



US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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The Battle Mountain RMP Newsletter

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Battle Mountain District Office (BMD) is preparing a comprehensive Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to guide management of BLM administered public land (surface lands and federal minerals) within the District. The RMP/EIS will be a dynamic and flexible plan to allow management to reflect the changed needs of the planning area and will replace the existing 1997 Tonopah RMP and 1986 Shoshone-Eureka RMP. For more background, see Issue 1 of this newsletter from December 2010.

Scoping Completed

Public involvement is an integral part of preparing an RMP. The scoping period gave the public and other interested parties the opportunity to provide comments on issues to be addressed and methods to be used in the RMP before BLM began drafting it. The official scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on December 13, 2010 and continued for 60 days through February 11, 2011. During the scoping period, the BLM hosted eight public open houses in Reno, Battle Mountain, Eureka, Austin, Carvers/Hadley, Tonopah, Beatty, and Dyer. Notice of these meetings was posted on the BLM website, in local community centers such as libraries, and was included in the December 2010 newsletter that was sent to the project mailing list.

Scoping Report Available

A scoping summary report was completed in July 2011 and is now available on the RMP website for download and viewing by the public. The report provides (1) a description of the scoping process and the collaborative involvement process, which includes BLM coordination with cooperating agencies, resource advisory councils and Native American Tribes, (2) a summary of comments received during scoping, (3) a summary of comments organized by land use planning issue, (4) preliminary Planning criteria, (5) a summary of the number of comments received and people in attendance at public open houses, and (6) an overview of future steps and public involvement opportunities.

Socioeconomic Workshops Completed

Socioeconomic workshops were held on June 14th and 16th, 2011 in Battle Mountain and Tonopah. The workshops sought input from local representatives on the priorities for and challenges faced by communities within the Planning Area.

Background Studies Underway

Several background studies on specific topics for resources and land uses in the BMDO are currently underway. These studies will provide the basis for the “Affected Environment” section of the RMP/EIS, which will describe the current conditions of these resources and uses. The studies currently in progress cover mineral potential, socioeconomics, ethnography, cultural resources, leasing stipulations, air quality modeling, areas of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic rivers and a review of areas with wilderness characteristics.

Next Steps

The next steps for the RMP/EIS is the Alternatives Development process and the preparation of the Affected Environment section. Following these two steps will be impact analysis. The BLM, in conjunction with cooperating agencies and the resource advisory councils, will develop alternative management strategies. The basic goal of developing alternatives is to prepare different combinations of resource uses to address issues and to resolve conflicts among those uses. Alternatives must meet the purpose and need, the established planning criteria, and all federal laws, regulations, policies and standards, including the multiple use mandate of the Federal Lands Policy Management Act. Each alternative will contain a full suite of management goals, objectives, and actions. During Alternatives Development and once the background studies are completed, the Affected Environment section of the EIS will be developed.. Once the Alternatives Development process is complete, the BLM will conduct impact analysis. The impact analysis will provide an estimation of how management under each alternative would affect the resources and uses that BLM manages for in the BMD.

How Can You Participate?

The next opportunity for public involvement will be during the public review period of the Preliminary RMP/Draft EIS. The 90-day public review and comment period is expected to occur during the Spring of 2013 (see project schedule). You can stay up to date on the project status by visiting the Battle Mountain RMP Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html. The Web site will be updated with information, documents, and announcements throughout the RMP preparation. If you know someone who would like to be added to the project mailing list or e-mail list, let us know by sending an email to BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov or contacting Christopher Worthington at (775) 635-4000.



The scoping meeting held at the Eureka Opera House on January 25, 2011, pictured above, was one of 8 scoping meetings held from January 20th through February 3rd of this year. Collectively, the meetings drew an attendance of 117 members of the public, agencies and other organizations.

Project Schedule

December 2010	Winte 2011	Spring-Fall 2011	Spring-Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Winter 2014
NOI Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Public Scoping	Complete Studies and Develop Alternatives	Prepare Prelim RMP/ Draft EIS	Prelim RMP/Draft EIS Available for 90-day Public Review & Comment	Proposed RMP/Final EIS Available for 30-day Public Review & Protest	Record of Decision & Approved RMP

How to contact us

If you have questions about the RMP, please contact:

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