Planning 2.0

Public Webinar on the Proposed Planning Rule

http://www.blm.gov/plan2

Speakers

Leah Baker

Acting Branch Chief,
Planning and NEPA

BLM Washington Office

Shasta Ferranto

Planning 2.0
Project Manager

BLM Washington Office

Why update the planning process?

Because….

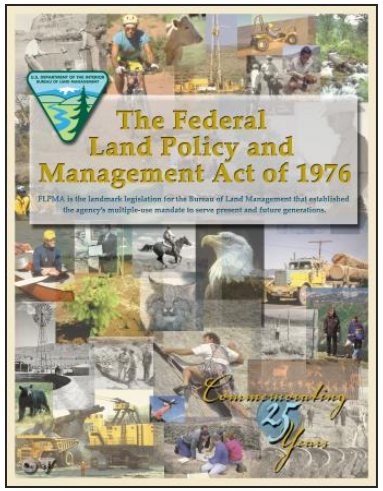
Collaboration is the foundation to effective planning.

Resources cross administrative boundaries, and so should resource management.

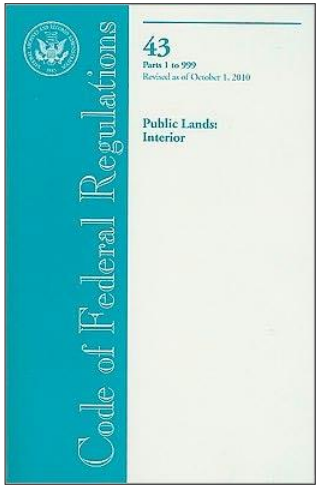
When change occurs, we need to be able to respond in a timely and meaningful way.

Planning Policy

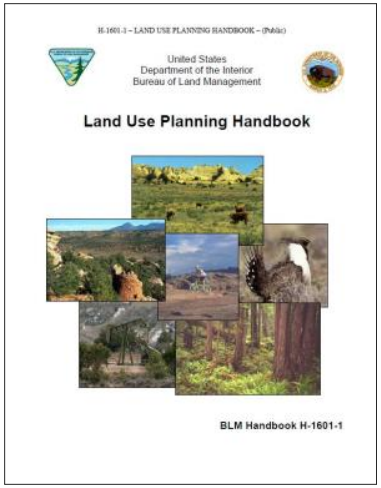
Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)



Regulations

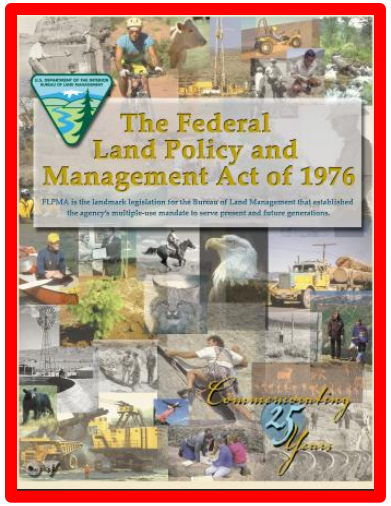


Land Use Planning Handbook

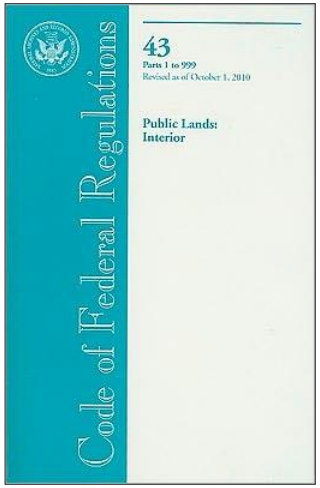


Planning Policy

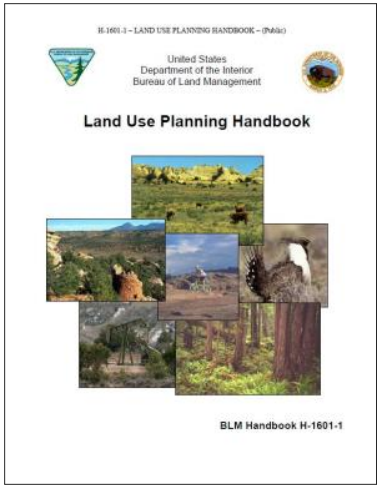
Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)



Regulations

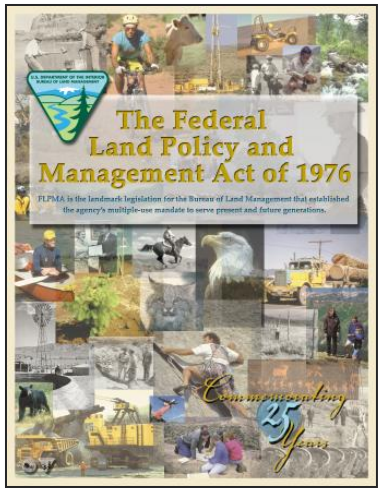


Land Use Planning Handbook



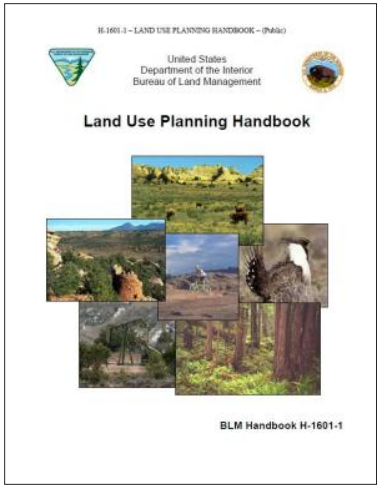
Planning Policy

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)



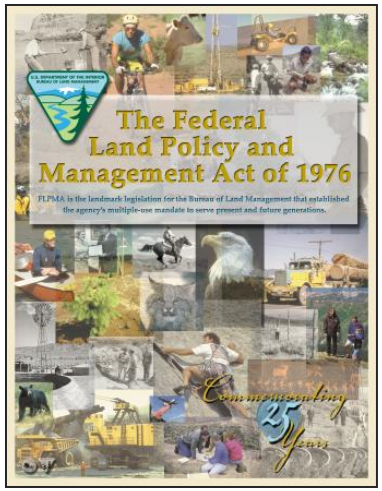
Regulations

Land Use Planning Handbook

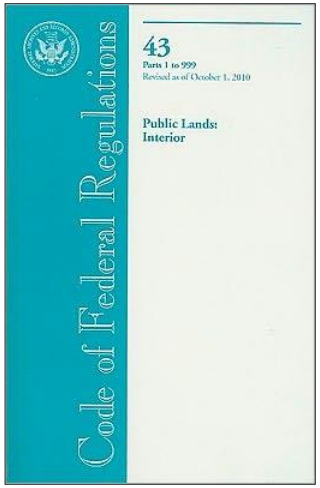


Planning Policy

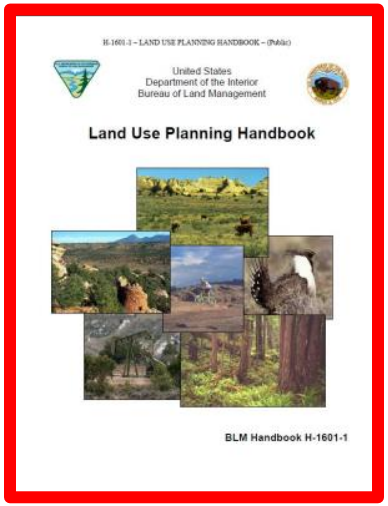
Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)



