

## **WHAT IS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE?**

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The Preferred Alternative in the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) indicates the agency's preliminary preference. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) used the impact analysis, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; recommendations from the tribes, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists; consideration of planning criteria; and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to select Alternative IV-B as the Preferred Alternative from the suite of alternatives analyzed. Selection of the Preferred Alternative was based on the following criteria:

- Satisfaction of statutory requirements
- Achievement of BLM goals and policies
- Achievement of the purpose and need
- Provision of an acceptable approach to addressing key planning issues
- Consideration of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists' recommendations

## **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE?**

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Identification of this alternative as Preferred is not equivalent to identification of the Proposed Alternative in the Proposed RMP/ Final EIS. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will reflect changes or adjustments to the Preferred Alternative based on comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities and could include goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

## **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

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The BLM may combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in the Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Comments regarding specific goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions may help guide this decision and help craft the Proposed Alternative. It is important that your comments focus on specific parts of the alternatives, instead of an alternative as a whole. Using the reference codes (see the *How to Use this Document* handout) will help ensure your comment is applied to the correct goal, objective, allocation, or management action. Remember, these comments must be substantive (see the *How to Comment* handout). Simply saying you like or do not like a goal, objective, allocation, or management action is not enough and will not be considered.