

# Planning Update

## South Coast Resource Management Plan Revision

### Summer 2013

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BLM

#### South Coast Resource Management Plan Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and our cooperating agency partners have worked together to develop a revised Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the South Coast Planning Area. The existing RMP was completed in 1994. The revised RMP will provide guidance for the management of approximately 300,000 acres of BLM administered public lands in portions of San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties. Actions required under BLM policy and planning requirements include land use allocations and designations of areas requiring special management such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wildlife management areas, Recreation Management Areas, off highway vehicle (OHV) management areas, utility corridors, grazing allotments, and land disposal categories.

#### Proposed RMP Revision and Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft RMP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were released for a 90-day public review and comment period on September 23, 2011. The comment period closed on December 22, 2011. BLM held two public open house meetings for review of the document and to solicit comments from the public. These were held in Jamul in San Diego County on November 29 and in Temecula in Riverside County on November 30, 2011.

The BLM received more than 180 comments from the public; stakeholder groups; local, state, and federal agencies; and from Native American tribal governments. These comments are being used to further refine, or modify, the BLM's preferred alternative and to develop the Proposed South Coast RMP and Final EIS. The Proposed RMP places emphasis on the BLM's preferred alternative, which will be presented as the Proposed RMP, along with the rationale for the selection of the preferred alternative. The Proposed Plan will include some changes to the preferred alternative based on comments received, new information since the Draft RMP was released, and new conditions, such as an additional 4,122 acres acquired or donated to the BLM for habitat conservation since the Draft RMP. All comments and the BLM's response to comments will be presented in Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination, of the Proposed South Coast RMP. The comments received helped to develop a management plan that will guide stewardship of public lands in the coastal region of Southern California for many years to come while meeting the conservation objectives of the BLM and our many land management partners.

The BLM expects the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to be released in 2014. Release of the Proposed South Coast RMP and Final EIS initiates a 30-day Protest period. If protests are received, these will be reviewed, and as necessary, resolved by the Director of the BLM. Following resolution of any protest issues, the BLM California State Director will sign the Record of Decision (ROD), which will include any changes based on protests, and will be the BLM's final decision and approval of the new RMP. Some decisions in the ROD may be appealable, such as decisions on routes of travel networks, and these appealable decisions will be identified in both the Proposed RMP and ROD, along with instructions on the appeal process.

For future updates, or to review the existing or Draft RMP, please check our South Coast Planning webpage at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/southcoastrmp.html>

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office