Regulations



Land Use Planning Handbook



Rule-making process

Rule-making process

Fall 2014

Listening Sessions
Written Comments

Rule-making process

Fall 2014

Listening Sessions
Written Comments

February 11, 2016

Rule-making process

Fall 2014

Listening Sessions
Written Comments

February 11, 2016

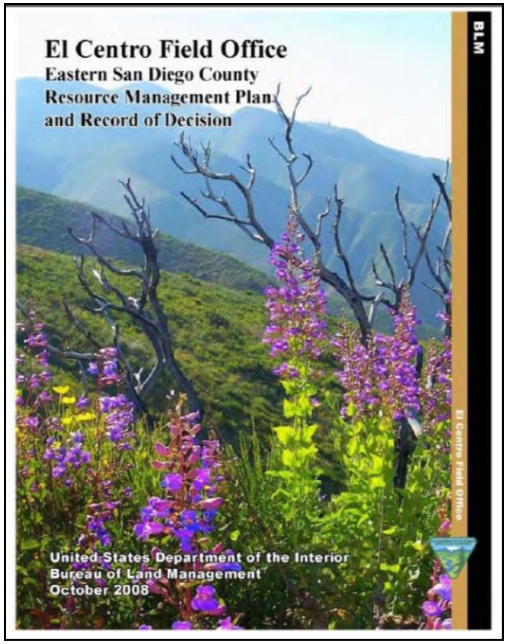
April 25, 2016

Webinar
Public Meeting
Written Comments

What are the proposed changes?

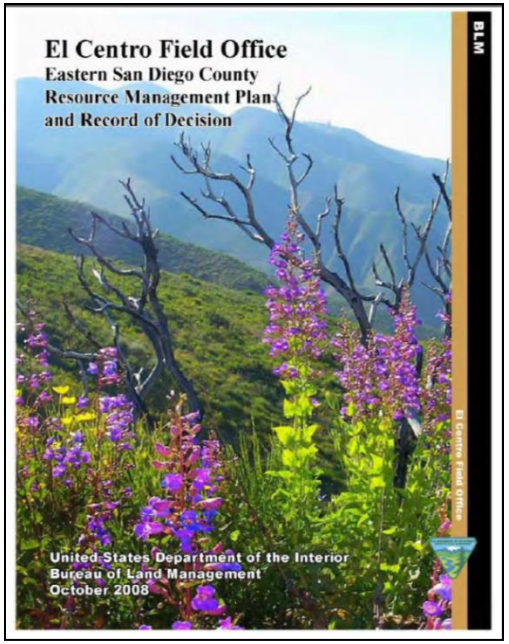
Planning Framework

The planning framework describes the content of a resource management plan (RMP) and supporting documents.



Planning Framework

The planning framework describes the content of a resource management plan (RMP) and supporting documents.



GOAL = improve the BLM's ability to apply *adaptive management* and achieve *desired future conditions*.

Planning Framework

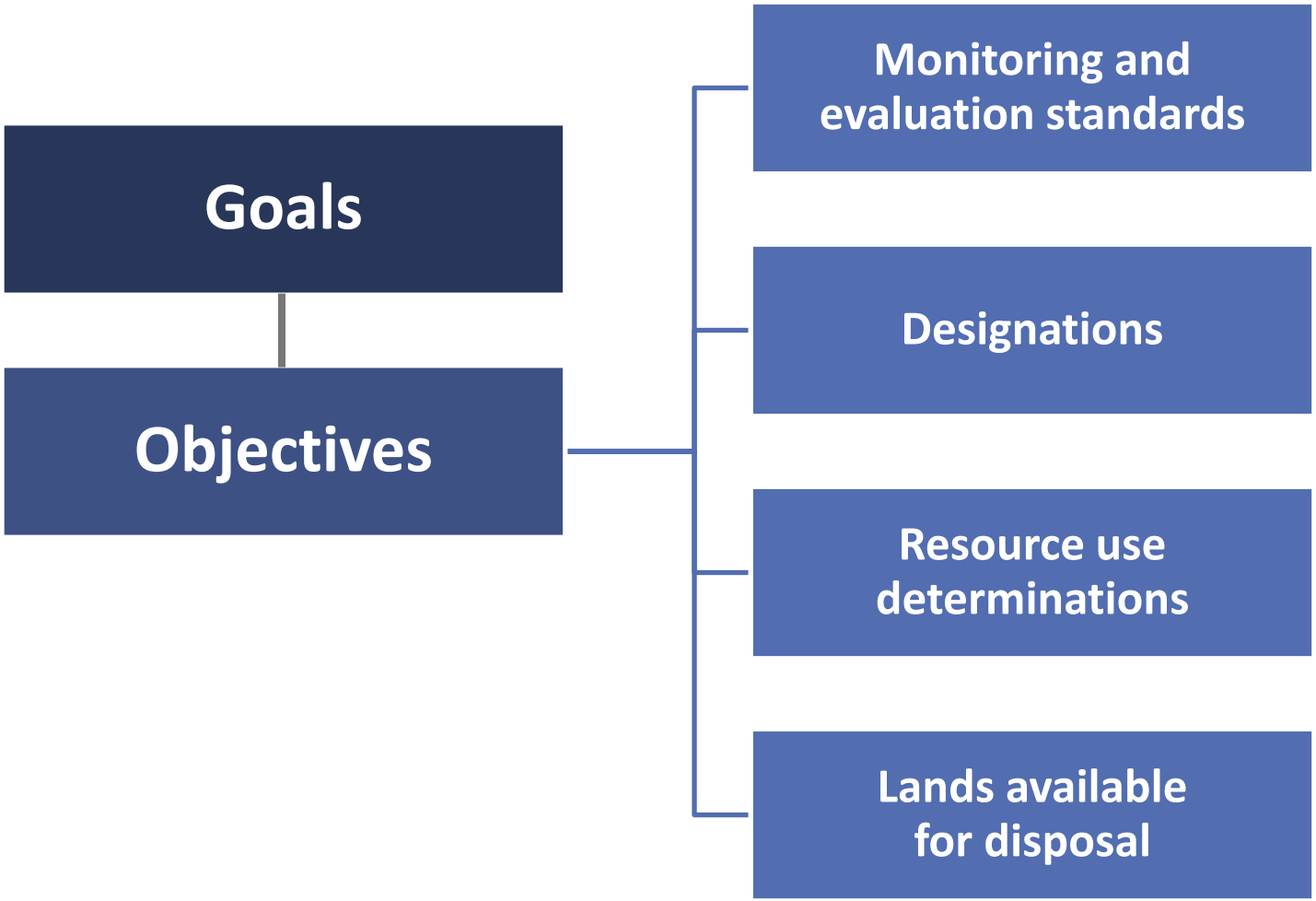
Plan Components

(i.e., land use plan decisions)

Implementation Strategies

(update to incorporate new information)

Plan Components



Goals

→ Desired characteristics of the planning area, or a portion of the planning area.

<u>Examples:</u>

*Landscapes are **resilient to disturbance**, including drought, fire-related disturbance, and climate-change.*

***Solar energy development** is prioritized in areas with high solar potential and low resource conflicts.*

Objectives

→ Specific and measurable resource conditions developed to guide progress toward one or more goals ("SMART" Objectives).

Resource conditions are defined using key attributes and indicators.

Measuring Resource Condition

- A **key attribute** is an aspect of the resource that clearly defines or characterizes the resource.

- An **indicator** is how the key attribute will be measured.

