

PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria guide and direct the development of a resource management plan (Plan), and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and ultimately the selection of a Preferred Alternative. They ensure that the Plan is tailored to identified issues and ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Last, they focus on decisions to be made in the Plan and achieve the following:

- provide an early basis for inventory and data collection needs;
- enable the manager and staff to develop a preliminary planning base map delineating geographic analysis units; and
- stimulate the development of planning criteria during public participation.

Preliminary Planning Criteria

- The Plan will establish the guidance upon which the BLM will manage the resources and values in the Monument. The Monument Plan will supercede the existing 1985 San Juan/San Miguel Plan and will be integrated with provisions of existing management plans and policies for adjacent lands (e.g., Montezuma Comprehensive Plan).
- The planning process will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and culminate with the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD).
- The Plan will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other applicable laws, regulations, executive orders and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policy.
- The Plan will meet the requirement of the Monument Proclamation to protect the objects of geological, archaeological, historical, and biological value within the Monument.
- The Monument Planning Team will work collaboratively with the State of Colorado, Montezuma and Dolores Counties, tribal governments, cooperating agencies, municipal governments, other Federal agencies, the Monument Advisory Committee, and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- Decisions in the Plan will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies to the extent that they are in conformance with Federal law and regulation.
- The planning process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.
- The Plan will meet the requirement of the Proclamation to not enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Colorado with respect to fish and wildlife management.
- The Plan will incorporate the Colorado BLM Guidelines for Recreation Management. It will set forth a framework for managing recreational activities in order to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public consistent with the Proclamation.
- The lifestyles of area residents, including the activities of hiking, grazing and hunting, will be considered in the Plan.
- Any lands or interests therein located within the planning area boundary, which are acquired by BLM, will be managed consistently with the Plan, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.

- The Plan will meet the requirement of the Proclamation to prepare a transportation plan that addresses the actions, including road closures to travel restrictions, necessary to protect the scientific and historic resources of the Monument. Furthermore, as required under the Proclamation motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes.
- The Plan will not address Monument boundary adjustments or proposals to change the Proclamation.
- The Plan will recognize valid existing rights within the Monument and review how valid existing rights are verified. The Plan will also outline the process the BLM will use to address applications or notices filed after completion of the Plan on existing claims or other land use authorizations.
- The Plan will emphasize the scientific and historic resources of the Monument. It will also identify opportunities and priorities for research and education related to the resources for which the Monument was created. In addition, it will describe an approach for incorporating research into management actions.
- The management of livestock grazing is governed by existing laws and regulations. The Plan will incorporate the BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado. The Plan will layout a strategy for ensuring proper grazing practices are followed within the Monument.