Assessment of Social and Economic Capabilities – USDI Bureau of Land Management

Final Report – Task Order HAF063F26

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Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management contracted with our group to provide an external assessment of their social and economic needs and capabilities and to provide our advice on ways they might be able to fill those needs. We have undertaken this study in the context of the agency's need to understand changing social values as it makes important management decisions regarding the nation's public lands. As part of the information gathering of this project, we have reviewed a small, select sample of BLM documents, interviewed BLM employees currently in social science positions, conducted a telephone survey of BLM employees, and interviewed a sample of BLM Resource Advisory Council members.

We were asked to answer 4 questions regarding BLM's capabilities in conducting social and economic assessments:

1. What social and economic capabilities does BLM currently possess and how are they utilized?
2. What types of social and economic information are needed to adequately support BLM's current and anticipated management responsibilities?
3. What capabilities are needed to collect, analyze, and integrate such information into agency decision making, and how can these be obtained?
4. Relative to the needed information and capabilities identified above, what are BLM's deficiencies, if any, and in what priority should they be addressed?

In this assessment we provide our evaluation for each question in turn. We were also provided with a list of "guiding issues" subsequent to the contract award and will address these to the extent our information is sufficient. We also provide additional information based on the different parts of our assessment. In providing our answer to these four questions, an initial step was to consider an ideal use of social and economic information for planning and impact assessment in an RMP or EIS. We realize that our perception of an ideal set of economic and social information may not be realistic but the ideal situation does provide a benchmark in which to compare our assessment and recommendations.

In this ideal planning document, all current resource values for both market and non-market goods and services would be detailed. Diverse stakeholders' preferences for various outputs would be defined. Valuation of non-market ecosystem goods and services on a basis comparable to market valuation would allow easier evaluation of the trade-offs involved. The assessment would evaluate how use values and future resource availability change with each alternative. This would require a clear definition of the current situation with an objective and quantified way of estimating value change. Altered economic conditions would be processed through both firm-level and regional economic models to estimate how the proposed changes in policy would affect commodity outputs and regional employment and income. A social analysis would be conducted with a clear definition of various stakeholders' desired outcome and level of satisfaction under each alternative. Gainers and losers would be identified. The document would present a clear picture of the social and economic tradeoffs from adopting alternative land use policies. Given this ideal planning document as the desired standard, in the following summary and supplementary appendices the Assessment Team (AT) suggests actions that are both necessary and feasible.

Summary of the Four Research Components

BLM Planning Documents

The Assessment Team reviewed a small sample of BLM documents that were provided to us. The main purpose of this review was to examine how social and economic information was collected and used in various planning-type documents and how it differed across regions. Attention was paid to methods, how it was used to describe existing conditions, how it was used in making decisions, and who conducted the analysis. The AT utilized a form with common questions for each document (Appendix A).

The document review was sorted by programmatic EISs, resource management plans, environmental assessments, and general planning documents. Our findings can be summarized as:

- Generally, economic information is presented in a more adequate fashion than social information. These were generally in the form of tables derived from government sources with little interpretation.
- Secondary economic information is mostly used either from the author's search or through the Economic Profile System. There does not seem to be an analog for EPS on the social side.
- Very little social information is collected on a community basis where it would be most useful. Since most secondary data are collected at the county level, if that is the only data source, then communities of place and communities of interest will likely be missed.
- Documents deemed best in their use of social and economic information seemed to have been written by those familiar with the communities and their economic histories. Without that context and familiarity, write-ups were generally limited to addressing data tables or very general statements.
- Many documents rely on adaptive management concepts, but do not address how economic and social information will be monitored over time. Generally, thresholds for making changes in the adaptive management process are not adequately identified.
- There is very little economic or social analysis of the information provided. The use of IMPLAN for regional economic impacts was about the only formal analysis of alternatives, and it was limited.
- In cases when analysis was done or specific information was provided, it was often incomplete (e.g., only costs and not benefits).
- In other cases, lack of social or economic information may have been appropriate given the scale of the issue. In those cases, we would have expected that social and economic information and analysis would have been done in a higher order document, but have no knowledge that was done.
- There were few instances where social and economic information appeared to be used in decision-making.
- The sample of documents provided was not large enough to assess across regions. This would probably not have been a useful exercise in any case.

BLM Social Science Employee Interviews

BLM provided the AT with a list of current BLM employees in social science positions. Additional names of former BLM social science employees were also provided. The AT divided up the names and contacted each person on the list by email followed by a telephone interview. Each respondent who agreed to be interviewed was asked a set of open ended questions (Appendix B.2) in a semi-structured format – follow-up questions to delve deeper in a response were allowed. Responses were evaluated for themes.

The main points can be summarized as:

- Make better use of social and economic information and impact analysis for all levels of planning.
- Social science data collection over time needs to be instituted.
- Social science data need to be used better in all activities.
- Increase the number of social and economic positions and developing career tracks.
- Link the use of social and economic analysis to management performance evaluation.
- Use consultants carefully to perform social and economic data collection and analysis.

Basic findings were:

1. There was a general pessimism that BLM would find it a priority to fill or refill social scientist positions in any great number. Vacancies held at the state level would be filled with "real" scientists.
2. There was a perception that the public was demanding social science information from BLM but that BLM would likely only respond if litigation was filed (reactive rather than proactive).
3. Opinions varied as to how BLM can effectively incorporate social science into its activities.
   - Using outside consultants effectively depends on having an employee that can write the contract and oversee the work being done.
   - Temporary employees brought on can face security obstacles and not be familiar enough with BLM culture to effectively get their work done.
   - New hires placed at least at the state office level could be marginally effective if allowed to do their job with districts and field offices.
   - New hires placed at the district office level could get to know the communities.
   - Establishing roving enterprise teams for planning could be the most effective use of employees.
4. Cross training of social scientists would be desirable. Managers tend to view social science as one discipline and expect that an economist can do sociology and vice versa.
5. Training for managers and planners as to what social scientists do and how the information derived can be used both in day-to-day operations and in decision-making is needed.
6. There is little time for collecting primary data. This is especially a problem for sociology since the issues tend to be community based. Information gleaned from tools such as the Economic Profile System (EPS) are at the county level and do not tell about the social nuances, especially when dealing with communities of place versus communities of interest.
7. Monitoring for adaptive management will not likely take place given competing demands. Since many plans ascribe to this management philosophy, this could lead to issues for BLM as plans are implemented.

There is general consensus that there is not a career track for social scientists in BLM. For a career, the view is that you either move to an administration, management, or planner position or move out. Over the past 30 years this has changed from having (mostly) economists at districts where they could move up to state, regional, and Washington office positions. The few sociologists hired during that period tended to be more towards "social workers" which was not what BLM needed. While most of the experienced respondents appeared very satisfied with their careers, they were very pessimistic about the future for the discipline within BLM, and had moved from doing social and economic studies and analysis into planning. Some respondents had a desire to do more analysis and use economic and social science tools in their jobs. Additionally, while other specialists seem to have both career tracks and training programs, there is little in the way of training for social scientists that will help them further their careers or to do better jobs.

Respondents seem to like the current direction of social science assessments as program concepts are coming from the ground up through Washington and then spread back out. They like the emphasis on collaboration, but there is some concern that it is only lip service and really depends on the individual manager. EPS is seen as both a move towards at least looking at community indicators, but by itself probably not that useful for impact assessments. Also, EPS data are at the county level while the concerns are often at the community level (EPS-C does provide data at census-designated places).

Adaptive management requires good monitoring. For various reasons, little monitoring is being done in either the biological or social arenas that would be helpful for adaptive management. Because fewer people are in social science positions, little field work is being done other than through contracts.

The general view is that social sciences have very little role in agency decision-making currently. However, there is a range of views from social science having little to no role in decision-making to it having a larger role. This seems to be based on the type of resource use being considered. For example, it is viewed as very important when thinking about recreation and not important when thinking about oil and gas as if "there are no human consequences of these activities."

There is a view that social and economic information might set some of the context for planning/policy efforts, but they do not drive the decision. Social and economic information is disclosed to satisfy whatever mandate is present, but the decision is made without general consideration of the social and economic impacts. Occasionally social and economic information may marginally modify priorities, but that is pretty rare. A few project areas, such as Desert Land Entries, or energy may be driven by economic analysis, but most are not. Emphasis for analysis (primarily economic) depends mostly on the commodity being discussed (forestry, minerals, wildfire, grazing), but other uses generally are not considered within this realm.

There were several ideas on how to expand the role of social and economic data and analysis this if it ever became a priority for BLM. Developing a database of expertise within the agency, at universities, and private contractors would help. Developing partnerships with other agencies or

entities that are conducting some kind of social science monitoring would be desirable. The same issues of contracting the work out that has been expressed before on quality and oversight remain. However, development of scope of work and other contracting language could help. It might be that BLM ought to look at different ways of contracting (e.g., regionally in areas with known hot issues). There should also be an effort to figure out how to use existing information more effectively. This may take an agency cultural change.

BLM Employee Survey

The Social Science Survey Unit (SSRU) at the University of Idaho was contracted in July 2006 to conduct a random web-based survey of all BLM employees that could potentially be involved in using or collecting social science data. After many months of discussion with the BLM and AT a telephone survey was decided on. The telephone survey resulted in 1251 completed surveys and a 68% completion rate. These interviews were analyzed across national, state and local levels within BLM. Much of the interview schedule was structured to answer the four questions on page 3 that were the primary charge of the AT therefore the following summary will likewise address those same four questions. Furthermore these data are amenable to quantitative comparison across level within the agency. A copy of the interview schedule and detailed discussion of methods and analysis is located in appendix C

1. **What social and economic capabilities does BLM currently possess and how are they utilized?**
   - Most BLM employees have at least some experience with the social sciences (Table 5). Nearly 41 percent have degrees, coursework, or formal training, with 10 percent having a degree. An additional 46 percent have at least some training or experience, with 11 percent having extensive training or experience. Only 12 percent indicated no training or experience with social sciences. No training or experience was more prevalent at the state level than at the sub-state or national levels.
   - The BLM tends to use informal methods to gather social science information (Table 7). Nearly 35 percent of respondents indicated scoping meetings with stakeholders were most often used, while one-third indicated informal stakeholder communications were used. Less than 7 percent reported that formal stakeholder interviews were often used, only 6 percent reported that secondary data was used, and only 2 percent reported that surveys were most often used. Approximately 8 percent of respondents indicated that none of the methodologies listed were typically used. This number rose to 19 percent at the national level.
   - BLM employees who are not social scientists are generally responsible for conducting social and economic analysis (51 percent) (Table 11). This is particularly true at the sub-state level (58 percent). Nearly 13 percent of respondents indicated that BLM social scientists were mostly responsible (but only 7 percent at the sub-state level), followed by private contractors (12 percent). Importantly, 12 percent of respondents indicated that no one in their office addresses these issues. This number rose to 15 percent at the national level.
   - When asked about how well the agency's social science information was meeting the agency's needs, most respondents indicated that they were being adequately, but not well met (Tables 16-21). Recreation management (2.59 rating on a scale from 1 = high to 5 = low), land use planning (2.65), and public participation (2.75) were rated higher. Trends

monitoring (3.15), project implementation (2.97), and community development (2.77) were rated lower. Individuals at the state level tended to rate the adequacy of social science information higher than individuals at the sub-state level. Individuals at the national level tended to rate the adequacy of the information the lowest of the three strata.

- BLM employees, across all strata, indicated that the primary barrier to conducting social science research and data collection in the agency was that it was not a priority within the BLM (Table 22). Nearly 28 percent of respondents indicated that competing priorities was the primary barrier. Another 25 percent indicated lack of funding was the primary barrier and another 13 percent indicated it was not a priority among managers. Only 9 percent indicated that the primary barrier was insufficient training and only 6 percent indicated that it was lack of data sources for social and economic information.
- Most BLM employees felt that social science information, research, or data at least sometimes influenced management decisions at their office (Table 24). Approximately one-third felt that social science information usually or always influenced management decisions, while 46 percent felt that it sometimes did. Only 18 percent felt that it rarely or never did. Sub-state and state level respondents were more likely to think that social science information influenced management decisions at their offices than did respondents at the national level.

2. <u>What types of social and economic information are needed to adequately support BLM's current and anticipated management responsibilities?</u>

- Most BLM employees indicated that social science information was valuable at all levels of the agency (Tables 8 - 10). It is seen as most valuable at the district office level (2.13), somewhat less valuable at the field office or resource area level (2.28), and least valuable at the state or national level (2.48). Individuals at the state and national levels tended to consider social science information as more valuable across all levels of the agency than individuals at the sub-state level.
- Most BLM employees indicated that identifying, analyzing, overseeing contracts for social and economic information was important at their office (Tables 12 - 14). Using social science data for listing alternatives and designing mitigation strategies was also seen as important (Table 15). Identification was seen as most important (2.18), followed by listing of alternatives and designing mitigation strategies (2.21), analysis of social and economic information (2.27), and overseeing contracts (2.51). Individuals at the state level tended to consider social and economic information more important at their offices than did individuals at sub-state levels. Individuals at the national level tended to consider social and economic information the least important of the three strata.
- BLM employees indicated that if the agency were to increase the social science capabilities of its current staff, the most useful training would be conflict mitigation and resolution (37 percent) (Table 23). Following conflict mitigation and resolution were training in economic principles (17 percent), sociology and human behavior (14 percent), surveys and interviews (13 percent), and non-market values (12 percent). The need for conflict mitigation and resolution training was seen as greater at the sub-state and state levels. The need for training in economic principles, sociology and human behavior, and non-market values was seen as greater at the national level.
- BLM employees indicated that the most underserved program areas with respect to social science were recreation (17 percent) and energy, minerals, and mining (11 percent)

(Table 25). Recreation was seen as particularly underserved at the sub-state level (23 percent). Following recreation and minerals were planning (7 percent), range management (6 percent), fire management (4 percent - but 9 percent at the national level), forestry and timber (3 percent), land, realty, and land use planning (3 percent), fish and wildlife (3 percent), natural resources (3 percent), and cultural resources (3 percent). The most frequent response to this question was no opinion (26 percent).

- Across all strata, the vast majority of respondents working in the recreation program area indicated that non-market values were important to very important in making planning decisions (78 percent) (Table 26). The majority of these individuals also indicated that non-market values were poorly to very poorly used in planning decisions (51 percent) (Table 27). However, 28 percent indicated that the use was adequate by the BLM planning process and 21 percent indicated that the non-market values were well to very well used.
- With the rapid change in some areas of the western U.S., the respondents working in the recreation program area indicated that the top priority in BLM planning should be community vision (51 percent) (Table 28). This was seen as more important at the national level (60 percent), than at the sub-state level (46 percent), with the state level at 52 percent. After community vision the priorities were seen as community stability (22 percent), historic community identity (10 percent), and disproportionally affected minority or subsistence populations (6 percent).
- Although they were all considered important, respondents working in the recreation program area indicated that providing information to recreation site users about the impact of use, regulations, environmental education, and site appreciation was the most important issue (1.31) (Tables 29-34). Next, in order of importance were understanding and addressing conflict between user groups (1.47), improved assessment of visitor use-patterns for specific locations (1.58), determination of land management tradeoffs (1.70), improved assessment of visitor satisfaction with types and levels of services at recreation sites (1.77), and measuring use-values that will likely differ by user groups so that economic values are understood and can be described (1.87).
- The most frequent response from BLM employees working in the fire management program area about needs for social science application was communication and collaboration with the public (33 percent) (Table 35). At the state level the response rate for this category was 52 percent. Next in order of importance was community education about fire prevention and safety (26 percent), agency and community coordination (21 percent), and knowledge transfer to fire managers (13 percent).
- In terms of the wildland-urban interface, respondent working in the fire management program area indicated that the BLM's priorities should be primarily educational about fire prevention (46 percent) and community assistance (41 percent) instead of direct fire protection activities (13 percent) (Table 36).
- The majority of BLM employees in the forestry program area indicated that the emphasis in stewardship contracting should be primarily or mostly on resource management (55 percent) (Table 37). On the other hand, nearly 40 percent of respondents thought that equal consideration should be given to both resource management and community and economic development. Only 4 percent indicated that the emphasis should be primarily or mostly on community and economic development rather than resource management.

