

Jarbidge RMP Newsletter

Sixth Issue, November 2010

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Letter from the Field Manager

Thank you to everyone who participated in our public meetings for the Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We met with almost 100 of you as we held meetings in Glens Ferry, Twin Falls, Three Creek, Boise, and Elko.

Based on your feedback at those meetings, we've put together this newsletter to help you navigate the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. You will also find some interesting facts, answers to frequently asked questions, and tips for finding information in the document.

Several organizations and agencies have expressed concern about the volume of information to read and the length of the comment period. The comment period will be extended by 60 days in order to allow more time for the public to review the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS (see box below).

We appreciate your continued interest in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS and encourage you to read this newsletter as you continue to develop your comments.

Rick Vander Voet

Rick Vander Voet
Field Manager



The Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary Team in Glens Ferry

Did you know....

- There are **994** sheets of paper in the hard copy of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS, resulting in **1,988** pages of material.
- Of these, **1,246** pages are contained in Chapters 1 through 5.
- **440** pages are contained in the Map Volume and Appendices.
- **68** pages provide introductory material contained in the Dear Reader Letter, Errata Sheet, and Executive Summary.
- **234** pages provide organization tools such as title pages, Table of Contents, the List of Acronyms, the Glossary, and the Index.

Comment Period for Draft Jarbidge RMP/EIS Extended

On October 22, 2010, Idaho BLM State Director Steve Ellis announced that he will extend the public comment period on the Draft Jarbidge RMP/EIS an additional 60 days. The extended timeframe means that the public comment period, which was originally set to close on December 2, 2010, will now close on January 31, 2011.



Frequently Asked Questions about the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

Is the Dear Reader Letter the same for every RMP?

No. The Dear Reader Letter for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS contains important information specific to this planning process. Readers are encouraged to read this letter because it will help them understand how to comment on the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS and how this planning process relates to other planning processes occurring in the Jarbidge Field Office.

Are Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) a special designation?

No. SRMAs are an allocation decision for areas that need more intensive management or improvements, such as parking lots or restrooms. These areas often have high levels of recreation activity, contain valuable natural resources, or require special management.

Does the Preferred Alternative reduce grazing in every allotment in the planning area?

Allotment-specific allocations will be made during permit renewal following the Record of Decision for the Jarbidge RMP. These decisions will take into account areas unavailable for grazing and the specific vegetation in that allotment. This could result in an increase or decrease in forage for livestock grazing at the allotment level; however, there would be a planning-area wide reduction in forage available for livestock under the Preferred Alternative.

How is management for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) different from Wilderness Study Area (WSA) management?

WSAs are areas identified through a wilderness inventory as having features associated with the concept of wilderness—naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. WSAs are managed in order to preserve those features. ACECs are areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. ACEC management focuses on protecting the specific relevant and important values contained within that ACEC.



Tips for Reading the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

- **Read the Dear Reader Letter.** This letter contains important information on how to comment on the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS and how this planning process relates to other planning processes occurring in the Jarbidge Field Office.
- **Read the Purpose and Need statement (page 1-1 of Chapter 1).** The Purpose and Need statement explains why the Jarbidge RMP is being prepared and sets the sideboards for the issues addressed in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.
- **Choose the topics of interest to you.** The Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS contains sections for tribal rights and interests, resources, resource uses, special designations, and social and economic conditions relevant to the Jarbidge Field Office. You do not necessarily need to read all of these sections in order to understand how alternatives in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS may affect the topics of interest to you.
- **Read the Chapter 2, 3, and 4 sections for topics of interest to you.** Chapter 2 will identify the management possible for that topic. For example, reading all alternatives in the Livestock Grazing section will allow you to identify the possible management you may like or dislike. Make sure to include this management in your comment with the reasons you agree or disagree with it. Chapter 3 will identify what aspects of your topic are affected by management contained in Chapter 2. Chapter 4 will identify how your topic is affected by management contained in Chapter 2. It is important to read Chapter 4 because the impacts from the alternative management contained in Chapter 2 may not be what you might expect.



Frequently Asked Questions about Transportation and Travel Management in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

What roads are affected by decisions in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS?

Management in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS would only apply to BLM-managed roads.

Do alternatives in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS close roads?

No. The alternatives identify the following travel designations: open to cross-country motorized vehicle use, limited to inventoried or designated routes, closed to motorized vehicle use. Areas identified as closed to motorized vehicle use in a particular alternative are:

- within Wilderness or a Wilderness Study Areas;
- in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, which do not contain any roads; or
- currently inaccessible to motorized vehicles due to their topography.



The Jarbidge Foothills

What does an “open to cross-country motorized vehicle use” designation mean?

Motorized vehicles do not have to stay on a road, trail, or two-track. This means a motorized vehicle could leave a route at any time and drive across the soil and vegetation on public land.

What does a “limited to designated routes” designation mean?

Motorized vehicles can drive on any designated route. Routes will be designated in the Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP). A route can include anything from a paved road to a two-track to a trail. Route designation will use the criteria, guidelines, and considerations contained in the Transportation and Travel Management section of Chapter 2 (see pages 2-155 through 2-157 of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS).

Can I propose a new route in the CTTMP?

Yes. The CTTMP will be developed through a public process where individuals can propose new routes.

When will the designation process occur?

The process to develop the CTTMP will begin following the signing of the Record of Decision for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.

What roads will be open while the CTTMP is being prepared?

Under all action alternatives, all existing routes would be open to motorized vehicle use until the CTTMP is completed. Map 56 in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS identifies the preliminary existing routes that will be open.

How can I get involved now?

You can submit comments on the travel designations, criteria for route designation, or Transportation Management Area (TMA) focuses you prefer through January 31, 2011. You can also begin to identify the routes you use, either on maps or through GPS, in preparation for the CTTMP.

Did you know....

- There are more than **5,200 miles** of roads, trails, and two-tracks in the planning area.
- If all of those roads, trails, and two-tracks were lined up end-to-end, they would stretch from Twin Falls, Idaho, to **Tokyo, Japan**.



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Comments on the Jarbridge Draft RMP/EIS can be submitted through January 31, 2011, through any of the methods listed in the box above.

Jarbridge RMP Website Address

The Jarbridge RMP Website provides information on why the Jarbridge RMP is being prepared, the planning process, and how to get involved and comment. Information from public meetings, news & newsletters, Federal Register Notices, planning documents, and maps & photos of the planning area are posted on the website.

Go to http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/planning/jarbridge_resource.html to see our site!

Presentations on Draft RMP/EIS
Jarbridge Field Office staff are available to speak to organizations about the Jarbridge RMP. Feel free to contact us to schedule a presentation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.