and Associated Environmental Impact Statement and initiated the public scoping process on March 25, 2005 (70 FR 15348). The BLM accepted scoping comments for 60 days. The draft RMP/Draft EIS was made available for a 90-day public comment period on June 25, 20010 (75 FR 36435).

The BLM received 1,348 comments and 30,617 form letters pertaining to wild horses and burros in response to the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Substantive comments were reviewed and incorporated as appropriate into the proposed plan.

Notable issues raised in public comments include: Minerals, with an emphasis on areas available for minerals development; recreation management and designation of off-highway vehicle management areas; livestock grazing; fish and wildlife, including management of priority habitat; air quality; management of rights-of-way avoidance and exclusion areas; and management of wild horses and burros.

Copies of the Proposed Winnemucca District RMP/Final EIS have been sent to affected tribal, Federal, State, and local government agencies and to other stakeholders.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed RMP/Final EIS may be found in the “Dear Reader” letter of the Winnemucca District Proposed RMP/Final EIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth in the instructions section above. Emailed 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, the BLM will consider the mailed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

Before including your phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that the entire protest—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.