
***Proposed Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement***

Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Project

Appendix D

Implementation

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APPENDIX D

IMPLEMENTATION

1.0 GENERAL

Implementation of the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) will require continued involvement of cooperating agencies, both in terms of funding and time, and continued public participation. This appendix describes the basic elements of implementing the Bighorn Basin RMP.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Each field office will implement its respective RMP. To ensure overall coordination, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the cooperating agencies should meet at least yearly to provide support for the implementation prioritization, review recommendations for changes to implementation strategies and review monitoring evaluation results. This group is called the Implementation Working Group. Implementation Working Groups will serve in a recommending capacity as the BLM cannot relinquish its decision-making authority or responsibility. A single Implementation Working Group may serve both field offices, or an Implementation Working Group may be convened for each field office. All Implementation Working Group meetings will be open to the public, and announced on the BLM website.

The Implementation Working Group will ensure implementation is orderly and without duplication or confusion. The Implementation Working Group will look at interdisciplinary and interagency implementation rather than resource-by-resource implementation to make recommendations regarding the best use of funding and personnel from both cooperating agencies and the BLM.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING DATABASE

A database has been developed for both the Cody and Worland Field Offices to track the budget, monitoring, and implementation actions. Once the database has been populated, it will require continual maintenance and updates to accurately track the implementation process. Information will be collected based on quarterly performance evaluation (PE) accomplishment reporting, and complete fiscal year reports will be published with analysis on the BLM website by December 31 of each calendar year.

4.0 MONITORING WORKING GROUP

To ensure that monitoring methods are in place, a Monitoring Working Group will be assembled to develop an overall monitoring plan, utilizing existing monitoring information from the various members of the Implementation Working Group. The team's guidance and direction will be provided through Appendix C, Monitoring and Evaluation. The BLM is responsible to apply monitoring procedures and protocols that are based on BLM policies, field office priorities and available funding. The BLM intends to monitor the **implementation** of the entire RMP as a separate process from monitoring the impacts. The appropriate field manager will make final decisions on the monitoring plans, monitoring priorities, and whether or not monitoring data collected by other agencies meets the specific needs of the BLM.

The BLM Field Manager will assess the monitoring needs and consider additions or changes proposed by the Monitoring Working Group.

Since some monitoring data is being collected and provided by other federal and state agencies to the extent of their specific missions and expertise, a system will be established to regularly collect and coordinate this data. The team will also be responsible for collecting data to determine if the implemented actions are meeting stated goals and objectives or desired outcomes.

5.0 ACTIVITY PLAN WORKING GROUPS

Activity Plan Working Groups (APWG) consisting of local, state, and federal governments will be formed for new projects when circumstances dictate. Cooperating agencies in these APWGs will assist the BLM in developing alternatives and preparing environmental analyses. APWGs will serve in a recommending capacity as the BLM cannot relinquish its decision-making authority or responsibility. As an example, travel management plans would be developed with an APWG.

The objectives of APWGs include the following:

- Minimizing analysis and decision making controversy by being proactive rather than reactive to public land use and resource conflicts.
- Providing effective, cost-efficient, and collaboratively-based solutions to resource conflicts.
- Improving resource conditions by recommending practices appropriate to special situations.
- Streamlining public land authorizations, increasing implementation flexibility, and notifying public land users of required practices.
- All APWG meetings where recommendations are made to the BLM will be open to the public, and will provide for specific and helpful public involvement. This includes providing web-based information to the public prior to any APWG meetings; such that members of the public can provide input to the working session, both early and mid-way through the scheduled meetings.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A website where the public can quickly and easily access data concerning implementation should be developed and kept current. Creating this website and maintaining it through the implementation cycle will be a vital part of implementation success. The public is welcome to provide implementation comments to the BLM any time during the cycle, but schedules for implementation planning decisions will be posted so the public can make timely comments. All APWG meetings where recommendations are made to the BLM will be open to the public, and will provide for specific and helpful public involvement. This includes providing web-based information to the public prior to any APWG meetings; such that members of the public can provide input to the working session, both early and mid-way through the scheduled meetings.