



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov>



Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Monticello Field Office (FO). This document was prepared by the BLM in consultation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), current regulations, BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable laws.

The Monticello Planning Area (PA) consists of approximately 4.5 million acres of land which includes 2.5 million acres of mineral estate and 1.8 million acres of public lands managed by the Monticello FO. The Monticello PA lies primarily within San Juan County with a small portion within southern Grand County. When approved, this RMP will replace the 1991 San Juan Resource Area RMP. The overall intent of the revised RMP is to develop a land use plan that will guide the management of public lands administered by the Monticello FO into the future. The Monticello DRMP/DEIS and supporting information are available on the project web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html>.

The BLM encourages you to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Monticello DRMP/DEIS. Of particular importance is your feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the five proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM develop a Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process. In the development of a Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the decision maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the DRMP/DEIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the multiple use and sustained yield mandate. Your timely comments on the DRMP/DEIS will help formulate the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Public meetings will be held subsequent to the release of the DRMP/DEIS in order to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments. These meetings will be announced by local media and public mailings. Public meetings will be held in Monticello, Moab, Blanding, Montezuma Creek, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Comments may be submitted electronically at [UT Monticello RMP Comments@blm.gov](mailto:UT_Monticello_RMP_Comments@blm.gov). Comments may also be submitted by mail to Monticello Field Office RMP Comments, Bureau of Land Management, Monticello Field Office, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comment on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the DRMP/DEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, as well as references to particular sections or page numbers. Comments containing only opinions or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision-making process, but they will not receive a formal response from the BLM. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if they are received with the review period.

It is BLM's practice to make available for public review all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identification information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identification information, may be made publicly available at any time. You may request in your comment that we withhold your personal identification information from public review; however, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

BLM would like to thank our cooperating agency partners who have worked so hard to help us complete this document. They have provided support and expertise in helping focus the issues and develop the alternatives to help resolve the many compelling resource concerns that face the Monticello FO. We would like to particularly recognize San Juan County and the State of Utah (and its agencies) that served as cooperating agencies on this DRMP/DEIS. Their experience and dedication has made this a better process, and the BLM looks forward to continued cooperation with these agencies. We also extend thanks to those individuals and organizations that have provided extensive information and the many excellent ideas that have been considered during this process.

Copies of the DRMP/DEIS have been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies. Copies of the DRMP/DEIS are available for public inspection at the San Juan County, Grand County, and Salt Lake City public libraries. Copies are also available for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

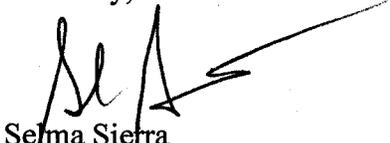
Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, UT 84532

Monticello Field Office
365 N. Main
Monticello, UT 84535

Utah State Office, BLM
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Thank you for your continued interest in the Monticello FO Resource Management Plan. We appreciate the information and suggestions you have contributed to the planning process.

Sincerely,



Selma Siefra
State Director, Utah