimated Publication of ROD: Second Quarter 2019

Contact: William West, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0259)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html>

7. Rawlins Visual Resource Management (VRM) Targeted RMP Amendment EA: The VRM Class decisions in the Rawlins RMP were remanded following protest resolution on the 2008 Rawlins Proposed RMP/Final EIS. BLM is amending 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) is excluded from the Rawlins RMP planning review as it was previously analyzed.

NOI Issued: April 11, 2012

NOA Issued for Draft Amendment/EA: August 2013

Estimated Publication of EA and unsigned FONSI: First Quarter 2016

Estimated Publication of Decision Record (DR): Summer 2016

Contact: Jennifer Fleuret-McConchie, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-775-6329)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins/VRM.html>

8. Pinedale RMP Amendment EA: The Pinedale Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Pinedale RMP. The EA amendment would remove an estimated 5,120 acres from future oil and gas leasing. These acres were part of the Trust for Public Land lease-buyout connected with PXP mineral leases. The document continues to be drafted internally and has undergone Cooperating Agency reviews.

NOI Issued: May 9, 2014

Contact: Lauren McKeever, IDT Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5300)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/pinedale/5120.html>

9. Rawlins RMP Amendment EA: The Rawlins Field Office has issued an NOI for an amendment to the Rawlins RMP. The EA amendment would remove an estimated 12,425 acres from future oil and gas leasing. These acres are located on federal mineral estate adjacent to the water sources for the municipalities of Rawlins, Saratoga, and Laramie, Wyoming.

NOI Issued: July 21, 2014

Contact: Annette Treat, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4314)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins/water.html>

Oil and Gas Development Projects

1. Blacks Fork EIS (Formerly Moxa Arch Area Infill): The Blacks Fork project area is located within the Moxa Arch gas field in southwestern Wyoming and is comprised of 633,532 acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta, and Lincoln counties. 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 operators estimate that approximately 7,500 hydrocarbon wells on 1,000 well pads would be drilled over 20 years.

NEPA Status: The original NOI was published on Oct. 7, 2005. In December 2013, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation took the project over from the previous operator. In June 2014, Anadarko provided preliminary information for changes to the Moxa Arch Area Infill Project, including changing the project name to the Blacks Fork Hydrocarbon Development Project, increasing the total acreage, and revising the number of proposed wells. A new plan of development was submitted to BLM on Oct. 10, 2014. The project is currently on hold by the proponent due to commodity pricing.

Contact: Travis Chewning, IDT Leader, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4518)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/moxa_arch.html

2. Continental Divide-Creston (CD-C) Natural Gas Project EIS: The CD-C project is a combination of two proposals for EIS analysis, the Creston/Blue Gap and Continental Divide/Wamsutter II natural gas development projects. The proposed project area is located approximately 25 miles west of Rawlins, within Carbon and Sweetwater counties in southern Wyoming. 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 both vertical and horizontal drilling techniques. A 15 year construction period with a 30-50 year operational period is proposed.

NEPA Status: The DEIS was released for public comment on Dec. 7, 2012, and ended on March 6, 2013. Approximately 8,700 DEIS comments were received. The FEIS was released on April 15 2016 for a 30 day public availability period, which will end on May 16. The ROD is anticipated for July, 2016.

Contact: Jennifer Fleuret-McConchie, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-775-6329)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/cd_creston.html

3. Hiawatha Field Project EIS: QEP, along with Wexpro Company, propose to drill up to 2,200 exploratory and development wells in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming, and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The proponents plan to drill new vertical, directional and horizontal natural gas wells many of which would be within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado. The project area of approximately 157,335 acres is located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. About 66 percent of the proposed wells would be located in Wyoming, with the remainder in Colorado.

NEPA Status: An NOI was published on Sept. 6, 2006. The DEIS is currently being revised and a new project schedule has been prepared. The Preliminary DEIS will be completed following Cooperating Agency review, estimated to be in the third quarter of 2016.

Contact: Ted Inman, NRS, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/hiawatha.html>

4. Normally-Pressured Lance (NPL) Natural Gas Development Project EIS: The NPL project is located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs. The project encompasses 141,080 acres, 93 percent of which is BLM-administered land. Jonah Energy LLC is proposing up to 3,500 directionally-drilled wells over a period of 10 years. Most wells would be co-located on a single pad, with no more than 4 well pads being constructed per 640 acres. On average,

each well pad would be 18 acres in size. Associated access roads, pipelines, compressor stations and other facilities would be co-located where possible to further minimize surface disturbance. Jonah Energy would use no more than 10 natural gas drilling rigs on average to develop its interest.

