

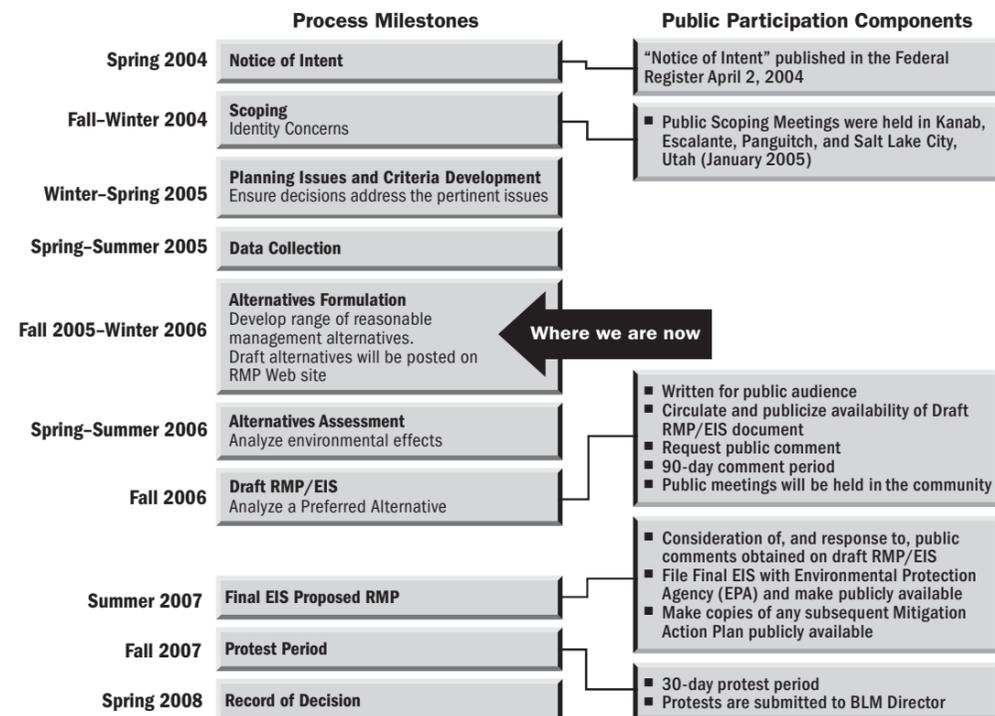


Kanab Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Kanab Field Office
 318 N. 100 E
 Kanab, UT 84741

Kanab RMP/EIS Process and Public Participation Schedule



Results of Data Collection

As directed by BLM policy and regulation the Kanab Field Office has gathered data and information (i. e. resource, social, economic) for use in the planning process. These data are summarized in the following reports. While these reports are not decision documents, they provide a foundation for alternative development and analysis.

- **Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)** – provides the basis for formulating reasonable alternatives, including the types of resources for development or protection.
- **Socioeconomic Baseline Report** – identifies the social and economic characteristics of Garfield and Kane Counties, including employment and earnings data, population trends and demographics, and environmental justice populations.
- **Mineral Potential Report** – assesses and documents the mineral resource occurrence and development potential, including the reasonably foreseeable development scenario, within the planning area.
- **Evaluation Report for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)** – documents the process used to evaluate the existing ACEC and other ACEC nominations to be considered in developing the Kanab RMP, including relevant and important values, threats, and suggested special management for each ACEC.
- **Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Report** – evaluates the eligibility of the decision area's river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS), including the outstandingly remarkable values associated with each segment.

Paper copies of these reports are available at the Kanab Field Office and BLM Utah State Office reading rooms. *Electronic versions of the AMS, ACEC, and WSR Reports are available for download at the new project website: www.ut.blm.gov/landuseplanning/updates.htm.*

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Next Step: Alternatives Development

As part of the planning process BLM will develop a reasonable range of alternatives to address issues identified in the Scoping Report and AMS. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) states that alternatives "...are the heart of the environmental impact statement." NEPA directs agencies to "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives." All alternatives must comply with laws, regulations and policies as well as meet the multiple use standard set forth in the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. The alternatives development phase will continue through spring 2006. Below is a tentative description of each alternative.

Alternative A: No Action Continuation of Existing Management

Alternative A is a continuation of the current management direction contained in the five existing land use plans. The management direction could be modified by changes in law, regulation, and policy since the existing plans were completed. Alternative A represents the baseline to which the other management alternatives are compared.

Alternative B: Proposed

Alternative B would provide opportunities to use and develop resources within the decision area while ensuring resource protection. Opportunities for continued access and development would be continued with stipulations and/or mitigation to protect natural and cultural resources.

Alternative C: Emphasis on Protection of Resource Values

Alternative C would emphasize the protection of the decision area's resource values while allowing appropriate commodity uses as consistent with law, regulation, and policy. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities could occur with intensive management and/or mitigation.

Alternative D: Emphasis on Use and Development of Resources

Alternative D would emphasize opportunities to use and develop the decision area's resources while providing protection of natural and cultural resources as consistent with law, regulation, and policy. There would be limited application of special management or special designations to protect sensitive resources.

