

# Reader's Guide

**Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for Action.** This chapter introduces the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS), describes the purpose and need to which BLM is responding; provides an overview of the BLM planning process, identified planning issues and criteria; summarizes consultation and coordination; and identifies topics not addressed by this RMP revision.

**Chapter 2: Resource Management Alternatives.** Chapter 2 describes how the four alternatives (A through D) were developed, the components and content of each alternative, and discusses the alternatives considered but eliminated from further consideration. It also presents a comparative summary of impacts of each alternative. Resource discussions in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 are organized according to the following topics:

- **Natural, Biological, and Cultural Resources** – Air, Climate Change, Geology, Soil, Water, Vegetative Communities (Forest and Woodlands, Rangelands, Riparian and Wetlands, Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds, Special Status Plants), Wildlife Habitat and Special Status Species, Fisheries Habitat and Special Status Species, Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Visual Resources, Fire Management and Ecology, and Wilderness Characteristics.
- **Resource Uses and Support** – Forest and Woodland Products, Lands and Realty (Land Tenure Adjustment and Access; Rights-of-Way, Leases and Permits; and Withdrawals), Livestock Grazing, Recreation and Visitor Services, Trails and Travel Management, Energy and Mineral Resources (Coal, Fluid Minerals, Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials), Transportation and Facilities, and Renewable Energy.
- **Special Designations** – Fort Meade and Fossil Cycad Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, and Back Country Byways.
- **Social and Economic** – Social and Economic Conditions, Environmental Justice, and Tribal Treaty Rights.

Chapter 2 provides a great deal of comparative information in the form of tables. These tables include:

- Table 2-5 is a summary of the restrictions that are proposed to protect resources and manage uses.
- Table 2-6 provides a description and comparison of the alternatives including the management actions that are common to all alternatives.
- Table 2-7, the last section of Chapter 2, provides a comparison of impacts by alternative.

**Chapter 3: Affected Environment.** This chapter describes the planning area and the existing environmental conditions that could be impacted by the alternatives.

**Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.** Chapter 4 forms the scientific and analytic basis for comparing environmental impacts of each alternative, including the No Action Alternative. Impacts generally are described in terms of direct or indirect and short-term or long-term, when applicable. Potential cumulative and unavoidable impacts and irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources are also discussed in this chapter. A comparison of impacts is located in the Summary Comparison of Impacts Table (Table 2-3) which is located at the end of Chapter 2 (after the Summary Comparison of Alternatives Table).

**Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination.** This chapter describes the public participation opportunities and the consultation and collaborative efforts made as part of the RMP/Final EIS revision process. This chapter also includes the names and qualifications of the people responsible for preparing this Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

**Bibliography:** The bibliography provides full citation information for all references cited within the document.

**Glossary:** The glossary defines select terms used throughout the document.

**Appendices:** The appendices include documents that support existing resource conditions or situations, substantiate analyses, provide resource management guidance, explain processes, or provide information directly relevant to or supporting conclusions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

**Maps:** Maps are provided with the printed version of the document. For CD versions of the document, maps are provided in a separate file on the CD. Electronic copies of the maps are also available on the project website at <http://blm.gov/m1kd>.