NEPA Status: The NOI published on April 12, 2011. The BLM is finalizing updates to the proposed action and alternatives to meet air quality general conformance requirements and provisions of the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment. The DEIS is expected for release in July 2016 and the FEIS is scheduled for March 2017.

Contacts: Liz Dailey, Co-Project Manager, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5310)

Phillip Blundell, Co-Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0243)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/pfo/npl.html>

5. Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS (formerly GMI): Aethon Energy and Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company LP have proposed to develop up to 4,250 natural gas and oil wells and associated infrastructure within the proposed Moneta Divide Project area. The project area is located in Fremont and Natrona counties and encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land. The life of the proposed project is estimated to be 40 years. Additional development would include pipelines to transport natural gas from the gas field to downstream pipelines near Wamsutter, Wyoming, in the Rawlins Field Office. Also proposed are pipelines to transport treated produced water to Boysen Reservoir. The untreated and/or by-product brine from treated produced water would be transported via pipelines to two underground disposal areas. One of the disposal areas is located adjacent to the production area and the other is located approximately 15 miles south of the gas field. The Lander Field Office is the lead for this project. The Casper Field Office may need to amend the Casper RMP as part of this project.

NEPA Status: The NOI to prepare an EIS published on Jan. 17, 2013. Public scoping meetings were held in mid-February 2013 in Riverton, Lander and Casper. The scoping period closed at the end of March 2013. The DEIS is scheduled for release in late 2016.

Contact: Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8452)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html>

6. Bird Canyon Field Infill Project EIS: Koch Exploration and Memorial Resource Development propose to drill additional oil and gas wells in the Bird Canyon Field to facilitate product extraction and to maximize the economic recovery of the resource. The Bird Canyon Field encompasses 17,612 acres of BLM-administered surface lands in Sublette and Lincoln counties in southwestern Wyoming. The operators have proposed to drill 348 new gas wells in the project area over 10-20 years. The proposal is entirely within the marginal non-attainment area for ozone.

NEPA Status: The NOI to prepare an EIS was published on May 9, 2014. Public scoping meetings were held in Rock Springs and Marbleton, Wyoming, on May 29-30, 2014, and the scoping period ended on June 16, 2014. Eleven individuals and organizations commented on the project. The DEIS was anticipated to be released in the second or third quarter of 2016. However, the project is currently on hold due to current commodity market prices.

Contact: Brandon Teppo, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0318)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/birdcanyon.html>

8. Converse County Oil and Gas Project EIS: The Casper Field Office received a proposal from a group of six companies to develop up to 5,000 new oil or gas wells in northern Converse County, Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 1.5 million acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands. The operators propose to develop the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project includes all or parts of three different Sage-Grouse Core Areas.

NEPA Status: An NOI to prepare an EIS published on May 16, 2014. Public scoping concluded on June 30, 2014, with 90 comments received. The BLM is currently finalizing alternatives. A DEIS is anticipated in late 2016, with the FEIS slated for the fourth quarter of 2017 or the second quarter of 2018.

Contact: Mike Robinson, Project Manager, Casper Field Office (307-261-7520)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html

9. Riley Ridge to Natrona (RRNP) EIS: The project consists of a 243-mile pipeline through Fremont, Sublette, Sweetwater and Natrona counties. The pipeline project was applied for under two separate ROW applications: the Riley Ridge Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Pipeline and the Bairoil-to-Natrona CO₂ Pipeline. The Riley Ridge segment would include 31 miles of 16-inch pipeline transporting non-gaseous hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and CO₂ from the existing Riley Ridge Treating Plant 18 miles southwest of Big Piney to a proposed sweetening plant 12 miles northeast of LaBarge. At the proposed sweetening plant, H₂S would be separated from the H₂S and CO₂ stream and injected into a deep geological formation via two proposed H₂S injection wells. From the sweetening plant, a 24-inch pipeline would transport the remaining CO₂ 129 miles through Sublette and Sweetwater counties to the Bairoil (Exxon) Interconnect 50 miles northwest of Rawlins. The Bairoil-to-Natrona segment would include 83 miles of 24-inch pipeline transporting CO₂ from the Bairoil Interconnect through Fremont and Natrona counties to the existing Greencore Pipeline where the project ends at the Natrona Hub 30 miles west of Casper. The CO₂ would eventually be used for enhanced oil recovery in the Bell Creek Unit oil field in southeastern Montana.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on June 9, 2014. Public scoping meetings were held July 14-17, 2014. The DEIS is scheduled for release in June 2016 and the FEIS is expected to be released in January 2017.

