

6 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a description and history of the public outreach and participation opportunities made available through development of the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/SEIS), and describes the consultation and coordination efforts with tribes, government agencies, and other stakeholders that have occurred to date. It also includes a list of the agencies, organizations, and individuals who have prepared this Draft RMPA/SEIS.

6.2 PUBLIC COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

6.2.1 Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent (NOI) is the legal document notifying the public of the BLM's intent to initiate the planning process and, in this case, to prepare an SEIS for a major federal action. The NOI invites the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the planning alternatives and analyzed in the SEIS.

An NOI to prepare an SEIS associated with the development of the RMPA for the Planning Area was issued by the Department of the Interior (DOI) on January 28, 2013. This NOI stated that the RMPA will amend two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) RMPs: the Glenwood Springs Field Office (GSFO) [now the Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO)] RMP and the White River Field Office (WRFO) RMP. The NOI identified the need for the RMPA/SEIS and provided information about the Planning Area and the future planning process, preliminary planning issues and criteria in the resource area, and contact information. The NOI also initiated a 90-day scoping period, which closed March 30, 2013. The BLM received close to 24,000 comment submissions during the scoping period.

6.2.2 Scoping Process

Scoping is the term used in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR, Part 1500 et seq.) to define the early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the planning process. The scoping process provides an avenue to involve the public in identifying significant issues related to potential land use management actions. The process also helps identify any issues that are not significant and can thereby be eliminated from detailed analysis.

6.2.3 Scoping Open Houses

A press release was published by the BLM on January 25, 2013, announcing the inception of the scoping process. The BLM then held two public scoping meetings to answer questions from attendees and to collect written comments regarding the RMPA/SEIS. This notice included scoping meeting locations, times, and other mechanisms for submission of scoping comments. This information was subsequently published in the Denver Post, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and Glenwood Springs Post-Independent.

During the week of February 25, 2013, open houses were held in two locations:

CHAPTER 6 ■ CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

- February 27, 2013, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado; and
- February 28, 2013, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Clarion Inn, 755 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Attendees at each meeting were recorded via a sign-in sheet. Written scoping comments were collected at the scoping meetings and were received through the end of the scoping period via email, fax, or mail:

- Email: roanplateau@blm.gov
- Fax: (970) 876-9090
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Colorado River Valley Field Office, Roan Plateau Comments, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado, 81652

At this scoping phase of the planning process, an open house format was chosen over the more formal public meeting format to encourage broader participation, allow attendees to learn about the project at their own pace, and enable them to ask questions of BLM representatives in an informal one-on-one setting. A packet of fact sheets and handouts about the project and a map of the Planning Area were provided, as was a list of the anticipated planning issues and preliminary planning criteria related to the project. Site and resource maps were displayed illustrating the current situation and management techniques practiced among different resources. In addition to BLM representatives, a total of 177 people attended the two open house meetings. Scoping comments are summarized in the Scoping Report (BLM 2014c).

6.2.4 Project Website

The project website can be accessed at:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/roan_plateau.html

The website provides background information about the project, a public involvement timeline and calendar, maps and photos of the Planning Area, and copies of public information documents such as the NOI and Scoping Report. The site also provides a link to the comment form for submitting comments about the project and specifically on this Draft RMPA/SEIS. The BLM continuously updates the website with information, documents, and announcements.

6.3 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The following subsections document the BLM's consultation and coordination efforts during the preparation of this Draft RMPA/SEIS. Consultation is an ongoing effort throughout the entire process of developing the approved RMPA/ROD.

6.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

A cooperating agency is any Federal, State, or local government agency or Native American tribe that enters into a formal agreement with the lead Federal agency to help develop an environmental analysis. More specifically, cooperating agencies “work with the BLM, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for public lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks” (BLM *Land Use Planning Handbook* H-1601-1).

