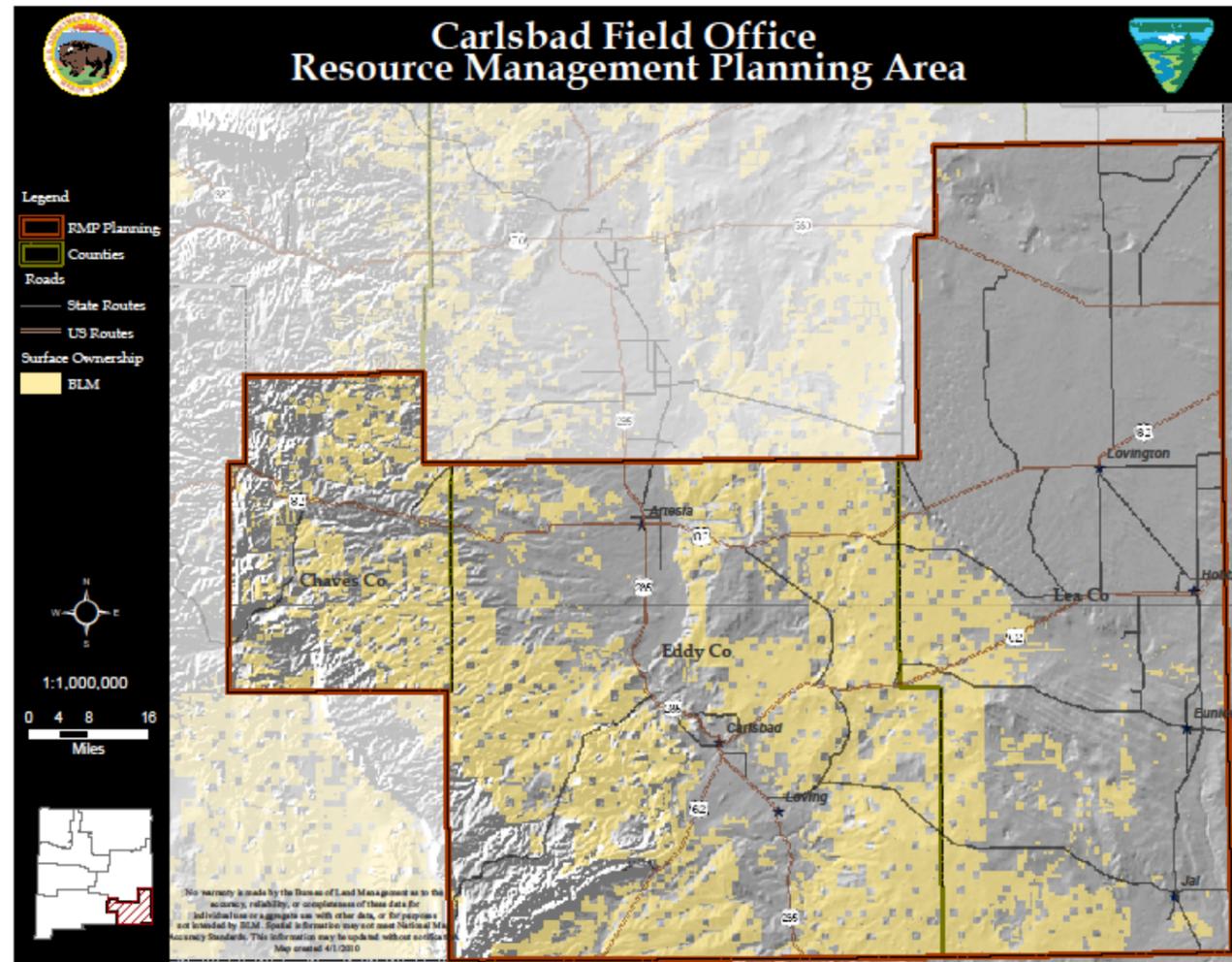


Need more information? Want to be added to the mailing list?

- **WEBSITE:** www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad_Field_Office.html
- **EMAIL:** nm_cfo_rmp@blm.gov
- **FAX:** 575-885-9264, attn: RMP Project Manager
- **MAIL:** BLM, Carlsbad Field Office, RMP Project Manager, 620 E. Greene St., Carlsbad, NM 88220
- **PHONE:** 575-234-5986

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please specify whether you would like to receive notices by mail or by email.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Bureau of Land Management Carlsbad Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision



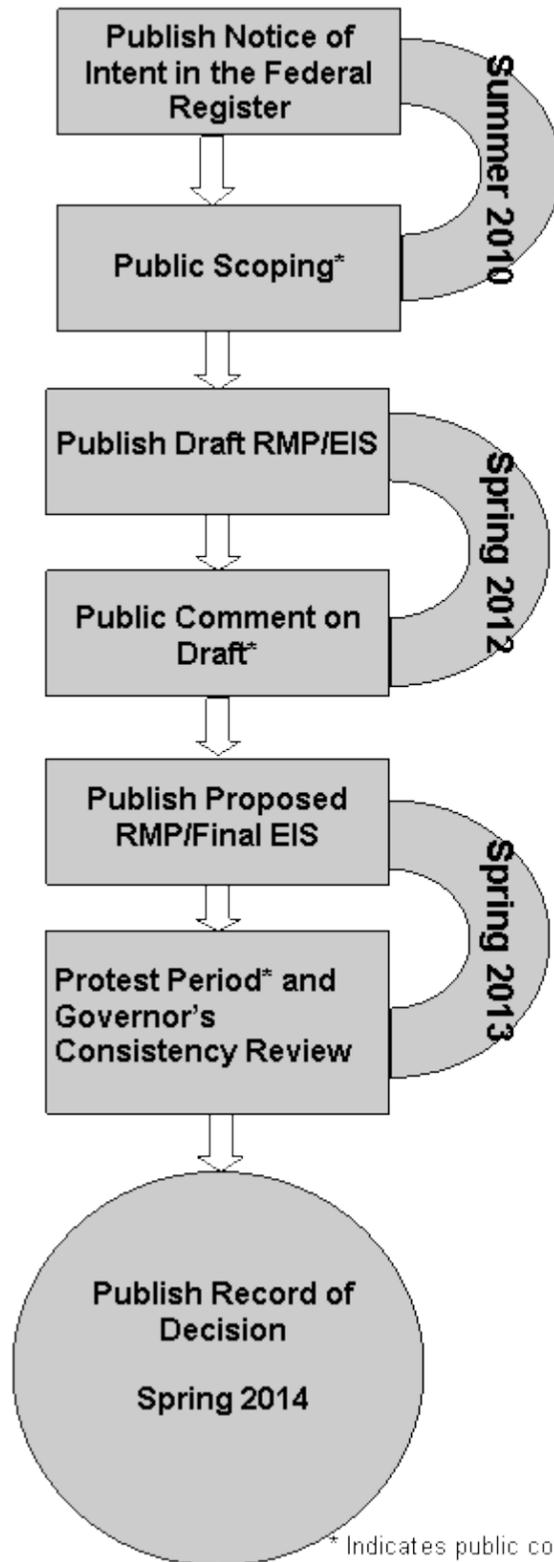
What is the Carlsbad Field Office Resource Management Plan?

To ensure the best balance of uses and resource protections for America's public lands, the BLM undertakes extensive land use planning through a collaborative approach with local, State and Tribal governments; the public; and stakeholder groups. The result is a Resource Management Plan (RMP), which provides the framework to guide decisions for every action and approved use on BLM lands.

The RMP for the area managed by the Carlsbad Field Office was completed in 1988, with amendments in 1997 and 2008. Since 1988, a number of changes have taken place that warrant the need to revise the plan. The Carlsbad Field Office will begin the plan revision in June 2010. This is a four year process, and will involve multiple opportunities for public involvement. The first step in preparing the RMP is called "scoping," which is a process for introducing the public to the planning process and soliciting their concerns and comments. The RMP will govern management of the Carlsbad Field Office for up to 20 years, so it's important to get involved to make sure that your voice is heard!



RMP Timeline



How will the RMP be prepared?

The BLM will use the process set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Under NEPA, federal agencies must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for major federal actions that may have a significant effect on the human environment. The EIS will analyze a range of reasonable alternatives, and the potential environmental, cultural, social, economic, and other effects of the alternatives. The BLM will use comments received in scoping to help determine the scope of its analysis and the range of alternatives. Once the BLM has developed its alternatives and analyzed the potential effects of those alternatives, we will publish a draft EIS. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft. The BLM will take those comments under consideration when revising the draft to create the final RMP.

How can I get involved?

Public participation is vital to creating a sound RMP. The first step in becoming involved is to sign up for the mailing list. Once you are on the mailing list, you'll receive notices about scoping meetings that we're hosting in your area. You'll also be notified about the progress of the plan and key milestones.

Once you're on the mailing list, keep an eye out for more information. You can attend scoping meetings to receive more information about the plan, ask questions, express concerns, and submit comments. You can submit comments at any time during the scoping period. The BLM will continue to accept scoping comments for inclusion in the Scoping Report until August 30, 2010.

Tips for Providing Effective Comments

- Review the BLM website, monitor local newspapers, attend public meetings, and become familiar with the planning process
- Provide substantive and concise written comments
- For the maximum consideration, submit your comments during the timeframes announced
- Become familiar with the decisions that the BLM will be making
- Keep your comments focused on the planning process
- Make sure you are on the mailing list for the RMP

What are the issues the BLM is looking at?

The BLM has identified several preliminary planning issues. A planning issue expresses opportunities, conflicts and problems associated with the management of public lands. Issues may also reflect new data, new or revised policies, and changes in the resource uses that affect an RMP. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues:

- What management actions are necessary to protect or enhance resources such as visual resources, air quality, groundwater and karst aquifers, watersheds and riparian areas, recreational areas, wilderness areas, vegetation, soils, cultural sites, cave/karst, specially designated areas, wildlife habitat, and rangeland health?
- What areas should be identified as open, limited, or closed to travel? What major roads and ways should be closed and reclaimed?
- How should the BLM facilitate energy development, both renewable and non-renewable, while allowing for multiple uses and appropriate protection of public lands and resources?
- How should the RMP facilitate rights-of-ways within the planning area while balancing the need to protect sensitive resources?
- How should the RMP address new technologies such as potash solution mining?
- What public lands should be identified for retention, withdrawal, disposal, or acquisition?
- What management actions will be necessary to reduce impacts to reclaimed and resorted lands?

This list of planning issues is preliminary, and will continue to be refined throughout the planning process. The BLM encourages the public to comment on this list and suggest other issues you feel we should consider. A more detailed explanation of the planning issues can be found in the "Preparation Plan" posted on the RMP website.

Public Scoping Meetings

Scoping meetings provide you with the opportunity to find out more about the planning process, ask questions and speak to resource specialists. They also provide an opportunity to comment on the planning process.

July 19, 2010	Artesia High School Gymnasium, Artesia, NM
July 20, 2010	Pecos River Conference Center-Carousel Room, Carlsbad, NM
July 22, 2010	Hope Community Center, Hope, NM
July 26, 2010	Jal Community Center, Jal, NM
July 27, 2010	New Mexico Junior College-Moran Building, Hobbs, NM

Meetings will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All meetings are "open houses," meaning that you can come and leave at any time.