Example

- ***Resource*** → Pronghorn antelope
- ***Key Attribute*** → Migration route connectivity
- ***Possible Indicators***
  - Amount of disturbance in bottlenecks
  - Physical barriers to movement
  - Vegetation composition in rest-over areas

Monitoring and Evaluation

Objectives

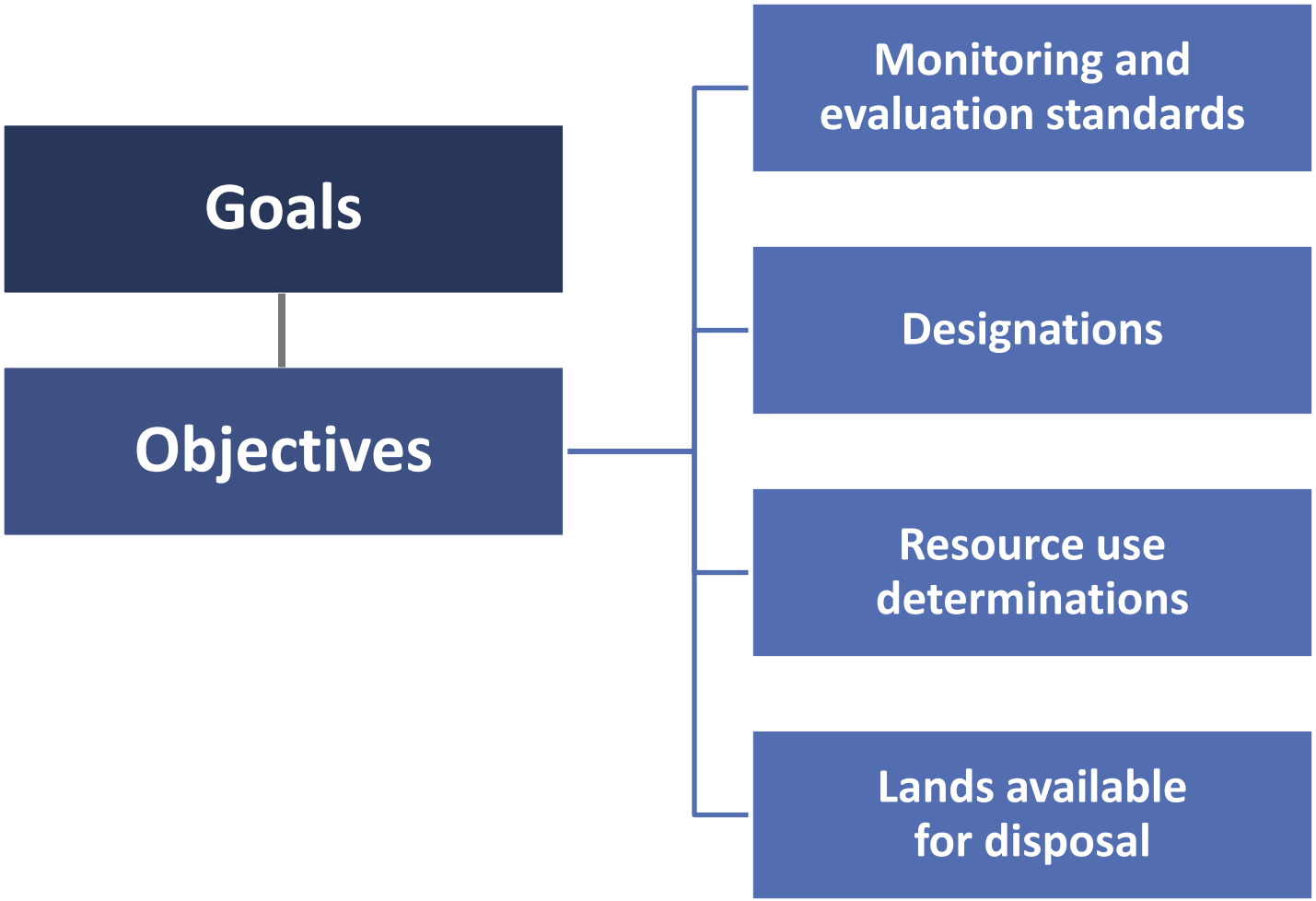
↓↑

Indicators

↓↑

Monitoring and Evaluation

Plan Components



Designations

→ Designations identify a priority value or use.

- ***Planning designations*** *are identified through the BLM's land use planning process*
- ***Non-discretionary designations*** *are designated by the President, Congress, or the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to other legal authorities*

Resource use determinations

→ areas of public lands or mineral estate where specific uses are excluded, restricted, or allowed

Examples

- *available or unavailable for livestock grazing*
- *open to mineral leasing with major or moderate constraints*

Planning Framework

Plan Components

(i.e., land use plan decisions)

Implementation Strategies

(update to incorporate new information)

Implementation Strategies

- Strategies developed to assist in carrying out the plan components;
- Decision is made at the implementation stage;
- May be updated at any time to incorporate new information without a plan amendment;
- Updates will be made available for public review at least 30 days prior to their implementation.

Implementation Strategies

- **Management Measures**

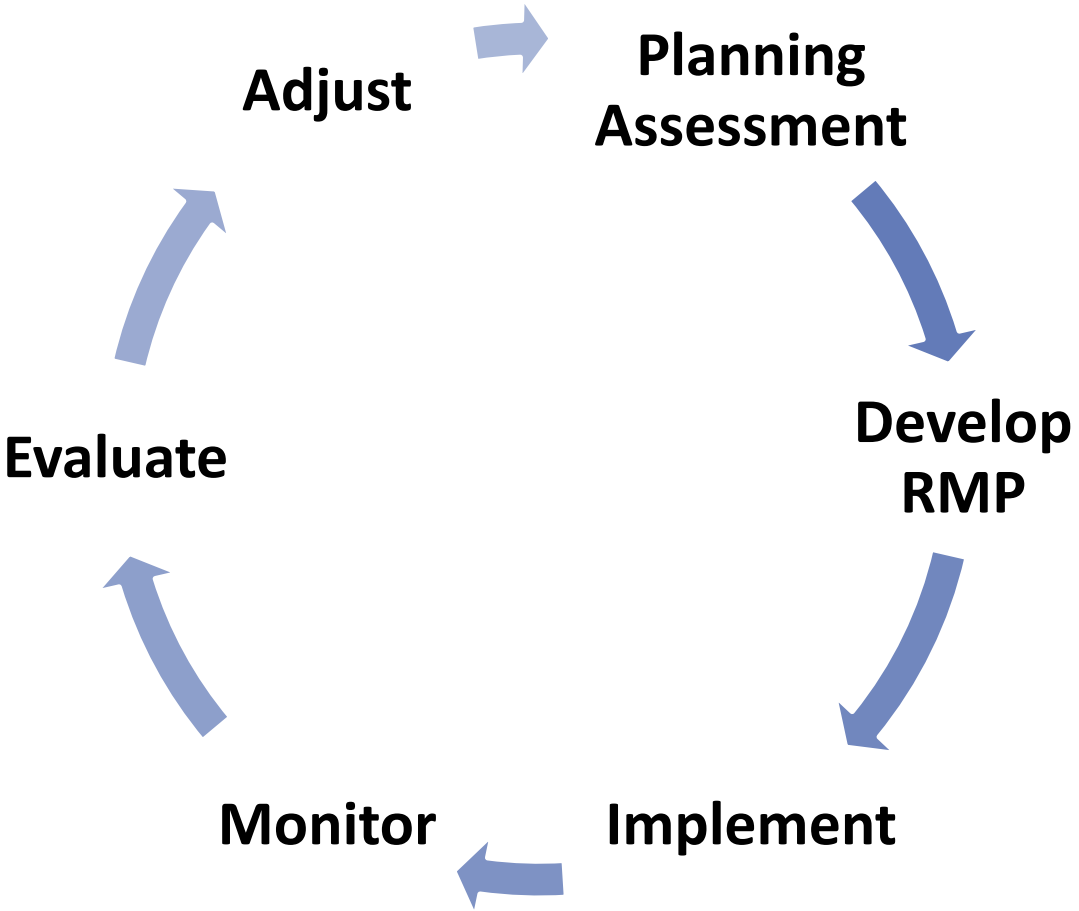
Future actions the BLM may take to achieve the goals and objectives.

