



Western Geothermal GAZETTE

Western Geothermal Programmatic EIS
Volume 1, Number 2, June 2008

PEIS Public Draft Released

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (FS) are pleased to announce the release of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, including Alaska.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the project's goal is to make geothermal leasing decisions on pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005, and to facilitate geothermal leasing decisions on other existing and future lease applications and nominations on the federal mineral estate.

Approximately 142 million acres of public land administered by the BLM and 106 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) land contain geothermal resources suitable for electrical generation and direct uses, such as for heating buildings.

Under the Proposed Action, the BLM and FS have identified approximately 117 million acres of BLM administered public lands and 75 million acres of NFS lands as open to geothermal leasing subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and terms and conditions of the standard lease form. To protect special resource values, the BLM and FS have developed a comprehensive list of stipulations, best management practices, and procedures.

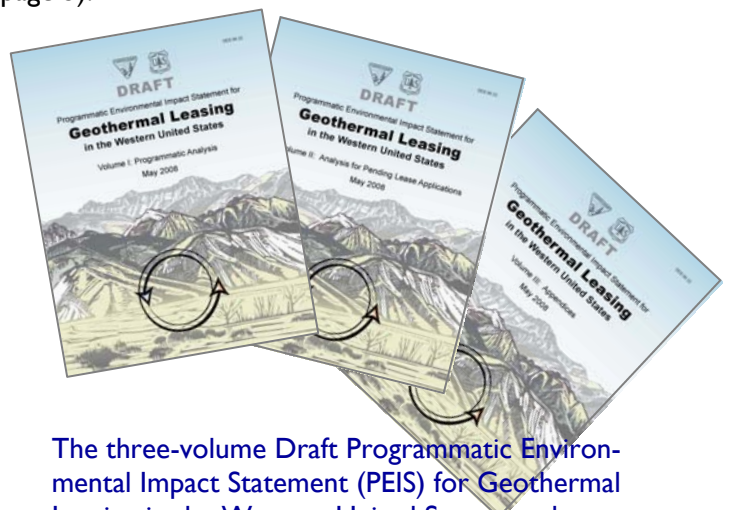
National Parks and other specially designated lands, including wild rivers, wilderness areas, and national recreation areas would continue to be closed to geothermal leasing.

The BLM is proposing to amend 122 land use plans to adopt the allocations and the appropriate stipulations, and the FS would use the PEIS to facilitate subsequent consent decisions for any leasing on NFS lands.

An alternative to the proposed action limits the lands available for geothermal leasing to those that are in close proximity to existing transmission lines or those under development. The no action alternative would allow the processing of pending geothermal lease applications; however, they would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and would require additional environmental review.

The PEIS also provides site-specific analysis for 19 pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005, that are located in seven geographical clusters throughout Alaska, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

The public is encouraged to review the Draft PEIS, participate in public meetings, and provide comments. The BLM and FS will host 13 meetings throughout the 12 western states in July 2008 (see page 3).



The three-volume Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States can be downloaded at the project website:

