



Richfield Resource Management Plan

The **BLM Richfield Field Office** is in the process of revising its current land use plan. The new plan will provide management direction for public lands within the boundaries of the Richfield Field Office. The planning area is located in south-central Utah and includes all of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, and Wayne counties and portions of Garfield County, an area totaling 5.4 million acres. Of this, the BLM manages a 2.1 million acre surface and subsurface (mineral) estate, additional Federal mineral resources underlying the



national forests (1.5 million acres) and 95,000 acres of split-estate lands where the mineral estate is held by the Federal government but the surface rights belong to the state or private parties.

Issues that are addressed in the plan include the following: recreation and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, minerals and energy resources, range management, special designations and non-wilderness study area lands with wilderness characteristics.

Draft EIS Alternatives

The Richfield Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) identifies and analyzes five alternatives for future management of the public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Richfield Field Office. They are—

Alternative N (No Action)

Alternative N would continue to manage the land and resources according to direction prescribed in the five existing land use plans as modified by subsequent law, regulation and policy. This alternative would least restrict cross-country off-highway vehicle use, designate the most miles of open routes, continue the designation of four areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs, 14,780 acres), continue identification of one special recreation management area (SRMA, 120 acres) and manage all 12 eligible wild and scenic river segments (135 miles) to protect their outstandingly remarkable values.

Alternative A

Alternative A would manage the land and resources with an emphasis on providing motorized access and encouraging commodity production—mining, grazing, commercial recreation, and commercial woodland products harvesting—using the minimum restrictions required to meet legal, regulatory and policy mandates. This alternative relies on existing laws, regulations and policies, rather than special management prescriptions or special designations, to protect resources. This alternative would least restrict oil and gas leasing and mining, designate no ACECs, recommend no suitable wild and scenic river segments and identify five SRMAs totaling 516,400 acres.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative B would manage the land and resources relying primarily on existing law, regulation and policy, applying special designations and restrictive management prescriptions only where needed to

protect threatened or otherwise important resources. This alternative would eliminate overlapping wilderness study area (WSA)/ACEC designations, designate two ACECs (2,530 acres), recommend two suitable wild and scenic river segments (Dirty Devil and Fremont Gorge) and identify five SRMAs (838,700 acres).

Alternative C

Alternative C would manage the land and resources with more emphasis on protecting special, important and sensitive resources. This alternative would protect all 12 eligible river segments as suitable wild and scenic rivers, designate all 16 potential ACECs (886,810 acres), identify four SRMAs (928,550 acres) and allow no cross-country OHV use.

Alternative D

would manage the land and resources with the most emphasis on protecting special, important, and sensitive resources by applying special designations and restrictive prescriptions. This alternative would recommend all 12 eligible river segments as suitable wild and scenic rivers, designate all 16 potential ACECs (886,810 acres), identify seven SRMAs (1,358,200 acres) and best protect scenic values and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (682,600 acres). This alternative would allow no cross-country OHV use, designate the fewest miles of routes open to motor vehicles, impose the greatest restrictions on OHVs, oil and gas leasing and mining.



Managing approximately 23 million surface acres of public land, BLM-Utah realizes public involvement in our management strategies is critical. Planning emphasizes a collaborative environment in which local, State, and Tribal governments, as well as the public, user groups, and industry work with the BLM to identify appropriate multiple uses of the public lands.

The land-use planning process allows for extensive public involvement and provides a blueprint of how the public land should be managed. BLM Utah's mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public land, and land-use planning is a vital to our mission.

Currently six of our eleven field offices are conducting planning efforts. BLM's goal is to assure that the public is involved in the planning process right from the start. While collaborating with tribal, state, and local governments, BLM invites interested parties to participate so their needs can be addressed early in the process. When Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are ready for review and public comment, BLM Utah makes copies available to all field offices and on the Internet as well as to people who request to be on our mailing lists. We encourage you to get involved in the planning process to help determine how the public lands will be managed. Under Federal law, BLM Utah prepares land-use plans that serve as the basis for all activities occurring on BLM-managed lands.



Get Involved

To learn more about the Richfield draft RMP/EIS, visit our web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/richfield/planning.html> This website also contains background information about the plan, as well as an electronic public comment form. Comments may also be mailed to the Richfield Field Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701, or emailed to UT_Richfield_Comments@blm.gov The comment period ends on January 23, 2008.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the draft RMP/EIS, please contact the Richfield Field Office at (435) 896-1500 or at the above address.