- **Monitoring Procedures**

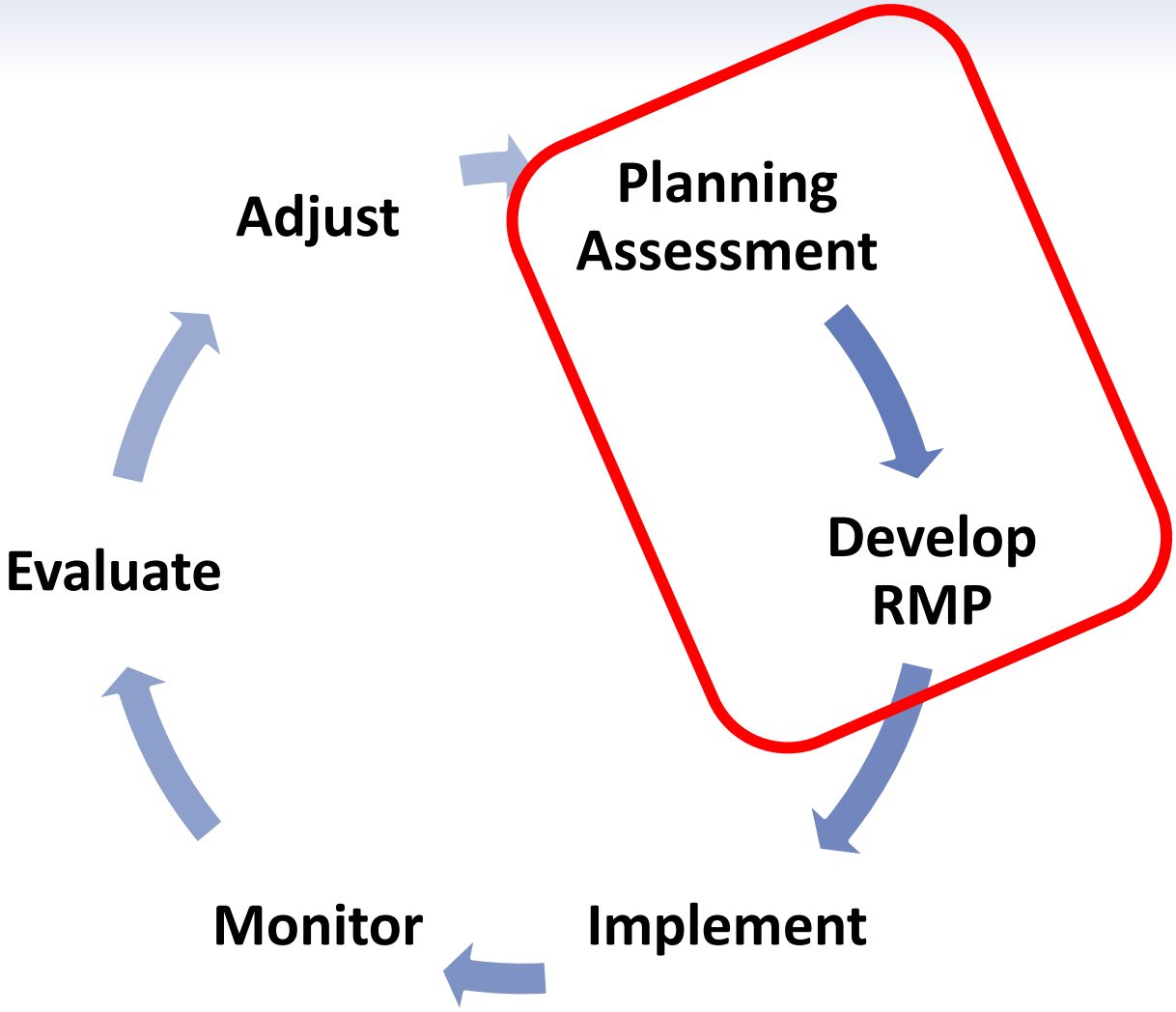
Specific methods used for monitoring.

Procedural Changes

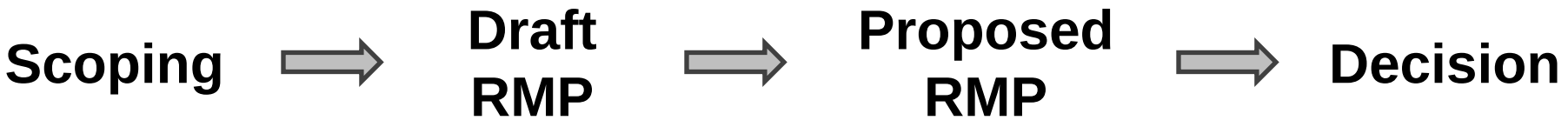
Planning Cycle



Planning Cycle



Developing an RMP

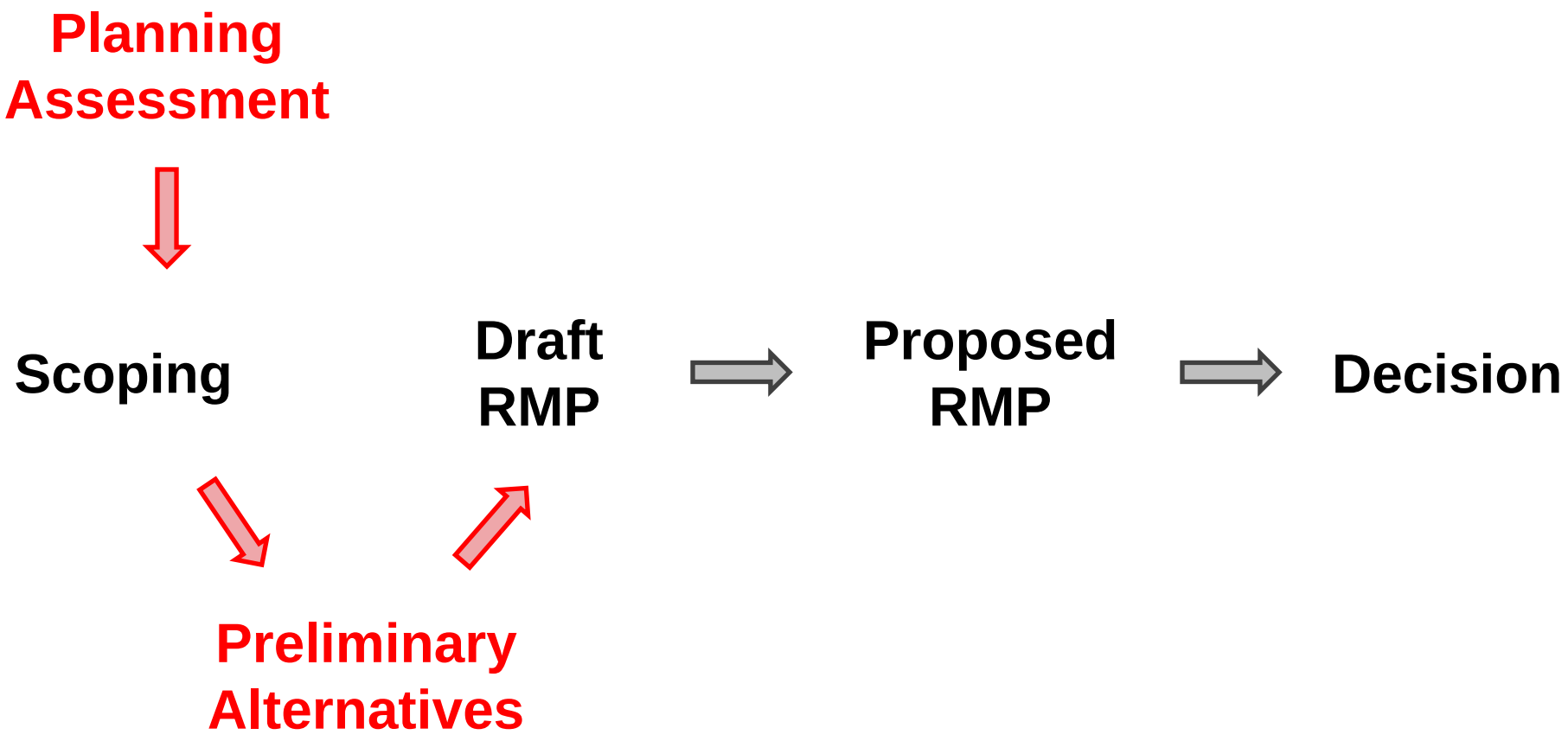


Developing an RMP

Planning Assessment

Scoping → **Draft RMP** → **Proposed RMP** → **Decision**

Developing an RMP



Developing an RMP

GOALS = *Early public involvement
*Increased transparency
*Science-based decision-making
*Landscape approach

Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

Proposed RMP

Decision

Preliminary Alternatives

Planning Assessment

- Replaces the current "Analysis of the Management Situation" (AMS)
- Steps Include:
    1. Information gathering
    2. Evaluation of information quality
    3. Assessment of baseline conditions
    4. Summary report
- Similar to USFS assessment

Planning Assessment: Information Gathering

- Inventory
- Public data call
- Identify relevant policies, guidance, strategies, or plans
- Identify relevant public views

Planning Assessment: Envisioning Process

- Identify relevant public views in the planning area
  - What's important?
  - Why is it important?
  - Where is it important?
- Informs the scoping process
- Builds relationships

Planning Assessment: Envisioning Process

- Identify relevant public views in the planning area
  - What's important?
  - Why is it important?
  - Where is it important?
- Informs the scoping process
- Builds relationships

Values

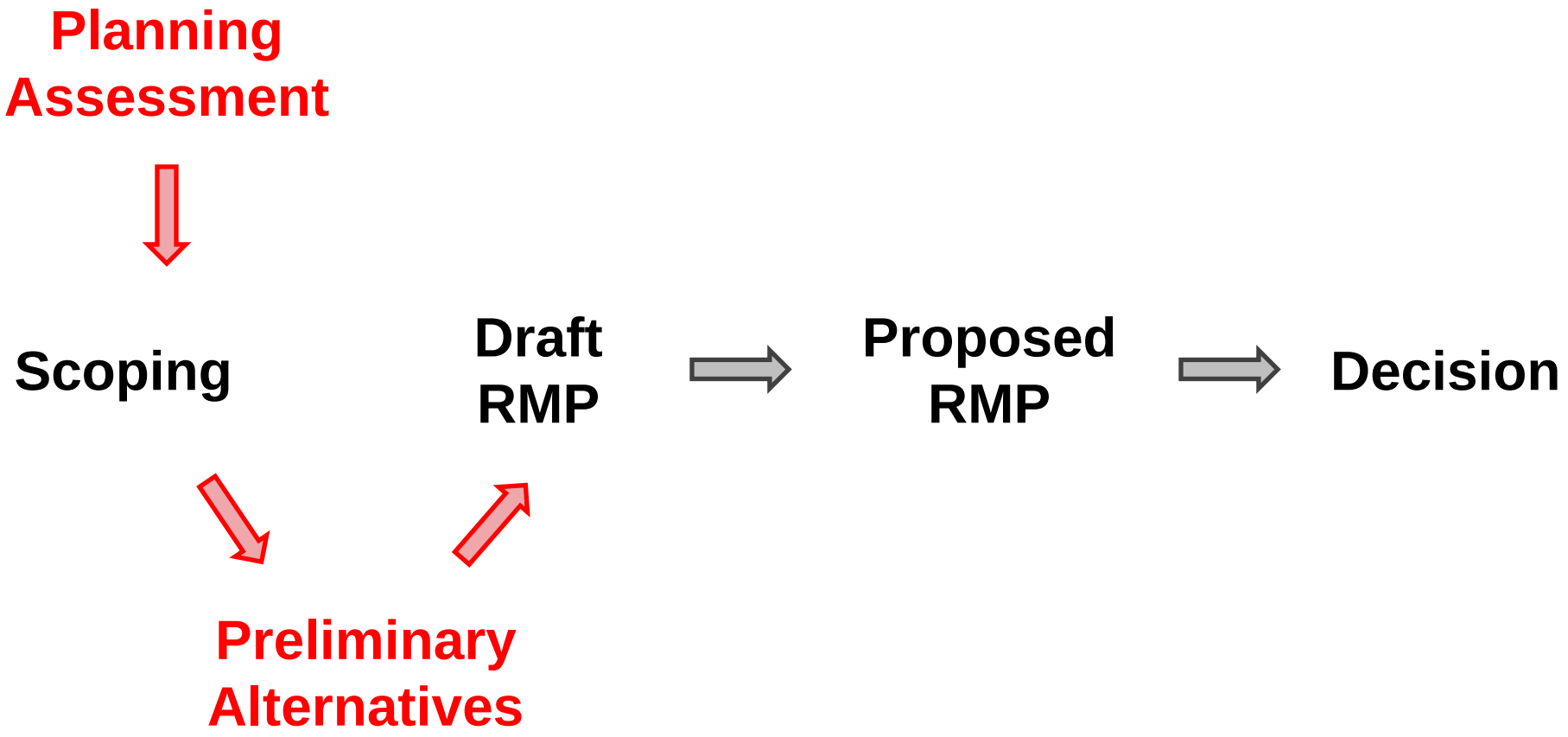
Planning Assessment: High Quality Information

- Any representation of knowledge that is accurate, reliable, unbiased, not compromised through corruption or falsification, and relevant to the planning process.
- Includes:
  - Best available scientific information
  - Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
  - Other types of information

Planning Assessment: Assessment of Conditions

- Baseline conditions in the planning area
  - Resource
  - Environmental
  - Ecological
  - Social
  - Economic

Planning 2.0


Planning
Assessment
Scoping
Draft
RMP
Proposed
RMP
Decision
Preliminary
Alternatives

Scoping

<u>Planning issues</u>

Disputes, controversies, or opportunities related to resource management

Scoping

<u>Planning issues</u>
Disputes, controversies, or opportunities related to resource management

Issues

Preliminary Alternatives

- Develop plan components for each alternative
- Develop rationale for alternatives
  - how each alternative addresses the planning issues
  - management direction that is common to all alternatives
  - how management direction varies across alternatives to address the planning issues