Contact: Mark Mackiewicz, National Project Manager, Washington Office (435-636-3616)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/RRNP.html>

10. Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project EIS: The Buffalo Field Office received a proposal from EOG Resources to develop up to 1,500 new oil and gas wells in Campbell and Converse counties in eastern Wyoming. The project area encompasses roughly 120,000 acres of split estate mixed surface ownership lands within the BLM Buffalo and Casper field offices and the USFS Douglas Ranger District. There are no BLM-administered lands within the project area; however, approximately 64 percent of the mineral estate is managed by the BLM. Surface lands managed by the Forest Service and the State of Wyoming make up roughly 13,000 acres of the area. EOG proposes developing the wells over 10 years, with the life of the project anticipated to be 20 to 30 years. The project is not within sage-grouse core priority habitat.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on Oct. 26, 2015. Cooperating agency and public scoping meetings were held in December 2015. The NOA for the DEIS is anticipated for release in summer 2017 and FEIS in second quarter of 2018.

Contact: Tom Bills, Project Manager, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133)

11. Desolation Road EA: Mustang Resources proposes to drill up to 17 wells on up to five well pads in the Desolation Road Unit in southwestern Wyoming. The proposed well pads are located within 2 miles of the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area (WSA), with the closest well pad located about 1,000 feet from the WSA boundary. Total project disturbance is anticipated to be approximately 117 acres. The project is within a Class II visual resource management area and contains designated pronghorn antelope crucial winter range as well as potential habitat for raptors and mountain plover.

NEPA Status: Scoping was reinitiated on Oct. 10, 2014, due to a significant change in the proposed project. The public scoping period ended Nov. 14, 2014. Nineteen individuals/organizations provided comments on the proposed project in July 2015. Samson Resources sold the Desolation Road Unit to Mustang Resources. The BLM is currently coordinating with Mustang Resources to determine how the new unit operator plans to move forward with this project.

Contact: Brandon Teppo, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0318)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/Desolation_Plan.html

Upcoming Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/energy/Oil_and_Gas/Leasing.html

May 3, 2016

- **High Desert District**
 - 30 sale parcels
 - 27,070.430 acres
- **High Plains District (carried over from postponed February 2, 2016 sale)**
 - 50 sale parcels
 - 42,795.800 acres
- **Wind River/Bighorn Basin District (carried over from postponed February 2, 2016 sale)**
 - 30 sale parcels
 - 36,116.960 acres

August 2, 2016

- **High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts**
 - 104 preliminary parcels (99.191.790 acres) being reviewed
 - EA public comment period ends on February 18, 2016
 - Sale Notice will be posted on May 4, 2016

November 1, 2016

- **High Desert District**
 - 140 preliminary parcels (258,748.940 acres)
 - EA public comment period April 19-May 19, 2016
 - Sale notice will be posted on August 3, 2016
 - 21 sale parcels will be recommended
 - 30,197.030 acres

Wind Energy Projects

Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind Farm Project EIS and EAs: Power Company of Wyoming submitted an application requesting a ROW across public lands to site approximately 1,000 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 encompasses approximately 220,000 acres, 102,000 acres of which are public lands.

NEPA Status: The ROD was signed by the Secretary of the Interior on Oct. 9, 2012. However, additional site-specific, tiered EAs are required prior to issuance of any ROWs. Cooperator and scoping meetings were held in September 2013 for NEPA EA 1 Infrastructure Components (Phase I Haul Road, West Sinclair Rail Facility and Road Rock Quarry). A DR for EA 1 for infrastructure components of the project was signed by the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals on Dec. 23, 2014. Public meetings on phase I turbine development were held in Rawlins and Saratoga on Dec. 16-17, 2013. The Phase I Wind Turbine Development EA2, (for the first phase of construction for up to 500 turbines), was released for public comment March 9, 2016. An Avian Protection Plan and Eagle Conservation Plan are being developed by the proponent in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS is concurrently working on a separate EIS for an Eagle Take Permit for the project. The FWS DEIS for the Eagle take permit was released to the public the end of April, 2016.

Contact: Heather Schultz, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4215)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>

Transmission Projects

1. Gateway South Transmission Line Project EIS: PacifiCorp, doing business as Rocky Mountain

Power, 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 Substation near Mona, Utah, a total distance of approximately 400-425 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 Field Office, as well as other BLM offices in Colorado and Utah, and three USFS offices in Utah. The USFS is a key cooperating agency in assisting the BLM (lead) to prepare the EIS.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on April 1, 2011. Public scoping was completed June 3, 2011. The DEIS was published Feb. 21, 2014. The FEIS NOA package is in the Washington Office awaiting approval to publish.

