

April 2013

## **DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***How can I access the Draft RMP?***

The TriCounty Draft RMP/Draft EIS and supporting information are available online at: [www.blm.gov/nm/lascruces](http://www.blm.gov/nm/lascruces).

Copies of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS are also available for review at the following BLM offices:

Las Cruces District Office 1800 Marquess Street Las Cruces, New Mexico	New Mexico State Office 301 Dinosaur Trail Santa Fe, New Mexico	Albuquerque District Office 435 Montañño Road, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico
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Socorro Field Office 901 South Highway 85 Socorro, New Mexico	Carlsbad Field Office 620 East Greene Street Carlsbad, New Mexico	Pecos District Office 2909 West Second Street Roswell, New Mexico
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Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are also available at public libraries in Anthony, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and Truth or Consequences.

### ***When and where will public meetings be?***

Each meeting will run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m.

April 23rd Las Cruces Doña Ana County 845 North Motel Blvd	April 30 <sup>th</sup> Alamogordo Willie Estrada Civic Center 800 E. 1st Street (S. Florida at E. 1st St.)	May 8th Truth of Consequences Civic Center 400 W. 4th Street (W. 4th at N. Foch St.)
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### ***What can I expect at these meetings?***

Staff will be on hand to answer questions in an open-house format. Maps and other information will be displayed to describe the Draft RMP. At 5:30 pm, an overview of the Draft RMP will be presented.

### ***What does 'Draft' mean in the document title?***

When developing a RMP, the BLM follows the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). One step in this process is the publication of a Draft RMP and EIS, which the public has the opportunity to comment on. The BLM will prepare a Proposed RMP and Final EIS which will respond to the comments on the Draft RMP/EIS and correct any errors found in the draft document.

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***Why is there a ‘Preferred Alternative’ when the BLM has not made a final decision?***

The BLM’s land use planning regulations require the BLM to indicate the preferred alternative at the Draft RMP stage. However, the alternative identified as being “preferred” may actually be modified prior to finalization of the RMP. Any actions within the range of alternatives under consideration in the Draft RMP may be selected by the Field Manager to be part of the preferred alternative in the final document. Indicating a “preferred” alternative at the Draft RMP stage allows the public to frame their comments with respect to the tentative management direction of the RMP.

***When is the public comment period?***

The public comment period is 90 days. It begins on April 12, 2013 and ends on July 11, 2013.

***How can I provide comments to the BLM?***

Comments may be submitted electronically at: [BLM\\_NM\\_LCDO\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov)

or by mail at:

BLM Las Cruces District Office  
Attn: TriCounty Comments  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88005-3371

Please see our [“Commenting Tips and Examples of Substantive Comments”](#) handout.

***What is a substantive comment?***

Substantive comments are those that reveal new information, missing information, or flawed analysis that would substantially change conclusions. Please see our [“Commenting Tips and Examples of Substantive Comments”](#) handout.

***How does BLM respond to comments?***

The BLM will respond to substantive comments on the Draft RMP/EIS in one of the following ways:

- Modifying alternatives, including the proposed plan;
- Developing and evaluating alternatives not previously given serious consideration;
- Supplementing, improving, or modifying analysis
- Making factual corrections;
- Explaining why comments do not warrant further response

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Responses to public comments will be contained in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The BLM does not generally write to individual commenters to explain how their comments were addressed, nor is the BLM required to do so.

***What is the next step in the RMP process?***

The next step is for the BLM to publish a Proposed RMP and Final EIS, which builds on the Draft RMP/EIS to include appropriate responses to public comments and describes the comments received. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS also corrects errors in the Draft RMP/EIS identified through the public comment process and an internal BLM review. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS may also contain modification to the alternatives and the accompanying analysis.

***When will the BLM finalize the RMP?***

Publication of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS initiates a 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review period. Once any protests or inconsistencies are resolved, the BLM will publish the Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). The Approved RMP will describe the selected alternative and the ROD documents and provides a rationale for the decision. Currently, we estimate that the Approved RMP and ROD will be published in May 2015.

***How will the BLM manage resources and resource uses in the meantime?***

The BLM Las Cruces District Office will continue to manage resources and resource uses according to the *White Sands Resource Area RMP* (1986) for Sierra and Otero Counties, and the *Mimbres Resource Area RMP* (1993) for Doña Ana County. In addition, the BLM will consider the impacts of proposed actions in the Tri-County RMP planning area with respect to the alternatives proposed in the Draft RMP.