To learn more about the Resource Management Planning Process, visit our Web site at www.ut.blm.gov/landuseplanning/updates.htm

Summary of the Analysis of Management Situation

The AMS provides an analysis of the resource conditions and capabilities as a reference for developing the RMP. It also provides an analysis of existing management in light of resource conditions, resulting in a determination of management adequacy that will be carried forward into alternatives development. The analysis found that existing management has provided good direction for many of the decision area's resources. However, changes in the natural, social, and administrative environments have raised issues that need resolution. Issues from the AMS can be grouped into three categories:

Changes in Policy

Due to changes in BLM policy, the existing land use plans do not adequately address various aspects of public land management. Such changes in policy include, but are not limited to, the development of Standards for Range-land Health for BLM lands in Utah, revisions in cultural and paleontological resources management and Special Status Species management, development of a statewide riparian policy, and revisions in migratory bird habitat management.

Changes in Resource Condition or Demands

Since completion of the existing land use plans there have been changes in resource conditions or demands for resource use. These include, but are not limited to, new listings of species on the Federal Endangered Species List and critical habitat designated, and identification of other special status species. Additionally, changes in resource use levels and patterns have created areas of conflict between resource protection and resource uses.

Changes in Administrative Boundaries

There have been changes in administrative boundaries since the existing land use plans were completed. Land transfers, realignment of BLM administrative units, and the designation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument have changed the managerial responsibility and land use patterns throughout the planning area.



Watch for planning bulletins, like this one, to announce public involvement opportunities, provide an update on plan development, and keep you informed during the process.

The BLM is committed to maximizing community involvement in the RMP development effort in order to achieve agreement from diverse interests on goals, purposes, and needs of the plan.

What You'll Find in the AMS

Chapter 1 defines the purpose and need for the plan revision, describes the planning area, and identifies the key findings of the AMS.

Chapter 2 describes the existing resources, resource uses, special designations and social and economic features of the area. The information in this chapter forms the basis of chapter 3 in the EIS.

Chapter 3 describes current management direction for public lands and resources within the planning area, obtained from the five land use plans and subsequent amendments and emergency actions.

Chapter 4 analyzes the ability of current management direction to achieve desired conditions and address resource demands. In addition, opportunities for changing

existing management to respond to current issues, changes in circumstances, or new information are identified.

Chapter 5 identifies other Federal, state, and local plans and their implications for this planning effort. BLM plans must be consistent with officially approved or adopted plans to the extent they are consistent with law.

Chapter 6 identifies laws, regulations, and executive orders that provide the foundations of public land management.

Chapter 7 summarizes the process and results of this RMP's scoping process.

Chapters 8 through 10 contain the list of preparers, acronyms, glossary, and references.

Data Call Results and Interdisciplinary Team Review

In April 2005, BLM requested data from interested parties, specifically requesting route information, ACEC nominations, and Wild and Scenic River nominations. In response to this request, cooperating agencies and other interested groups provided BLM with information to be considered in the planning process. New route information included maps of existing routes and suggestions for route designation and management. Three areas were nominated as ACECs for their associated values. Several areas were identified as potentially having wilderness characteristics. No Wild and Scenic River nominations were submitted.

The BLM has reviewed the three ACEC nominations and the one existing ACEC for the presence of relevant and important values necessary for further consideration. Portions of the four areas (see table to the right) met the relevance and importance criteria and are identified as potential ACECs for further consideration in the RMP.

To evaluate potential Wild and Scenic Rivers, the BLM reviewed all drainages in the decision area. BLM also utilized information from the Utah Rivers Council and the National Rivers Inventory. Rivers were analyzed to determine if they were eligible or not eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Fourteen river segments (40.7 miles) were identified as eligible (see list on right). The suitability of each segment for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System will be determined during alternatives development.

The BLM interdisciplinary team review of the route and wilderness characteristics data is ongoing. This data will be available for public comment in the DEIS.

Area Name	Nominated/Existing Acres	Potential ACEC Acres
Water Canyon/South Fork Indian Canyon (existing)	225	3,758
Welsh's Milkweed	3,680	1,252
Vermilion Cliffs	26,486	23,406
White Cliffs	45,916	29,535



We Want Your Input

BLM invites the public to provide input on the preliminary findings in the ACEC and Wild and Scenic Rivers Reports, available at the Kanab Field Office and online at www.ut.blm.gov/landuseplanning/updates.htm. BLM will accept comments through January 27, 2006. Please mail all comments to:

**Bureau of Land Management,
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River Segments Considered Eligible

North Fork Virgin River – northeast of Zion NP

East Fork Virgin River – private property to Zion NP boundary

Orderville Gulch (Esplin Gulch) – Zion NP Boundary to the Falls

Meadow Creek – South of Highway 9 to Mineral Gulch

Mineral Gulch – confluence w/ Meadow Ck. to confluence w/ E. Fork Virgin River

Deep Creek – Washington County line to the BLM boundary in Sec. 30

Cottonwood Creek – Sec. 10, BLM boundary to Indian Canyon

Indian Canyon – head of the canyon to Cottonwood Creek

South Fork Indian Canyon – from head of canyon to BLM boundary in NE corner Sec. 20

Water Canyon – where the canyon deepens to BLM boundary in Sec. 21

Hell Dive Canyon – where the canyon deepens to Cottonwood Creek

Paria River – Wilderness/GSENM boundary to Arizona border

Three Mile Creek – Forest boundary in Sec. 11 to BLM boundary in Sec. 7

N. Branch of South Fork Indian Canyon – where canyon deepens to BLM boundary in Sec. 17