

# Wyoming Secretary of State

## Chuck Gray



October 3, 2023

Via U.S. Mail and Online Submission

Project Manager, RSFO RMP  
BLM Rock Springs Field Office  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/13853/510>

**Re: DOI-BLM-WY-D040-2011-RMP-EIS**

Dear RSFO RMP Project Manager:

These comments pertain to the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Field Office planning area. As Wyoming Secretary of State, I ask that you withdraw the draft RMP.

As Wyoming Secretary of State, our office administers Wyoming statutes pertaining to the registration of profit and nonprofit corporations, limited liability companies, and other business entities registered with the State of Wyoming. Due, in large part, to our abundant natural resources, Wyoming has become a premier destination for businesses dependent on our core industries: minerals, agriculture, and tourism. However, the BLM's preferred proposed plan threatens small businesses throughout the state by forwarding an alternative that severely limits public access for mineral resource development, grazing, and recreation in greater southwestern Wyoming. Ultimately, the plan restricts agriculture, recreation, and mineral development, which will prevent businesses from reaching their full potential. The result is not only bad policy; it is lunacy. The BLM's preferred alternative, Alternative B, is disgusting and repugnant to Wyoming values. By the BLM's own admission, it will have the largest socioeconomic impact, as it contains the greatest restrictions on trona, oil, gas, and coal exploration, and essentially locks up millions of acres of land from development and recreation. Unless the goal of the BLM and the Biden Administration's larger 30 by 30 agenda is to wage war on Wyoming's small businesses and the lifeblood of Wyoming's economy, the BLM should have rejected this alternative in its entirety, not forwarded it as the "preferred alternative."

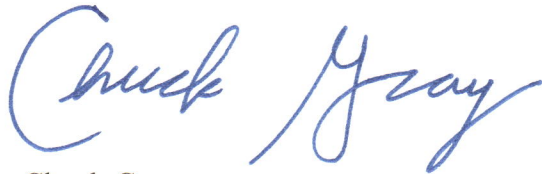
What's more, I remain concerned that these massive restrictions on grazing and development will also negatively impact bordering state and private lands by severely restricting existing access and development on neighboring federal land. As a member of the state Board of Land Commissioners, I have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure our state lands produce revenue for the State of Wyoming. Restricting access for development and recreation on federal land, as

provided in the Draft RMP, will have drastic consequences for development and recreation on neighboring state and fee parcels.

Also troubling is the way the Draft RMP has been presented and the way the BLM has conducted itself throughout the comment period. Last Wednesday, I joined hundreds of Sweetwater County residents at the open house to share concerns Wyoming businesses and landowners had conveyed to me about the Plan. Although billed as an "open house," Wednesday's meeting did not accept any input or comments from those most deeply affected by the proposed plan and the BLM's preferred alternative: the public. Castigating the public's input as "misinformation" and then refusing to take any input in person is not how we do things in Wyoming. In itself, this warrants a withdrawal of the Draft Plan and a restart of the process.

The proposed plan is a classic example of Washington, D.C. attempting to exert control over Wyoming in order to prevent our state, and our people, from achieving our full potential. For the reasons stated above, I oppose the Draft RMP, and join the vast majority of Wyomingites in asking you to withdraw the plan, and pay special attention to the best interests of Wyoming, not Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Chuck Gray  
Wyoming Secretary of State