



The Grand Junction RMP Newsletter

Resource Management Plan Update

Since the last newsletter was published, the planning process has been moving forward with the help of partners and the public. For example:

- Mesa State College conducted extensive visitor use surveys throughout the planning area, gaining valuable insight into emerging recreation trends.
- Mesa State College also compiled a community assessment report, which serves as the baseline for socioeconomic analysis in the planning process (available on BLM's project website: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html>).
- Since June 2009, a public stakeholder group has worked to provide the BLM with additional information and input on the Wild and Scenic River suitability process. The stakeholder group was convened independently from the BLM's formal planning process by the Colorado River Water Conservation District and includes stakeholders from water user, local and state government, environmental, agricultural, and private landowner interests.
- Cooperating Agencies met with the BLM on an almost monthly basis, reviewing the alternatives and providing feedback on the RMP/EIS process. Their meetings will resume in Winter 2011, as the BLM prepares the Draft RMP/EIS.
- The Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council subgroup for the GJFO RMP, an officially sanctioned advisory committee, helped the BLM formulate a reasonable range of alternatives and approved that range at their last meeting on March 25, 2010.

Four Draft Alternatives Prepared

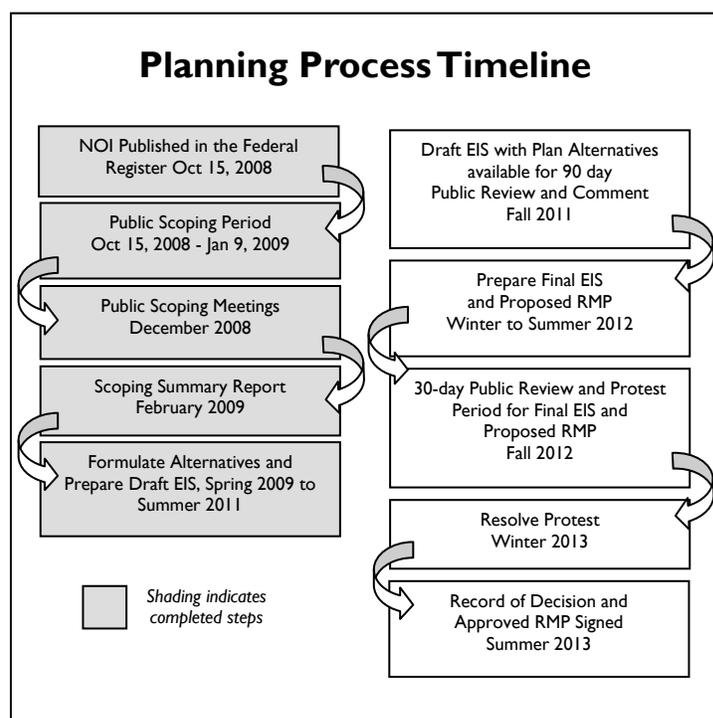
The BLM has developed four alternatives, including continuing current management (the No Action Alternative), for administering BLM lands in the planning area. The goal of developing the alternatives was to prepare different combinations of resource uses and allocations to address issues and resolve conflicts among uses. The draft alternatives represent the overall range of reasonable management strategies.

Later this year, the BLM will begin analyzing the impacts of implementing each alternative on the social, economic, and

environmental resources in the planning area. The Draft RMP/EIS will include these four alternatives and the impacts analysis.

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 – This 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 incorporates a balanced level of 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.



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ALTERNATIVE C – Alternative C emphasizes non-consumptive use and management of resources through protection, restoration, and enhancement, while also providing for multiple uses, including livestock grazing and mineral development. This alternative would establish the most special designation areas (e.g., areas of critical environmental concern and suitable wild and scenic river segments) and provide the most protection for lands with wilderness character. 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 highlights 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.

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Mark your calendar!

The Draft RMP/EIS is expected to be released in Fall 2011 and will be accompanied by a 90-day public review period and a series of public open houses. The next newsletter will coincide with the release of the Draft RMP/EIS. It will include information on the Draft RMP/EIS, public review process, and open house locations. This information, along with the document, will also be available online on the project website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp.html.

Commonly Used Acronyms

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GJFO	Grand Junction Field Office
NOI	Notice of Intent
RMP	Resource Management Plan

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RMP/EIS Newsletter

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