

## **Draft/Final Environmental Impact Statement Format:**

### **Abstract** (Inside Front Cover)

- Privacy Statement (Included in Draft EIS)

### **Cover Sheet or Title Page**

### **Dear Reader Letter**

### **Protest Procedures** (Final EIS)

### **Table of Contents**

### **Summary** (and optional Reader's Guide to help explain chapter format and contents)

### **Chapter 1. Introduction**

#### A. Purpose and Need for the Plan

#### B. Planning Area and Map

#### C. Scoping/Issues

##### 1. Issues Addressed

*Issues used to develop alternatives<sup>1</sup>*

*Issues addressed in other parts of the EIS*

##### 2. Issues Considered but Not Further Analyzed

*Issues beyond the scope of the plan*

*Issues addressed through administrative or policy action*

#### D. Planning Criteria/Legislative Constraints

#### E. Planning Process

Relationship to BLM Policies, Plans, and Programs

Collaboration

Intergovernmental, inter-agency, and tribal relationships

Other stakeholder relationships

#### F. Related Plans - Discuss consideration of state, local, and tribal land use plans that "are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands."<sup>2</sup>

#### G. Policy - Discuss policies and decisions that existed prior to the plan being written that are outside the scope of the plan but may influence the decisions, constrain the alternatives, or are needed to understand management of the area. Examples include: proclamations, legislative designations, and court settlements.

#### H. Overall Vision<sup>3</sup> - Identify the overall vision for management of the planning area. This vision should reflect the goals that are common to all alternatives. This can serve to help integrate programs.

### **Chapter 2. Alternatives<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>Italics here show optional categories for issues

<sup>2</sup>Federal Land Policy Management Act Sec. 202(c)(9).

<sup>3</sup>Optional

<sup>4</sup>There has been some discussion of reversing the order of the Alternatives chapter and the Affected Environment chapter of the EIS. However, the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance in the Department of the Interior has issued guidance stating that we must follow the recommended format in the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.10) or obtain approval from OEPC to deviate from it.

- A. General Description of each Alternative  
Highlight the characteristics that distinguish each alternative
- B. Decisions Common to Action Alternatives (primarily goals for resource conditions and resource uses).
- C. No-Action Alternative - Description of existing management direction including current decisions from relevant plans and reasonable, foreseeable, management scenarios.
- D. Action Alternatives<sup>5</sup> - Detailed description of each of the Alternatives needed to display a reasonable range of options to meet the stated Purpose and Need and address issues. The alternatives should follow the format for land use plan “Management Decisions” provided in this document.
- E. Alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail
- F. Comparison of Alternatives (table)
- G. Comparison of Impacts (table)

**Chapter 3. Affected Environment** Limit discussion to what is needed to understand issues and environmental consequences and provide context for the Goals and Objectives.

- A. Resources - Physical and biological resources (current conditions and trends) addressed in alphabetical order. This is not necessarily a comprehensive list.

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology
- Paleontology
- Special Status Species
- Soil
- Vegetation
  - Forests and Woodlands
  - Rangelands
  - Riparian and Wetlands
- Visual Resources
- Water
- Wild Horses and Burros

- B. Resource Uses - Resource uses (current conditions and trends) addressed in alphabetical order. This is not necessarily a comprehensive list.

- Forest Products
- Lands and Realty
- Livestock Grazing
- Minerals
  - Leasable Minerals
  - Locatable Minerals
  - Mineral Materials
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation
- Utility and Communication Corridors

- C. Fire Ecology
  - Occurrence and history
  - Risk

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<sup>5</sup>At the draft stage in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the preferred alternative is identified in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS. At the final EIS (FEIS) stage, the proposed plan is presented with the alternatives. The proposed plan should be in a clearly delineated section to make it easily identifiable and may also be pulled out as a separate document.

- D. Special Designations - in alphabetical order
  - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
  - Back Country Byways
  - National Recreation Areas
  - National Trails
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - Wilderness
  - Wilderness Study Areas

- E. Social and Economic Conditions
  - Economic
  - Environmental Justice
  - Health and Safety
    - Abandoned Mines
    - Debris Flows
    - Hazardous Materials
  - Indian Trust Resources
  - Social

**Chapter 4. Environmental Consequences.** Document sufficient analysis to support all conclusions.

A. Introduction

- Analytical assumptions
- Types of effects to be addressed (direct, indirect and cumulative)
- Summarize critical elements that are addressed, not affected, or not present.
- Incomplete or unavailable information

B. Resources - Physical and biological resources addressed in alphabetical order. This is not necessarily a comprehensive list. Describe direct, indirect and cumulative effects.

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology
- Paleontology
- Special Status Species
- Soil
- Vegetation
  - Forests and Woodlands
  - Rangelands
  - Riparian and Wetlands
- Visual Resources
- Water
- Wild Horses and Burros

C. Uses - Resource uses addressed in alphabetical order. This is not necessarily a comprehensive list. Describe direct, indirect and cumulative effects.

- Forest Products
- Hazardous Materials
- Lands and Realty
- Livestock Grazing
- Minerals
  - Leasable Minerals
  - Locatable Minerals
  - Mineral Materials
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation

## Utility and Communication Corridors

- D. Fire Ecology - Describe direct, indirect and cumulative effects.
  - Occurrence
  - Risk
- E. Special Designations - in alphabetical order. Describe direct, indirect and cumulative effects.
  - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
  - Back Country Byways
  - National Recreation Areas
  - National Trails
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - Wilderness
  - Wilderness Study Areas
- F. Social and Economic Conditions
  - Economic
  - Environmental Justice
  - Health and Safety
    - Abandoned Mines
    - Debris Flows
    - Hazardous Materials
  - Indian Trust Resources
  - Social

## **Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination**

- A. Description of specific actions taken to consult and coordinate with:
  - Tribes
  - Intergovernmental - State, Local, County, and City
  - Federal Agency
  - Interest Groups
  - National Mailing List
- B. Describe additional collaboration
- C. Responses to comments by issue area (FEIS only)
- D. List of Preparers

## **Appendices**

## **Glossary**

## **References**

## **Index**

**Abbreviations/Acronyms** ( Inside Back Cover) - placement can also occur with the Reader's Guide, Summary, or in the Glossary.

