



## Preliminary Planning Criteria

Planning criteria guide development of the Mancos-Gallup environmental impact statement (EIS) by helping define the decision space. They are generally based on applicable laws, BLM Director and New Mexico State Director guidance, and the results of public and governmental participation (43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.4-2). The BLM developed preliminary planning criteria to set the sideboards for focused decision-making and analysis in the Mancos-Gallup EIS.

A selection of the planning criteria developed by the Farmington Field Office (FFO) is included below:

- The FFO will prepare the resource management plan amendment (RMPA) in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; and all other applicable laws, Executive Orders, and BLM management policies.
- The FFO will use the EIS as the analytical basis for any decision it makes to amend the RMP.
- The Field Office is developing a reasonable foreseeable development scenario to predict future levels of development.
- Lands covered in the RMPA/EIS will be public land and split estates managed by the BLM.
- No decisions will be made relative to non-BLM administered lands or minerals.
- The FFO will recognize valid existing rights under the RMP, as amended.
- The FFO will coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments in the RMPA/EIS process to strive for consistency with existing plans and policies, to the extent practicable.
- The FFO will coordinate with tribal governments and provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses in the RMPA/EIS process.
- The RMPA/EIS will recognize the State's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife. The BLM will consult with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
- The FFO will take into account appropriate protection and management of cultural and historic resources in the RMPA/EIS process and will engage in all required consultation.
- The FFO will recognize in the RMPA/EIS 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 FFO will make every effort to encourage public participation throughout the RMPA/EIS process.
- The FFO has the authority to develop protective management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics within RMPs. As part of the public involvement process for land use planning, the FFO will consider public input regarding lands to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- Environmental protection and energy production 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 RMPA/EIS process. Decisions in the plan 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 FFO will strive to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts.
- The FFO will strive to minimize potential adverse social and economic impacts.
- The FFO will facilitate oil and gas development and production and provide options for flexibility to the oil and gas industry for environmentally sound exploration, development, and operations.
- The FFO will update management actions that are no longer adequate to address unforeseen impacts of additional oil and gas development within the Mancos/Gallup formations that are not accounted for in the current RMP.
- The RMPA/EIS will incorporate management decisions brought forward from existing BLM planning documents.