

# **Chapter 5. Summary of Future Steps in the Planning Process**

The scoping period is open until September 30, 2008. An addendum to this scoping report will follow. The next step in the planning process is the “Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)” which will describe the public land resources and uses in the Planning Area and our challenges, constraints and opportunities in managing them. The initial part of the analysis will result in identification of the “No Action Alternative,” the baseline (current) management condition the ID Team will consider in developing other management alternatives. The next phase of the BLM’s planning process is to develop management alternatives based on the issues presented in Section 2.0. These alternatives will address planning issues identified during scoping and will be designed to meet goals and objectives developed by the interdisciplinary team. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the BLM planning regulations and guidance, alternatives should be reasonable and capable of implementation. The BLM will also continue to meet with collaborating agencies, interested tribes, community groups and individuals. A detailed analysis of the alternatives will be documented. Based on the analyses of the alternatives, the BLM’s Preferred Alternative will then be selected and analyzed in detail. The Preferred Alternative is often made up of a combination of management options from the various alternatives to provide the best mix and balance of multiple land and resource uses to resolve the issues.

The analysis of the alternatives will be documented in a Draft RMP/EIS. Although the BLM welcomes public input at any time during the planning process, the next official public comment period will begin when the Draft RMP/EIS is published, which is anticipated for Spring 2010. The draft document will be widely distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public, and will be available on the project website ([www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)). The availability of the draft document will be announced via a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, and a 90-day public comment period will follow. Public meetings will be held in each Rio Puerco Field Office during the 90-day period. At the conclusion of the public comment

period, the Draft RMP/EIS will be revised. A Proposed RMP/Final EIS will then be published. The availability of the proposed document will be announced in the Federal Register, and a public protest period will follow. Concurrently, the Governor of New Mexico will review the document for consistency with approved state or local plans, policies, or programs. At the conclusion of the public protest period and Governor’s consistency review, the BLM will resolve all protests and any inconsistencies, and the approved RMP and Record of Decision will be approved by the State Director and published. The availability of these documents will be announced in the Federal Register. Figure 6-1 outlines the major milestones of the RPFO RMP/EIS planning process and public participation. All publications, including this report, newsletters, the Draft RMP/EIS, and the Notice of Availability, will be published on the official RPFO RMP web site ([www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)). In addition, pertinent dates regarding solicitation of public comments will be published on the web site.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the planning process for the RMP. Some ways to participate include:

- Reviewing the progress of the RMP at the official RPFO RMP/EIS web site at [www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)—The website will be updated with information, documents, and announcements throughout the duration of the RMP preparation; and
- Requesting to be added to or to remain on the official RPFO RMP project mailing list in order to receive future mailings and information.

Anyone wishing to be added to or deleted from the distribution list or requesting further information may e-mail their request to [Joe\\_Blackmon@blm.gov](mailto:Joe_Blackmon@blm.gov) or contact Joe Blackmon, RMP Team Lead, (505) 761-8918 or Sabrina Flores, Technical Coordinator (505) 761-8794. Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address, as well as your preferred method to receive information.

**Table 5.1. Process steps, timeframes, and opportunities for public participation**

<b>Planning Step</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>
Analysis of Management Situation (AMS)	January 2008 - December 2008	
Develop and Analyze Alternatives	August 2008 - January 2009	Informal workshops will be held with the general public, organizations, and agencies to discuss alternatives. Will also use newsletters to keep interested parties apprised of progress and to solicit feedback.
Issue the Draft RMP and Draft EIS	December 2009 - January 2010	90-day public review and comment period.
Issue the Proposed RMP and Final EIS	January 2011 - February 2011	30-day protest period
Implementation of the revised RMP	January 2012	Opportunities for the public to assist in monitoring and evaluating implementation of the new RMPdirection will be available.