Contact: Tamara Gertsch, National Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6115)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/gateway_south.html

2. TransWest Express Transmission Line Project EIS: TransWest Express, LLC submitted a revised ROW application in January 2010 (initially filed in 2008) to construct a 600 kV high-voltage direct current transmission line designed to carry up to 3,000 MW from south-central Wyoming, through Colorado and Utah, and ending southeast of Las Vegas. The total distance is roughly 725 miles. BLM Wyoming was designated as the lead state for the project. The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) accepting joint lead for the NEPA process in 2010, with BLM retaining the lead for the NHPA Section 106 consultation and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation. The project is proposed to carry renewable energy generated in Wyoming to the Southwest. The proposed route crosses 490 miles of federal lands. The route also spans three National Forests and 235 miles of private and state lands. The ROW requested width is typically 250 feet. An additional 1,478 miles of alternatives are analyzed in the EIS.

NEPA Status: The NOI published in January 2011. The DEIS was published July 3, 2013. Roughly 1,000 comments were received. The FEIS was published May 1, 2015. The ROD is anticipated for June, 2016.

Contact: Sharon Knowlton, Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6124)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hdd/transwest.html>

Solid Mineral Projects

1. Rawhide Coal Lease Modification EA: Peabody Caballo Mining, LLC submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Rawhide Mine. The requested modification consists of adding a 291 acre tract to the Rawhide lease.

NEPA Status: Public scoping ended on Feb. 17, 2015. The preliminary draft EA is in preparation.

Contact: Sarah Bucklin, Project Manager, High Plains District Office (307-261-7541)

2. Competitive Sodium Lease Section 12: Tata Chemicals submitted a lease application to expand its existing trona mining operation 10 miles southwest of Green River, Wyoming. The proposed expansion totals 400 acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate. This lease would expand Tata's current operation, which consists of an underground trona mine and associated soda ash plant.

NEPA Status: Public scoping ended on May 2, 2015. The DR and FONSI were signed Dec. 3, 2015. The Wyoming State Office held a sealed bid competitive sale process on March 8, 2016. Tata Chemicals submitted the winning bid.

Contact: Travis Chewing, IDT Leader, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4539)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/sodium.html>

3. Sheep Mountain Uranium Project EIS: Originally submitted by Titan Uranium USA Inc., the project consists of an open pit and underground uranium mine with on-site heap leach processing within a 3,625 acre project area, of which 2,313 acres are BLM surface and 2,836 acres are federal minerals.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on Aug. 23, 2011. The proponent merged with Energy Fuels Resources, Inc. in February 2012. Several revisions to the Plan of Operations were submitted; the latest being received in October 2015. The DEIS was published on Jan. 16, 2015. A public

meeting for the DEIS was held on January 28 in Lander, Wyoming. The 45-day public comment period closed on March 2, 2015. The FEIS is scheduled for release in late summer or early autumn of 2016.

**Contact: Tom Sunderland, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8412) or
Chris Krassin, Project Coordinator, Lander Field Office (307-332-8400)**

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html>.

4. Black Butte Coal Lease Modification EA: Black Butte Coal Company submitted an application requesting a lease modification for the Black Butte Coal Mine. The requested modification would add 448.6 acres of surface disturbance to an existing Black Butte Coal lease.

NEPA Status: Public scoping ended on Dec. 9, 2014, resulting in a single public comment. The preliminary EA is in preparation.

Contact: Ted Inman, Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0388)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/BlackButteCoal.html>

5. Lost Creek Uranium *In Situ* Recovery (ISR) Project Modifications EIS: The Applicant, Lost Creek ISR LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ur-Energy Inc., requested to modify their Lost Creek Uranium *In-Situ* Recovery (ISR) Project, 43 CFR3809 Plan of Operations, which was approved October 5, 2012. The proposed mining expansion consists of two submittals: The Lost Creek East modification would expand operations outward, and would add a new project area totaling approximately 5,750 acres to the existing Lost Creek Project area of approximately 4,254 acres, and result in approximately 241 acres of new surface disturbance. The KM Horizon modification (to expand operations deeper) would allow *in-situ* mining of uranium from the deeper KM Horizon, while increasing the extent of mining in the existing HJ horizon, within the project area approved Oct. 5, 2012, and add approximately 78 acres of additional surface disturbance.

NEPA Status: The NOI was published on Sept. 14, 2015, and public scoping ended Nov. 2. The DEIS is anticipated for public release in late 2016.

Contact: John Russell, Project Manager, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4252)

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/lostcreek.html>