



# The Grand Junction RMP Newsletter

## Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Available

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO). A 90-day public comment period will begin with the official announcement in the Federal Register on January 25.

### Four Draft Alternatives

The BLM has developed four alternatives for managing BLM lands in the planning area. The goal of developing alternatives was to prepare different combinations of resource uses and allocations to address issues and to resolve conflicts among uses. The draft alternatives represent the overall range of reasonable management strategies.

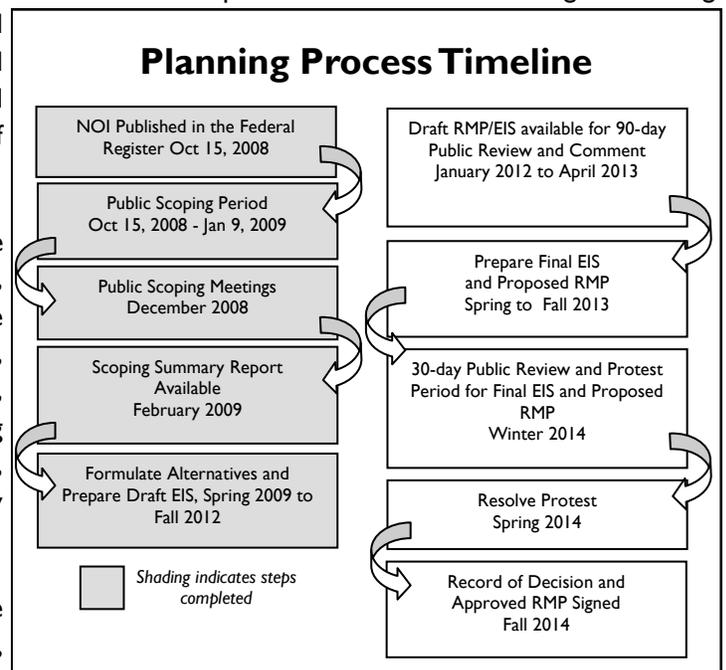
The Preferred Alternative represents the BLM's first attempt at balancing resource protections with resource uses. However, none of the alternatives represents the final decision. A Proposed RMP will be developed following this public comment period. In developing the Proposed RMP, the BLM may select various management actions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS based on public input.

**ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION)** – Alternative A, referred to as “No Action,” is the continuation of present management based on management decisions in the 1987 GJFO RMP and its amendments. The emphasis would be on maintaining the existing land management direction for physical, biological, cultural, and historic resource values along with recreational, social, and economic land uses. The BLM would not establish additional criteria or change present criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation activities.

**ALTERNATIVE B (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)** – The Preferred Alternative seeks to balance human interests, land uses, and the conservation of natural and cultural resource values, while sustaining the ecological integrity of certain key habitats for plant, wildlife, and fish species. It balances protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of resources and services to meet ongoing programs and land uses. Objectives focus on environmental, economic, and social outcomes achieved by strategically addressing demands across the landscape.

**ALTERNATIVE C** – Alternative C emphasizes nonconsumptive use and management of resources through protection, restoration, and enhancement, while providing for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and mineral development. This alternative would establish the most special designations (e.g., areas of critical environmental concern, suitable wild and scenic river segments) with specific measures to protect or enhance resource values within these areas. Objectives focus on environmental and social outcomes achieved by sustaining relatively unmodified physical landscapes and natural and cultural resource values for current and future generations.

**ALTERNATIVE D** – This alternative emphasizes active management for natural resources, commodity production, and public use opportunities. Resource uses such as recreation, livestock grazing, mineral leasing and development would be emphasized. Management direction would recognize and give precedence to existing uses and accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible, while maintaining resource conditions. Objectives emphasize social and economic outcomes while protecting land health.



## How to Get Involved

To learn more about the GJFO Draft RMP/EIS, or to view a copy of the plan, visit [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html), attend an Open House (see schedule below), or contact Collin Ewing, RMP Project Manager, at (970) 244-3027 or [cewing@blm.gov](mailto:cewing@blm.gov). To minimize printing costs, the BLM encourages you to review the document electronically. Paper copies will be available for review by January 25 at the following libraries: Grand Junction (main branch), Fruita, Gateway, Collbran, and DeBeque.

## Open Houses (4:30pm to 7:30pm)

Date	Location	Address
January 29, 2013	Collbran	Collbran Auditorium, 102 Main St. Collbran, CO 81501
January 30, 2013	DeBeque	DeBeque Community Center, 381 Minter Ave. DeBeque, CO 81630
January 31, 2013	Grand Junction	Clarion Inn, 755 Horizon Dr. Grand Junction, CO 81506
February 5, 2013	Gateway	Gateway Community Center, 42700 Highway 141 Gateway, CO 81522
February 7, 2013	Fruita	Fruita Civic Center, 325 Aspen Ave. Fruita, CO 81521

## How to Comment

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the Draft RMP/EIS. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the draft alternatives, the adequacy and accuracy of the analysis of the management actions, and any new information that would help the BLM as it develops the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process.

Comments may be submitted online at [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html) or by email at [gjfo\\_rmp@blm.gov](mailto:gjfo_rmp@blm.gov), or by U.S. mail to RMP Comments, Bureau of Land Management, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received by **April 25, 2013**.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire document—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.

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