



Southeastern States

Resource Management Plan

October 2008



Plan Overview

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing the Southeastern States Resource Management Plan (RMP) that will cover all BLM administered lands and mineral estate within the nine southeastern states of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The plan will provide future management direction for over 1,000 acres of BLM administered lands and approximately 20 million acres of Federal mineral estate. While the RMP will cover a large geographic area, BLM planning decisions will only apply to BLM administered lands and mineral estate and not privately owned lands. The plan covers all of the states in the southeast, except Alabama and Mississippi which are included in a recently developed RMP.

You're Invited...

Public scoping meetings for the Southeastern States RMP are scheduled in October and November. The purpose of the open house scoping meetings is to give the public an opportunity to discuss and comment on the issues to be considered. Written comments will also be accepted at the open house meetings. **See the back of this newsletter for details on meeting locations.**

BLM staff will be available at each meeting to discuss information on the Southeastern States RMP, answer questions on the planning process, and explain the next steps.

Comments submitted to BLM will be evaluated and considered in the development of the RMP-EIS. Through your participation in this effort, we can move forward together toward a common goal of improved management of public lands in the Southeastern States.

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Mark your Calendars

Please join us at a public scoping meeting. Each meeting will be conducted in an open-house format. People may enter and leave at any time during scheduled hours.



Date	Location	Address	Time
Oct. 20	Little Rock, Arkansas	Central Arkansas Library 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 21	Fort Smith, Arkansas	Creekmore Community Center – Rose Room Rogers Ave & South 31st St., Fort Smith, AR 72903	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 21	Nashville, Tennessee	Nashville Public Library - East Branch 206 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN 37206	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 22	Frankfort, Kentucky	The Paul Sawyier Public Library Community Room 319 Wapping St., Frankfort, KY 40601	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 23	Mountain Home, Arkansas	Main Library 424 West 7th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 27	Shreveport, Louisiana	Shreve Memorial Library, Main Library 424 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 28	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	McKinley Alumni Center 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Oct. 29	Tallahassee, Florida	Smith Williams Service Center 2295 Pasco Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Nov. 12	Richmond, Virginia	Maymont, Stone Barn Building 1700 Hampton Street, Richmond, VA 23220	7:00 – 8:30 PM
Nov. 13	Lorton, Virginia	Gunston Elementary School 10100 Gunston Road, Lorton, VA 22079	7:00 – 9:30 PM

