

Planning 2.0



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Proposed Planning Rule

<http://www.blm.gov/plan2>

1

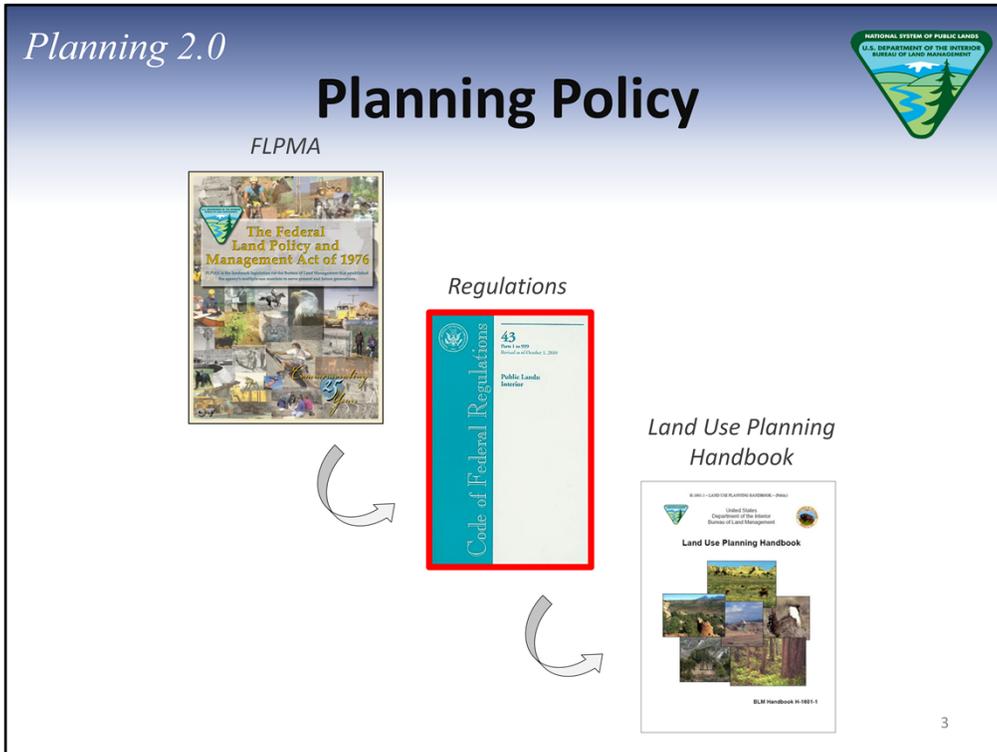


Project Goals

1. Improve the BLM's ability to respond to social and environmental change.
2. Provide meaningful opportunities for collaboration.
3. Improve the BLM's ability to implement the landscape approach.



Talking Points

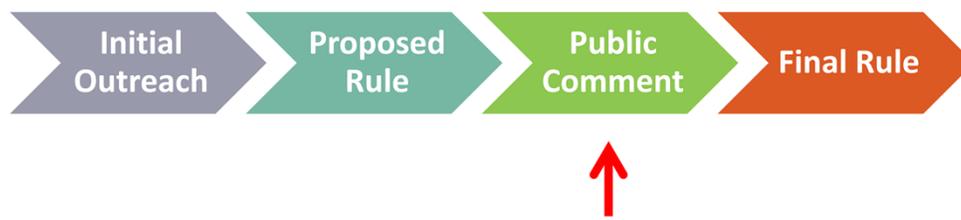


Talking Points

1. The proposed rule is a proposal to revise the BLM’s land use planning regulations.
2. The land use planning handbook is also being revised as a separate, related step.



Rule-making process



Talking Points

1. The rule making process was started in 2014 by hosting public listening sessions; studying our existing plans and trying to understand what worked well in developing those plans, and what could be improved; and talking to BLM planners, and other staff about their successes in planning, lessons learned, and new ideas for how to improve the process.
2. This information was used to develop the proposed rule.
3. The proposed rule applies BLMs best practices and new ideas to avoid common pitfalls in planning.
4. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on February 25th, and will be available for public comment period for 60 days, until April 25th.
5. This information will be used to develop the Final Rule. Our goal is to issue a final rule by the end of next fall.