Basis for Analysis

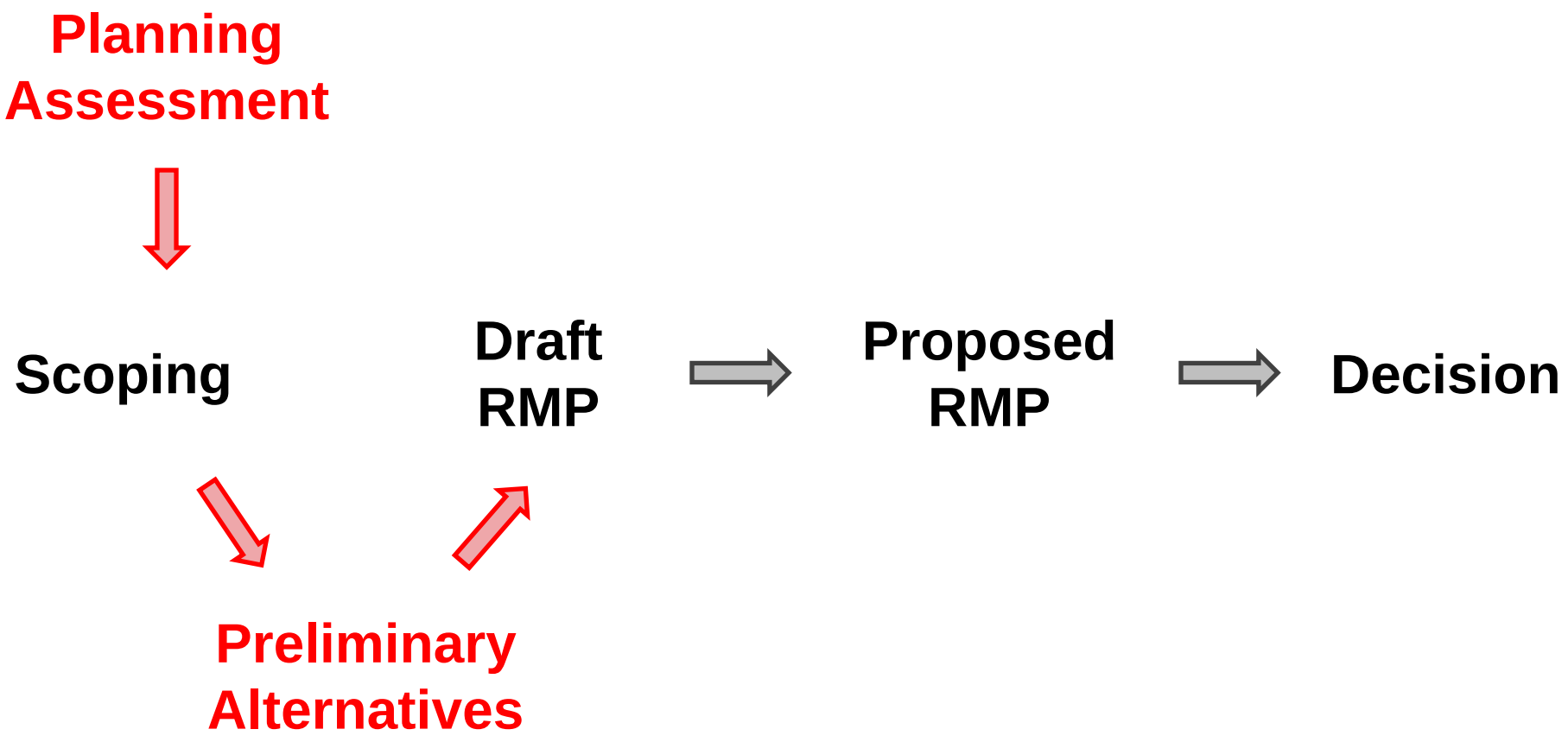
- Procedures, assumptions, and indicators
- Guides the effects analysis
- Completed with preliminary alternatives

→ *Rationale for alternatives and basis for analysis replace existing "planning criteria"*

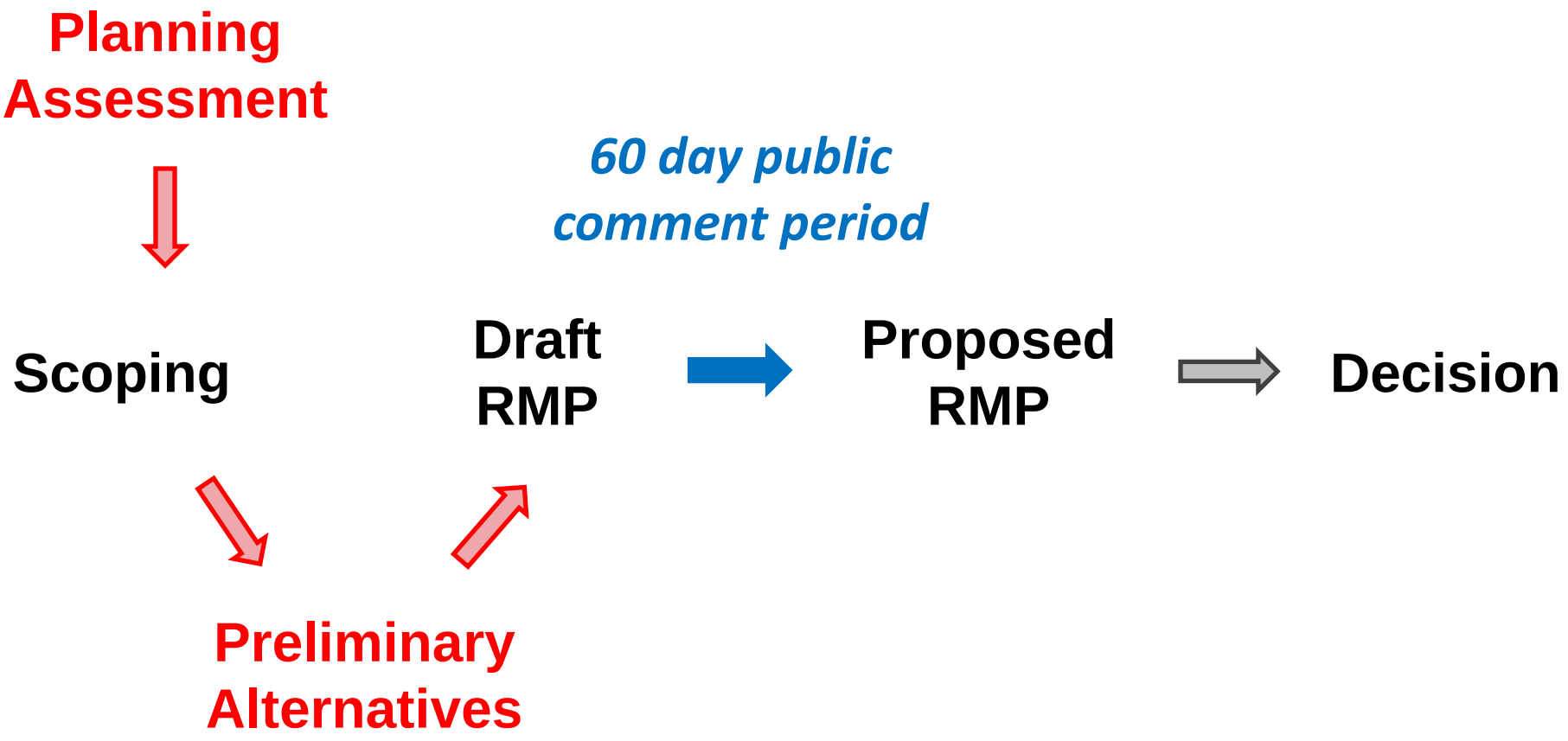
Preliminary Alternatives Outreach

- Is the range of alternatives complete?
- Is any relevant information missing?
- Is the rationale sound?
- Is the basis for analysis sound?

