



❖ THE DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NCA DRAFT RMP ❖

What is a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)?

A draft RMP is a preliminary planning document used to present various alternative land management scenarios and analyze their potential environmental impacts. A draft RMP is developed through a comprehensive planning process involving local communities; local, state and federal agencies; and nonprofit organizations.

The BLM, with the help of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area's (D-E NCA's) Resource Advisory Council and many other stakeholder groups, developed this draft RMP to present five possible alternative management scenarios for preserving the "unique and important values" of the D-E NCA, taking into consideration current and foreseeable land uses for the next 20 years. The BLM will use public input obtained during the comment period following the release of this draft RMP to guide the planning document from draft to completion. The comment period will run from May 17 to August 22, 2013.

The planning area covered by the draft RMP is currently managed under two older RMPs: the 1987 Grand Junction RMP, as amended; and the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP, as amended, as well as the 2010 Interim Management Policy for D-E NCA and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

The D-E NCA draft RMP is available on compact disk and online through the D-E NCA's RMP website: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html.

How is the RMP used by management?

Decisions made within the RMP will provide guidance to manage all BLM resources, resource uses and special designations for the next 15–20 years. These include decisions regarding management of cultural resources, vegetation, fish and wildlife, wilderness, recreation, livestock grazing, and travel and transportation.

What are the five proposed management alternatives?

Alternative A is the No Action alternative. This alternative would largely continue current management under the 1987 Grand Junction RMP and 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP, so long as such management is consistent with the Omnibus Act that designated the D-E NCA.

Alternative B would implement few active management techniques to address resource issues within the D-E NCA; it would rely on natural processes and restrictions of allowable uses to conserve and protect the resources. This alternative restricts recreation to manage for biological conditions and cultural resource protection.

Alternative C is the active biological protection and restoration alternative. Under this alternative, management actions such as prescribed fire, vegetation treatments and site rehabilitation would be used extensively. Biological management goals would be emphasized, as well as preservation of cultural resources. This alternative would result in the largest reduction in recreational travel routes.

Alternative D would emphasize opportunities for trail-based recreation (e.g., motorcycles, ATVs, mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding). The BLM would still pursue active biological protection and restoration, although to a lesser extent than in Alternative C. Alternative D would include relatively few restrictions on uses such as recreation, livestock grazing, and lands and realty.

Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative, which seeks to create a balance within the NCA (particularly for recreation and livestock grazing), biological restoration and cultural resource protection. This alternative contains components of Alternatives A through D.

What happens next?

After considering and incorporating public comments, the BLM will prepare and publish a Proposed RMP, anticipated by the spring of 2014. A Final RMP and Record of Decision are anticipated by the end of calendar year 2014.