What are the proposed changes?

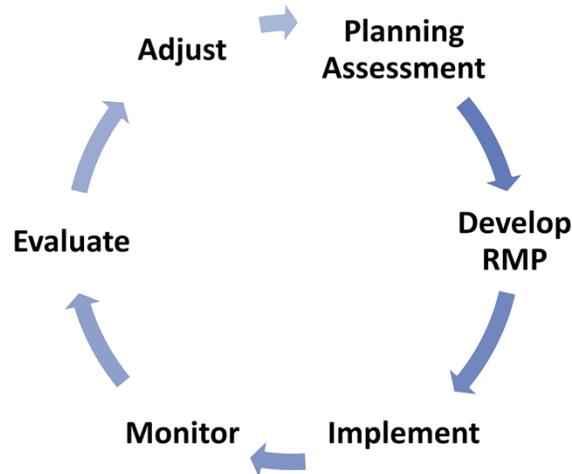


Talking Points

Most of the changes are applying best practices from successful planning efforts.

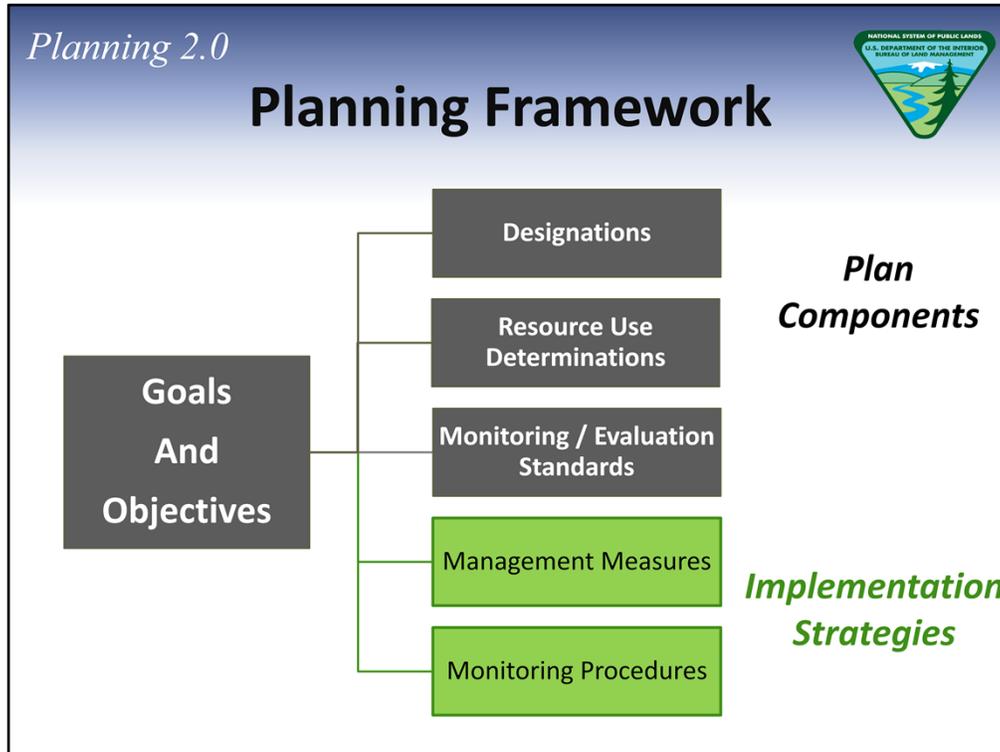


Planning Cycle



Talking Points

1. Although you will not see this described in any single location in the regulations, as a whole the proposed rule emphasizes a balanced approach to the full planning cycle.
2. Often, when we say “planning process” we only mean one step in this cycle, developing an RMP. But the other steps are part of the process and equally important.
3. Each step of the process should set the stage for success in the next step
 - For example, the planning assessment provides the baseline information for RMP development
 - The RMP should set the stage for effective implementation and monitoring
 - Monitoring should be tied directly to the objectives in the RMP



