



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7076



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (CON030)

DEC 07 2012

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO). The BLM prepared this document in consultation with cooperating agencies, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable laws and policies.

The planning area consists of about 2.2 million acres of land which includes about 1.2 million acres of public lands and resources managed by the GJFO. The majority of the planning area is included within Mesa and Garfield counties, with small portions falling within Montrose and Rio Blanco counties. When approved, this RMP will replace the 1987 Grand Junction RMP and will guide the management of public lands administered by the GJFO into the future. The GJFO Draft RMP/EIS and supporting information is available on the project web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html>.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft RMP/EIS. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM as it develops the plan. In developing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM multiple use and sustained yield mandate. As a member of the public, your timely comments on the GJFO Draft RMP/EIS will help formulate the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: gjfo_rmp@blm.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

RMP Comments
Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP/EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number. Comments containing only opinion or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be announced by local media, website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance. Public meetings will be held at a time and date to be determined.

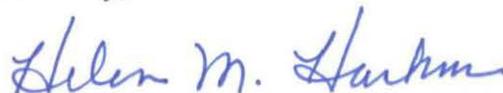
Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS have been sent to affected Federal, state and local government agencies, and tribal governments. Copies are also available for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Thank you for your continued interest in the GJFO RMP. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Collin Ewing, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (970) 244-3027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen M. Hankins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Helen M. Hankins
State Director