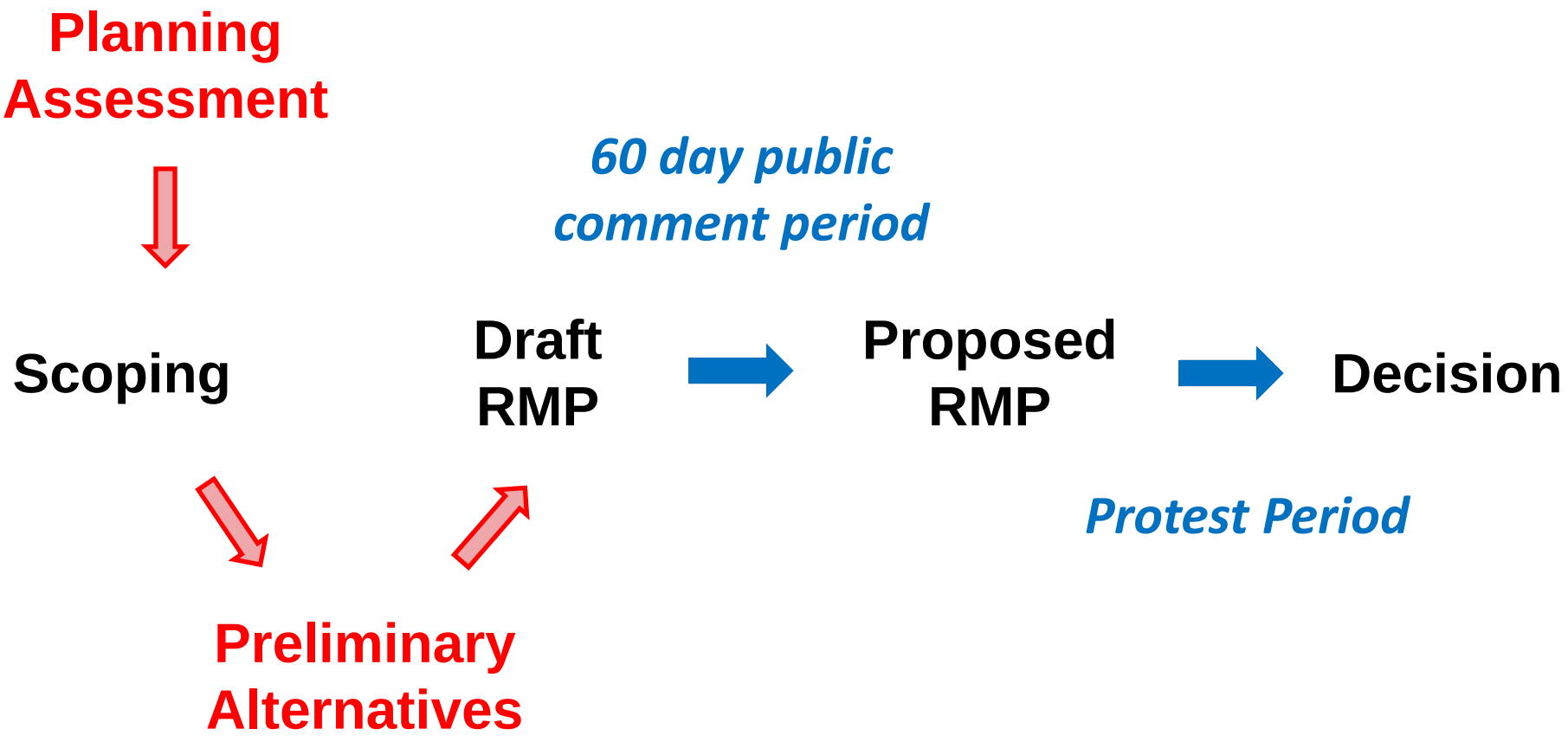
Planning 2.0


Planning
Assessment
Scoping
Draft
RMP
Proposed
RMP
Decision
Preliminary
Alternatives

Planning 2.0


Planning Assessment
60 day public comment period
Scoping
Draft RMP
Proposed RMP
Decision
Preliminary Alternatives

Planning 2.0


Planning Assessment
60 day public comment period
Scoping
Draft RMP
Proposed RMP
Decision
Protest Period
Preliminary Alternatives

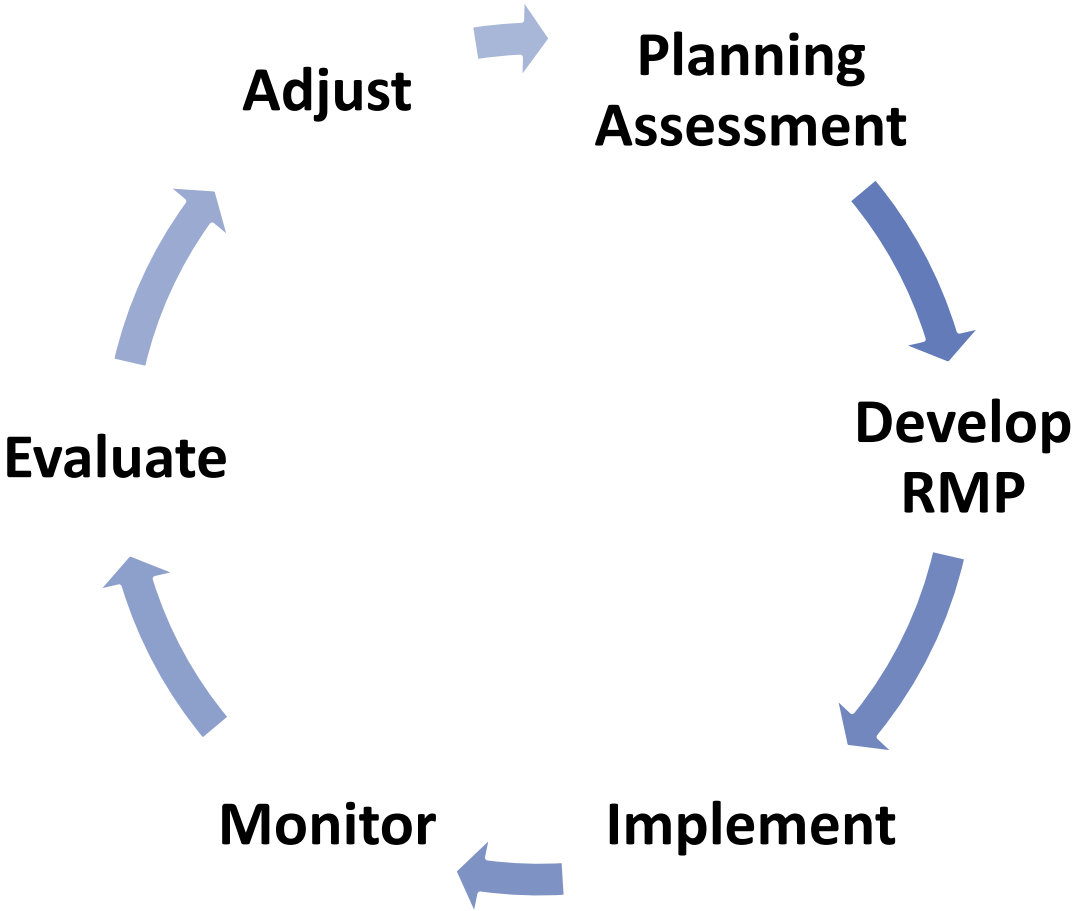
Protest

- Improved guidelines on what constitutes a valid protest
- Protests identify plan components believed to be inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy and explain why
- Option to submit protests electronically
- Protests made available to the public