Talking Points

1. One of the proposed changes addresses the Planning Framework. This slide shows the plan components in gray, and the two types of implementation strategies in green.
2. Goals and objectives provide the overarching management direction in the plan. Essentially, they are the drivers in the plan. The plan components are developed to achieve the goals and objectives, or in some situations, other legal requirements. (i.e., Everything else is a tool to achieve the goals and objectives.)
3. The important distinctions between plan components and implementation strategies include:
 - Plan components are subject to protest and can only be changed through an amendment.
 - All future actions must conform with the plan components.
 - Implementation strategies can be updated to incorporate new information or based on results of monitoring, and no amendment is necessary.
 - Implementation strategies do not include a decision at the planning level, rather the decision is made during implementation.



Public Involvement

Planning Assessment



Scoping



Draft RMP



Proposed RMP



Decision



Preliminary Alternatives

Talking Points

1. The proposed process includes new steps early in the planning process, including planning assessment and preliminary alternatives review.
2. The Planning Assessment would establish the current conditions
3. Preliminary Alternatives would be developed based on input during the planning assessment and scoping and made available for review prior to beginning analysis for the draft RMP.



Planning Assessment

- Replaces the current AMS
- Steps Include:
 1. Information gathering
 2. Evaluation of information quality
 3. Assessment – establish baseline conditions
 4. Summary Report
- Similar to USFS assessment

Talking Points

1. A Planning Assessment would be required before an RMP/EIS or EIS Amendment is initiated.
2. The goals of this upfront planning assessment include:
 - Identifying the best available information and science
 - Establishing the baseline conditions in the planning area to facilitate data-driven planning
 - Building stakeholder relationships
 - Informing the development of the purpose and need statement
 - Informing the scoping process



High Quality Information

- Any representation of knowledge that is accurate, reliable, unbiased, not compromised through corruption or falsification, and relevant to the planning process.
- Includes:
 - Best available scientific information
 - Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
 - Other types of information

Talking Points

1. The proposed rule would require that the BLM use High Quality Information to support the planning process.



Responsibilities

- BLM Director
- Deciding Official (*State Director*)
- Responsible Official (*District or Field Manager*)

Talking Points

1. Responsibilities for decision making during the planning process are explained.



Responsibilities

- **BLM Director**
 - determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for RMPs
 - determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for amendments that cross State boundaries

Talking Points

1. Considering the landscape approach and acknowledging that planning areas may extend beyond traditional BLM administrative boundaries.
2. The BLM Director determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for RMP's
3. The Director also determines the Deciding Official and planning area for amendments that cross State boundaries.



Responsibilities

- **Deciding Official**
 - determines the planning area for all other amendments
 - provides supervisory review, including plan approval
- **Responsible Official**
 - prepares the RMP

Talking Points

1. The Deciding Official, usually the State Director ...
2. The Responsible Official, usually a District or Field Manager ...



Transition Provisions

- If NOI published before the final rule, BLM may complete the RMP or amendment using the existing regulations or the revised regulations.
- Pre-draft RMPs will be encouraged to incorporate concepts to the extent practical.

Talking Points

1. If work has begun on a plan and the NOI is published before the final rule ...



Next Steps

How to learn more...

- Public webinar - March 21
- Public meeting w/livestream – March 25, Denver

How to provide comments on the rule...

- 60-day comment period closes on April 25th
- www.blm.gov/plan2 for more information

Talking Points

Washington Office has planned two public outreach events

1. The first is a public webinar on March 21 from 12:00 - 2:00 Pacific (3pm ET)
2. The second will be a public meeting in Denver with a live Internet broadcast on March 25th at 12:00 Pacific (1pm MT)