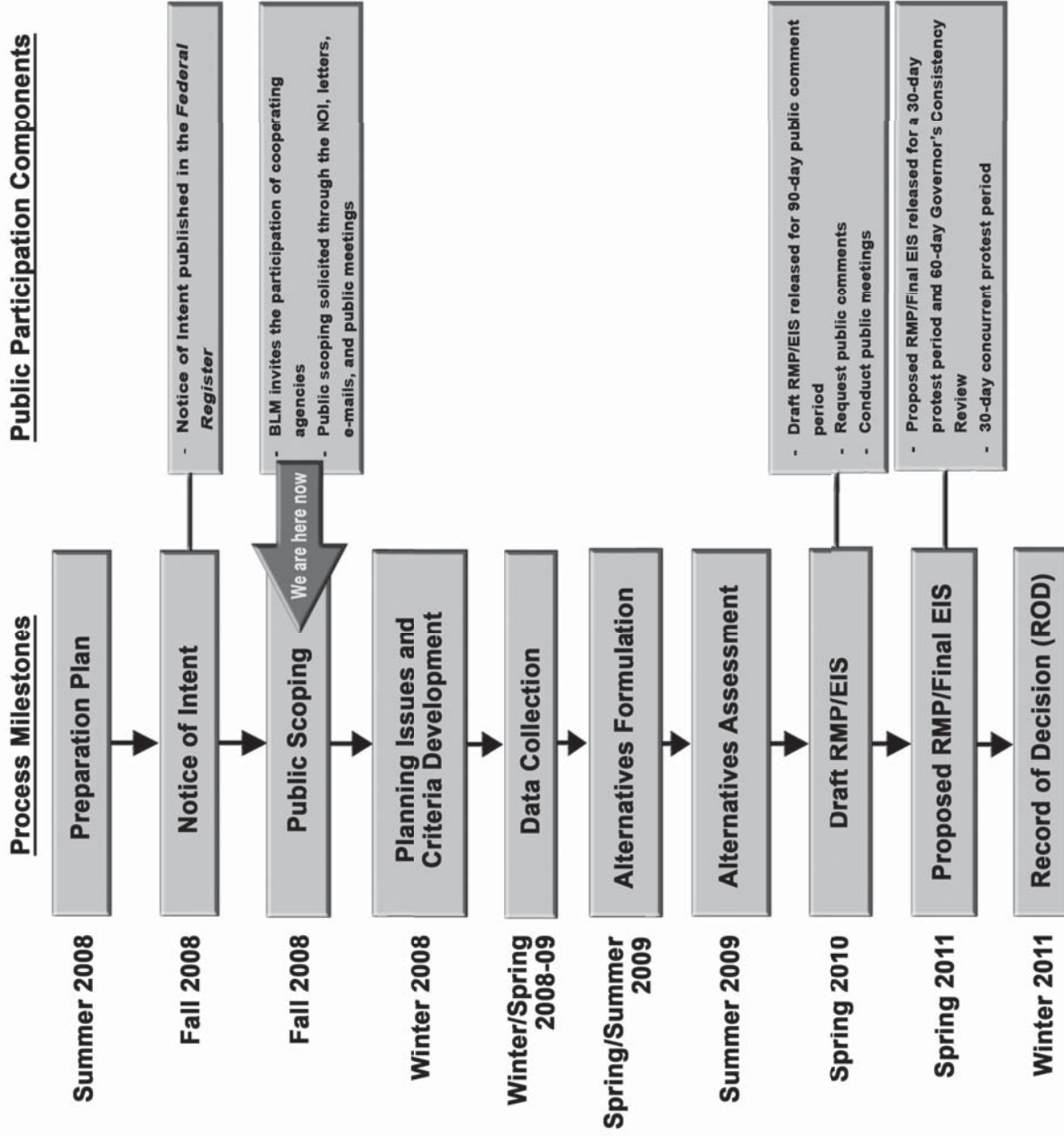
Background Information

BLM is responsible for management of public domain lands, defined as lands the Federal government obtained by cession from the original 13 states and foreign governments. Three of the nine southeastern states included in this planning effort are public domain states; these are Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana. Within all nine states BLM has management responsibility for the Federal mineral estate, including mineral estate reserved to the United States and mineral estate underlying lands acquired by other Federal agencies.

Previous approved land use plans in the area include the Florida RMP (1995), the Arkansas Planning Analysis (2002), the Louisiana Planning Analysis (2002) and the Meadowood Farm (Virginia) Planning Analysis (2003). The Southeastern States RMP will replace these plans.

RMP Process

The RMP Process includes several milestones and public involvement opportunities (see the schedule below). Following the public scoping meeting, BLM will develop the planning issues and criteria and formulate alternatives. The alternatives will be developed by BLM based on the planning issues identified by the public during the scoping period. The alternatives will respond to the general questions of how the BLM will manage BLM administered land and Federal mineral estate in the nine southeastern states.

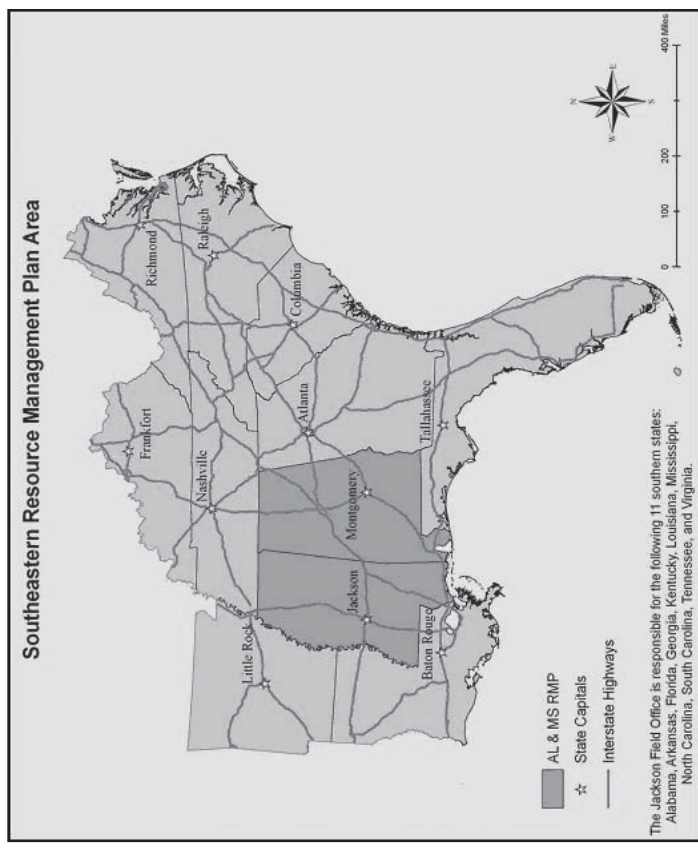


Public Involvement

A critical component of the Southeastern States RMP planning process is public involvement. Public input is important to develop a RMP that will provide guidance and direction for management of the planning area. Public involvement assists BLM in broadening the information base for decisionmaking, informing the public about the RMP-EIS, identifying the potential impacts associated with various management decisions, and ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are understood by the agency.

The first opportunity for public involvement is through the public scoping meetings. BLM invites the public to attend and participate one of the meetings. The open-house style meetings are designed to allow the public to discuss information on the lands being considered in the Southeastern States RMP, answer questions on the BLM RMP process, and explain the next steps in the RMP process. People may enter and leave at any time during scheduled hours.

Throughout the project, the public will have additional opportunities to participate and share their insights and comments. This newsletter, and others that will follow, will keep you informed about the progress of the planning effort and upcoming opportunities for public involvement. BLM encourages you to get involved.



Making Your Comments Count

It is important to recognize that the consideration of public comments is not a vote-counting process in which the outcome is determined by the majority opinion. Relative depth of feeling and interest among the public provides a general context for decision-making. However, it is the appropriateness, specificity, and factual accuracy of comments that provide the basis for modifications to planning documents and decisions. Further, because respondents are self-selected, they do not constitute a random or representative public sample. NEPA encourages all interested parties to submit comments as often as they wish regardless of age, citizenship, or eligibility to vote. Every substantive comment and suggestion has value, whether expressed by one respondent or many.