

BLM National Planning Workshop

July 12- 16, 2004
Salt Lake City, Utah

The BLM is in the midst of a 10-year planning cycle. The first 3 years have yielded many lessons that can benefit offices currently preparing land use plans, anticipating major planning activity, or implementing recently completed plans. This conference will educate participants on the latest guidance, best practices, planning theory, practices to avoid, and new tools in planning for public lands. It will also attempt to increase consistency in our approach to planning across states and planning areas. Finally, this conference will chart a course to overcoming obstacles and being successful in creating land use plans that have lasting and positive impacts on the lands BLM manages.

Monday July 12, 2004 - Afternoon

- Registration
- Facilitation Workshop (Organizer Cathy Humphrey)
- No-host Social

Tuesday July 13, 2004

- 8:00am Coffee in Plenary Room/ Late registration
- 8:30am Plenary Session:
Welcome and Conference Introduction (WO organizer Jordon Pope and Jim Dryden)
Director
Assistant Director
Hosting State Director
- 9:30am Plenary Session:
Keynote Speaker: Jim Connaughton, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality (potential)
- 10:30am BREAK
- 10:45am Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)
- **Adaptive Management (organizer Tim Salt)**
The concept and practice of adaptive management (AM) has taken on increased emphasis in recent years. Many land management agencies and some Bureau field offices are beginning to incorporate AM concepts into land use decisions. This session will focus on integrating the principles of adaptive management into the Planning and NEPA process.

- **A Means to an End - Managing for Planning Project Success (WO organizer Mark Spencer)**
The number of planning projects that BLM must complete within the next decade will be challenging. Despite the increasing demands on staff and available resources, these planning projects need to be completed on time, within budget, and deliver quality products. This session will focus on some of the best management practices for successful project management, followed by time for questions and discussion.
- **Writing Planning Decisions (WO organizer Eli Ilano)**
This session will work on developing and writing meaningful and consistent land use planning decisions (goals, objectives, actions, and allowable uses) for use in alternatives, proposed plans, and records of decision. It will be primarily based on concepts in the planning handbook, recent guidance, and the DOI Strategic Plan.
- **Social and Economic workshop (WO organizer Rob Winthrop)**
The social and economic consequences of land management decisions have received greater attention as BLM planning decisions become more contested. This session will highlight new tools and guidance, including a model scope of work for social and economic impact analysis, new sources of easily usable economic data, the requirement for an economic strategies workshop in preparing new RMPs, new guidance on environmental justice, and opportunities for further training.

12:15pm

LUNCH

1:30pm

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- **Remote Sensing and GIS (WO organizer Ed Harne and Leonard Gore)**

Data is the life blood of the planning process. The more accurate and current the data the better the plan. This session will review current technologies for data acquisition and analysis. We will look at using data from new satellite systems, including high resolution commercial satellites and the NASA Modis Satellite. Presentations on analysis will demonstrate how GIS can be used to perform complex analysis and modeling when the current and accurate data is available.

- **Opportunities to Use CESUs and USGS in Planning (WO organizer John Haugh)**

The BLM has worked with the USGS to develop a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In addition, the BLM also has joined with several other Federal agencies and more than 100 of the Nation's universities and colleges to create a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network. Both the USGS and CESUs can provide important assistance to the BLM in its Planning Process. This Workshop panel session will explain and provide information on how BLM planners can obtain needed science information and assistance from the USGS and CESUs to support their planning efforts.

3:00pm BREAK

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4:45pm Adjourn

6:00pm **Contractor Open House / Reception**

Wednesday July 14, 2004

8:00am Coffee

8:15am Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)

- **Wilderness (WO organizer Mark Lambert)**

Last year's changes to BLM's wilderness policies have raised many questions and generated significant challenges for State and Field Offices as they try to adapt their planning processes to these new policies. This session will provide an overview of wilderness-related changes to the Land Use Planning Handbook, and present a summary of the very different approaches that California, Arizona and Utah have been using to address wilderness characteristics in their land use planning process.

- **Travel Management and OHV (WO organizer Scott Florence)**

This session will focus on how to implement recent guidance clarifying OHV and Travel Management, including 1) travel management concepts, 2) inventory requirements, 3) making area designations and route selections in the land use planning process, and 4) examples of successful practices..

9:30am Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)

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10:45am BREAK

11:00am Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)

▪ **Habitat conservation strategies (WO organizer Megan Kram)**

As land uses intensify on BLM lands, it will become increasingly important that BLM sustain the health, productivity, and diversity of the public lands. Conservation planning is a tool through which BLM can decide which lands are most important from an ecological perspective. Recognizing areas of high ecological priority facilitates sound decision-making when allocating all land uses, and enables the Bureau to proactively manage for a variety of habitats and species. This session will describe the benefits of and methods for developing conservation priorities during the land use planning process.

