



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, Colorado 81625-1129
<http://www.co.blm.gov/ltra/index.htm>



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (100)

November 9, 2005

Dear NWCOS Planning Committee:

I received your letter dated September 28, 2005 and would like to take this opportunity to respond to you. I also wanted to let you know that on October 13th, I had the chance to brief the new BLM Colorado State Director Sally Wisely and we spoke at length about NWCOS. She expressed support for the process, and is anxious to visit with the group, perhaps sitting in on your November 30th meeting.

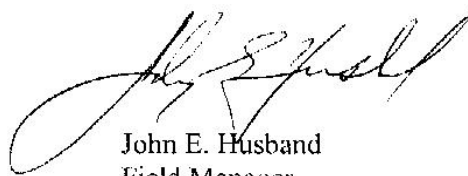
The State Director and I are supportive of your goal to develop a consensus community alternative. We are also supportive of the other points in your letter, including the aspect of transparency. We remain committed to managing an open process and communicating with NWCOS about any issues pertinent to the planning effort.

Your letter requests that BLM consider the community consensus alternative as a whole and not change any aspects of the alternative. Conceptually, we think this is reasonable and will do all we can to ensure its incorporation. However, BLM and DOI officials must ensure the RMP/EIS is consistent with bureau and department policy and laws, and is legally defensible. This is reflected in the language of the DOI memo PEP No. ESM03-7. Therefore, we believe it is a possibility that some changes may need to be made to the NWCOS consensus alternative. If this is the case, we will communicate any issues as soon as we are aware of them.

It's important that we do all we can to keep this effort on schedule and within budget. We appreciate your efforts to work on a community consensus alternative within the timeframe we have identified – February 24, 2006.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,



John E. Husband
Field Manager