- BLM employees working in the grazing program area were fairly evenly divided in terms of what they felt was most important for completing the environmental assessment necessary for issuing a grazing permit and between identifying public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing (34 percent) and information about changes in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits (31 percent) (Table 38). Understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation was seen as less important (21 percent). These respondents also indicated that the BLM would benefit more from improved social science information regarding public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing (43 percent), than either information about changes in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits (28 percent) or understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation (23 percent) (Table 39).
- BLM employees working primarily in the energy and mineral development program area were evenly divided in terms of what they felt were the most critical social issue needing assessment in terms of energy and mineral development between user conflicts (24 percent) and economic/social effects of boom/bust cycles (24 percent) (Table 40). The effects on community infrastructure were also seen as important (20 percent). Of less importance were liability and safety issues (14 percent) and impacts on amenity values (9 percent).
- BLM employees working in the land and reality program area were almost evenly divided in terms of what they felt would be most useful to land exchange decisions, which were not always considered, between cost/benefit ratio (34 percent) and non-market transactions (33 percent) (Table 41). The costs associated with the exchange (14 percent) and market benefits (10 percent) were seen as less useful or as having already been considered.
- In terms of how the agency could make more effective use of social science information in the Resource Management Planning process (Table 42), the majority of employees offered no response. District and area office personnel felt that the information could be used most effectively in identifying attitudes toward management alternatives (6 percent), the characteristics and needs of local communities (5 percent) and use in action plans and outcome assessments (5 percent). At the State and National levels, respondents felt the most important use of social science information was in obtaining public input and identifying local community characteristics and needs.
- BLM employees indicate that social science information needed for a resource management plan included (Table 42): 1) Information regarding the composition and beliefs of the communities impacted by a specific plan (149 responses), especially the economic structure of the local community and its ability to respond to change and its resiliency to boom and bust growth patterns; 2) Information on the desires of the general public in terms of what they want from their public lands (139 responses); 3) Information regarding the traits of those who utilize the public land – who, where, why, and how many (78 responses); 4) Projections of demographic/economic data into the future (75 responses); and 5) Analysis of the cost/benefits in terms of the local economy (76 responses).

3. **<u>What capabilities are needed to collect, analyze, and integrate such information into agency decision making, and how can these be obtained?</u>**
   - BLM has more capabilities in the social sciences than indicated in the rough initial categorization provided to the Assessment Team at the start of this project. Respondents to the survey indicate that 10 percent of the employees have a degree in social science or economics (Table 5) and another 31 percent have taken social science course work or had formal training. Those individuals having some informal training or experience amount to another 35 percent of the employees. Quite obviously, there are a substantial number of personnel within the agency with degrees and experience in the social sciences.
   - BLM may be able to recruit current employees who have experience in the social sciences but are currently working in other areas for the agency (Table 5). Particularly those employees with degrees or extensive training or experience.
   - If the BLM is truly interested in determining public opinion regarding resource management issues, the agency needs to enhance its capabilities in terms of survey research and/or use of focus groups.
   - BLM employees indicated that sources of information that would be helpful to manage social and economic impacts of program areas included (Table 43): 1) Access to more demographic data including age/sex distributions, population, and housing characteristics (167 responses); 2) Ability to access surveys of attitudes, values, and resource usage data (213 responses); 3) Talking to people through public meetings, focus groups, and scoping efforts (94 responses); 4) Case studies or ethnography (26 responses); 5) Need to partner more with universities and consultants (37 responses); 6) Hiring more social scientists (35 responses); 7) Accessible web sites or data portals (40 responses); 8) Additional education/training (38 responses); and 9) Inter-agency, inter-governmental sharing of data and information (36 responses).
   - BLM employees indicated that ways to enhance the use social science research other than by new staffing included (Table 44): 1) Contract with outside agencies (129 responses); 2) Better access to university expertise (65 responses) – cooperative agreement and graduate student assistance; 3) Use of surveys that would measure public opinion and/or usage behavior (104 responses); 4) Better in-house research materials (74 responses); 5) Availability of a comprehensive web site for data and on-line learning (49 responses); 6) More multiple agency and agency and local/state cooperation in the sharing of information (29 responses); 7) Education/training of existing BLM employees (328 responses); 8) Office needs funding in order to gather/analyze social science data (59 responses.

4. **<u>Relative to the needed information and capabilities identified above, what are BLM's deficiencies, if any, and in what priority should they be addressed?</u>**
   - In order to improve its capabilities conducting social and economic research and data collection needs to become more of priority within the BLM (Table 22).

General Conclusions

There is a high awareness about the need for social and economic research and data collection within BLM. At all levels, nearly 90% of the survey respondents rated the importance of social science information, research, and data as having a moderate to high need. Many perceive the

major role of social science research and data collection within BLM to be identification of public land users, their usage patterns and their beliefs and desires about important priorities for public land management. Sources of information identified as top priorities for various BLM programs included surveys of user attitudes about public land uses, values, and community needs; and demographic data that define trends and community characteristics and desires. Managers had a higher appreciation of social sciences than non-managers. As would be expected, appreciation for the social sciences increased with the level of training and experience in social sciences. Even minimal training efforts of staff and managers by BLM will improve appreciation of the social sciences within the agency.

Many survey respondents believed that better understanding the demographics and values of public land users would help improve management decisions and improve BLM's interactions with the public. This was perceived to be the major role and need to maintain and enhance social science staff within BLM. Public outreach and interaction were identified as key areas where social science information and research could improve BLM planning efforts.

Just over one in four BLM offices currently utilize a trained social scientist to conduct and analyze social science data. Social science staff are concentrated at the National and State levels. If social science issues are examined at the District of field office, the social science analysis is likely done by someone without a social science background. Non-social science staff members within BLM are currently responsible for over half of the social and economic analysis that is included in BLM planning documents.

Competing priorities, lack of funds, and "not a priority" among managers were identified as fundamental barriers for conducting social science research and data collection within BLM. This combination of factors was mentioned by 70% of survey respondents. Many perceived a needed educational program to raise the awareness about the importance of social science data within BLM. Managers spend their budget where their priorities lie and without improved awareness survey respondents largely believed social science research will remain a low priority within BLM.

Though social and economic data were given a high level of importance within BLM, only about one-third of employees across the agency indicated confidence that social and economic data and information mattered for management decisions. This reinforces perceptions that these data do not matter, or at least not as much as other data for setting land management policies.

Recognizing limited opportunities for wide-spread expansion or even replacement of social science staff within BLM, the education and training of existing staff about social science research and analysis was identified by about one-fourth of survey respondents as the way they should enhance and maintain social science research within BLM. Yet, comments were also made that non-social science staff have no desire to become trained social scientists. Contracting with outside agencies and conducting public opinion polls were also identified as alternatives, as was the need to raise the awareness about the usefulness of the social sciences within the BLM and by the general public.

Resource Advisory Council Interviews

It was decided that the best representatives of the interested public were the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members who are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice to BLM (BLM and USDA Forest Service in Oregon and Washington) under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The SSRU was contracted to conduct telephone interviews with the RACs. RACs are divided into 3 groups and the goal was to obtain 25 completed interviews within each group. A copy of the interview schedule and more in-depth analysis of the interviews are located in Appendix D. For this summary, data are presented by five broad issues confronting BLM and its relationship to the American public. Furthermore, many of the questions involved qualitative comments provided by the RAC members; consequently this summary provides for these open-ended comments.

1. ***BLM's social science needs exist within a larger context of controversy embroiling contemporary public land management.***

In this context, simply increasing the frequency, degree, or quality of social science analysis will not provide a solution to the legal, political, and environmental controversy grid-locking resource management in many areas. However, the absence of the social and economic evidence of benefits *and* impacts often exacerbates interest group pressures by keeping those involved in debating policy outcomes unaware of the likely true effects on human communities. This fact strongly supports the need for the agency to move beyond the failing baseline level of social and economic activities. Most (but not all) RAC members appear supportive of such a priority as a means of assisting the agency out of the mire of conflict and pessimism managers feel trapped within. RAC members poignantly described this perspective:

> *The problem is not just specific to BLM. It's the whole process re: development in this country. This process has become so adversarial; BLM can't do a good job even if they wanted to. Stakeholders show up to argue, not solve problems. The process the BLM uses doesn't get things where they need to go in terms of public input. There has to be balance, and no one can just have their way, as we all need to make sacrifices. The preservationists are going to bring the economy to a halt. They're going to bring energy production and power generation to a halt.*
>
> *The most important issue is to comply with FLPMA with respect to multiple use and multiple yield. Some special interest groups want to narrow down the use of the land. There are many BLM employees who occasionally say BLM stands for the Bureau of Lawsuit Management.*

2. ***Within the RAC system, a tension exists about the "true" or "main" mission of the BLM that mirrors the internal questioning of some as to whether social and economic analysis is genuinely and formally a part of the agency's mission.***

Whether it is a plea for more weed management or greater scrutiny over oil and gas drilling, a contingent of RAC members (across the subgroups) questions the notion of a deficiency in BLM's social science needs and capacities. This type of dilemma is not surprising given the breadth and diversity of stakeholder groups that make up RACs. When coupled with the BLM's

history to emphasize resource management to the neglect of local community impacts, consider community development objectives, and focus on designing effective public participation strategies, the effect can become compounded.

To address this facet of the problem will require a shift in organizational culture tied to resource allocation / redistribution, the scale of decision-making authority regarding social science analysis, and the development of an encompassing set of educational materials for the internal dialogue that is currently avoided. As a reminder of this challenge, reflect on the following RAC member quote that discusses BLM's community development efforts as too great; it reveals the multiple world views not necessarily in synchronization with the broader and evolving mandates given to public land / resource management agencies.

> *From both sides, BLM's primary job is to protect our public lands. Community development objectives generally require use of public lands, and the more they can use the better. So, I think they have been supportive, perhaps more than they should have been. Maybe should have leaned more towards preserving and protecting.*

3. *Similar to the general public, divergent perceptions abound within RACs about tribal expectations and rights with respect to public lands management and the BLM.*

While not true of all RAC members by any means, some of those interviewed expressed perspectives about BLM's work with tribes as simply the lack of will among the tribal members. While that value could exist for anyone, tribal or non-tribal, invoking this claim in the context of a RAC and the BLM's social science needs, it falls short of understanding the likelihood of how and why indigenous perspectives may guide behavior differently than occurs in non-native cultures and value systems.

In this investigation, an emphasis was placed on seeking input related to tribal members' and communities' interface with RACs and the BLM land / resource management. In the western United States, where either use or protection of natural resources often remain a limiting factor to some activities, many tribal communities continue to experience disproportionate levels of poverty or lack of opportunity often tied to public lands policy, access, or uses. As domestic dependent nations, however, tribes do expect considerations of justice, equity, and fairness that not all agency and RAC members understand or heed.

4. *For the RAC members who do support the social science dimensions in BLMs mission, they often see firsthand some of the direct impacts of limited funding and staffing hindering the agency's ability to mobilize social and economic input.*

For some issues, the lack of analytical capacity intersects with how RAC members perceived other trends – such as the population growth rate among Hispanics – and what those trends signify for public lands management. It may seem logical to suggest the BLM needs to move toward contemporary frameworks for conducting analyses that include an interdisciplinary array of perspectives, including social science analysts. However, this analysis confirms the obvious and known concept that structural and cultural barriers embedded in such a large bureaucratic organization compound these trends.

5. ***The "advisory" capacity of RACs may limit the ability of the Councils, or individuals within them, to develop the leadership capacity to overcome the factors listed in #1-4 above.***

As with most, if not all, organizations that evolve in size and scope over time, the role of the RAC suffers from an inability to empower a higher level of decision-making, especially in relation to local community needs and issues understood better at the RAC level than higher ones. Paradoxically, these interface points with communities and people, lie at the heart of the purposes and reasons that RACs exist. RACs enable the agency to reach out to and engage the public, but even its members sometimes feel disempowered for action:

> *Documents are written to support the conclusion the BLM wants. I question the value of the RAC sometimes. It's hard to find a sense of purpose. We get information, but don't have a chance to actually do much.*

Addressing these types of challenges will certainly not occur rapidly, and for good reason. However, if BLM continues to neglect these dimensions of its resource management mission, the problems associated with people and place *where* the BLM resources occur will likely have negative effects to the productive capacities of the RAC system and to BLM.

- Management of the public land resources within the geographic area covered by the RAC;
- Implementation of resource plans;
- Resolution of land-use conflicts; and
- Assurance of public land use and management plan decisions.

Although each RAC has a separate charter to specify its particular operating procedures as well as parameters it uses to make recommendations to the DFO, RACs do not make recommendations on budget or personnel issues. Representatives to the RAC serve for 3-year terms, with an option to be appointed for a second term. One-third of the appointments are staggered for new or re-appointment each year. Those serving on a RAC must comply with that RACs charter to avoid ethical and fiduciary conflicts of interest.

What Social and Economic Capabilities Does BLM Currently Possess and How are they Utilized?

Based upon our assessment of the results of our studies, BLM currently has very limited capability to conduct social or economic assessments, monitoring and evaluation at any scale and even less capability to be involved significantly in planning processes, let alone day-to-day activities. Given its current staffing levels and job assignments, this is not likely to change. The employee survey indicates that there are a significant number of employees that have social science degrees and even more with social science training, but that is not their job.

BLM would seem to have 3 options in the short-term. Their main option at this point is to contract social science work. The second option is to identify those employees trained in social sciences and incorporate those duties into their positions. The third option is to use the

Economic Profile System (EPS) and train employees in its use as a surrogate for primary information. EPS is an attempt to summarize existing federal government data into a spreadsheet and graphic format for use at different management levels. The EPS can supply rudimentary economic and social information, but with no analysis or significant socio-economic interpretation of that data. EPS only provides a way to display readily available data from a variety of federal agencies.

Measuring BLM's social and economic capabilities against the ideal standard outlined earlier, the AT's review of BLM planning documents has led to some general conclusions. With respect to BLM's current capabilities, using data from the EPS and other secondary data, BLM has the ability to define some limited baseline economic conditions including population trends, employment levels by commodity group, income levels, etc. The BLM has little if any capacity to gather primary data. The AT believes that primary data are crucial, especially for social assessments. The inability of the federal government to conduct local surveys or even use focus groups is a critical failure in its ability to conduct any kind of social assessment or impact analysis.

As is true of all resource evaluations, non-market values are largely ignored or described only in a qualitative way. BLM can only hope to improve consideration of non-market values as better tools are developed and with site specific application of existing tools. Because many of the resources BLM manages are site specific, non-market valuation of those resources will require site-specific information rather than general information. Consultants with this expertise are the logical alternative. At this point, the only way to know which non-market goods and services are important for a particular planning process or for day-to-day operations is to systematically address the social systems within which BLM operates. The only way to do this is through surveys or focus groups. Otherwise, the information gleaned from scoping and informal contacts only provides a very biased view.

The studies reviewed were much better when BLM social science staff or consultants doing the assessment had local knowledge. Generally, the analyses conducted by BLM appeared to be adequate when in-house social science and economics staff was involved in the analysis, either doing the analysis themselves or carefully monitoring the efforts of contractors. The analysis was not adequate when social science staff was not involved. The key to a good analysis was local knowledge and adequate BLM staff to do or oversee the social and economic analyses. Social science staff at the local level can also better inform non-social science managers about the potential importance and use of social and economic data included in planning documents.

Another identified limitation was sound interpretation. In most instances baseline economic and sociological data were presented but limited analysis and interpretation of the data in the context of the assessment failed to evaluate how social and economic conditions would change with each alternative. There was little insight as to what the data meant in the context of the assessment.

Telephone interviews with current BLM social and economic staff indicated that they have moved largely to the issue of NEPA compliance allowing little, if any, time for social and economic analysis and interpretation. In many cases there is also little if any expertise to do social and economic analyses at the planning level. With current employment levels, BLM must rely on secondary data and contractors for analysis. A realistic and necessary expectation is that BLM must build beyond the current level of the social and economic staff to adequately perform

oversight of the social and economic assessment and planning. BLM staff must be maintained to write sound contracts and have the ability of reviewing and assessing the results of these contracts with a local emphasis.

With limited positions in the social sciences, BLM has inadequate ability to conduct sociological assessments and analysis, let alone understand in a critical manner how the BLM activities interact with local, regional, and national communities. To improve these assessments, BLM must hire more social scientists and they have to improve their ability to do survey work to gather primary data or find a way to tap into existing employees with a social science background. Sound social assessments require identification of attitudes and beliefs about what is important, especially at the local level. BLM does not currently have the ability to gather that data. One option at the national level would be to join forces with the USDA Forest Service as they conduct surveys for the Resources Planning Act Assessments.[1]

A strong linkage between cultural, social and economic systems and how those linkages change within each alternative is necessary for the analysis of any proposed BLM action. This requires capabilities in evaluating firm level impacts, regional and community impacts, and in doing qualitative social assessments. Involvement of social science staff must be included from the beginning of the project and the analysis must be conducted within a legal environment where the work can be conducted within a realistic timeframe. The bureaucracy of BLM seems to be a major hindrance.

BLM has a long history of preparing planning documents. Yet, there has been little, if any, monitoring conducted following plan implementation to learn from past experiences. There is no feedback loop. All the rhetoric about "adaptive management" or "ecosystem management" requires that monitoring of the right things at the right scale are imperative. We believe as key planning documents are implemented that a process should be developed to periodically evaluate the adequacy of the planning effort and to compare anticipated versus realized impacts. This comparison could be very useful as new planning efforts are undertaken and provide solid evidence about what anticipated impacts might be in new assessments.

What types of social and economic information are needed to adequately support BLM's current and anticipated management responsibilities?

BLM is guided by various laws, regulations, and handbooks. The Land Use Planning Handbook includes Appendix D that covers the use of social and economic information in the planning process. Seven topical areas for social and economic analysis, together comprising nearly thirty variables, plus multiple sub-variables, are used to evaluate the consequences of BLM decisions. Many of these variables can be addressed through secondary data sources that are readily available to BLM employees or their contractors (e.g., U. S. census). Others can be measured

[1] Shields, D.J., I.M. Martin, W.E. Martin, and M.A. Haefele. 2002. Survey results of the American public's values, objectives, beliefs, and attitudes regarding forests and grasslands: A technical document supporting the 2000 USDA Forest Service RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-95. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, 111 p.

using secondary data that may have to be gathered from multiple sources (state and/or county reports) and some can be accessed only via primary field research. We outline the kinds of data that seem necessary to assess each category and provide our assessment of the adequacy of that data.

Demographic and Social Indicators are divided into four sub-topics: population, inequality, social difference, and social indicators, all of which are exemplified by variables that can be measured with secondary data. Some of these data are readily available through the US Census, Economic Profile System (EPS) or federal, state, or local governments. Many are available with trend analysis, albeit the latest data point could be several years old. The difficulty we find is that some of these social indicators also address values and needs, which are not amenable to secondary data.

Social Organization and Institutions include five sub-topics. Government, non-governmental institutions, communities of place, social groups and networks, and occupational and interest groups are all geared toward the collaboration of BLM and those impacted by BLM decisions. The first three are readily available through various governmental data sets. The latter two would require fieldwork or telephone interviews. However, all five variables would require primary data gathering to ascertain how collaboration occurs and how it is incorporated in BLM decisions.

Attitudes and Meanings are addressed by three sub-sets of variables: Local environmental attitudes and beliefs, significance of local land management decisions for various publics, and quality of life. Obviously all require access to primary data such as surveys, interviews or focus groups. Even more important, success in attaining such primary data requires extensive knowledge of the local populations and environment by researchers. Even mobile teams of researchers with social science expertise would likely not be successful in this endeavor.

Human Geography is represented by three variables. The spatial distribution of communities, roads and resources; land ownership and access; and culturally and socially significant places are partially mapped and obvious, but access may not be. Significant places may be well-known or identified differently by various cultural groups. Therefore measuring this area requires a combination of secondary and primary data, as well as knowledge of the local environment.

Economic Value includes interrelationships among producing sectors, non-market value of resources and activities, and economic dependence on BLM lands and resources. The first is most often currently measured with IMPLAN data to show economic change relationships, the data are limited by each level of disaggregation. But non-market values are an area where economics and social sciences are most intertwined. Both wage distributions and timber quality, for example, have both economic values, aesthetic components, make contributions to human well-being, and require a combination of quantitative and qualitative data. Dependence on BLM lands and resources can be measured with straightforward secondary data sources. The most obvious impact would be commodity extraction on BLM lands and their effects on community well-being, but recreational users might also be dependent on BLM land in terms of non-market values. These non-market values can be measured only by obtaining primary data, most likely from questionnaires or personal interviews.

Economic Income and Subsistence: Employment, personal income, economic diversity, and regional economic organization can all readily be measured with a secondary data snapshot. However, resilience and subsistence activities are harder to measure, and moreover, require some historical perspective and monitoring of policy decisions.

Public Finance and Government Services: This is all public information available in secondary data sources, suggesting both historical change analysis, as well as projections and monitoring, but issues such as dependency and deferred maintenance require further analysis and local knowledge of the community.

Environmental Justice: This is an issue of identifying minority and low-income populations and the disproportionate impacts on those populations. Census data will identify ethnic groups and low-income people, but qualitative data is necessary to assess disproportionate impacts.

Summary

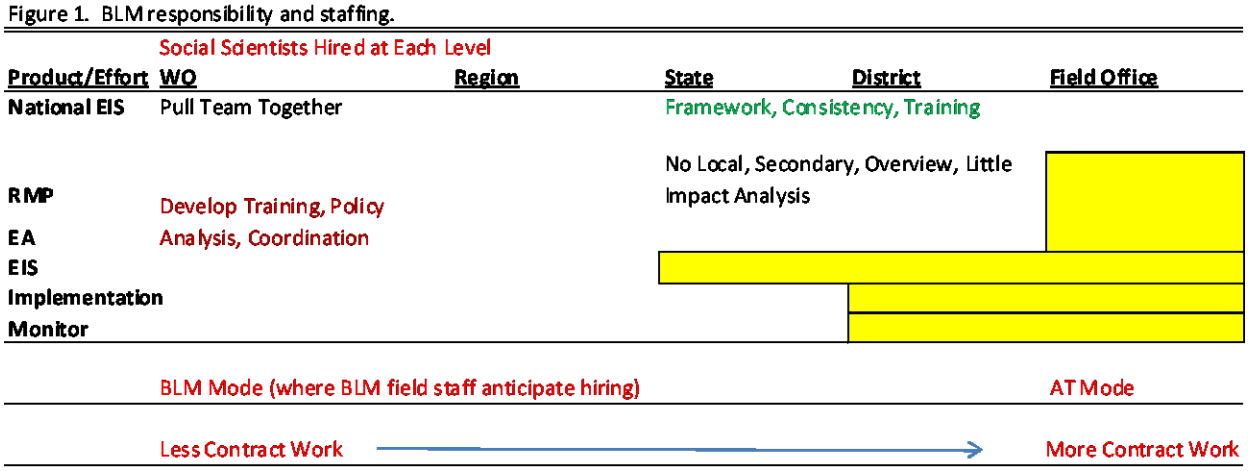
The review team found the planning topics for socio-economic impacts to be ambitious and necessary for a good evaluation of BLM decisions on human populations. Our assessment notes the need for both primary and secondary data on numerous variables. Furthermore, our evaluation notes that with few exceptions those variables with high priority tend to be obtained from secondary data, which is time sensitive and has value based quality controls performed by external (to BLM) agencies. On the other hand, those variables with low priority tend to be based on gathering data in the field through focus groups, questionnaires, interviews, or personal observations. We recognize that "priorities" may be assigned based on current realities of what the agency can do. However, relying solely on secondary data is not adequate in order to fully analyze social and economic information and impacts. Another issue the team wishes to note is the apparent separation of the "economic" from the "social." The team thinks that socio-economic implies an inter-dependency of the many variables addressed by non-economic social scientists and economists. The assessment team stresses the need for firsthand knowledge of local communities impacted by BLM actions. A focus on trend analysis involving historical data coupled with continuous monitoring is needed for both secondary and primary data. Finally, even the best of primary and secondary data is of little use unless there is the expertise to analyze and interpret these data.

What capabilities are needed to collect, analyze, and integrate such information into agency decision making, and how can these be obtained?

Telephone interviews with BLM social and economic staff indicated a general belief that BLM will replace some positions and that the hiring emphasis will be at the national or regional level. The assessment team believes this is not appropriate. Figure 1 highlights the different kinds of planning documents and activities produced by BLM from national issues (e.g. fire policy, grazing fee policy) down to local RMPs, EAs, EISs and the implementation and monitoring of rangelands and forests. The majority of potential social science based impacts and assessment needs occur at the district and field office level. We believe local knowledge is crucial in

providing sound social science assessments at this level. In many cases social science staff hired at the state office could provide sound input to planning efforts but social science staff familiar with the local economy and conditions would be much better at localized assessments. This was reflected in the documents reviewed. When the analysis had input from planners with social and economic training and local knowledge the document was sound.

Figure 1. BLM responsibility and staffing.



In Figure 1, we have attempted to summarize where we believe the social science needs are and what we view as the roles of each level of BLM to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. We believe that the Washington Office should primarily be involved in pulling teams together for national and regional EIS efforts as well as developing training programs, conducting policy analysis, and coordinating activities at lower levels.

At the state level, social scientists would provide the framework for social science assessment and analysis, help to coordinate various planning efforts for consistency, and provide training at the local levels. They could also be intimately involved in writing language for contracts and overseeing the products from the contractors. At the District and Field Office levels, social scientists would be charged with providing social science perspectives to planning teams as well as providing day-to-day advice to managers on potential impacts of decisions being made (the yellow boxes in Figure 1). It is important to note that if hires are only made at the State Office level, BLM gives up local knowledge and perspective and will likely only get general social science overviews based on secondary data with very little impact analysis.

New hires at the national level would be beneficial for the issues of national scope but they could provide little direction and adequate assessment for the many planning documents prepared at the district and field office level.

Another hiring proposal is to assemble a team of social science staff, perhaps at the Denver Center, to oversee social and economic work done at all levels. A major limitation would be little if any knowledge about local issues and the adequacy of documents prepared to assess local impacts.

A roving team that would reside in a local area would have a high startup cost for understanding local issues and economies and a high cost on their families with the expectation that they would move frequently from area to area. Early 1970-80 EISs prepared by similar planning teams generally failed because the introduced team had little understanding and empathy about issues of local concern. They came in, did the analysis and left. It was the local BLM staff that had to deal with local constituents and the law suits that arose.

Relative to the needed information and capabilities identified above, what are BLM's deficiencies, if any, and in what priority should they be addressed?

BLM Social Science Deficiencies:

Most of the deficiencies have been stated in earlier sections. We will restate some of the important ones we see in order to lead into our recommendations.

1. BLM has very few employees assigned to conduct social science impact analysis or to deal with day-to-day issues.
2. It is not clear from all of the information gathered that social science analysis is a BLM priority. It is certainly not on par with ecological analysis. We believe that this is a significant deficiency in the culture of BLM and is reflected in the documents we reviewed.
3. Data collection is limited to secondary data. Comments received through scoping processes and informal contacts with the public are the only direct information collected on social or economic issues. These are only representative of those that choose to show up and would be expected to be a biased view of importance. They are akin to driving down the interstate through public lands and making an assessment of the ecological conditions.
4. We understand that with very few positions available to be filled, the tendency is to fill positions at the highest level and hope that these positions can adequately cover needs at lower levels. We see this as a significant deficiency and results in social sciences becoming even less important at the field level.

We make the following recommendations:

1. Recognize the total social science capabilities within the agency and capitalize on this resource. The Employee Survey revealed that over 10 percent of the agency's employees have substantive background and training in social sciences (Appendix D, Table 5, Employee Survey). These resources and capabilities go much deeper than individuals carrying the title of "Sociologist", "Economist", "Archaeologist" and others. Find a way to make social science activities part of their job description.
2. Given these current employees, devise some means of getting this group "together" (via conference call, webcasts, symposia and/or face-to-face meetings) periodically. Rather than billing them as "Training Sessions", consider them as information sharing sessions. They would be structured as open discussions of issues going on in particular areas

(either geographic or programmatic), eliciting advise and input from others dealing with different issues, but involving the same social science techniques, data and analysis. What worked? What didn't? Why?

3. Replace and increase the number of BLM social and economic staff is crucial for future planning efforts. Hire at the district or field office level because local knowledge is critical for sound analysis and interpretation. The state office level is the lowest place where new hires could provide input, but we have reservations about their local knowledge or ability to build local knowledge. Clearly define roles of social science staff at different levels within BLM. We believe that higher levels should support field levels. We recognize the difficulty of this action within both the budgetary limits and other demands for personnel within BLM. However, if this step is not taken there is little hope that social science will be a part of BLM's approach to solving significant social issues related to natural resource management.
4. If contracting social science assessments is done, it is imperative to have a BLM social scientist oversee the contract and that the contractor has local knowledge and can participate fully in any planning team for this to be effective (see Recommendation 6 below). Again, we recognize the difficulties of having enough staff to oversee contracts at the local level, but we believe a combination of recommendations 1-3 can help alleviate this issue.
5. Investigate the feasibility of partnering with non-federal agencies for socio-economic data. Social assessments depend on survey data not easily allowed by OMB guidelines. Social analysis using primary data is lacking in most BLM documents because of the survey limitations. We recognize the difficulty of obtaining OMB survey permission and the obstacles for agency funding of such surveys to outside parties. We recommend working at the Department of the Interior level and across agencies within the Department to achieve this.
6. Incorporate social and economic staff into the planning process from the beginning. Bringing in a social scientist at the end of the planning process with a "what does our choice mean to communities and people" is too late in the process. We believe that the social scientist has to be involved from the very beginning in helping to design alternatives and evaluate changes. If BLM continues to rely on external contracts for socio-economic information, then it becomes essential that there is expertise at least at the state level to develop research plans, monitor field research, and to evaluate and interpret findings relative to the costs/benefits of planned endeavors.
7. Implement a feedback loop that periodically re-evaluates and compares projected to actual impacts in order to implement adaptive management from the social science perspective and improve future planning documents and efforts.
8. Consider developing an infrequent (one or two times a year) Social Science Newsletter/email publication within the agency to highlight issues being addressed by all BLM staff which has implications to the social science disciplines. The BLM survey found that those with no training or experience in the social sciences perceived there to be low value for social and economic research and analysis within BLM. Thus, appreciation of the social sciences could be improved with even minimal internal training and information about the discipline and its role within the agency.
9. Encourage or expect involvement in professional organizations. Only through the review of refereed publications and other literature, can one expect to keep up with what is going

on in the discipline(s). Interactions with professionals outside of the employing organization are an excellent development vehicle.

10. Someone with a social science background should be one of the appointees or staff people (a "Champion") in the Secretary of the Interior or BLM Director's office(s). This person should be on par with those directing ecological programs.
11. BLM's social science program should consider full involvement in projects such as the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (SRR), Sustainable Water Roundtable (SWR), and the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF) on par with ecologists, hydrologists, and others. The goal of the roundtables is to identify which economic, social, and ecological data (indicators) are likely to be useful to evaluate sustainability of the resources and the communities that depend on those resources. Recent advances within SRR have developed a conceptual framework to interpret the different data sets over time.[2] SRR and RSF are also working towards how this type of monitoring can be useful at different scales. SRR is working on pilot projects from the national, regional, and ranch level scales and is discussing state level projects. These sorts of efforts can supplement the data presented by projects such as the Economic Profile System in assisting with interpretation and application.

[2] Fox, William E., McCollum, Daniel W., Mitchell, John E., Swanson, Louis E., Kreuter, Urs P., Tanaka, John A., Evans, Gary R., Theodore Heintz, H., Breckenridge, Robert P. and Geissler, Paul H. 2009. An Integrated Social, Economic, and Ecologic Conceptual (ISEEC) Framework for Considering Rangeland Sustainability. Society & Natural Resources 22:593-606.

Appendix A.1 – Specific Comments on BLM Documents

BLM Document Review Executive Summary
Assessment Team

The Assessment Team (AT) reviewed a small sample of BLM documents that were provided to us. The main purpose of this review was to examine how social and economic information was used in various planning-type documents, how it differed across regions, and whether such information was used in decision-making. The AT utilized a form with common questions for each document (Appendix A.2).

The document review was sorted by programmatic EISs, resource management plans, environmental assessments, and general planning documents. Our findings can be summarized thus:

- Generally, economic information is presented in a more adequate fashion than social information. These were generally in the form of tables derived from government sources with little interpretation.
- Secondary economic information is mostly used either from the author's search or through the Economic Profile System. There does not seem to be an analog for EPS on the social side.
- Very little social information is collected on a community basis where it would be most useful. Since most secondary data are collected at the county level, if that is the only data source, then communities of place and communities of interest will likely be missed.
- Documents deemed best in their use of social and economic information seemed to have been written by those familiar with the communities and their economic histories. Without that context and familiarity, write-ups were generally limited to addressing data tables or very general statements.
- Many documents rely on adaptive management concepts, but do not address how economic and social information will be monitored over time. Generally, thresholds for making changes in the adaptive management process are not adequately identified.
- There is very little economic or social analysis of the information provided. The use of IMPLAN for regional economic impacts was about the only formal analysis of alternatives, and it was limited.
- In cases when analysis was done or specific information was provided, it was often incomplete (e.g., only costs and not benefits).
- In other cases, lack of social or economic information may have been appropriate given the scale of the issue. In those cases, we would have expected that social and economic information and analysis would have been done in a higher order document, but have no knowledge that was done.
- There were few instances where social and economic information appeared to be used in decision-making.
- The sample of documents provided was not large enough to assess across regions. This would probably not have been a useful exercise in any case.

BLM Document Review
Assessment Team

The Assessment Team (AT) reviewed a variety of documents provided by the BLM. As noted in our proposal, the purpose of the document review is to provide a baseline of what is currently being done by BLM in different kinds of social and economic analyses. We used our professional experience to evaluate the adequacy of the assessments and make recommendations determined to be the minimum level of information required. Themes identified were used to assess whether current needs and capabilities are adequate to do the analyses identified. The number of documents reviewed within the time frame has not allowed us to rigorously evaluate the variety of documents for consistency across regions; however, we were able to make general statements about differences noted in different regions.

The main caveat in what appears below is that the selected documents reviewed may not be representative of all documents produced by BLM. The sample of documents was also not controlled for timing or staffing available at the time of completion.

This summary and assessment follows two tracks, a general assessment follows the list of documents. We then discuss items of interest for the type of document and close with a sense of specific issues. This document review is one step in the process of our overall assessment. This information, plus information received in our interviews of social scientists and the telephone survey of BLM employees will provide the basic information used in developing the telephone survey of stakeholders.

While many of the comments below can be taken as being critical of these BLM documents, that is not our intention. In this part of the assessment process, we are only looking at what has been done in this small sample of documents. At this point, our intention is to provide what we would consider an adequate use and interpretation of social and economic information for these kinds of documents in our final report. It is premature to make any such assessment at this point.

The documents reviewed by type are in the following list.

Environmental Impact Statements

Final Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota, and Portions of South Dakota, January 2001.

Benefit-Cost Analysis/Unfunded Mandates Reform Act Analysis, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 43 CFR – 3809 – Surface Management

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project, Sublette County, Wyoming.

Draft: Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Resource Management Plans

Yuma Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan

Farmington Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Vol. 1. Ch 1-5

Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

King Range – National Conservation Area Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, October 2005

Environmental Assessments

Burning Man 2006-2010 Special Recreation Permit NV-020-06-EA-11

Weaver Mountain Fuels Treatment Project EA

Planning

Central Idaho Fire Planning Unit Fire Management Plan

General Comments

The social science sections in the reviewed documents were prepared by a variety of sources including BLM employees (with or without training in the social sciences), consultants, and in some cases we were unable to determine who performed the analysis. In the case of consultants, it was not always clear whether the consulting firm used people specifically trained in all areas of social and economic sciences.

Our comments are divided into sociological, economic, and other sections. While we realize that social science includes more than these two disciplines, most of the information we derived was for these disciplines. All other social science disciplines are combined.

General Assessment – Sociology

The AT generally felt that sociology was poorly addressed in most of the documents. It appeared to range from nonexistent to use of secondary data. In the best cases, social systems were described using secondary data and discussed how proposed actions would affect local people . There was no evidence that primary data collection in the affected areas was conducted either as part of the document preparation or over time in the absence of a NEPA document. No ongoing monitoring was apparent in any of the documents.

General Assessment – Economics

In general, the sections on economics were more sufficient than the social sections, although still relying on secondary data. Economic data are generally more available at the county but not at the community level. In some cases, though, it was felt that the person(s) using the data did limited analytical evaluation. For example, if a particular document pertained to something related to only one county, even though the economic impacts could reasonably be expected to cover more than one county, only that one county's data would be included. Economic analysis seemed to be more complete and tied to final decisions when minerals and mining were involved. Yet these mineral use assessments tended to be cost studies and not benefit/cost analysis. Environmental damage costs were not included in the assessment.

Specific Comments – Environmental Impact Statements

Draft: Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The purpose and need for the proposed action make no mention of adopting the proposed action for any social and economic reasons. It is described strictly in ecological terms and reasons. As the scope of analysis states, it is only to increase use of herbicides for hazardous fuels reduction or improve rangeland and forest health, not for other uses such as commercial timber or livestock forage production.

There was no description of any tools or methods used in the analysis or assessment. Most of the descriptions were qualitative in nature other than the description of the affected environment where various census data were used. Generally speaking, it was stated repeatedly that it was not possible to assess social and economic impacts specifically at the scale of this PEIS.

This was the draft PEIS so no final decision was noted. The preferred alternative description makes no mention of social and economic considerations in its selection. The discussion focuses on the ecological effects and reasons. In Table 2-5, it is noted that "cost of treatment used as a selection criteria" under treatment planning is only considered under alternative E (not preferred), but there is no explanation of this term. It is also the only alternative with restrictions on use of herbicides in areas with culturally significant plant and animal resources.

The document throughout stated that social and economic effects needed to be addressed at the appropriate scale which is taken to be local. While deferring that analysis was probably appropriate given the national scale of the PEIS and time to complete this, there is concern that the social and economic effects will be brushed aside as decisions from this document are scaled down. It is also interesting to note the changing role of herbicide use on rangelands from added grass for livestock to concerns about fuel reductions and rangeland and forest health.

Benefit-Cost Analysis/Unfunded Mandates Reform Act Analysis, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 43 CFR – 3809 – Surface Management

Benefit-Cost analysis and economic impact analysis using IMPLAN were the economic tools used. No social data or analysis was provided. There is a brief comment that population (57,300,000) and number of households (27,285,714) in the study area (11 western states) along with estimated population and number of household within five miles of mines were used to estimate the cost per household for regulations to reduce the likelihood of accidents (p. 8), but there is no analysis of these data. The report notes that mining can affect human health and well-being, but no analysis is provided. Likewise, the report notes that mining occurs in some scenic areas, which sometimes contain cultural assets, but no analysis is provided. Seventy-two possible million visitor days are recorded, of which 35,983 are lost because of mining, but there is no mention of human well-being.

It is unclear who did the analysis since no list of preparers is included in the document, although it appeared to be BLM staff in consultation with state government and agencies and American Indians. This document arose as a mandate from the U.S. Congress. There seemed to be ample opportunity for public input through pre-scoping, scoping, public hearings.

The economic analysis played a major role in the final decision. No sociological analysis was provided. Each alternative discusses the economic implications of the proposed actions, but nothing addresses the social side.

The document does a good job of discussing the costs associated with the regulator actions for surface management of locatable minerals. A mine cost model is used to estimate the costs. The analysis has a complete discussion about the model, mining law administration, industrial structure and trends for the mining industry, costs and returns for the mining industry, benefit-cost analysis, and the value of foregone mineral production. The major weakness in the analysis is that it considers only a cost analysis. As noted in the document, "The Net Benefits of the alternatives considered cannot be quantified because information on site specific factors are not readily available." This severely limits the usefulness of the analysis since the benefits of each alternative cannot be compared with the costs. The economic impact analysis is also severely limited only considering total output and not jobs and income, which would be more meaningful.

Unfortunately the difficulty in estimating the monetary benefits of avoiding potential future environmental damage is an all too common problem with these types of analyses. In some cases the benefits may be measured in terms of avoided costs. However, the authors of this report reject that approach because the reclamation activities fail to result in full damage recovery or recovery that takes place over an extended period of time. If monetary values of avoided potential future environmental damage cannot be estimated perhaps the quantities of these avoided damage can be quantified. If this information were available at least an economic efficiency analysis could be conducted comparing quantities of protection with cost by alternative. Otherwise the exercise becomes one of just cost minimization.

By taking a narrow perspective of their task the authors missed the opportunity to examine the role of mining in the creation of direct and indirect employment. Based on this report we have no idea how many people are employed by mining on BLM managed land or where they are located. There is a brief notation that human cost, worker migration, can be estimated with input output models, but they are not used in this report. Also, the report recognizes that worker

adjustment to volatility in mining prices causes pain to workers through involuntary migration. There is no information provided regarding the role of mining on community viability.

There is a brief discussion of recreation, particularly in regard to recreational opportunities lost due to mining operations and the estimated more than 500 operators that had abandoned their reclamation responsibility on BLM managed lands.

One of the more interesting points was the focus on international production and demand and its impact on production. Again, an opportunity to discuss such impacts on employment and/or mining communities was available but not utilized.

Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The differences between the social and economic sections are striking. It is clear that some discussions of possible impacts to natural science issues are addressed. It is not clear how to actually demarcate social and economic issues, or to understand their organizational placement. The Social Science section contrasts markedly to the section on Economic Trends even while using the same format. Economic data are easy to get. This section is full of numbers and tables, and is initially much more impressive.

The social section summarizes the demographics and "social trends" in each of the three states involved, and then briefly discusses changing attitudes about motorized, wheeled, cross-country travel on public lands. In the "Environmental Consequences" section assessing each alternative, "social well-being" is the only social variable considered, which is operationally equated with lack of conflict. That is, if the alternative somehow separates different interest groups then that will presumably result in "greater social well-being." No data are given to support either this overall hypothesis or the assumption that discrete interest groups that include hikers, ranchers, motorized cross-country users, older people, hunters, etc. can be identified and are important.

An evaluation of this piece would ask whether lack of conflict is the most important goal or whether certain levels of conflict could have heuristic effects. A deeper analysis of "social well-being" is warranted. The report seems to equate "quality of lives" with "attitudes and values" and "enjoyment." There are general references to comments received during "scoping, environmental advocacy groups and associated individuals" but certainly no discussion of numbers, data sources or analytical methods.

The outlay of "hard" data in the economic section disguises the fact that the most important economic questions are not answered or even asked. An example is a table that goes from increase in number of sales of ATVs to expenditures per vehicles on everything from lodging to film and souvenirs, but never talks about the dollar outlay of the initial expenditure and purchase location for an ATV. Nothing is analyzed at the community or even county level that would suggest differential impacts of increased OHV usage.

There is no mention of economics and little of sociology in any of the discussion regarding the alternatives or the Management Considerations in the Record of Decision. The ROD discussion

focuses on minimizing user conflict and maintaining efficient and effective management of the public's resource.

The ROD notes that providing recreation opportunities and managing the resource values for the public to enjoy depends on the public's cooperation. About as close as the document comes to attending to social impacts of OHV use comes in the description of standards.

The other place the ROD might have included analysis of social impacts and community change might have been in the section on Plan Monitoring. Although an "important component of implementation of the ROD," the direction for the OHV program was to come from an Interagency Workgroup which would provide education and training opportunities for the public and land agencies, and promote consistent administration of OHV use in the field. No specific plan for including public constituencies for site-specific priorities is mentioned.

The economic analysis is lacking in some aspects. While the economic trends analysis focuses on earnings and employment, only per capita income is considered in the analysis. Since per capita income includes non-labor income such as transfer payments and investment income, it is not consistent with earnings and employment, while average earnings per job are consistent. In a related vein, it probably would have been useful to look at trends in non-labor income for the region as part of the economic analysis. This would have provided a better perspective of the economic trends in the area.

The analysis assumes that one percent of vehicles will no longer be in use in the three-state area under all alternatives. No justification for this is given except that; "…the results can be adjusted to reflect whatever assumed vehicle displacement is desired." As a result there is no variation in the economic impacts across alternatives, which limits the usefulness of the analysis. Some sort of sensitivity analysis may have been helpful even if estimates of vehicle displacement were not available. The analysis is limited because the agencies don't directly collect OHV use information.

While recognizing that different user groups engage in different activities on BLM and Forest lands, some of them using OHVs and some not, there is really no social analysis beyond the assumption that keeping them separated either spatially or seasonally will result in greater "social well-being." Not only is this unrealistic, given the explosion of OHV use, not simply because of population increase, but more related to changes in popular culture, uneven income distribution, and until recently, inexpensive fuel. Neither the EIS nor the ROD attempt to assess social group or community identification with public lands and their reactions to new groups of users ("outsiders"). It doesn't recognize countervailing environmental or political pressures, nor possibilities of coalitions in its attempt to balance resource protection and exploitation with the demands of burgeoning human communities. In a time where OHVs have dramatically changed the face of most public lands, it presents a flat set of alternatives, with the assumption that use will grow as population increases. There is almost no recognition of social process or social dynamics in this assessment.

The Comments and Response section indicates a number of concerns with the economic analysis. Some comments noted that there was no estimate of the economic costs of OHV use

(erosion, loss of wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, etc.) and there was no estimate of the benefits to non-motorized users of restricting OHV use. Both these comments are probably beyond the scope of what can be done in an EIS analysis, but yet highlight important social and economic questions. Other comments note that there was no community level analysis. Again this type of analysis is probably beyond the scope of what can be done in an EIS analysis. However, some estimates on the value of OHV recreation to users, if available, might have been helpful to the analysis.

Unfortunately, the data that would really make these documents useful are neither cheap nor easily available. But there are two general categories that should be considered. First, an historical view of public land use and how that use has persisted or changed is necessary. Even anecdotal evidence can lead researchers to good sources of information that will tell agencies where constituencies are "drawing lines" in the present. Second, even though both these documents and social science interviewees have told me that BLM collects no data on OHV use, and the best Forest Service data are campground surveys, some better primary data must provide a more accurate picture of changes in OHV use. In some states OHV registrations will provide some data to show trends in the numbers of the vehicles and assumptions could be made about their use on public lands.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project, Sublette County, Wyoming.

The draft was contracted to PIC Technologies, Inc. and reviewed by BLM staff members, but also by cooperating agencies personnel of USFS, US Army Corps of Engineers and State of Wyoming.

The term "human community," defined either geographically or of common interest, is never used in the DEIS or ROD. Many of the social impacts (commuting, housing, schooling, worker composition, etc.) and economic impacts (past and projected revenues from property taxes, sales tax, and mineral severance taxes for the state and Sublette County and potential sales tax data for municipalities, direct and indirect employment) were referenced in terms of Jonah II. It should be noted that Pinedale is different than the Jonah II development, coming later and another 30 minutes or 20 miles to the north from Rock Springs. Even if workers commuted from Rock Springs there is really no social science discussion of possible impacts on Rock Springs other than a nebulous note to the effect that "housing is available" in the cumulative analysis section.

Almost all of the social science sections deal with Sublette County with little attention paid to its communities. There is no discussion of employment other than an assumed maximum direct labor force of 320, whom will have the same characteristics as the Jonah II workforce and no discussion of indirect employment.

The executive summary (p. 2) states: "It is unlikely that adverse socioeconomic impacts would occur from development. However, very positive impacts would result from the significant revenues which could be generated by development of the project area." This assumption limits examination of negative impacts—not all the necessary questions are asked.

Both the DEIS and ROD make heavy use of Adaptive Resource Management that requires extensive monitoring in order to respond to unexpected changes in the total environment. Thresholds need to be identified as to when and where management changes will be needed.

There is some evidence that primary data were collected using limited telephone interviews and a questionnaire, along with some secondary sources. There were no caveats on these data or their interpretation regarding limits on usability. There was little analysis of numbers given in terms of interpretation or linkages. What analysis is done is not extrapolated to the total number of wells because: 1) "…the information is based on a constant, sustained flow rate", and 2) "…there is no guarantee that 700 productive well pads will ever be drilled in the project area." This is really the only economic analysis in the report.

Neither economic nor social science models were used. A standard multiplication of volume of gas/condensate by current prices was used to evaluate revenues. Costs of drilling were extrapolated from the Jonah II field and by estimates provided by the local gas developers. Data (revenue) for counties and towns were provided by published data from the Assessors Office (and by phone). No social/economic costs were discussed in the document, other than the need for one more ambulance. A simplistic snap shot, more complete for Sublette County than for the towns, was presented.

There was essentially no analysis of the limited data that is provided. For example, the DEIS noted that more than half of property owners (54% reside outside of Sublette County (implying that they were part-time 2nd home owners), but not a single comment about the implications of such home ownership for the towns and/or county was included, particularly in regard to substantial gas/oil development in the county. Likewise in terms of environmental justice, the report rightly noted that only 3% of the population was minority, based on 1990 U.S. Census data, but then concluded that there were no minority NOR poor people residing in the county (there is no discussion of low income population in the DEIS); only wages for gas field workers compared to non gas field workers was presented. The report is not historical and fails to discuss how history helps to create a sense of community that can be disrupted by rapid shifts in employment, population composition, and wage distributions. Part of the problem is the lack of primary data developed to examine gas development. There is a lack of examination of age/sex structure (currently or projected) and education—all important variables in determining ability to react to rapid changes.

In the cumulative impact assessment that included gas and oil projects in four adjacent counties (sometimes there are five), there is no social or economic analysis—only the statement that the counties could absorb the additional influx of workers. No data were presented to support this statement.

The analysis would be strengthened with the development of well-defined actions for each alternative. The analysis that is done focuses on tax revenue, which is important, but so are jobs, income, and the economic and social impacts on the community. As noted in the report, this has been done for other BLM NEPA documents in southwest Wyoming. In addition, the analysis should be expanded to include more than just Sublette County. In particular, Sweetwater County needs to be included in the analysis since much of the oil and gas field services in the region

originate from there. Finally the analysis needs to consider more than 5 to 8 rigs working in the area at any one time since the BLM is not going to place restrictions on rig numbers.

BLM should be congratulated for including some economic and social data and providing some attempts at analysis (better for economic than social). However, no economic or social science models are utilized (no effort to examine indirect employment in relation to who, where, when, etc). The report, written by PIC, although fortified with template economic and social data, is lacking any serious analysis, particularly in terms of the consequences of proposed gas drilling (based primarily on company data and secondary sources). This DEIS speaks to the problem of EIS written by outside consultants reviewed by an inside, overworked economist (lack of internal staff to do evaluations much less critical reviews). Alas, BLM must consider re-training, re-staffing, or continue to ignore social and economic issues.

By the time of the ROD, Sublette County had changed, Jonah II was in full swing (expanding rapidly) with noticeable impacts on not only Sublette County but also the ICAA. Yet this is not noted in the ROD nor did it result in additional studies. Such examination would have resulted in an entirely different analysis of workers (their families), transportation issues, and impacts on towns and Sublette County and schools districts—towns were in trouble financially and socially while the county and schools were mostly affluent. Hindsight is a heck of a deal.

The lack of comments on "quality of life" or "sense of community" reveals the lack of concern on the part of BLM or its contractors to appreciate the concerns of local constituents. Given the recent mandates not only to collaborate with local communities, but to give priority to local issues, this omission needs to be addressed in future BLM projects. Having a social scientist on staff might be a good idea.

Specific Comments – Resource Management Plans

The RMP's appear to make good use of social and economic secondary data in preparing the documents. This use of secondary data is adequate for the purposes of the RMP. Data appears to be well documented. Any primary "data" is collected through the scoping process, perceptions of employees, and other nonscientific methods.

In the *Yuma RMP* it appears that the preparer was not familiar with using National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) cattle data to estimate economic impacts to the ranch sector. The analyst did not understand typical production rates and ratios between animal classes and as such grossly underestimated livestock production. This document also contained shortcomings in relation to estimating recreational impacts, due primarily to using gross expenditure data gathered from selected areas in the planning area.

In the Farmington RMP there was a lack of any analysis of values, attitudes or opinions of either recreationists or local and regional residents. The authors utilized opinions of BLM staff to extrapolate values, attitudes and opinions of local residents and recreationists. Relevant literature could have been used to substantiate the authors' perspectives, or allow for document readers to develop a broader scope of understanding.

Two RMP's reviewed discussed the impacts on social and economic systems from the alternatives. The items discussed and emphasized were not necessarily those considered important in the initial description of the planning area. It was not always clear how the sociological and economic factors impacted by the decision were or were not considered in the decision.

Discussion of environmental justice is inadequate given the demographics, cultural values and integration of tribal land in the area of the Yuma RMP. More consideration of sociological impacts would be useful. The Farmington document relies too heavily on the economics of increased oil and gas development. On the other hand, environmental justice discussions in other RMP's were deemed more adequate.

Social information related to population, etc. is enhanced by addressing issues related to environmental justice, specifically addressing Native Americans. The economic analysis falls down in the areas of livestock grazing and recreation economics. In terms of livestock grazing, the basic assumptions are faulty and result in a gross underestimation of the livestock grazing economic component associated with this plan. The analysis also ignores the impact of permit retirements.

Since recreation appears to be a major driving force in the Yuma RMP, more effort should have been undertaken to address the economics of recreation in the area. The net willingness to pay would be more useful than gross expenditures. Rather heroic assumptions are used to expand the "sample" from the visitor survey data detailed in the cited material to the different counties in the region. There is no validation given for these assumptions. Perhaps some informal surveys of visitors could have been done to derive net figures, length of stay and numbers of visitors per household/vehicle. Without this sort of minimal primary data, it is difficult to say whether the numbers are valid or not.

On the face of it, the Yuma RMP is lacking in terms of economic analysis. Considering that the allocation of scarce resources is going to be based upon gross over- and under-estimation of economic values associated with recreation and grazing, respectively, raises a red flag.

Clearer incorporation of interview and scoping information with reference to methodology and actual data in the consideration of alternatives is needed. In the Farmington RMP, incorporation of literature, whether research literature or the myriad press articles on oil and gas development in the West would be useful in understanding the context of the potential conflicts associated with this development. OHV use and conflicts among recreationists is well documented in research literature and should be considered more carefully in the assessment.

Kobuk-Seward

The historic and current economic and social setting was adequately described. Other than the tables referencing data, there was little indication as to the source used for the narrative. It appeared to be observation and data gathering from a knowledgeable person responsible for the writing.

The impact assessment section included an evaluation of how resource use and the social and economic situation would change with each of the 4 alternatives considered. For some of the resource uses and alternatives like BLM expenditures in the area, forest products, dispersed recreation, etc. was not analyzed in-depth. Because of the remote nature of the area, a simple statement, as was used, that no impact is expected is perhaps adequate. With respect to (reindeer) grazing no attempt was made to estimate its economic impact.

For Alternative B (develop the area), the economic impact of the increased oil activity was estimated. Direct, indirect, and induced effects of added oil and gas activity were estimated using I/O models developed for Alaska Minerals Management Service. Impacts were estimated for the exploration, development and production phases. Multiplier effects were estimated to be minimal for the local area given the small towns in the area with everything purchased elsewhere. The only economic impacts considered were related to oil and gas activity differences between the alternatives.

Other social and economic impacts considered included impacts on social justice and subsistence. This "analysis" was more of a statement about what "could" happen instead of a quantitative analysis. For example, statements like "expanding reindeer herds could benefit local minority populations" only express a hypothesis, not an analysis. It is unlikely that data are available to say by how much.

Cumulative impacts were estimated for oil and gas activity to the state of Alaska and to local economies. These estimates came from other major reports. Impacts to employment and personal income are described. Social impacts to Alaskan natives are described and related to the changes that have already been seen for native people, i.e. higher wages, employment but social problems like alcoholism.

The overall conclusion is that the social and economic analyses of oil and gas impacts was positive, given these impacts are major and important and studied extensively in Alaska. The social analysis was totally descriptive. It some cases this could be improved. However, impacts are estimated to be minimal, the area is inaccessible, and a descriptive statement that shows little impact is likely adequate.

Data from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Sonoran Institute's Economic Profile System were used to give community profiles for three area boroughs. Population trends and levels were discussed for the existing situation. Employment by sector from the 2000 Census was highlighted. Local government revenue for villages and boroughs was derived from Alaska commerce data. Income by race, unemployment, poverty, and other data broadly categorized as "environmental justice" were described for the various native people.

The historical socio-cultural situation of the Iñupiat Eskimos inhabiting the area was described, both in historical terms and in terms of recent trends. An in-depth discussion of the Eskimo culture, society and economy was included as well as the importance of subsistence activities for the traditional life in Alaska. Subsistence use patterns in the planning area were identified both

historically and in recent times. Recent subsistence harvests were identified using data from the Fish and Game Department.

The final recommendation was Alternative D, a moderate level of protection, use, and enhancement of resources and services. The selection of this alternative was based on a balance of use and resource protection, and the extent of the environmental impacts. The selected alternative was to allow expanded oil and gas exploration. It appears that potential economic activity, jobs, and income were considered in this recommendation.

The analysis appeared adequate with respect to oil and gas. The rest of the analysis was totally descriptive, yet likely adequate in many cases. The area is very remote. A simple statement of "no impact" with that justification seemed acceptable in many cases.

Stronger rationale for the role jobs, economics and social factors played in the decision and choices between alternatives could have been provided.

King Range National Conservation Area

The document was a Record of Decision and Final RMP. This was very well written in both the social and economic arenas, probably better in the social context. Their description of the region and surrounding communities was very adequate.

The authors used mostly secondary data and local knowledge. It appeared that the writers of these sections were very familiar with the region, or at least could interpret existing information very well to put management in context with both historical and current activities.

Although it was not explicit, it appeared that the social science description was used to justify several of the decisions. The contextual description of the social system can be interpreted throughout the document. The social science assessment in this document was close to ideal. The way it was written allowed the context of the region to be brought in as a persuasive part of the decision making process.

The whole plan implementation is based on adaptive management which requires extensive monitoring. The final decision states that specific monitoring is outlined in Chapter 2 (the ROD) for each objective. However, close reading of that section focuses monitoring only on the natural resources and ignores the social and economic realms.

Specific Comments – Environmental Assessments

By their nature, environmental assessments are limited in nature and scope. The 2 EA's that were reviewed dealt with a large recreational activity and fuels treatment in a limited area.

In the case of the fuels treatment, there was limited attention given to either social or economic factors. The social situation was described as to nearby communities and tribal interests in the area. The critical elements to the human environment were discussed as appropriate. It was noted that human safety related to both prescribed and wild fires was paramount. There was

little to no discussion of economic aspects of the alternatives or impacts on resource values. Resource values were alluded to for wildlife and livestock, but not quantified. Data collection was limited to information from scoping.

Social science information was apparently used in the fuels treatment final decision to the extent that there was a desire to achieve the desired future condition (DFC), although there was not much discussion of how the DFC was determined and the desire to maximize wildlife and livestock habitat. It appeared that both social and economic issues were assumed away and additional information probably would not have changed the decision given the ecological objectives. For the sake of disclosure, estimates of the costs of the various fuels treatment methods would have been useful.

While a great deal of the information in the Burning Man EA is logical, the authors failed to relate the information to independent sources, basic research literature or any type of research conducted by the agency or outside entities. There are many issues raised that could have been associated with socio-economic information.
For the proposed action section in the cumulative impacts, it is clear that a template was used to indicate that recreation impacts would be minimal and economic impacts would be positive, while more sociological factors would vary by group. This section includes general discussion of special use permits including recreation and *geothermal activity* – not an activity associated with this recreational permit.

There is no professional social science assessment of the socio-economic impacts of this event in this EA. The only research related to any part of the social impacts might be the assessment of the amount of trash left behind during the event. Use of demographic data (not cited) was part of the description of the area. Economic figures were derived from the proposed permittee themselves. Assessment of potential recreational conflicts and impacts is logical but neither research based nor makes use of literature associated with resource-based recreation. The EA does not address key sociological questions such as: 'what motivates such a large group to such a unique event?' and 'do the attendees perceive the level of local impacts to be significant?'

Specific Comments – Planning Document—Central Idaho Fire Planning Unit Fire Management Plan

This plan was done by an outside contractor (North Wind, Inc.). It is completely inadequate in terms of social and economic description and analysis. The basis for doing economic analysis (e.g. benefit-cost analysis could be done fairly easily) is there. It includes data and projections on acreages and costs of fuel reduction methods, prescribed fires, etc. It also includes areas in which fire suppression will be concentrated (close to the communities of Salmon and Challis and areas of public lands close to deeded land). It would not take much to build the benefit side of the B/C analysis through probability of wildfires (they have fire history) occurring along with assessed values of buildings and facilities. The document completely ignores the social aspects. It includes no basic population or demographic information concerning the two counties (Custer and Lemhi) covered by the plan. The main purpose of the document appears to be amendments to existing fire management and land use plans. The fire management plans for the 2 field

offices were done separately in 2004. Perhaps the BLM/contractors felt the social science component was included in those earlier documents and it was not necessary to include it here.

Assessment

The Assessment Team reviewed a variety of documents provided by BLM from several western states. While the review was neither random nor comprehensive, the selected documents were assumed to give a broad overview of the different types of documents and the ways in which they are prepared. Outside consultants, BLM employees, other federal agency employees, and unknown sources were responsible for their preparation. Review comments of individual documents reviewed were summarized on the form included in Appendix A.2 (BLM Document Review).

The team found that the more familiar a social scientist is with the specific planning area, the better the analysis and write-up. The availability of secondary data can supplement this local knowledge. Analysis of oil and gas activities was more complete than other activities like recreation and grazing. Availability of more economic information contributes to these differences.

The relative importance of the decision (a single event versus a long term management plan) does not necessarily lead to more importance being placed on social and economic information.

Deferring social and economic assessments in larger plans to more localized plans (e.g., in the vegetation treatment EIS) may be appropriate; however, it is only appropriate if carried through at the local level. There is little evidence that BLM has either the capacity or budget to accomplish such local analysis For example, even when there is a local activity (e.g., Burning Man) with significant social issues, those impacts do not seem to be examined in- depth.

Appendix A.2 – Document Review Form

BLM Document Review

A review of selected BLM documents (including but not limited to resource management plans and project-level environmental impact statements) to characterize the types of social and economic information and analysis currently provided for the agency. A review of selected documents will provide a baseline of what is currently done by BLM in different kinds of analyses. We will use our professional experience to evaluate the adequacy of the assessments and make recommendations determined to be the minimum level of information required. We would also evaluate the variety of documents for consistency across regions. Themes identified in (1) will be used to assess whether current needs and capabilities are adequate to do the analyses identified.

1. Title of Document:
2. Type of Document (EIS, EA, Planning, etc.):
3. Adequacy of Social and Economic Description for the purpose of the document (including comment on adequacy of scope, depth, and breadth of these descriptions):
4. Description of the Social Science tools/methods used:
5. Description of who did the Social Science section (trained staff, interdisciplinary team, contractor, other):
6. Discussion of whether the Social Science description or analysis was apparently used in the final decision.
7. Discussion of the overall adequacy of the Social Science assessment.
8. Recommendation of what additional information, if any, would have been useful.

Appendix B.1 – Interviews with Current BLM Social Scientists

BLM Social Scientist Interviews
Executive Summary of Findings

Current and former BLM social scientists were interviewed by telephone. This was the initial step in the assessment process and a way for the Assessment Team (AT) to get acquainted with the issues and begin the information collection process. Each respondent was asked the same set of open ended questions that addressed both the economic and sociology aspects of social sciences.

The main points can be summarized as:

- *Make better use of social and economic information and impact analysis for all levels of planning.*
- *Social science data collection over time needs to be instituted.*
- *Social science data need to be used better in all activities.*
- *Increase the number of social and economic positions and developing career tracks.*
- *Link the use of social and economic analysis to management performance evaluation.*
- *Use consultants carefully to perform social and economic data collection and analysis.*

Basic findings were:

1. General pessimism that BLM would find it a priority to fill or refill social scientist positions in any great number. Vacancies held at the state level would be filled with "real" scientists.
2. Perception that public was demanding social science information from BLM but that BLM would likely only respond if litigation was filed (reactive rather than proactive).
3. Variety of opinions as to which way BLM can effectively incorporate social sciences into its activities.
   - Using outside consultants effectively depends on having an employee that can write the contract and oversee the work being done.
   - Temporary employees brought on can face security obstacles and not be familiar enough with BLM culture to effectively get their work done.
   - New hires placed at least at the state office level could be marginally effective if allowed to do their job with districts and field offices.
   - New hires placed at district office level could get to know the communities.
   - Establishing roving enterprise teams for planning could be the most effective use of employees.
4. Cross training of social scientists would be desirable. Managers tend to view this as one discipline and expect that an economist can do sociology and vice versa.
5. Training for managers and planners as to what social scientists do and how the information derived can be used both in day-to-day operations and in decision-making is needed.
6. There is little time for collecting primary data. This is especially a problem for sociology since the issues tend to be community based. Information gleaned from tools such as the Economic Profile System are at the county level and do not tell about the social nuances, especially when dealing with communities of place versus communities of interest.

7. Monitoring for adaptive management will not likely take place given competing demands. Since many plans ascribe to this management philosophy, this could lead to issues for BLM as plans are implemented.

BLM Social Scientist Interview Summary

Telephone interviews were conducted with 22 current and former BLM social scientists following protocols approved by Oregon State University's Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects. A total of 27 current and former BLM social scientists were originally contacted to participate in the interviews.

This document summarizes the responses from those interviews. The interview form (attached) was a series of open ended questions. The protocols and forms used were approved by the Oregon State University Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects (IRB #3438). Specific, identifiable comments received were not used in the summary unless the topic was readily combinable with other comments. This was not intended to be a statistically valid interview process. Any individual comment that seemed relevant or that contained new information was used in the summary with the same "weight" as repeated comments. The Assessment Team's goal with this part of the project was to gather information and ideas that will help in both the development of other parts of the project and in the final assessment report.

Current Capabilities

Of the current and former BLM social science staff that we were able to interview, 10 identified themselves as economists, 1 as a sociologist, 1 as an anthropologist, 4 as social scientists, and 5 as former BLM economists. Fourteen hold a MA/MS/MBA as their highest degree, 4 with a PhD and 3 did not identify the highest degree.

The following states have some economic coverage: AK, ID, CA, WA, MT, UT, NV, WY, NE, ND, SD, CO, and NM. Additionally, sociology covers MT and WA and 4 persons listed national responsibilities in social sciences. Three respondents have primarily local duties in AK, MT, and OR. These responses were from existing social scientists and where they reported they worked or helped at any level within each state (state or field offices).

Based on responses, most social scientists work in or have worked in aspects related to writing planning documents, reviewing social or economic sections in plans written by someone else, and do contractor oversight. Additionally, there are a few that have conducted field work either in interviews, community contacts, training, technical support, or economic model building. Most work is general, but if specific issues were brought up it was in the arena of energy and minerals and subsistence in AK.

Desired Capabilities

Many survey respondents felt planning and economic assessments within BLM would best be met by having well trained internal social science staff to do the work. Most social and economic assessment is now contracted. Nobody perceived that having an adequate internal staff was a realistic expectation so strong and consistent suggestions were given about how BLM social science capabilities need to be structured to provide adequate contract oversight.

There needs to be at least one economist/social scientist in each state. This belief was consistently stated and is essential for quality control and contract oversight (assuming a lack of substantial internal capabilities will continue). Local and state level knowledge is essential for interpretation of contractor drafts and for writing locally-appropriate statements of work. A common concern was that in some cases (because contract work relies heavily on BLM data and input) there is so much oversight and work required by BLM to provide, organize, and explain the data that it would have been easier to complete the task internally to begin with or the lack of adequate oversight meant the expectations of the contract work were not adequately met. Successful contracting means a local BLM person (at least at the state level) must be available to interpret data, provide input, and write locally appropriate contract statements of work.

View of BLM Social Science Employment

Six of the respondents have been with BLM fewer than 5 years, 3 in the 6-20 year range, 6 have been with the agency from 21-29 years, and 4 at 30 years.

There is general consensus that there is not a career track for social scientists in BLM. For a career, the view is that you either move to an administration, management, or planner position or move out. Over the past 30 years this has changed from having (mostly) economists at districts where they could move up to state, regional, and Washington office positions. The few sociologists hired during that period tended to be more towards "social workers" which was not what BLM needed. While most of the experienced respondents appeared very satisfied with their careers, they were very pessimistic about the future for the discipline within BLM, and had moved from doing social and economic studies and analysis into planning. Some respondents had a desire to do more analysis and use economic and social science tools in their jobs. Additionally, while other specialists seem to have both career tracks and training programs, there is little in the way of training for social scientists that will help them further their careers or to do better jobs.

As might be expected from this group, they see a great need for BLM to become savvier in the social and economic arenas as the public is demanding more. On the other hand, they are of the opinion that this will only happen when lawsuits are filed over inadequate analysis. They believe lawsuits have motivated inclusion of social and economic data in the past. There seemed to be a general feeling that decision-makers did not know how to use the social and economic information they received in the 1970's and 1980's in making their decisions. There was some feeling that they tended to be "afraid" of this information as it may have been counter to what they wanted to do. Responses seemed to vary based on the comfort level of the decision-maker.

They do see a greater desire for social and economic information by decision-makers these days. Several respondents noted that lack of social and economic training on the part of decision-makers and supervisors meant these people do not appreciate the value of social and economic data.

Most social and economic data collection and analysis is being done through contracting since most states (and by default districts) do not have anyone on staff. They see having the position in Washington being helpful, but still feel that BLM will only pursue social and economic analysis

if pushed (reactive rather than proactive). This position (WO) has helped provide more focus in the social science area, but because there are so few positions in states and lower, it is hard to do much with that focus. Movement to software such as the Economic Profile System and a potential new one for sociology are seen as positive moves with the goal of making it fit with BLM needs at all levels. There was a general feeling that BLM is trying to make social and economic information more important and that the public believes it is important.

Respondents seem to like the current direction of social science assessments as program concepts are coming from the ground up through Washington and then spread back out. They like the emphasis on collaboration, but there is some concern that it is only lip service and really depends on the individual manager. EPS is seen as both a move towards at least looking at community indicators, but by itself probably not that useful for impact assessments. Also, EPS data are at the county level while the concerns are often at the community level (EPS-C does provide data at census-designated places).

Adaptive management requires good monitoring. For various reasons, little monitoring is being done in either the biological or social arenas that would be helpful for adaptive management. Because fewer people are in social science positions, little field work is being done other than through contracts.

Relationship to Local Community Views

BLM can be a relatively large player in a small community. This was discussed in terms of employee involvement in organizations and activities. There was some thought expressed that even in small towns the economic impact may be relatively small and limited to salary (household) impacts since most other things are bought out of the area. The exception to that may be in firefighting and other short term activities. The social impact of BLM employees in smaller communities is likely greater than in larger communities. This is enhanced by having what is now perceived to be less pressure on employees to move during their careers. The downside is that without those moves, the opportunities for career advancement are reduced.

There appears to be a feeling of BLM being out of synch with public wants. For example, in areas where extractive uses are declining or less important, the agency may not be putting as many resources into planning and management so that they are less able to address challenges related to recreation, open space, land disposal, etc. There was a general feeling that large visible projects are adequately funded but that the ordinary and mundane projects are underfunded with an inadequate social and economic component.

On the other hand, out of necessity, BLM employees are being more entrepreneurial in their relationships with the community. It is expressed in an attitude of we're in this together so let's figure it out together. Much of what they do is not in a handbook or covered by regulations and that is seen as a good thing for collaboration. It is very much a "cowboy culture" rather than the "military culture" of the Forest Service.

There have been recent movements towards more national control of priorities. This was expressed as national priorities trump regional priorities which trump state priorities which trump

local priorities. This does cause tension and mistrust at the local level and makes collaborative processes more difficult. This may be reflected in that the WO appears to be more involved in reviewing NEPA documents than they were in the past, taking on what historically was a SO responsibility.

There was divergence in responses from relationships with local communities is getting better to being the worst in 30 years. There was also concern raised about decision-makers understanding the tension that exists between communities of place and communities of interests. In some areas, the relationships with some communities of interest were stronger with one viewpoint than the others.

There seems to be a disconnect between informal knowledge and more formal knowledge of communities by field staff. Most managers have a good informal knowledge of their communities but don't use more formal means to quantify that knowledge. This represents an untapped resource for the agency in terms of sharing knowledge across the organization. Some managers have a narrow perspective on obligations to work with the community. Some feel that they only need to be concerned with issues directly affecting BLM lands and not be concerned with effects on surrounding lands and communities. Some managers are more interested in managing resources than in dealing with people. Many are not comfortable talking with state and local governments. There was also a reference to stigma with locals where those within BLM were not sure if they wanted to hire locals for various positions since they weren't sure they would perform.

Direction of Your BLM Office in Near Term

There was discussion of the "Reorganization for Excellence" drive within BLM (actually "Managing for Excellence"). This is viewed as a move to centralize science and services (within the Washington Office) and the general feeling that social and economic sciences will be further diminished even though the need is greater.

There is a feeling that BLM will have to cover a broader array of activities better and be able to document impacts. These activities range from creating niche markets for products, ecotourism, educational opportunities, different types of recreation, and others along with the traditional commodities. The optimistic responses were that this will lead to more social impact analysis as BLM becomes more proactive in this arena. Analysis needs to become more sophisticated and be done at the landscape scale (e.g., District). The pessimistic responses were that with declining budgets that BLM will be unable to address emerging trends and deal with issues such as the wildland-urban interface, recreation, etc. In areas where commodities have been important in the past (western Oregon for timber and various oil and gas areas) they do not expect much change in emphases. In areas where subsistence and minority issues are prevalent, BLM is trying but not doing all that well. This is mostly due to resources and a focus on single issues (the dominant minority group without considering others).

There seems to be general pessimism that even the few social science positions remaining are likely to be refilled following retirements over the next few years. Decisions to refill are being held at the State Director level and the feeling is that they will likely hire more "real" science

positions without outside pressures. There is a need to define and show "good" social and economic analysis and to demonstrate its usefulness in planning and decision-making. Along with this is the need to better identify contractor requirements and writing better requests.

Economic and Social Interactions Examined

As social science staff has been reduced, it is unclear who is examining this material. Some states have a few social scientists remaining, but about 4 have no one. In any case, those that remain tend to be economists who are often assigned sociology duties as well, for which they are not trained.

Managers may want more economic information due to their comfort level with that kind of information over social information, although both are thought to be fairly low. There is a feeling that the project manager (planner) will, in the absence of expertise, just go to similar plans to just write something up for the current plan or just take the EPS results without much more thought. There is nothing for them to gather social data other than what is in EPS. In general, there appears to be very little understanding of social information within BLM and even less in how to use it in decision-making.

Standardized economic and social information such as provided through the EPS is viewed as a positive step, but BLM still needs trained people to conduct the interpretation and analysis of impacts. Economic models such as IMPLAN will likely continue to be used, but again, trained people need to build and adapt existing models and interpret the impacts. It is recognized that it is important, especially for social analysis, that BLM have someone local from the beginning of the planning process. Doing this from a distance does not engender trust in the local community nor does it allow the sociologist to understand the nuances of the local community. Further, there is a need for basic data collection at the local level.

Alternatives – Contractors

It appears that a significant portion (e.g., half) of whatever social science analysis is done is currently contracted out. There are concerns with this approach. BLM does not build internal capacity and when contracted at the local level there is often no one to write, oversee, or evaluate the work.

There is some concern expressed over the quality of the work done by contractors. This may be traced to lack of oversight, poorly written contracts, and having existing work turned in as new work. Along with this is a concern that all social scientists are viewed by management as being the same and they are asked to review and oversee activities outside of their area of expertise.

There is concern over how managers are supposed to deal with conflicting analysis reports by different groups when they do not have the expertise available to them to properly evaluate those results and interpretations.

Alternatives – Others

One alternative was to centralize the expertise at the regional level and then send the teams as needed to different locations. It was suggested that these teams should remain focused at no larger than the state level; they would work on planning documents in one area of the state and move on to another. This was perceived to be advantageous in that resource people, like range conservationists, do not enjoy planning efforts and "paper work". Putting together a team that enjoys planning, EA, and EIS preparation will do a better job.

