

# Preliminary Planning Criteria



Planning criteria guide development of the Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS by helping to define the decision space. The criteria are generally derived from applicable laws, BLM Director and Colorado State Director guidance, and the results of public and governmental participation (43 CFR 1610.4-2). The BLM developed preliminary planning criteria to set the sideboards for focused decision-making and analysis in the RMP/EIS. The preliminary planning criteria will be further refined based on feedback received during scoping and other public input. These preliminary planning criteria are:

- The BLM will recognize the special importance of public lands to people who live in communities surrounded by public lands and the importance of public lands to the nation as a whole.
- The BLM will make every effort to encourage public participation throughout the RMP/EIS process.
- Environmental protection and commodity extraction are both desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and are not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities.
- Broad-based public participation will be an integral part of the RMP/EIS process. Decisions in the RMP will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, federal, and tribal agencies as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law and regulations applicable to public lands.
- The BLM will strive to minimize potential adverse impacts at the landscape scale and address those issues that are priorities.
- The BLM will recognize and make decisions following all existing laws and regulations.
- The BLM will facilitate oil and gas development and production to provide the oil and gas industry with flexible options for environmentally sound exploration, development, and operations.
- The BLM will consider development of a Master Leasing Plan for South Park.
- The RMP/EIS will consider management of lands bordering the decision area and will strive to harmonize management of BLM-administered and adjacent lands.

## Tell Us What You Think!

Are there additional planning criteria the BLM should use to set the sideboards for focused decision-making and analysis in the RMP/EIS?

Please submit your comments and other information via email to [ECRMP.comments@blm.gov](mailto:ECRMP.comments@blm.gov)

