

# Guidelines for the John Day Basin Planning Process

1. **The BLM will obey the law** by referring to and following all laws, regulations, and policies relevant to management of public lands within the John Day Basin RMP planning area. ( A complete listing of laws, regulations, and policy will be published in the *Analysis of the Management Situation for the John Day Basin*. This document will be published in late Fall 2006.)
2. **The planning process will recognize valid existing rights** within the Planning Area.
3. **Existing management that is attaining resource and management objectives will be incorporated into the RMP without further analysis.**
4. **Decisions made by the BLM in the RMP apply only to public lands** managed by the BLM.
5. **The BLM will include the public, other governments, and tribes** in the planning process.
6. **The RMP will protect and enhance ecosystem values** within the Planning Area. These values include: Natural resources, commodity production and recreation activities, social and economic interests of local communities within the John Day Basin, and the relationship of public lands to issues of national and regional importance (e.g. energy generation and transmission).
7. **The BLM will use current scientific information, research, technologies, and results of inventories and monitoring (including the *Interior Columbia Basin Strategy (2003)*)** to develop and evaluate the plan.
8. **Lands acquired by the BLM within the planning area, after completion of this plan, will be managed according to the John Day Basin RMP**, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
9. **The planning process will recognize the State's responsibility to manage wildlife and water rights.**
10. **The BLM will strive to make Decisions in the RMP compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Federal, and Tribal agencies** as long as the decisions are consistent with Federal law governing the administration of public land.

## Challenges the BLM intends to address in the RMP

1. **Transportation and Access—How should BLM roads and access be assessed and managed** to identify and provide additional access, when warranted, where access and roads should remain the same, and where decreased access (closing roads) is appropriate to protect planning area resources?
2. **Off-Highway-Vehicles (OHV)—How should OHV use be managed on public lands?** All public lands must be designated as open, limited, or closed for OHV use.
3. **Special Management Areas**
  - a. **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)—Are existing ACECs still needed?** Is there a need to designate new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect historical, cultural, or scenic values, natural resources or processes, or human life and safety?
  - b. **Significant Caves—Are there Caves within the planning area eligible for protection under the Federal Cave Protection Act of 1988?**
  - c. **National Wild and Scenic Rivers System—Are there streams or rivers within the Planning Area that are eligible for nomination for National Wild and Scenic River Status?**
4. **Visual Resources Management (VRM)—How should the BLM manage the unique scenery** provided by the public lands in the basin?
5. **Land Tenure Adjustments—What Public lands should be retained in public ownership? What public lands should be disposed? In which areas is the BLM interested in acquiring additional lands?**
6. **Management of BLM managed lands in the North Fork John Day River Subasin**
7. **Determining the appropriate range of management options for grazing allotments.**
8. **Other challenges or concerns identified by the public or cooperators that cannot be resolved by following existing guidance.**