A second alternative was to partner more with other agencies (federal, state, or local) and universities to be able to maintain some level of local social and economic data collection.

Maintain a literature review/synthesis with guidance on how to conduct various analyses.

Need to build capacity in people either able to do or oversee work in survey design, sampling, GIS display of social and economic information, and non-market valuation.

Role of Social Sciences in Decision-making and Making Recommendations

The general view is that social sciences have very little role in agency decision-making currently. However, there is a range of views from social science having little to no role in decision-making to it having a larger role. This seems to be based on the type of resource use being considered. For example, it is viewed as very important when thinking about recreation and not important when thinking about oil and gas.

There is a view that social and economic information might set some of the context, but they do not drive the decision. Social and economic information is disclosed to satisfy whatever mandate is present, but the decision is made without general consideration of the social and economic impacts. Occasionally social and economic information may marginally modify priorities, but that is pretty rare. A few project areas such as Desert Land Entries or energy may be driven by economic analysis, but most are not. Emphasis for analysis (primarily economic) depends mostly on the commodity being discussed (forestry, minerals, wildfire, grazing), but other uses generally are not considered within this realm.

Some managers may listen to the social and economic impacts of as part of a discussion. Whether they use it depends partly on whether they understand what is presented. The information needs to be well written and explained clearly in a briefing. If they don't understand it, they won't use it.

It may also be in the interpretation of the question. It seems that most viewed social and economic information as being important to the local public and that it does have an advisory role to the decision-maker, but that it is not used to justify a decision. It is viewed as becoming more important in the future as laws change, societal pressures on the resources increase, and as subsistence and cultural issues become more important.

In areas where subsistence is an issue, social and economic information may be more likely to be used based on current policy and direction. As more demands are being put on resources, there may be a need for non-market valuation or some way to do full benefit-cost analysis rather than just input-output. There is a need to figure out externalities to really get at this along with their social and economic valuation.

BLM needs to understand different stakeholder groups and their cultures. For example, tribal governments may change and feel they need to start the process over while the agency may feel that it is already done. BLM probably does better with recreation groups and are getting better with county governments. In any case, many times the analysis of social and economic impacts is left to these external groups to discuss.

There is concern that while the information is important at the local level for both impact assessment and public relations, it is not important at higher levels where decisions tend to be made. There could be centralized services for this kind of information, mostly for quality control and ready access to decision-makers.

Systems Management Approach

There was general agreement that BLM was not going to monitor social science information in any systematic way now or in the future. This is due to priorities, staffing, funding, and the red tape involved in doing surveys. There is also the feeling that the impacts BLM has on local communities is pretty small and different ways to measure it will be needed.

There were several ideas on how to do this if it ever became a priority for BLM. Developing a database of expertise within the agency, at universities, and private contractors would help. Developing partnerships with other agencies or entities that are conducting some kind of social science monitoring would be desirable. The same issues of contracting the work out that has been expressed before on quality and oversight remain. However, development of scope of work and other contracting language could help. It might be that BLM ought to look at different ways of contracting (e.g., regionally in areas with known hot issues). There should also be an effort to figure out how to use existing information more effectively. This may take an agency cultural change.

In order for any of this to come to fruition, BLM would need staff at least at the state level and work would have to be done at the district level. There could be some combination of regional social scientists and work done at the field office level, but there is concern about oversight and qualified staff at the local level. There should also be a balanced mix of economists and sociologists with cross training available. Another option would be for resource specialists to become more involved in community activities to keep a better feeling for what is going on. While desirable, the concern would be that they would not do that because of other pressing issues within their own disciplines.

It was felt that most work in current NEPA documents were simply tweaking of what was in the last one. There is no real analysis since there is little data to work with, especially in the sociology realm. While the systems approach and planning in general are moving to larger

landscape levels, the local concerns seem to be at much smaller scales (e.g., you're going to close that road).

Types of Tools Used and Comfort Level

The Economic Profile System and whatever the social tool that Ray Rasker is developing are one level of tool being used. Training is needed on proper use. While other tools may be out there, it is a lack of quality data to use the tools effectively and properly that is lacking. It doesn't really matter if more tools are available if the data cannot be consistently collected. There was generally a positive response to the BLM's use of these data. Respondents felt using this county level assessment provided information that would not otherwise have been incorporated into planning documents. This analysis was within the realm of what BLM could do with available resources.

It seems to be generally felt that managers need something simple, along the lines of an executive summary. They probably won't go beyond that unless they are sued or a request comes in that warrants that level of response. The feeling is that managers just use their best judgment and don't want or know how to use data in most cases. If an analysis is done, it may be just to see what complaints come in rather than to use it in decision-making. The lack of social science data and impact analysis is conjectured to be one reason that national interests override local concerns and desires. The need to help managers and decision makers that are not trained in the social sciences was another commonly stated reason for why it is essential that social science staff be maintained at least at the state level and preferably at the region and local area. There needs to be some kind of forum to discuss these kinds of issues.

Some interest was also expressed in having greater access to IMPLAN, perhaps through a site license arrangement like the Forest Service has. Also there was the perception that IMPLAN may be being used by more than just economists in the BLM. A recent IMPLAN training for BLM personnel conducted by the Forest Service attracted a number of BLM planners.

Identified Changes in Use of Social Sciences within BLM

Better use of social and economic information and impact analysis for all levels of planning. Specific suggestions include:

- Developing good templates for use in the field. The template would also include identifying what the true social, economic, and environmental concerns of the population are and suggestions for addressing those true concerns. Developing methodologies on how to anticipate the questions.
- Developing a clear answer to the "what for" question. Developing a recognition of the importance of social and economic information within the NEPA context. Reviewing court cases related to NEPA analysis to see how often BLM is sued from lack of economic and social analysis.
- Adopting a problem focus and moving towards a desired conditions perspective rather than just an analysis of alternatives.
- Budget for developing improved tools and conducting social and economic analysis.

Data collection over time needs to be instituted. Specific suggestions were:

- Monitoring of social aspects and better public involvement.
- Documenting annually how management is changing in the local and regional areas to see how a decision fits local trends.
- Searching for better understanding of the top social concerns in terms of public needs and identifying the standards and factors that indicate these concerns do exist.
- Putting market values on things for comparison.
- There is a disincentive to collect information, especially quantitative data through surveys. "They" don't like qualitative information.
- Need for good recreation surveys.

Data need to be used better. Specific suggestions were:

- Need to use more social/economic data at the field office to provide PR advantages for BLM management—provide documentation of benefits to the local community.
- Change how the institution uses and shares information. More emphasis on sharing across the organization and not just up within the organization.
- Increasing coordination with other groups and across all levels. Particularly applicable in energy development cases.
- At least greater staff sharing of plans—variation in techniques and assessments is problematic. Should be striving for more uniform performance. Contract specification revisions might help in part of this.
- There needs to be an easier way of seeing how others are doing similar work.
- Bring back cost/benefit analysis for office decisions.
- Could do more sociology with stakeholders. Need to have a better understanding of "sense of place."
- Concern that BLM cannot train non-economists to understand Sonoran Institute data and cannot instill in managers without social and economic training the importance of social and economic data for better decision making.

Increasing the number of social and economic positions. While it was widely recognized in other responses that this was not likely to happen, it was still cited many times as one of the changes that is needed. Specific suggestions included:

- More regional approach with sharing of limited expertise across state lines, areas, etc.
- Need more bodies in economics and sociology; better trained within their respective disciplines. Have an economist in every state.
- Thinks BLM needs to ask what "we" want to look like in five years. Whether to hire internally to do social and economic work or continue with contract work. Currently the best hope is the ability to do oversight work on contracts (does BLM even have the ability to do that).
- May want to look at Forest Service "Enterprise Team" approach to gain efficiency.
- Need more administrators with an economics background. An administrator with an economics background understands the importance of social and economic data for improved decision making.
- Be more realistic. BLM can't do everything with limited staffing resources. Some things aren't going to get done.

- Need a social science program. Currently it is not "seen" by management because it is so small or just not on the radar screen. It would mean recognition of important jobs within BLM and as being comparable to other programs.

Linking use of social and economic analysis to management performance evaluation. Specific suggestions included:

- In some way make efficiency in use of economic and social analysis part of a manager's performance evaluation. Current emphasis is on number permits issued, moving plans to completion on schedule, and supposedly effectiveness in collaborating with the public.
- Have a direct link of social and economic information to the management decision. Include economic and social stipulations in lease agreements and conditions of approval.
- BLM should consider more of the economic implications in their decision making, particularly at the field level. This may involve working more with local communities on their concerns rather than at the national level.
- Social scientists need to continue to serve as advisors to managers, work to overcome the fears of real science disciplines, and help people understand the specialties similar to the real sciences. This is expressed as managers are comfortable asking the "ologists" for advice and less so for social scientists.
- You would need 1) a hammer from the top and 2) a perceived need at the grass roots. As with the Forest Service NEPA 1901, they need to converge. Over ten years, everyone speaks the same language. They take courses repeated over and over.

Using consultants to perform social and economic data collection and analysis. Specific suggestions included:

- Need to handpick consultants.
- Allow contracting out analysis for a common structure.
- BLM oversight person must have local knowledge.

BLM Response to Future Social Science Needs

EPS is useful for someone trained in economics, probably not useful for managers without the interpretation provided by the economist. There may be a danger in using canned information such as this. It may be better to maintain expertise at the state level. While this expertise currently exists at a low level, many are going to retire within a relatively short time period. There is be a need to develop training aimed at managers and their needs.

Contractors are a 2-edged sword. Depending on oversight and knowledge of BLM culture and needs, they can either provide good information that is needed or fairly useless stuff. Trained economists and sociologists are needed to oversee contracts, otherwise the product is more likely to not meet needs in a useful manner.

Ideal situation would be to hire permanent employees. Issues raised were the cyclical needs for social sciences at any one location, but a great need as a whole. There are more decisions being made at the local level, but those need to be made in the context of national policies and political factors. One option is to go with social and economic enterprise teams to provide assistance where needed. These may be at the state level where they could move around as needed,

although might have to share resources regionally. There is a need to develop career opportunities that will lead to better analysis and use of social science information. Social scientists need to be present on interdisciplinary teams.

Local social science staffing would help bring more social science information and analysis into manager's decisions. Temporary employees will likely have trouble getting necessary security clearances, may not know agency politics, and may not know the bureaucracy and how to get things done. Current hires are likely to have PhD which may not be the best solution for current local level needs. What is needed are economists and sociologists that can go in the field to gather and interpret data.

If monitoring is going to occur, BLM needs to work with OMB to figure out a more efficient way to get clearance on surveys. There needs to be a better way to determine cumulative impacts on a community.

BLM needs to improve on the consistency of using social science information and analysis in NEPA plans. Currently there appears to be only higher level review of those plans. There needs to be more leadership in this area. It was suggested that a state or national centralized work group be established to work with field offices for more even treatment and oversight.

The current WO staff is doing good, but they are stretched too thin. Need more recognition of social science importance within BLM at the Washington level. While this level of the organization is good, there may be a disconnect between the top and field level – where field office initiatives are downplayed because it came from the field.

There is a need to improve collaboration with local governments, especially in making contact with nontraditional groups. BLM needs to work better with all interest groups, including those taking an adversarial position. BLM needs to find ways to better collaborate with university and other nonprofit groups to draw on their expertise. BLM needs to have a good understanding of issues from the social science perspective from the beginning. Social science always seems to be missing in discussions of environmental justice even though it as at the core of the issue.

Miscellaneous comments:

Generally been supported by BLM and has enjoyed the time with the agency. A good place to work and develop one's interest. Good learning environment. Good colleagues who are supportive.

Best quote was talking about joint EIS with Forest Service where the economic and social analysis talked about "production harmony analysis."

You need to talk to non-economists, i.e., if you say we need economists at state level, who says economists are needed at the state level? You need to talk to planning team leaders and others about this opinion of social science need and involvement.

The internet survey is a good sign, because monies are being spent to get some information. "I'm so glad they are doing this!" And you are asking the right questions.

It will be interesting to see how the process of this assessment plays out. We are doing more things jointly with the Forest Service. We also have new software. Now we need the social science perspective ingrained in the institution.

Ideally with permanent employees. I have an idea about that, but I'm not going to tell you.

Appendix B.2 – Interview Schedule for BLM Social Science Staff

Introductory Script – Read this prior to each interview.

We are conducting an assessment for the Washington Office on BLM's current capabilities to obtain and utilize social and economic information measured against what is needed in the future. The information we are collecting will be used in a report to a panel of BLM managers and staff that will use it to develop a social and economic capabilities business plan that will identify areas for improvement and steps to attain them.

Your participation in this assessment is entirely voluntary. You should have received an informed consent letter via email and responded to it before this interview. We want to reiterate that your participation is voluntary, that there are no penalties with not participating, that any comment you make will not be individually identifiable, and that the list of participants will not be shared with anyone and will be destroyed after this assessment is completed. If at any point you would like to stop the interview, just let me know. You are also free to not answer any question. We will be writing answers as you give them. Although you responded that you agreed to the consent letter, do you have any questions about it?

Questions

What is your position within the Bureau of Land Management?
- What are your typical duties in a given week?
- What programs are you responsible for?
- What is the geographic area for which you are responsible?
- What previous positions have you held within BLM?

What is your educational background (i.e., what were you originally trained to do)?

How long have you been with the BLM? Has your tenure been continuous?
- During your tenure how has the Bureau changed? Please explain, especially in terms of its use of social science information.
- What do you see in terms of a career path within BLM? What are the opportunities in the social science realm? How did you think of "success" in your career within BLM?

How long have you been with your particular office?
- Has the operation of your office changed over the past five years?
- If so, please describe these changes.

Please discuss the relationship of BLM to local communities (special or social groups).
- *Probe for economic relationships (including employment, salary impacts, commodity relationships, and shifting recreation). Probe regarding BLM employees involvement in local communities (schools, churches, clubs, etc).*

Have these relationships changed significantly over the past five years? Please describe.

What direction do you see BLM (this office) going in the next year, three years, five years?

Over the past decade there has been an emphasis on collaboration with local populations and user groups; as well as a focus on economic and social impacts on local communities.

At different levels within BLM (field, state, Washington), how do you see economic relationships being examined and by whom?

At different levels within BLM (field, state, Washington), how do you see economic relationships being examined and by whom?

If there is no one with this expertise at a particular level, who might be able to work on economic and social impacts on local communities?

What is the opportunity to contract for these services? If contracting is feasible, who is responsible for evaluating proposals and draft/final reports?

Under current management and planning directions, what roles do social sciences have in decision-making or when making recommendations to higher levels?

Probe for different kinds of decisions (project, land management plan, fire management, grazing, strategic, etc.) and separately for economics, sociology, cultural anthropology, etc.

If the bureau moves towards a systems management approach that requires continuous monitoring, how do you perceive that social and economic expertise will be handled to monitor economic and/or social impacts on local communities?

What is the opportunity to contract for these services? If contracting is feasible, who is responsible for evaluating proposals and draft/final reports?

What role do you see social science playing in BLM's management decisions over the next several years?

Do you think the social science role will be different for different kinds of decisions? Please explain.

If a manager does not have social science expertise available, what social or economic tools do you think they use? What level of social science information and analysis do you think they would be comfortable with?

If you could identify a few (say 3) changes that you could make for the use of social science within BLM, what would they be?

How do you feel that BLM can most effectively respond to social science needs in the future (e.g., temporary employees as needed, permanent employees for each field office, permanent employees for each state, contractors as needed, do the minimal with canned information)? What would you say are the pros and cons of each alternative in terms of manager's ability to make informed decisions?