www.blm.gov/geothermal_eis

Scoping Meetings
July 2007



Draft PEIS
May 2008



Public Meetings
July 2008



Final PEIS
October 2008



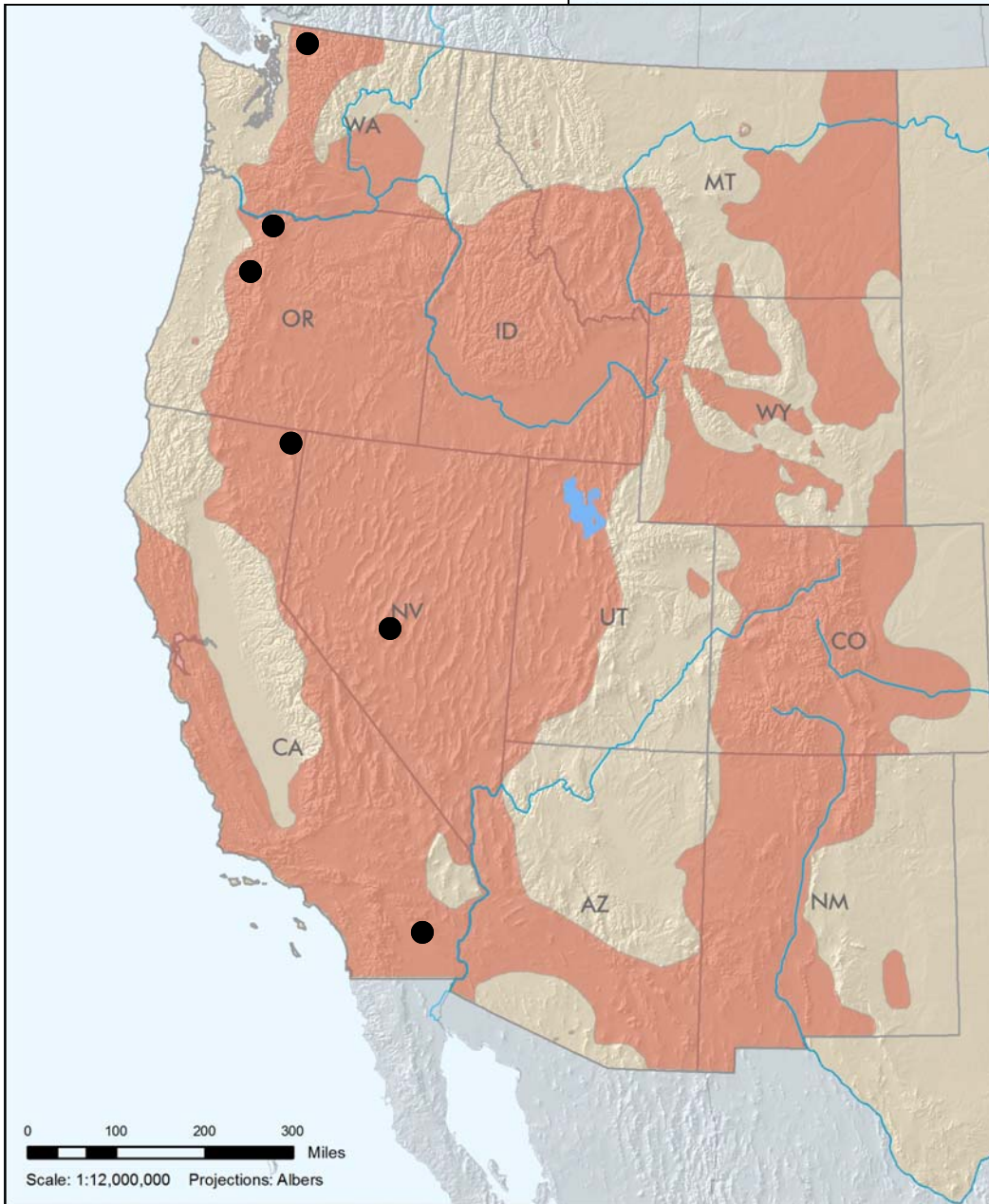
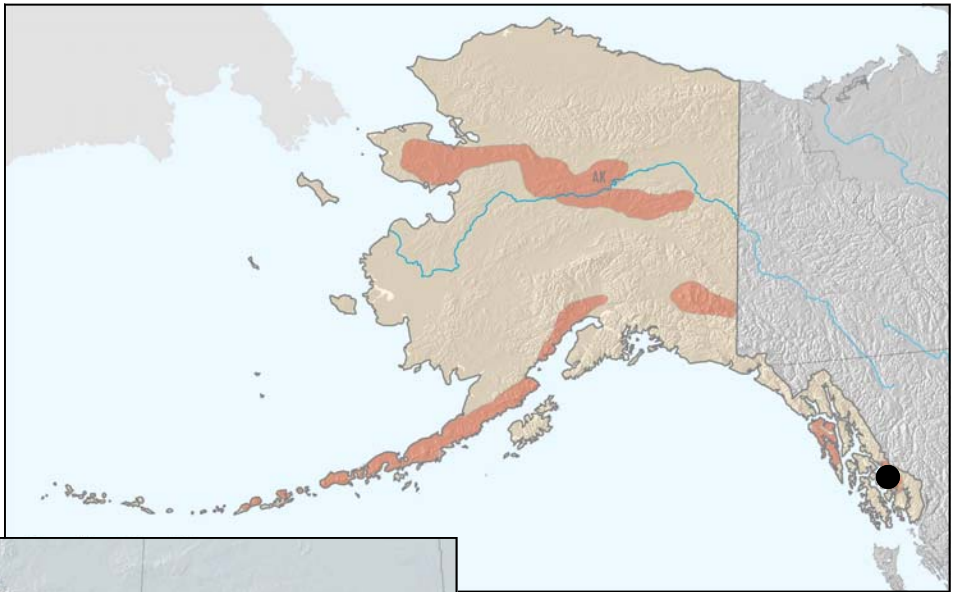
Record of Decision
December 2008

