

## PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

The BLM planning regulations (at 43 CFR 1610.4-2) require development of planning criteria to guide preparation of an RMP. *Planning criteria* are the standards, rules, and other guidelines developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams, with public input, for use in forming judgments about plan-level decision making, analysis and data collection. These criteria are used to establish the parameters or “ground rules” for making planning decisions and simplifying RMP actions. The criteria may be adjusted during RMP development based on management concerns and the results of the public scoping process. Preliminary planning criteria for the RMP are as follows:

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- The RMP will be in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- Land use decisions in the RMP will apply to the surface and subsurface estate managed by the BLM.
- For program-specific guidance for decisions at the land use planning level, the process will follow the BLM’s policies in the Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1.
- Public participation and collaboration will be an integral part of the planning process.
- The BLM will strive to make decisions in the plan compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies and local American Indian tribes, as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law and regulations applicable to public lands.
- The RMP will recognize valid existing rights.
- The RMP will incorporate, where applicable, management decisions brought forward from existing planning documents.
- The BLM will work cooperatively and collaboratively with cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- The BLM and cooperating agencies will jointly develop alternatives for resolution of resource management issues and management concerns.
- Fire management strategies will be consistent with the Carlsbad Field Office Fire Management Plan (2004).
- The BLM will consider public welfare and safety when addressing hazardous materials and fire management.
- GIS and metadata information will meet Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards, as required by Executive Order 12906. All other applicable BLM data standards will also be followed.
- The planning process will provide for ongoing consultation with American Indian tribes and strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.
- Planning and management direction will focus on the relative values of resources and not the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or economic output.
- The BLM will consider the quantity and quality of non-commodity resource values.
- Where practicable and timely for the planning effort, the best available scientific information, research, and new technologies will be used.

- Actions must comply with all applicable regulations and must be reasonable, achievable, and allow for flexibility while supporting adaptive management principles.
- The Economic Profile System (EPS) will be used as one source of demographic and economic data for the planning process. EPS data will provide baseline data and contribute to estimates of existing and projected social and economic conditions.
- The RMP revision will be developed through the BLM's ePlanning system to the extent consistent with the current functionality of the system and project schedule considerations.