CHAPTER 6 ■ CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

In June 2013, BLM mailed letters to Federal, State, and local representatives inviting them to participate as cooperating agencies for the Roan Plateau RMPAA/SEIS. Table 6.1 lists the agencies invited to be cooperators in the Roan Plateau RMPAA/SEIS, and Table 6.2 lists the agencies that accepted this offer and have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM for this purpose. The primary role of cooperating agencies is to provide input during the SEIS process on issues for which they have a special expertise or jurisdiction. The representatives meet with the lead agency periodically throughout the SEIS process to discuss issues as a group. Cooperating agencies are expected to participate in the SEIS process at the earliest possible time, including during scoping, and are available to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the lead agency by providing needed information throughout the NEPA process.

A meeting was held with the potential cooperating agencies on July 17, 2013, although no substantive scoping was conducted at this meeting.

Table 6.1 Agencies Invited to be Cooperators

<i>Federal Agencies</i>
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<i>State Agencies</i>
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
<i>Local Agencies</i>
Garfield County
Mesa County
Rio Blanco County
Town of Parachute
Town of Silt
City of Rifle

Table 6.2 Cooperating Agencies

<i>Federal Agencies</i>
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<i>State Agencies</i>
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<i>Local Agencies</i>
Garfield County
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CHAPTER 6 ■ CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

MOUs were made and entered into between the CRVFO and the entities who accepted the invitation to participate as cooperating agencies for the CRVFO and WRFO RMPA revisions. The MOUs set forth the roles and responsibilities for cooperating agencies for collaborative planning and production of an SEIS for the RMPA. These agencies agreed to “work with the BLM, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for BLM lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks” (BLM 2005a). Table 6.3 summarizes cooperative agency meetings, including the previous joint CRVFO/WRFO RMPA/SEIS meetings.

Table 6.3 Cooperating Agency Meeting Dates

July 17, 2013
August 12, 2014
October 24, 14
November 18, 2014
January 16, 2015
June 16, 2015
August 12, 2015

The six cooperating agency meetings conducted at the CRVFO and the Garfield County Administrative Building between July 2013 and June 2015 focused on the SEIS process and issues, Settlement Agreement, socioeconomics, and alternatives.

6.3.2 Tribal Consultation

Native American tribes have a unique legal and political relationship with the government of the United States. Executive Order 13175 requires Federal agencies to coordinate and consult on a government-to-government basis with sovereign Native American tribal governments whose interests may be directly and substantially affected by activities on federally administered lands. Other laws, regulations, DOI guidance, and executive orders require consultation to identify the cultural values, religious beliefs, traditional practices, and legal rights of Native American people that could be affected by BLM actions on Federal lands. These include the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (as amended), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order No. 13175 (2010), DOI Secretarial Order No. 3215 (DOI 2000), Secretarial Order No. 3317 with DOI Tribal Consultation Policy (2011), 512 Department Manual Chapter 2 (DOI 1995), BLM Manual H-8160-1 (BLM 2004), and Executive Order (EO) 13007 Indian Sacred Sites.

Consultation with Native American tribes is also part of the NEPA scoping process and a requirement of FLPMA. Tribal consultation regarding the RMPA/SEIS began on October 12, 2013 when a letter inviting scoping comments was sent to regional Native American tribes with potential interest in the RMPA/SEIS. No responses were received. Letters notifying tribes of the availability of the Draft RMPA/SEIS were sent in October, 2015. Native American tribes and organizations that were notified are listed in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4 Notified Native American Tribes

Ute Indian Tribe
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

6.3.3 Special Status Species Consultation

Formal consultation will be undertaken during the Proposed RMPA/Final SEIS process.

6.4 RMPA/SEIS DISTRIBUTION LIST

Visitors to the scoping open houses, as well as all scoping process commenters, were asked to specifically request to stay on the official RMPA/SEIS project mailing list to receive future notifications and mailings. In addition, the distribution list was updated throughout the development of the Draft RMPA/SEIS. The distribution list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who have been a part of the RMPA/SEIS process is available in the Project Record.

