

Guidance for Completing a Land Use Plan Evaluation

Background: The purpose of Land Use Plan (LUP) evaluations is to determine whether the land use plan decisions and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented. The LUPs are evaluated to:

- Determine if decisions are relevant to current issues.
- Identify any decisions that need to be revised.
- List decisions that need to be dropped from further consideration.
- Determine if decisions are effective in achieving (or making progress toward achieving) desired outcomes.
- Identify areas that require new decisions.
- Determine if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is managing according to the approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). For example, are decisions used when preparing annual work plans and associated budgets? Are all project proposals checked for conformance with plan decisions?
- Identify if the issues in the current LUP have been resolved (or progress is being made towards resolution). If issues were not resolved, identify why e.g., were the issue-specific decisions implemented? If the decisions were implemented were they effective? Are other/additional decisions needed to resolve an issue?
- Determine the level of new planning needed (Amendment versus Revision), and identify anticipated issues and associated data needs for any future planning activity.

Instructions:

The State Office Planning Lead will work with the District and Field Office Planning and Environmental Coordinators (P&ECs) to finalize the list of program specific questions to tailor them to the RMP being evaluated. See Attachment 2 for initial program questions.

The District or Field Office P&EC will distribute finalized questions to the evaluation Interdisciplinary (ID) team, managers, and any participating agency, Tribe, or interested public. The questionnaire should be completed as accurately and objectively as possible based on personal knowledge and experiences. The responses should be typed into the questionnaire and the file saved with the respondents name or initials. It is suggested the District and Field Office P&ECs and ID team review results of the previous RMP evaluations, if any, prior to responding to the current questionnaire. Doing so could reduce work by carrying forward the results from an earlier evaluation, if they are determined to still be valid. The completed questionnaires will be provided to the Field and District P&ECs, and State Office Planning Lead.

The District P&EC will work with the Field Office to schedule time over a 2 to 3-day period for the ID team to report out their evaluation findings and allow for follow-up questions and discussion. This effort should be attended by the Field and District P&ECs, the State Office Planning Lead, and Field Office management, if available.

The questionnaire responses, along with information from follow-up discussions, will be compiled and summarized in the RMP evaluation report by the District, and/or Field Office P&EC, with support and review by the State Office Planning Lead. See Attachment 3 for the evaluation report format.

Staff assigned by the Field Manager will complete the “Worksheet for RMP Effectiveness Performance Measure,” (required by Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2010-101) in coordination with the State Office Planning and Riparian Resource Leads. The worksheet will be attached as an appendix to the Evaluation Report and signed by the Field Manager and State Riparian Lead. See attachment 4 for the IM and associated worksheet.

The completed reporting documents will be transmitted from the Field Manager to the State Office for approval by the Deputy State Director (DSD) for Renewable Resources and Planning. The State Director should then concur with the evaluation. The DSD for Renewable Resources and Planning will then submit the signed evaluation report and riparian worksheet to the Washington Office, Division of Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA per IM No. 2010-101.