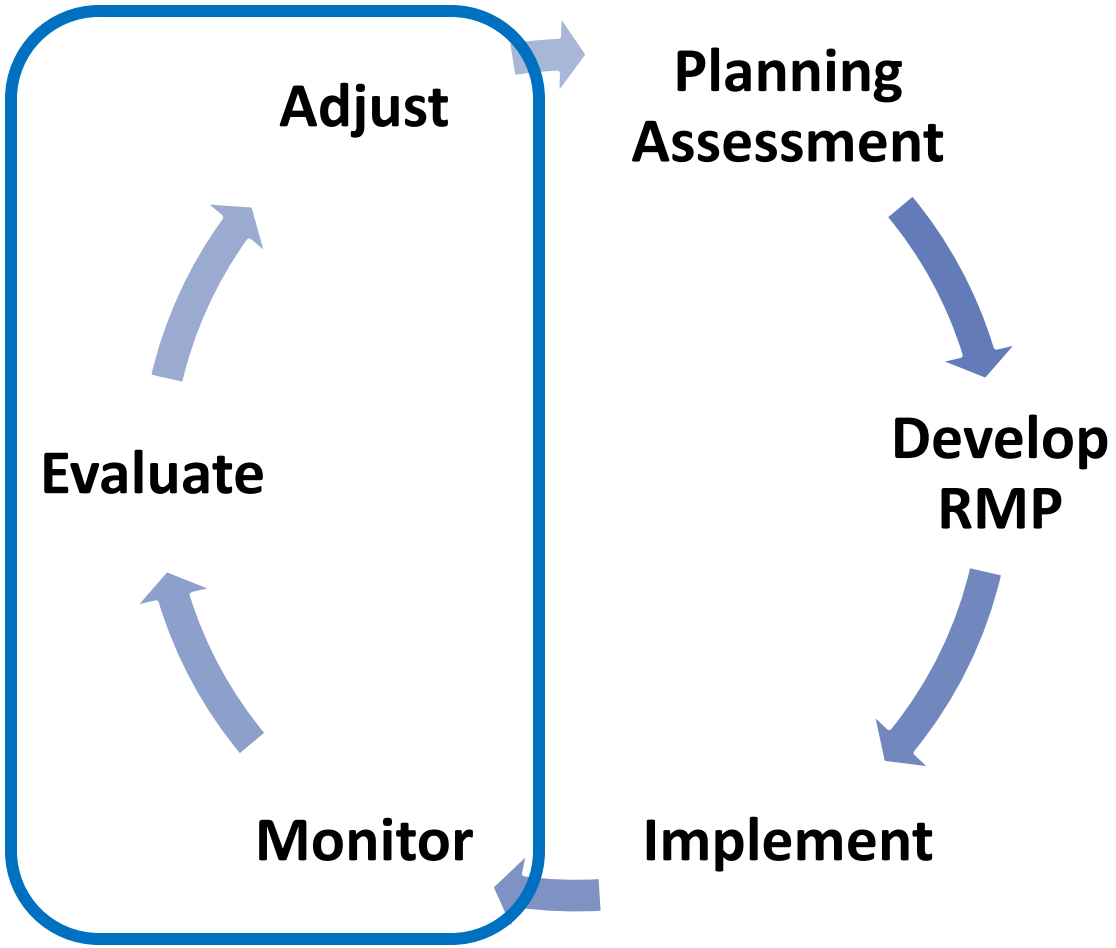
Coordination & Cooperating Agencies

- BLM will continue to coordinate with government entities, consistent with FLPMA
- Government entities may also participate as cooperating agencies (CAs)
- Additional new opportunities for CAs:
  - *Preparation of the planning assessment*
  - *Formulation of preliminary alternatives*
  - *Revision of preliminary alternatives based on public input*
  - *Development of implementation strategies*

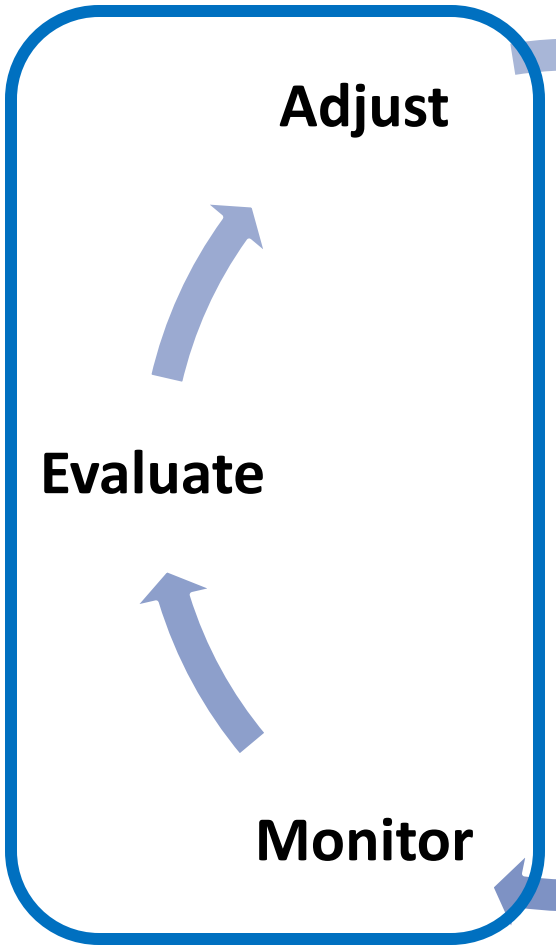
Planning Cycle



Planning Cycle



Planning Cycle



Planning Assessment

Develop RMP

Implement

GOALS =

- **Science-based decision-making;**
- **Adaptive management**

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitor based on “indicators”
- Evaluate to see if plan objectives are being met
  - Summary report made available to public
  - Adjust implementation strategies, or…
  - Initiate a RMP amendment or revision

Amendment

Question in the proposed rule:

Should EIS-level amendments follow the same procedures as preparing an RMP?

Or…

Should EIS-level amendments follow the NEPA procedures, and additional steps be applied on a case-by-case basis (*e.g.,* planning assessment, preliminary alternatives)?

General Changes

ACECs

- Revised language to avoid confusion
- Potential ACECs identified through inventory and during the planning assessment
- Potential ACECs considered for designation during the preparation or amendment of an RMP.
- Procedural changes

Responsibilities

- BLM Director
- Deciding Official *(State Director)*
- Responsible Official *(Field Manager)*

Responsibilities

- **BLM Director**
  - determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for RMPs
  - determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for amendments that cross State boundaries

Responsibilities

- **Deciding Official**
  - determines the planning area for all other amendments
  - provides supervisory review, including plan approval
- **Responsible Official**
  - prepares the RMP

Transition Provisions

- If NOI published before the final rule, BLM may complete the RMP or amendment using the existing regulations or the revised regulations.
- Pre-draft RMPs will be encouraged to incorporate concepts to the extent practical.

How can I learn more?

- Public meeting in Denver - Mar 25th (*livestream and post-event recording available*)
- Webinar and meeting recordings will be posted to the project web site: www.blm.gov/plan2

How to provide comments

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Mail

Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: 1004-AE39

Personal or messenger delivery

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street, S.E., Room 2134LM, Attention: Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20003

Federal eRulemaking Portal

http://www.regulations.gov

How to provide comments

Federal eRulemaking Portal

http://www.regulations.gov

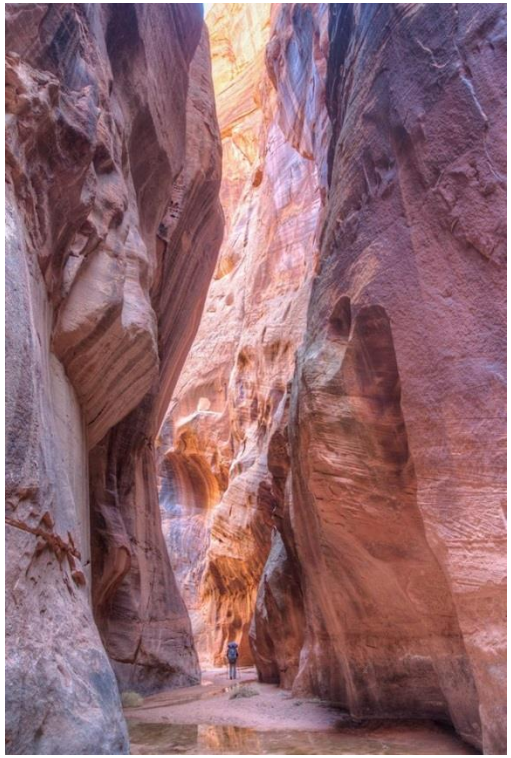
FRN: “2016-03232”

Title: “Resource Management Planning”

https://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=BLM-2016-0002-0001

How to provide comments

Recommendations for submitting comments:

- Be specific
- Reference the section number (*e.g., proposed section 1610.1-2*)
- Provide a concise explanation of why you are in favor or not in favor of a proposed change

Questions?