The PEIS has 3 Volumes

Volume I—Programmatic EIS

**Volume II—Pending Lease
Applications**

Volume III—Appendices




Volume I covers
BLM and FS
administered lands
that have geothermal
potential in 12 states:

- ◆ Alaska
- ◆ Arizona
- ◆ California
- ◆ Colorado
- ◆ Idaho
- ◆ Montana
- ◆ Nevada
- ◆ New Mexico
- ◆ Oregon
- ◆ Utah
- ◆ Washington
- ◆ Wyoming

Volume II provides
specific analyses on 19
pending lease
applications in 7
groups in 5 states.

Volume III contains
technical appendices,
including the status of
geothermal resources
in each of the 12
western states.

-  Areas of geothermal potential analyzed in the PEIS (Volume I)
- Locations of groups of pending lease applications analyzed in greater detail (Volume II)

Comments Welcome!



How Can I Review the PEIS and Submit Comments?

Download the **PEIS** from the project website at: www.blm.gov/geothermal_eis

Request a **CD-ROM or hard copy of the PEIS** from Zoe.Ghali@emp.si or (303) 447-7160.

Attend draft PEIS public meetings: Public meetings will be held in 13 cities across the western US.

Submit comments using one of the following methods:

E-mail: geothermal_eis@blm.gov
Fax: 1-866-625-0707
US Mail: Geothermal Programmatic EIS
c/o EMPSi
182 Howard Street, Suite 110
San Francisco, CA 94105-1611

Copies of the Draft PEIS are available for viewing at any BLM Field Office or State Office in the 12 western states. Comments will be accepted for 90 days after the United States Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability of this Draft PEIS in the Federal Register. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Meetings Scheduled for July 2008

Attend the Draft PEIS Public Meetings to:

- ◆ Learn more about the project;
- ◆ Visit with staff and view maps; and
- ◆ Submit comments on the Draft PEIS.

All meetings will run from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, with dates and locations below. Meetings will include informational materials, an opportunity to submit comments, and a brief presentation highlighting the project with a question-and-answer period.

City/State	Date	Location
Anchorage AK	Tue 7/8	Alaska Energy Authority 813 W Northern Lights Blvd
Fairbanks AK	Wed 7/9	Fairbanks North Star Public Library Auditorium 1215 Cowles Street
Reno NV	Mon 7/14	Washoe County Library Shoshone Room Spanish Springs Branch 7100A Pyramid Highway
Salt Lake City UT	Tue 7/15	Main Library Level 4 Conference Room 210 East 400 South
Tucson AZ	Wed 7/16	Pima County Public Library Dusenberry River Branch 5605 East River Road
Cheyenne WY	Thu 7/17	Laramie County Library Willow Room 200 Pioneer Avenue

City/State	Date	Location
Boise ID	Mon 7/21	Boise Public Library William F. Hayes Memorial Audit. 715 South Capitol Blvd
Albuquerque NM	Tue 7/22	University of New Mexico Conference Center (Room C) 1634 University NE
Helena MT	Wed 7/23	Lewis and Clark Library 120 South Last Chance Gulch
Denver CO	Thu 7/24	PPA Event Center Evergreen A Room 2105 Decatur Street
Seattle WA	Mon 7/28	Seattle Public Library University Branch 5009 Roosevelt Way NE
Portland OR	Tue 7/29	Multnomah County Central Library US Bank Room 801 SW 10 th Avenue
Sacramento CA	Wed 7/30	California Energy Commission Hearing Room A 1516 Ninth Street

Dear Readers

This is the second in a series of newsletters that you will receive from the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service about their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on leasing geothermal resources in the western US. This newsletter provides an overview of the Draft PEIS that is available for your review and comment. Submitted comments will be incorporated into the Final PEIS.

**Draft PEIS
Released**

We Want to Hear From YOU!

Send your comments to:

Geothermal_eis@blm.gov

or

Geothermal Programmatic EIS

c/o EMPSi

182 Howard Street, Suite 110

San Francisco, CA 94105-1611

Public Meetings Scheduled

Anchorage	July 8	Albuquerque	July 22
Fairbanks	July 9	Helena	July 23
Reno	July 14	Denver	July 24
Salt Lake City	July 15	Seattle	July 28
Tucson	July 16	Portland	July 29
Cheyenne	July 17	Sacramento	July 30
Boise	July 21		

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