## **RECORD OF DECISION/LAND USE PLAN FORMAT:**

At the end of the protest period on the final EIS (FEIS) and proposed plan and after protests are resolved, the Record of Decision (ROD)<sup>6</sup> is issued. The ROD must be published in the same booklet with and reference the land use plan (proposed plan from the FEIS as modified in response to protests or other considerations between the FEIS and issuance of the ROD). The ROD / LUP serves as a more concise and useful tool to land managers and stakeholders than a cumbersome EIS. Separation of the final LUP from the Final EIS and attaching it to the ROD clarifies the different roles served by a plan and the supporting NEPA analysis. Additionally a stand alone ROD / LUP will improve internal agency and partner understanding of the plan and improve our long term ability to implement the plan.

### ***Record of Decision (ROD)***

- A. Introductory Material (on a cover sheet or at the top of the first page)
  - Title
  - Preparing office and office location
  - Cooperating agencies (if any)
  - Signature and title of responsible official and concurring officials (if any)<sup>7</sup>
  - Date of signature(s)
- B. Summary (if ROD exceeds 10 pages)
- C. Decision - The primary decision is to approve the attached land use plan<sup>8</sup>
- D. Alternatives - Briefly discuss the alternative or alternatives that were considered to be “environmentally preferable.”
- E. Management Considerations - Provide the rationale for the decision
- F. Mitigation Measures - In addition to identifying approved mitigation measures, state whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, and if not, why they were not. Summarize any monitoring and enforcement program being adopted for mitigation measures.
- G. Plan Monitoring
- H. Public Involvement - Briefly describe public participation in planning process

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<sup>6</sup>The format for the ROD can be found in the NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1), Chapter V, C (Documentation), 6 (Record of Decision); pp V-22 to V-23.

<sup>7</sup>Signatures and date of signatures can occur at end of ROD.

<sup>8</sup>Example: “The decision is hereby made to approve the attached plan as the Resource Management Plan (Plan) for ... This plan was prepared under the regulations implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 CFR 1600). An environmental impact statement was prepared for this Plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Plan is nearly identical to the one set forth in the ... Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement published ... Specific management decision for public lands under the jurisdiction of the ... Field Office are presented in Chapter ... of the Plan. Major Decisions include: ...”

## ***Land Use Plan***

### **1. Introduction<sup>9</sup>**

A. Purpose and Need for the Plan

B. Planning Area and Map

C. Scoping / Issues

1. Issues Addressed

*Issues used to develop alternatives<sup>10</sup>*

*Issues addressed in other parts of the EIS*

2. Issues Considered but Not Further Analyzed

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F. Related Plans - Discuss consideration of state, local, and tribal land use plans that “are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands.”<sup>11</sup>

G. Policy - Discuss policies and decisions that existed prior to the plan being written that are outside the scope of the plan but may influence the decisions, constrain the alternatives, or are needed to understand management of the area. Examples include: proclamations, legislative designations, and court settlements.

H. Overall Vision<sup>12</sup> - Identify the overall vision for management of the planning area. This vision should reflect the goals that are common to all alternatives. This can serve to help integrate programs.

### **2. Management Decisions<sup>13</sup>**

A. Goals<sup>14</sup> - Identify goals for resource conditions, resource uses and other goals as appropriate.

B. Objectives<sup>15</sup> - Identify objectives with their rationale (include associated goal(s)). Reference which goals are advanced by the objective.

C. Management Actions - Make these adaptive as appropriate and practical. Relate each decision to all goals and objectives impacted. This section should address special designations and land tenure decisions.

Allowable uses - This should include allowable uses, restricted uses, and prohibited uses .

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<sup>9</sup>This Introduction section is optional material for the land use plan document

<sup>10</sup>Italics here show optional categories for issues

<sup>11</sup>Federal Land Policy Management Act Sec. 202(c)(9).

<sup>12</sup>Optional

<sup>13</sup>The format of this section is designed to: a) clarify the distinction between goals, objectives, and management actions; b) move toward (or demonstrate) objectives and management decisions that will work toward meeting multiple goals; c) demonstrate the connectivity between programs; and d) reduce conflicts internal to the document.

<sup>14</sup>Goals are broad statement of desired outcomes. They are usually not quantifiable.

<sup>15</sup>Objectives are specific desired conditions. They are quantifiable and measurable and may have timeframes for achievement.

Incorporate maps where appropriate.

Actions - Management measures that will guide future and day-to-day activities. Project design features, stipulations, best management practices, standard operating procedures, and guidelines should be included in this section as well

D. Monitoring - Describe plans for monitoring to assess progress toward meeting goals and objectives. If appropriate, discuss plans of action if monitoring indicates actions are not meeting goals and objectives or if actions are no longer needed.

**3. Public Involvement.** Describe how the public and partners can be involved in implementation.

**4. Management Plan Implementation.** To the extent practical and appropriate, identify priorities and costs of the management program. Costs should be estimated at a scale that is useful for budgeting (thousands of dollars and whole work months). It may be useful to identify priorities into two groups: one time projects and ongoing tasks.

**5. Plan Evaluation/Adaptive Management.** Identify a tentative schedule for land use plan evaluations and the management actions that could be taken after an evaluation.

## **Appendices**