

availability and development of construction mineral materials; and land ownership (land tenure) pattern. The primary issues driving alternative development are: mineral development; visitor health and safety; recreation management; wildlife habitat; open space; land use authorizations; and land tenure adjustment.

Six alternatives were analyzed in detail:

1. Alternative A, Continuation of Existing Management Direction or the "No Action" Alternative;
2. Alternative B, Reduced Land Use Restrictions with Higher Levels of Mineral Development and Recreation;
3. Alternative C, Continuation of Existing Management Direction with Reduced Motor Vehicle Access, Increased Wildlife Habitat Protection and Solitude Opportunities, and Possible Consolidation of Public Land Parcels;
4. Alternative D, Disposal of Lands Currently Administered by the BLM;
5. Alternative E, Limited Disposal or Exchange of Lands Currently Administered by the BLM, and
6. Proposed Plan, Transfer of Public Land Parcels To Another Federal Land Management Agency or Disposal of Public Land to Other Governmental Entities With Conveyance Contingent on Continuation of RMP Management Direction.

Background information and maps used in developing the final RMP EIS are available for public viewing at the Pinedale Field Office.

If adopted, this proposed RMP does not authorize any land uses or site-disturbing activities. Decisions regarding these site-specific implementation activities are subject to further NEPA analysis and appeal, as provided by applicable regulations.

Protest Instructions: Publication of this EIS prepared for a RMP affords the public the opportunity to protest. Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the State Director's proposed Snake River RMP may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5. Any person who participated in the planning process, has an interest, or may be adversely affected by the approval of the proposed RMP, may protest such approval. The protest must be in writing and must be filed with the Director. The protest must be filed within 30 days from the date the EPA publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**. The protest must contain:

- i. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest;
- ii. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;

iii. A statement of the part, or parts, of the plan or amendment being protested;

iv. A copy of all documents addressing the issue, or issues, that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue, or issues, were discussed for the record; and

v. A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov

The Director will respond to protests. The response will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director will be the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

Protest Filing Addresses: Protests submitted electronically will not be accepted. File written protests by Surface Mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 66538, Washington DC 20035 or overnight (WO-210), 1620 L Street, NW., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

Alan Kesterke,

Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-010-1220-AD]

Notice of Closure of Public Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Billings Field Office, Montana State Office.

ACTION: "Notice of Extension of Emergency Closure of Firearms Target Shooting for One Year on Certain Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Yellowstone County, Montana."

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain areas are closed to firearms target shooting from October 1st, 2003 to September 30th, 2004, to protect public safety and natural resources. The closed areas are Shepherd Ah-Nei, 21-Mile, and Acton Ah-Nei areas and are legally described as:

That area of public lands commonly referred to the "Shepherd Area," or "Shepherd Ah Nei" located at:

T 4 N, R 27 E,

Sec. 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 25, all.

Sec. 36, all.

T 3 N, R 27 E,

Sec. 1, all.

T 4 N, R 28 E,

Sec. 19, all.

Sec. 20, W $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sec. 30, Lots 1, 2, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Sec. 31, all

T 3 N, R 28 E,

Sec. 6, Lots 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, E $\frac{1}{2}$,

Principal Montana Meridian, and

That area of public lands commonly referred to the "21-Mile Area" located north of Billings and west of the Roundup Road, Highway 87 North and the 21 Mile Road at:

T 4 N, R 25 E,

Sec. 24, all. Principal Montana Meridian, and

That area of public lands commonly referred to as the "Acton Area" or "Acton Ah-Nei" located east of Broadview, Montana at:

T 4 N, R 25 E,

Sec. 31, E $\frac{1}{2}$.

T 3 N, R 25 E,

Sec. 5, all.

Sec. 6, Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 7, Lots 1, 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 8, all.

Sec. 9, all.

Sec. 17, all.

Sec. 20, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$. Principal Montana Meridian, all in Yellowstone County, in the State of Montana.

Closure signs will be posted at the major entry points to this area. Maps of the closure and information may be obtained from the Billings Field Office.

DATES: This Closure will be in effect from October 1st, 2003 to September 30, 2004, unless superceded by permanent rulemaking action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra S. Brooks, Field Manager, BLM, Billings Field Office, P.O. Box 36800, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 50107-6800 or call 406-896-5013.

Discussion of the Emergency Closure:

This extension of the emergency closure is necessary for the management of actions, activities, and public use on certain public lands which may have, or are having, adverse impacts on persons using public lands, on property, and on resources located on public lands until permanent management action can be taken. The Billings Field Office, in conjunction with the Resource Advisory