

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Bulletin #1

Winter, 2007



John Day Basin Resource Management Plan

Welcome

The Prineville District of the BLM is in the process of preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for BLM-managed lands in the John Day Basin. This new plan will revise and consolidate three RMPs that provide current guidance within the John Day Basin: The Two Rivers RMP (1986), the John Day RMP (1985), and the Baker RMP (1989).

This Planning Bulletin is the first in a series of bulletins to keep you informed about the planning process and to invite your ideas and suggestions for developing a RMP to guide the management of natural resources, activities, and uses on the public lands in the area for the next 15 years.

Project Area

The planning area includes over 450,000 acres of BLM managed land within the John Day Basin. Of these, 44,000 acres were

acquired along the North Fork John Day River as authorized by the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000 and are not covered by a previous RMP.

The newly acquired lands along the North Fork John Day and new information provided by the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project provide the impetus to complete a new, consolidated Resource Management Plan for this area.





Analysis of the Management Situation

The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) is the first step in this process. The purpose of the AMS is:

- To summarize the existing conditions of the planning area
- To explain the need for change by identifying preliminary issues
- To identify management opportunities

The Executive Summary and the full document can be accessed at the project website (see page 3).

Corrections: Several errors were found in the AMS, including:

The number of comments we received on access and OHV use was underreported:

- Table 18 (pg 202): the correct number of individual comments is 809
- Fig. 40 (pg 203): the correct number of comments about “access” is 320.

Both Access and OHV use remain as key issues for this planning process.

Another correction was regarding road access in the Sutton Mountain area.

A full list and explanation of the corrections can be found on our website. Thanks to the readers who pointed out these errors.

Where We've Been - 2006

2006 was a busy year working on establishing baseline information in the AMS. We worked closely with the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC), our Cooperating agencies, and members of the public to gather this baseline information, and to identify where conditions have changed and will need new management direction. Economic workshops were co-sponsored with several communities, and support was provided for studies of social, economic and resource information (see the project web site for these background studies, including on Wild and Scenic River eligibility)

Where We Are - 2007

The focus for 2007 will be developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan for BLM-managed lands in the John Day Basin. This work will include analyzing alternative scenarios for addressing Key Issues. We will continue to work closely with the RAC, our Cooperators and the public. See the topic on page 3 on all the ways you can continue to be involved in the project under “**Your Land, Your Future.**”

Where We're Going – 2008 on

The schedule for 2008 is to continue working with you and our other partners to review and revise the Draft direction. The goal is to produce a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan by year end. We look forward to implementing our new management direction beginning in 2009!

KEY ISSUES

What is a Key Issue?

As defined in the AMS, Planning Issues are problems that require changes in RMP direction to resolve. There is often a lack of consensus concerning how to address the issue. In order to be considered "significant" an issue must be well defined, relevant to the proposed action(s), and within the authority and ability of the BLM to address in the development of a reasonable range of alternatives or mitigation measures.

What Have we Heard from the Public?

We heard a lot of suggestions and concerns from the public during scoping in 2006. However, many of the comments were not significant issues. They may have either been opinions about likes and dislikes, or were comments about the planning process. Others were concerns about topics that are already decided by law, regulation or higher-level decision, or problems already adequately addressed by current plans. Many people expressed concerns on topics about which there is generally broad agreement (e.g. protect water quality). All of these comments will be addressed in the John Day Basin RMP, but are not considered Key Issues which will drive the planning process. We thank all those who provided us with their comments. Your feedback helped us identify the Key Issues for this planning process, and important step.

Key Issues for the RMP

We have narrowed the AMS list of Planning Issues to the following list of key or "driving" issues:

- *Access and Travel Management*
- *Vegetation Health*
- *Newly Acquired Lands on the North Fork of the John Day River*

Your Land, Your Future

There are several ways you can be involved with or stay informed about the John Day Basin Resource Management Plan process.

- Public Meetings (see table on back page)
- Participate in an internet survey about travel in the planning area, including where you like to travel or areas you would like to see travel routes changed (either improved or restricted). Access the survey at: <http://agf.colorado.edu/JohnDayRMP>
- Periodic Planning Bulletins
- Contact us at 541/416-6700 or John_Day_Basin_RMP@blm.gov
- Visit our John Day Basin RMP website at : <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/johndaybasinrmp.htm>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!



John Day Basin Resource Management Plan

Upcoming Public Meetings

Your Participation is Important!

Date	February 27, 2007	February 28, 2007	March 5, 2007	March 6, 2007
Time	7-9pm	7-9pm	6-8pm	6-8pm
Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday
Location*	BEND	SALEM	FOSSIL	JOHN DAY

**Exact meeting locations will be posted on our website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/johndaybasinrmp.htm>*

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