

agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. These issues represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that may be addressed in the planning effort include:

- A. Energy and mineral resource exploration and development;
- B. Access to and transportation on BLM lands;
- C. Recreation and off-highway vehicle (OHV) management;
- D. Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors;
- E. Management and the cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species and their habitats;
- F. Vegetation, including impacts of invasive non-native species;
- G. Management of cultural and paleontological resources, including national historic trails;
- H. Landownership adjustments;
- I. Fire management;
- J. Livestock grazing;
- K. Visual resource management; and
- L. Air and water quality.

These preliminary issues are not final and may be added to and refined throughout the public participation process. The BLM is requesting the help of the public in identifying additional issues to be addressed in the planning effort. Decisions in the RMP will adhere to the goals and objectives of the President's National Energy Policy.

2. Categorization of Issues

After gathering public comments on what issues the Casper RMP should address, the BLM will place suggested issues in one of three categories: issues to be resolved in the RMP, issues resolved through policy or administrative action, and issues beyond the scope of the RMP.

Rationale will be provided in the EIS for the Casper RMP for issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action and issues beyond the scope of the EIS. In addition to major issues, a number of management concerns will be addressed in the RMP. The public is encouraged to help identify these concerns throughout the public scoping process.

3. Preliminary Planning Criteria

The BLM identified the following preliminary planning criteria to guide resolution of the issues considered in the planning effort. The BLM may revise these criteria during the planning process or in response to public comment.

A. The revised RMP will recognize valid existing rights.

B. The revised RMP will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and guidance.

C. Planning decisions will cover BLM-administered public lands, including split-estate lands where the subsurface minerals are severed from the surface right, and the BLM has legal jurisdiction over one or the other.

D. The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complimentary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and regulation.

E. The environmental analysis will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values of resources and respond to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

F. The BLM will use current scientific information, research, new technologies, and the results of resource assessments, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems.

G. The Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands will apply to all activities and uses.

H. The BLM will address socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice.

I. The BLM will provide for public safety and welfare relative to fire, hazardous materials, and abandoned mine lands.

J. Visual Resource Management (VRM) class designations will be analyzed and modified to reflect present conditions and future needs.

K. The BLM will consider present and potential uses of the public lands through the development of reasonably foreseeable future development and activity scenarios based on historical, existing, and projected levels of use.

L. Planning decisions will include the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of cultural, historical, paleontological, and natural components of public land resources, while considering energy development and other surface-disturbing activities.

M. The BLM will coordinate with Native American tribes to identify sites, areas, and objects important to their cultural and religious heritage.

N. Planning decisions will comply with the Endangered Species Act and the BLM interagency agreements with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding consultation.

O. Areas potentially suitable for ACECs or other special management designations will be identified, and where appropriate, brought forward for analysis in the EIS.

P. Waterway segments have been classified and determinations of eligibility and suitability made in accordance with Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Appropriate management prescriptions for maintaining or enhancing the outstanding remarkable values and classifications of waterway segments meeting suitability factors will be part of the RMP revision.

Q. OHV management decisions in the revised RMP will be consistent with the BLM's National OHV Strategy.

R. Decisions in the revised RMP will adhere to the goals and objectives of the National Energy Policy as well as the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

S. Known areas in the Casper planning area with coal development potential are located in northeastern Converse County. Coal screening determinations were made on these areas during planning efforts for the Buffalo RMP and the Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan. No additional coal screening determinations or coal planning decisions are planned for the Casper RMP, unless public submissions of coal resource information or surface resource issues indicate a need to update these determinations.

4. Call for Coal and Other Resource Information

Parties interested in leasing and development of Federal coal in the planning area should provide coal resource data for their area(s) of interest. Specifically, information is requested on the location, quality, and quantity of Federal coal with development potential, and on surface resource values related to the 20 coal unsuitability criteria described in 43 CFR part 3461. This information will be used for any necessary updating of coal screening determination (43 CFR 3420.1-4) in the area and in the environmental analysis for the Casper RMP.

In addition to coal resource data, the BLM seeks resource information and data for other public land values (e.g., air quality, cultural and historic resources, fire/fuels, fisheries, forestry, lands and realty, non-energy minerals and geology, oil and gas (including coalbed methane), paleontology, rangeland management, recreation, soil, water, and wildlife) in the planning area. The purpose of this request is to assure that the planning effort has