

## Chapter 6—Public Scoping

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### 6.1. Summary

The public scoping period began with the publication of the NOI to prepare an RMP and EIS in the *Federal Register* on February 28, 2008. As part of the scoping process, BLM prepared and mailed an informational package to the public; local, state and federal agencies; and to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes. The intent of this package was to inform the public about the RMP process; present the planning issues and the areas where new or updated management direction was needed; and invite the public and tribes to several open-house scoping meetings. Approximately 1,000 information packages were mailed and, in response, 60 people registered their attendance at the open-house meetings. Comments were requested at the meetings and resulted in BLM receiving 68 pieces of correspondence that, through the comment analysis process, generated 684 unique comments.

The final scoping report includes a detailed description of the scoping process and activities, summary of the comments submitted by the public, an in-depth discussion of the planning issues raised, and an overview of the planning schedule. In summary, the following seven issues were raised by the public and will be used to develop alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS:

- **Acquiring and Maintaining Public Access:** How will the planning process address the need for acquiring and maintaining access to public lands while also protecting private property rights?
- **Land Tenure Adjustment:** How will the planning process identify lands for land tenure adjustment including retention, acquisition, exchange, and disposal, and what will be the priority for such land tenure adjustments?
- **Livestock Grazing:** How will conflicts associated with livestock grazing be managed within the planning area?
- **Sagebrush Steppe:** How will plant communities within the sagebrush ecosystem be managed to maintain long-term health and sustainability for terrestrial and aquatic species while maintaining the principles of multiple use?
- **Socioeconomics:** How will social and economic benefits of commodity and amenity uses be balanced within the planning area?
- **Recreation Management:** How will the increase in recreational use and demand for quality recreational opportunities be balanced within the planning area?
- **Travel Management:** How will motorized, non-motorized, and mechanized travel be managed to provide commodity, amenity, and recreation opportunities, as well as to protect natural resources?

Through scoping, the public also provided feedback to the preliminary planning criteria. Their comments were reviewed and incorporated, and resulted in the final approved planning criteria presented within the final scoping report.

The Public Scoping Report, Upper Snake Field Office Resource Management Plan, may be viewed on the internet through the Upper Snake RMP website at [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/upper\\_snake/Planning/Upper/snake/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/upper_snake/Planning/Upper/snake/rmp.html) or by contacting the Bureau of Land Management, Upper Snake Field Office, at 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401, 208-524-7500.