

# Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western U.S.

## Draft Planning Criteria

In accordance with BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2), the following planning criteria were developed to help guide data collection, alternative formulation, and impact analysis. Criteria are generally based on laws, regulations, and agency guidance and serve as side-boards to keep the planning process focused.

1. The PEIS and BLM resource management plan amendments will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and all other applicable laws, Executive Orders and management policies of the BLM.
2. The PEIS will provide the analytical basis for decisions to amend the appropriate individual land use plans as necessary to respond to the potential for increased levels of leasing and development of geothermal resources on BLM-administered lands. Lands open, closed, and open with restrictive stipulations to geothermal leasing will be identified in the affected plans.
3. These plan amendments are limited to addressing leasing and development of geothermal resources, and will not address management of other resources, although the BLM will consider and analyze the impacts on other managed resource values of this increased use. Management of other resources in the planning areas affected will continue to be governed by the applicable RMPs.
4. The RMPs, as amended, will recognize valid existing rights.
5. BLM will coordinate with local, State, Tribal and Federal agencies in the PEIS and plan amendment process to strive for consistency with their existing plans and policies, to the extent practicable.
6. BLM will coordinate with Tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses in the PEIS and plan amendment process.
7. BLM will take into account appropriate protection and management of cultural and historic resources in the PEIS and plan amendment process, and will engage in all required consultation.

8. BLM will recognize in the PEIS and plan amendments the specific niche occupied by public lands in the life of the communities that surround them and in the nation as a whole.
9. BLM will make every effort to encourage public participation throughout the process.
10. BLM has the authority to address lands with wilderness characteristics and describe protective management prescriptions in RMPs. In keeping with the public involvement process that is part of all land use planning efforts, the BLM will consider public input regarding lands to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
11. Environmental protection and energy production are both desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and are not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities.
12. BLM will consider and analyze climate change impacts in its land use plans and associated NEPA documents, and will consider measures that may reduce global carbon emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases.
13. The PEIS will comply with the Geothermal Steam Act, as amended, and the legislative directives set forth in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
14. Geospatial data will be automated within a Geographic Information System (GIS) to facilitate discussions of the affected environment, formulation of alternatives, analysis of environmental consequences, and display of results.