Energy (WO organizer Scott Florence and Andrew Strasfogel)

The National Energy Plan has identified a number of initiatives to increase energy production, energy efficiency, and infrastructure capability. This session will focus on current BLM energy-related initiatives and their relationship to land use planning (e.g., making plan-level decisions) and NEPA processes. It will be divided into two panels, as follows:

▪ **Energy Session Option #1 - Fluid Minerals (Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) and fluid mineral reasonable foreseeable development scenarios (RFDs))**

This session will focus on EPCA policies and guidance. Topics will include 1) development of appropriate fluid mineral lease stipulations (including exception, modification, and waiver criteria), 2) reviewing stipulations for effectiveness, and 3) assessing existing and developing new RFD scenarios to support fluid mineral leasing decisions and related NEPA analysis.

▪ **Energy Session Option #2 - Rights of Way (ROWS); Utility Corridors and Renewable Energy Projects**

This session will focus on the consideration of ROWs in land use plans (e.g., for utility corridors and renewable energy projects such as wind and solar energy).

12:15pm **PLENARY LUNCH and SPEAKER (WO organizer Eli Ilano)**

1:30pm Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)

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2:45pm Concurrent Sessions (Choose ONE to attend for this time period)

- **National Fire Plan / Fire Management Plans (WO organizer Carol MacDonald)**
This session will focus on the Administration's fire management initiatives and their relationship to land use planning. Topics will

relate to (1) National Fire Plan, (2) Healthy Forests Initiative; (3) Healthy Forests Restoration Act; (4) incorporating fire planning into the land use planning process; (5) related NEPA concerns; and (6) other pertinent issues.

- **E-planning and technology initiatives (WO organizer Carl Zulick and Katie Harness)**

ePlanning software will be deployed to BLM states with new start RMPs beginning in November 2004. Other States may elect to implement ePlanning for major EISs and other initiatives requiring large text documents and GIS maps to be served on the web while seeking public comment. This session will demonstrate the software capability (content creation, editing, comment submission and analysis, map services, and publication in print, CD, and on the web) and discuss requirements for implementation. It will also discuss other online resources and developments, including the National Planning Webpage and the Planning/NEPA library.

4:00pm BREAK

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5:30pm ADJOURN

8:00pm Kaoroke Social

Thursday July 15, 2004

- 8:00am Plenary Session:
Collaboration and Cooperating Agencies (WO organizer Rob Winthrop and Mark Lambert)
Collaboration in the planning process is becoming standard practice throughout the Bureau. This emphasis is closely associated with BLM's renewed commitment to consistent and proactive engagement with cooperating agencies. Guided by a panel of representatives from three diverse collaborative projects, this session will explore the elements of successful partnerships and provide guidance on some of the more problematic issues concerning collaboration and cooperating agency relationships.
- 10:00am BREAK
- 10:15am Plenary Session:
Implementing and utilizing plans (WO organizer Kit Muller and Rob Roudabush)
- Implementation strategies
 - Collaborative priority setting
 - Budgets and workloads
 - The link to ABC and BPS
 - Workforce planning
- Monitoring implementation and effectiveness
- 11:45am LUNCH
- 1:00pm Plenary Session:
Contracting for Land Use Plans (WO organizer Eli Ilano, Tim Salt, and Katie Harness)
In an effort to expedite land use planning while minimizing impact to ongoing work, many field offices have elected to contract for land use planning, NEPA analyses, and associated tasks. The session will first discuss general concepts, including: preparing to contract a Resource Management Plan, hiring a contractor, evaluation criteria and selection processes, roles and responsibilities of the BLM and Contractor, creating a well-defined project and communicating effectively, quality control and defining performance standards / Review of deliverables. A panel of BLM project managers and their contractor counterparts will share their experiences with contracting out all or portions of land use plans, best practices, lessons learned, and tips on establishing appropriate expectations that lead to good working relationships. The panel discussion will provide for an open question/answer period.
- 2:30pm BREAK

2:45pm Plenary Session:
ESA Section 7 Consultation (WO organizer Elroy Masters)
This session will highlight lessons learned relating to programmatic section 7 consultation for land use planning efforts. Topics will include 1) streamlining programmatic consultation on land use plans, 2) developing consultation agreements, and 3) sharing what different states are doing.

4:00pm Plenary Session:
Closing Summation (WO organizer Jordon Pope and Jim Dryden)

- What have we learned?
- Where do we go from here?

Friday July 16, 2004

Morning

- **Field Trip(s) (WO Organizer Horace Traylor)**

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