6.5 PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT RMPA/SEIS

6.5.1 Document Release and Notice of Availability

The BLM Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Roan Plateau Planning Area Draft RMPA/SEIS was published in October, 2015. The Draft RMPA/SEIS is available for public comment for 90 calendar days. All comments should be postmarked or received by the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office, Roan Plateau Comments, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado, 81652 to be included in the comment analysis.

6.5.2 Announcements and Advertisements

Postcards announcing the release of the Draft RMPA/SEIS were mailed to all individuals on the project mailing list in October, 2015. These postcards included information on how to obtain a copy of the document. Copies of the Draft RMPA/SEIS can be obtained by downloading from the project website or by requesting a paper or electronic (CD-ROM) copy:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/roan_plateau.html

Announcements regarding the release of the Draft RMPA/SEIS were placed in the local area papers (i.e., *Rifle Citizen Telegram* and *Glenwood Springs Post Independent*). These announcements included instructions for obtaining copies of the document as described above and the locations of copies for review and photocopying (i.e., Garfield County libraries, BLM CRVFO, BLM Meeker Field Office, and the State BLM Office in Lakewood, Colorado). These announcements summarize the four alternatives analyzed in the document and provide information regarding the public comment period and how comments could be submitted. The announcements also list the date, time, and place for public meetings on the Draft RMPA/SEIS.

The same announcement and information are posted on the Announcements page of the project website. Beginning in October, 2015, the entire Draft RMPA/SEIS document was available for download from the website as labeled document sections. A separate page on the website allows individuals to request paper or CD copies of the Draft RMPA/SEIS. In addition, a page of the website provides for electronic submission of public comments to the Draft RMPA/SEIS.

6.5.3 Public Meetings

Three informational public meetings will be held in the vicinity of the Roan Plateau Planning Area within 30 days of the release of the Draft RMPA/SEIS. These informational meetings were announced on the project website and in local papers and will be held in the communities of Parachute (Battlement Mesa), Rifle, and Glenwood Springs. Major points for the Draft RMPA/SEIS will be presented at these meetings, and questions regarding the planning process and Planning Area will be answered by BLM representatives.

6.6 LIST OF PREPARERS

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the BLM and specialists from independent, third-party consulting firms prepared this Draft RMPA/SEIS (Table 6.5). Under guidance and direction from the BLM, the team prepared alternatives, collected data for the analyses, assessed potential effects from the alternatives, and prepared the other chapters of this document.

Table 6.5 Draft RMPA/SEIS Preparers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Discipline</i>
<i>BLM, CRVFO Energy Office Interdisciplinary Team Members</i>	
Gregory Larson	Project Manager
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Peter Cowan	Petroleum Engineer
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Carol Dawson	Botanist
Daniel Haas	Archeologist
Martin Hensley	Economist

CHAPTER 6 ■ CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Table 6.5 Draft RMPA/SEIS Preparers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Discipline</i>
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Roy Smith	Water Rights Specialist
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Maureen O'Shea-Stone	Project Manager
Susan Serreze	Deputy Project Manager Geological Resources, Paleontological Resources, Soil Resources, Visual Resources; Oil and Gas Leasing and Development, Other Minerals
Carron Meaney	Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Special Status Fish and Wildlife
Susan Nordstrom	Upland Vegetation and Riparian/Wetland Resources, Special Status Plants and Significant Plant Communities
Bruce Wattle	Climate and Air Resources
Nick Czarnecki	Climate and Air Resources
Tracy Emanuel	Water Resources
Erin Lynch	Water Resources
Bill Richards	Special Designations
Letha Lencioni	Oil and Gas Leasing and Development
Jennifer Jackson	Grazing and Rangeland Management
Matthew Lieuallen	Public Health and Safety
Scott Severs	Project Record
Chris Jessen	Geospatial Analyst
Travis Whitney	Lands and Realty, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers
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