UW | School of Energy Resources

ROCK SPRINGS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHY THE STUDY WAS NEEDED

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office manages a significant amount of habitat, rangeland and natural resources in Wyoming. Beginning in 2011, BLM commenced efforts to create a new Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP). The increased restrictions contained in the RMP have resulted in significant concerns related to potential impacts to energy development in the planning area, and energy-related revenue for the State.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The paper provides the history of the Rock Springs RMP, describes the overarching energy-related issues in the Draft Rock Springs RMP, and compares the energy-related issues in the Draft RMP to those contained in the Approved RMP. It also includes an analysis of the energy-related economic impacts of the RMP, and the state and local tax revenue implications from the projected energy-related impacts. Lastly, the paper includes a discussion of the analysis related to legacy industries, such as oil and natural gas production, as well as emerging industries, such as carbon storage and CO2 pipeline development.

WHAT THE RESEARCHERS CONCLUDED

While the BLM has attempted to balance conservation with development, the plan has brought on significant debate among various stakeholders due to potential impacts on industries within the region, predominantly related to energy development. This analysis highlights the need to craft a balanced and informed resource management plan for the planning area that accounts for the responsible development of industries and the mitigation of economic disruptions while also considering the conservation needs of the region.

TABLE 1.
Projected Declines in Oil and Gas Production from RMP

Fluid Mineral Closures

Year	Gas production (mcf)	Oil Production (bbl)	Gas Revenues ($)	Oil Revenus ($)	Combined Revenues ($)
2025	1,201,500	93,869	4,205,250	7,040,138	11,245,388
2026	2,334,139	181,365	8,869,727	12,695,577	21,565,305
2027	3,402,496	262,934	12,589,234	18,405,347	30,994,582
2028	4,410,834	338,985	16,320,084	22,034,015	38,354,099
Total	11,348,968	877,152	41,984,295	60,175,077	102,159,374

No Surface Occupancy

	Gas production (mcf)	Oil Production (bbl)	Gas Revenues ($)	Oil Revenus ($)	Combined Revenues ($)
2025	480,600	37,547	1,682,100	2,816,055	4,498,155
2026	933,656	72,546	3,547,891	5,078,231	8,626,122
2027	1,360,998	105,173	5,035,694	7,362,139	12,397,833
2028	1,764,333	135,594	6,528,034	8,813,606	15,341,640
Total	4,539,587	350,861	16,793,718	24,070,031	40,863,750

VRM Class IV

	Gas production (mcf)	Oil Production (bbl)	Gas Revenues ($)	Oil Revenus ($)	Combined Revenues ($)
2025	1,201,500	93,869	4,205,250	7,040,138	11,245,388
2026	2,334,139	181,365	8,869,727	12,695,577	21,565,305
2027	3,402,496	262,934	12,589,234	18,405,347	30,994,582
2028	4,410,834	338,985	16,320,084	22,034,015	38,354,099
Total	11,348,968	877,152	41,984,295	60,175,077	102,159,374

Combined Impacts

	Gas production (mcf)	Oil Production (bbl)	Gas Revenues ($)	Oil Revenus ($)	Combined Revenues ($)
2025	2,883,600	10,092,600	225,284	16,896,330	26,988,930
2026	5,601,933	21,287,345	435,277	30,469,386	51,756,731
2027	8,165,990	30,214,162	631,040	44,172,834	74,386,996
2028	10,586,000	39,168,201	813,564	52,881,637	92,049,838
Total	27,237,523	100,762,308	2,105,165	144,420,187	245,182,495

AUTHORS

Kara Fornstrom | President, f3 Energy LLC

Dawson Kluesner | Assistant Research Professional, Economics and Policy, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis

Bryan Leonard | Associate Professor and SER Chair, University of Wyoming Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources

Esther Wagner | Senior Research Professional, Energy Policy, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis