

RMP NEWS

Volume 2, Number 4
July 2011

Boise District Office

BLM

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE FOUR RIVERS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Update: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received several inquiries about the progress of the Four Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP).

During Fall 2009, the interdisciplinary (ID) team hosted seven alternatives' workshops in Mountain Home, Council, Payette, Idaho City, Emmett, Boise, and for the Adams

County Natural Resources Committee. Alternative concepts and a set of maps were available for public comment at each workshop.

The meetings were designed to present a preliminary overview so the public could identify any gaps in the proposals and any new or misrepresented concerns.

Two identified concerns were updated to meet expressed public needs: 1) maintain open space to buffer developments and protect wildlife habitat, and 2) take proactive fuels management measures to save existing sagebrush stands from wildland fire. A discussion of these issues can be found on the following page.

The Four Rivers Field Office will continue its collaborative approach with the public, elected officials, and State and local agencies to gain input during the plan's development.

The web page is being updated. New maps will be posted when the draft RMP is available for comment.

For more information, contact me at (208) 384-3305 or jmbeck@blm.gov.

Jonathan M. Beck

Jon Beck
Boise District Planning and Environmental
Coordinator



IDENTIFIED PUBLIC CONCERNS

1. The need for BLM to maintain open space in the Four Rivers Planning Area.
 - Provide plant and wildlife habitat adjacent to urban settings
 - Lessen user conflicts
 - Enhance the “outdoor” experience/scenic quality
 - Winter range for elk and deer
2. The need to take proactive fuels management measures to slow fire losses to remaining sagebrush stands.
 - Effects on sage-grouse and natural resources
 - Reduce fire size and intensity
 - Increase interval between fires (return to more natural intervals)

HOW THE CONCERNS WERE ADDRESSED IN THE ALTERNATIVES

Objectives and management actions were included to address these two concerns of open space and fuels management. The alternatives were updated using input from many people/organizations. The impacts analysis reflects these updates, based on current science for wildland fire, fuels, and grazing, and the importance of maintaining open space.

From Fall 2010-Summer 2011, BLM has been compiling the effects analysis and finalizing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan

(DEIS/RMP). Once completed, the document will undergo internal review, and be ready in January 2012.

As with previous planning efforts, BLM will provide various ways for public comments on the document. Open House meetings will be scheduled throughout the Planning Area. An additional newsletter, discussing the proposed alternatives, will be distributed to all interested parties before the meetings. Notices will be published in appropriate local/regional newspapers two weeks prior to the events.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Alternative A: No Action

Manages resources under current regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Alternative B: Emphasize Resource Conservation:

Emphasizes protection of natural resources on BLM land from potential, negative impacts of population growth and increased resource use.

Alternative C: Accommodate Growing Public Land Use Demands

Recognizes population growth as a major factor for land management decisions in the Four Rivers Planning Area.

Alternative D: Maximize BLM Management Efficiencies

Proposes focused, multiple use of “core areas” for efficient and effective management of resources and personnel.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT IN THE RMP PROCESS

January 2012

The BLM releases the Draft RMP/EIS for public comment.

Summer 2012

Work begins on the proposed RMP/FEIS, incorporating comments received from the public, Tribes, State and Federal agencies, and BLM Washington Office.

Four Rivers Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

STAMP

Four Rivers Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

SEAL HERE

Four Rivers Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

IF you wish to receive information on the Four Rivers RMP **only through e-mail**, check this box [], fill out the bottom portion, fold over so the BLM address on the reverse side shows, seal, and mail.

IF you **no longer wish to receive information** on the Four Rivers RMP, please fill out the following and return.

[] Please remove my name from the RMP mailing list.

Name (please print) _____
Organization _____
Mailing Address _____
E-mail Address (optional) _____