



Eastern Washington and San Juan Resource Management Plan Newsletter

Bureau of Land Management

Inside this issue:

What is an RMP?	2
What types of decisions will BLM make in the RMP?	2
Spokane Timeline	2
How Do I Comment?	2
Planning Schedule	2
Preliminary Issues	3
Preliminary Planning Criteria	3

Public Scoping Begins

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Spokane District is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for 445,000 acres of public lands in Eastern Washington and the San Juan Archipelago in Washington State (see map below). The notice of intent to begin the development of the RMP and EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 30,

2010. This officially started the scoping period, which is the first opportunity for public involvement in the RMP and EIS process. During the scoping period, which runs through June 25, 2010, the BLM is asking for your help to identify land use issues to be addressed in the RMP, or to be analyzed in the EIS. To learn more, please plan to attend one of the Open House Meetings listed below.



Special Points to Consider:

- Scoping Comments are Due by June 25, 2010.
- More Information is available on our Website about this process.
- Plan to attend one of our six open house public meetings.

Public Open House Meetings

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Address</u>
Davenport	May 17 (6-8 p.m.)	Davenport Memorial Hall, 511 Park Street
Wenatchee	May 26 (6-8 p.m.)	Chelan PUD, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave
Tonasket	May 27 (6-8 p.m.)	Tonasket High School, School Commons, 35 Hwy 20
Pasco	June 1 (6-8 p.m.)	TRAC Center, 6600 Burden Blvd, Room 4
Friday Harbor	June 5 (12-4 p.m.)	Mullis Senior Center, 589 Nash Street
Ellensburg	June 12 (12-3 p.m.)	Quality Inn, 1700 Canyon Rd



Visit Us on the Web at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp/

What is an RMP?

The BLM’s land use plans are called Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The planning decisions contained in an RMP are the basis for every on-the-ground action the BLM undertakes. An RMP ensures that the public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA), under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. As required by FLPMA and BLM policy, the public lands must be managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmos-

What types of decisions will BLM make in the RMP?

RMP decisions fall into two categories: desired outcomes, and allowable uses and actions anticipated to achieve desired outcomes. Desired outcomes are expressed in terms of specific goals and objectives. Allowable uses, or allocations, include uses that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on the public lands and federal mineral estate. Actions may be proactive measures (e.g., measures that will be taken to enhance watershed function and condition), as well as measures or criteria that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public land. RMPs also establish administrative designations such as areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), recommend withdrawals, identify land tenure zones, and recommend or make findings of suitability for Congressional designations (such as components of the National Wild and Scenic River System). The RMP will not make recommendations regarding Congressional designation of wilderness.

How do I comment?

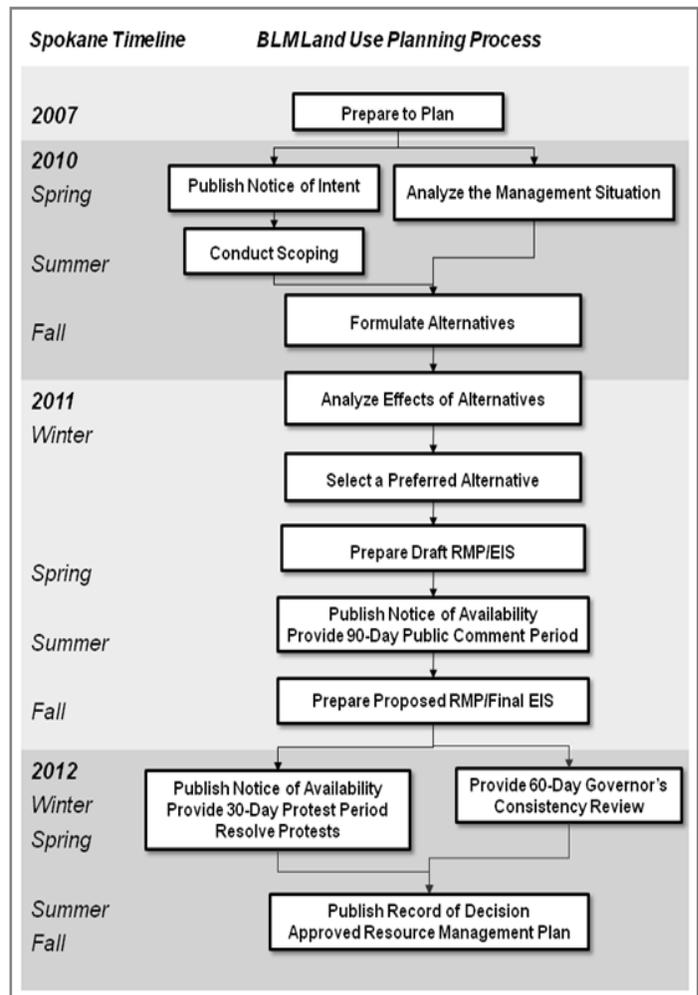
The BLM will accept written scoping comments through June 25, 2010. The preferred method is to submit comments through the RMP website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp. You may also submit comments by sending email to OR_Spokane_RMP@blm.gov or postal mail to our office:

BLM Spokane District—ATTN: RMP
1103 N. Fancher Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Comments which identify or discuss a resource issue will be most helpful to our process. A planning issue usually results from some type of conflict between or among different types of use or between uses and resource conservation. A list of preliminary issues identified by the BLM, appear on page three. If you have concerns or interest in a specific resource or use, you may also choose to include suggestions for uses or conservation of these resources or lands for us to consider when we develop alternatives for the RMP/EIS. You may also

pheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use; and that recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands by encouraging collaboration and public participation throughout the planning process. Land use plans are one of the primary mechanisms for guiding BLM activities to achieve the mission and goals outlined in the Department of the Interior (DOI) Strategic Plan.

Planning Schedule



comment on the preliminary planning criteria listed on page three. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Preliminary Issues

Through internal analysis, the BLM has identified the preliminary issues listed below. After receiving and analyzing public comments during the scoping period, we will determine whether these preliminary issues should be modified or supplemented.

- How will shrub-steppe, and its associated riparian and wetland habitats be managed to maintain, improve, or restore healthy plant and wildlife communities? Shrub-steppe habitats support a unique assemblage of plants and wildlife, and associated riparian wetland habitats, many of which are declining, causing its designation as a “priority habitat” for the state of Washington and triggering national initiatives to conserve and maintain shrub steppe communities.
- How should the BLM manage public lands with consideration of uses of adjacent lands given the mixed ownership pattern in the planning area? BLM lands in the planning area consist of scattered tracts and isolated blocks, varying in size from a few acres to over 19,000 contiguous acres. These tracts and blocks are adjacent to, and intermixed with private lands, other state and federal public lands, and Tribal lands. Uses or activities on BLM or ad-

acent lands can affect or conflict with uses and activities on the other. It is usually not possible to accomplish landscape level management objectives without complementary management across ownerships. In many areas, BLM lands are the only public lands available; and thus, there is a high demand for multiple and sometimes conflicting uses within the limited area.

- How should the BLM manage multiple uses and resources that have changed, or that occur on lands that were either not administered by the BLM or were not within the planning area when the current RMP was developed? The BLM has acquired more than 130,000 acres of land in the planning area since 1987. Additionally, there is no RMP for public lands administered by the BLM in the San Juan Archipelago.
- How should the BLM facilitate energy development while still allowing for multiple uses and appropriate protection of public lands and resources? If the BLM is to provide opportunities for energy (renewable and non-renewable) development, to include associated transmission lines and pipelines, it must also provide protection for other resources, such as visual, cultural, and habitat values.

Preliminary Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are also used to define the scope of the planning process. Planning criteria set the side-boards for what will or will not be addressed in the RMP/EIS. The BLM has developed the following preliminary planning criteria for this RMP/EIS:

- The BLM will protect resources in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws and regulations;
- The BLM will strive to make land use plan decisions compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, Federal, and tribal agencies, and consistent with other applicable laws and regulations governing the administration of public land;
- The plan will recognize valid existing rights within the Planning Area;
- Land use plan decisions will apply to BLM lands and split-estate minerals administered by the BLM;
- The BLM will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach, when practical, to jointly determine the desired future conditions of public lands;

- The plan will recognize the state’s authority to manage wildlife; and
- The plan will incorporate the BLM Oregon and Washington Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines.

More information is available on the RMP website at:
www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp/

Thank you for your Interest in the Eastern Washington and San Juan RMP!

More information is available on the RMP website at www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp/ or you can contact the Spokane District Office at (509) 536-1252

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.