Appendix C.1 –Summary of BLM Employee Survey

Bureau of Land Management Social Science Information Needs and Capabilities Assessment

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Introduction

As part of the assessment of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) social science capabilities and needs, the third step was to conduct a statistically valid survey of all appropriate BLM employees. The purpose of this portion of the study was to gain a broader understanding of how social science information may be used and how it is perceived at different levels of the BLM organization. The employee survey gathered information on demographics, awareness of social sciences, use of social sciences, what the current capabilities within BLM are, how social science data and research are being used in different programs, and the complexities of implementing and using social science information.

Results of the employee survey will be described and discussed in this chapter. The survey questions are presented in Appendix C.2 with summary results in Appendix C.3. There were also several open ended questions and comments made to the survey staff that were recorded. The summary and interpretation of those responses is presented within this chapter. Specific responses to open-ended questions are given in Appendix C.4.

The results of the employee survey are assessed in conjunction with the results from the other tasks in order for the assessment team to make their final recommendations. These data are but one important piece of the whole picture.

Methods

Survey Description

The Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) at the University of Idaho was contacted by the Assessment Team in July 2006 to design and administer a web survey as Objective 3 within the Needs and Capabilities Assessment Project. The decision was eventually made to convert to a telephone survey with an anticipated improvement in the response rate, but the change did delay timing in administering the survey.

A pre-test of the telephone survey was implemented in August 2007. BLM Staff supplied the names of 60 individuals who worked in a broad variety of BLM program areas. The response rate for the pre-test was 66% (with 39 responses).

Based on the pre-test, a few modifications were made to the full survey. The BLM provided the SSRU with three different databases to build a sampling frame. One database had names, job titles, and duty stations for BLM employees. A second database had complete occupation information, but no names. The third database had names, phone numbers, and emails. The three databases were all drawn at different times, and so did not overlap exactly as some employees had left the BLM and others had been recently hired. SSRU staff merged the three databases in SAS, matching by position title, occupation code, and names. The lists were then hand cleaned of duplicates, and mismatches were corrected using online BLM employee directories. The SSRU staff then found mailing addresses for all the BLM offices through the BLM website and merged the addresses into the main database by duty station.

The sampling design was as follows. After reviewing the Human Resources (HR) data sent to us, including organizational level and position types, SSRU recommended a stratified random sample with organization level as the strata. In other words, independent random samples were

drawn from each of the three major organization levels, (national, state-level, and below state-level, regardless of where they were physically stationed). We targeted 300 complete surveys at the national and state levels, and 600 complete surveys below the state level. This sampling design allowed for a margin of sampling error of +/-5% within each category, and +/-3% overall. The BLM has a total of about 11,000 employees, but some position codes were excluded from the sampling frame because some positions and agency roles were not pertinent to this study. Examples include IT Specialists and Admin/Clerical staff.

On October 16, 2007 pre-notification postcards were mailed to employee offices that were selected for the sample. The postcard let the respondents know that they would be contacted by the SSRU to participate in a BLM telephone survey to give input about perceptions of the agency's social science needs and capabilities. The postcard also listed the toll-free number of the SSRU in case the respondent had any questions about the survey, wished to schedule an appointment, or refuse the survey.

All telephone interviewers and staff at the SSRU complete a National Institutes of Health online training regarding human subject's research (confidentiality and survey research methods) prior to data collection. In addition, interviewers receive a two hour training course on survey methodology and data collection, and a four hour survey-specific training. Data were collected on SPSS Data Builder and data analysis was conducted using SAS.

Telephone calls began on 19 October 2007 and continued until 4 December 2007. All calls were made during respondent's work hours. Phone surveys with Washington office employees were delayed three weeks because mail to Washington offices takes substantially longer to reach its destination due to security measures (e.g., irradiation). Answering machine messages were left with employees who were not available during a call attempt. Employees in the sample who we were not able to obtain working numbers for or track down a different telephone number were sent email notices to participate in the survey. Forty-five emails were sent, three individuals responded and completed the survey, seventeen emails bounced back to sender, and we heard nothing from the other respondents. For the purpose of this survey, an ineligible respondent was defined to be one who no longer worked for BLM; was on extended medical leave; or one who had a seasonal position. Final survey dispositions and response rates are presented in Table 1.

Appendix C.2 provides a complete listing of the survey instrument. The survey was designed with various sections soliciting 1) information about the awareness of social science within BLM; 2) the use of social science data within BLM and an assessment of how well social science information meets planning and project needs within BLM; 3) current social science capabilities within BLM; 4) specific applications of social science information within BLM; 5) complexities of implementing and using social science information; 6) demographic information about the survey respondents; and, 7) additional comments about the needs of social and economic analyses within BLM. Results of the survey are described in this report with a similar structure, starting with the demographics of survey respondents.

Table 1. Final dispositions and survey response rates.

Description	Below State	State	National	TOTAL
Complete	671	328	252	1,251
Duplicate	0	2	0	2
Ineligible	127	47	168	342
Non-contact	328	154	132	614
Refused	77	70	47	194
TOTAL	1,203	601	599	2,403
Final Adjusted Response Rate[3]	62.4%	59.4%	58.5%	60.7%

Data Analysis

Using PROC FREQ in SAS, frequency tables were prepared to tabulate the responses observed to the various survey questions. Pivot tables and data filters in Excel were also used to further evaluate the pattern of responses.

Survey respondents were categorized based on the level of the BLM office where the respondent worked and results are reported for these classifications. The "Below-State" classification included those working at a field or district office. References to the "District Office" should be interpreted to also include responses from people at field offices. Other classifications (strata) included those working at a state office (State) and those working in Washington D.C. or other national centers (National).

For selected questions respondents were also categorized as to whether they considered themselves to be Managers or not and also by their level of social science training. This was done to test for differences between managers and others in relation to attitudes about the perceived value of social science information.

Some survey questions used a Likert type scale rating from 1 to 5 where the survey respondent rated the usefulness, need or importance of social and economic data and analysis in specific applications. For these questions a mean response was computed, though the reported average is not the simple average. Rather, reported averages for the level of BLM employment (strata), along with standard errors (SE) of the estimates, were generated from a linear statistical model. Means reported for the level of employment are least-squares means (LSM), or population marginal means generated using PROC GLM in SAS. A LSM was determined to provide the best estimate of the average response in this application because differences in sample size between BLM employment levels were accounted for in the statistical model. LSMs are simply estimators of class or subclass marginal means that would be expected had the design been balanced. The reported overall mean is the simple average including only valid responses to the

[3] Following the definition of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). 2006. Standards Definitions: Final Disposition of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys, 4th Edition. Lenexa, KS: AAPOR. Available at: http://www.aapor.org/. Ineligible respondents are not included when computing the response rate.

question (excluding those coded as 'did not know', 'refused', or 'missing'). A test of the least-squares means for a stratification effect is presented. In report tables, means followed by the same letter are not statistically different. Further, at the bottom of each table that used a Likert type scale is a chart displaying the category frequency and cumulative frequency of responses when invalid responses were excluded. The percentages in the table and in the graph will be different because the graph excludes non-responses whereas the table shows the distribution of all survey responses. The graph was computed for the total sample measured across all strata.

Results

Survey Section 6: Survey Demographics

The survey was completed by 1,251 BLM employees between the dates of 19 October 2007 and 4 December 2007. Questions in the Demographics section of the survey were designed to provide general background information about the survey respondents.

Table 2 shows the distribution of completed surveys by state. The label "Eastern States" refers to all eastern states excluding Washington D.C. Survey respondents were originally categorized based on human resources data (HRD) to be at different organizational levels (national, state-level, and below state-level). Some people were on temporary assignment or had changed positions within BLM relative to that defined by the HRD dataset and this explains the apparent location inconsistencies shown in Table 3.

Table 2. Distribution of survey respondents by state.

State	Frequency	Percent
Alaska	127	10.15
Arizona	30	2.40
California	111	8.87
Colorado	105	8.39
Washington D.C.	116	9.27
Eastern States	16	1.28
Idaho	129	10.31
Montana	62	4.96
New Mexico	76	6.08
Nevada	100	7.99
Oregon/Washington	215	17.19
Utah	67	5.36
Wyoming	97	7.75
TOTAL	1,251	100

Of the 1,247 survey respondents answering survey question 24 about their role as managers, 314 respondents (25%) considered themselves to be a manager. As would be expected, the relative percentage of managers increased for those working at the national level (Table 4). Approximately two-thirds of the survey respondents had informal or formal training and experience in the social sciences. Of those responding to question 25 (N = 1,246) approximately 13% had no training or experience in the social sciences. A similar number was at the other end of the training spectrum with 14% of the respondents holding a degree in social science or economic fields, or with a great deal of social science experience. Approximately 10% of the survey respondents had a social science degree and this was consistent across strata (Table 5).

The average length of BLM employment for survey respondents was from 10 to 14 years, yet this mean level was computed from a bi-modal distribution. Many survey respondents were relatively advanced in their BLM careers. Fifty-four percent of the respondents had worked for BLM for 15 or more years (Table 6). The average job tenure of those working in field and district offices was less than those at the national and state level, as might be expected.

Combining information from Tables 5 and 6, an assessment of employment history was made for those indicating that they held a social science degree (123 respondents) or had a great deal of social and economic training (48 respondents). The tenure of employment for these 171 survey respondents was not greatly different from that shown in Table 6. These social science trained individuals had worked for BLM for less than 4 years with a 22% frequency; from 5 to 9 years, 26%; from 10 to 14 years, 5%; and greater than 15 years, 47%.

Table 3. Level of BLM office where survey respondent worked.

Question 26: Please indicate the level of the BLM office where you work?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Field Office	477 38.34 71.41	14 1.13 4.29	17 1.37 6.80	508 40.84
District Office	181 14.55 27.10	2 0.16 0.61	8 0.64 3.20	191 15.35
State Office	3 0.24 0.45	309 24.84 94.79	18 1.45 7.20	330 26.53
Washington Office/National Center	7 0.56 1.05	1 0.08 0.31	207 16.64 82.80	215 17.28
Total	668 53.70	326 26.21	250 20.10	1,244 100.00
Frequency Missing = 7				

Table 4. Survey respondent's role as a manager.

Question 24: Are you a manager?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No - 0	532 42.66 79.52	246 19.73 75.23	155 12.43 61.75	933 74.82
Yes - 1	137 10.99 20.48	81 6.50 24.77	96 7.70 38.25	314 25.18
Total	669 53.65	327 26.22	251 20.13	1,247 100.00
Frequency Missing = 4				

Table 5. Level of social science training.

Question 25: What category best describes your level of social science training or experience?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No training or experience	75 6.02 11.24	53 4.25 16.21	28 2.25 11.11	156 12.52
Some informal training or experience	243 19.50 36.43	107 8.59 32.72	93 7.46 36.90	443 35.55
Extensive training and/or experience	50 4.01 7.50	21 1.69 6.42	18 1.44 7.14	89 7.14
Coursework or formal training	214 17.17 32.08	97 7.78 29.66	76 6.10 30.16	387 31.06
Degree in social science or economics	60 4.82 9.00	36 2.89 11.01	27 2.17 10.71	123 9.87
A great deal of experience	25 2.01 3.75	13 1.04 3.98	10 0.80 3.97	48 3.85
Total	667 53.53	327 26.24	252 20.22	1,246 100.00
	Frequency Missing = 5			

Table 6. Employment tenure with BLM.

Question 27: How many years have you worked for the BLM?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Zero to four years – 1	152 12.24 22.79	40 3.22 12.35	38 3.06 15.14	230 18.52
Five to nine years – 2	151 12.16 22.64	54 4.35 16.67	48 3.86 19.12	253 20.37
Ten to fourteen years - 3	48 3.86 7.20	16 1.29 4.94	22 1.77 8.76	86 6.92
Fifteen or more years - 4	316 25.44 47.38	214 17.23 66.05	143 11.51 56.97	673 54.19
Mean Response	2.79a (0.047)	3.25b (0.067)	3.08b (0.076)	2.96 (0.034)
Total	667 53.70	324 26.09	251 20.21	1,242 100.00

Frequency Missing = 9

Note: in all of the tables, mean responses followed by the same letter are not statistically different at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level.

Survey Section 1: Awareness of Social Science within BLM

Informal communications and meetings with stakeholders were the primary ways that BLM gathers social science information (Table 7). These two data collection methods accounted for over two-thirds of the survey responses to question 1 which asked about the variety of different methods used to gather social science information. These results were consistent across strata and across states.

Table 7. Methods used to gather social science information.

Question 1: Please tell me which of the following methodologies is used most often by individuals at your office to gather social science information.				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Informal stakeholder communications	244 19.58 36.47	86 6.90 26.38	82 6.58 32.67	412 33.07
Formal stakeholder interviews	40 3.21 5.98	28 2.25 8.59	15 1.20 5.98	83 6.66
Scoping meetings with stakeholders	268 21.51 40.06	115 9.23 35.28	51 4.09 20.32	434 34.83
Interview studies of local cultures	10 0.80 1.49	4 0.32 1.23	5 0.40 1.99	19 1.52
Surveying populations about attitudes	8 0.64 1.20	4 0.32 1.23	14 1.12 5.58	26 2.09
Gathering and using secondary data	31 2.49 4.63	25 2.01 7.67	23 1.85 9.16	79 6.34
None of the above	23 1.85 3.44	28 2.25 8.59	47 3.77 18.73	98 7.87
Don`t know	45 3.61 6.73	36 2.89 11.04	14 1.12 5.58	95 7.62
Total	669 53.69	326 26.16	251 20.14	1,246 100.00
Frequency Missing = 5				

Social science information, research, and data were felt to be of importance for the planning documents prepared by BLM. The highest average importance rating, but thus the lowest assignment of importance (i.e., larger numbers reflect a lower rating) was 2.26 (between high and moderate) which was assigned at the national level (Table 8). Those working at the district and field office level gave a statistically lower importance rating to social science information than did those working at the state and national levels. This was true for data used at the national level (Table 8), data used in EIS's and planning documents at the district level (Table 9) and on-the-ground analysis at the field office level (Table 10). After excluding those without knowledge or an opinion about the relative importance of social science data, at all levels of analysis, nearly 90% of the survey respondents rated the importance of social science information, research and data to be moderate or higher (Tables 8 – 10, graph). There is a high level of awareness about the needs for social and economic research and data collection within BLM.

Those individuals that indicated they were in a management role (n = 313) assigned a higher value of social science information at the state or national level then did non-managers (2.65 ± 0.10 for managers versus 3.06 ± 0.06 for non-managers, P = 0.005). This same difference was also found at the District Office level (2.35 ± 0.09 for managers versus 2.57 ± 0.05 for non-managers, P = 0.03) but the importance ratings at the Field Office level was not statistically different between managers and non-managers ((2.49 ± 0.09 for managers versus 2.64 ± 0.05 for non-managers, P = 0.18).

As would be expected, the assigned value for social science data and research increased with the amount of social science training and experience. At the national level, when the respondent had no formal social science training or experience, a mean rating for social science research of 3.49 ± 0.14 (neutral) was made. This compares to a mean rating of 2.59 ± 0.16 (important to very important) when respondents held a social science degree. Those with minimal training in the social sciences had an average rating of 2.95 ± 0.08 which was statistically different from those with no training. Results were similar at the District and Field Office level. If the respondent had no formal training or experience in the social sciences then they perceived there to be a low value for social science research and analysis within BLM. An obvious implication is that if the number of people within BLM with social science training decreases, the perceived importance of the social sciences within BLM will also decrease. Appreciation of the social sciences can be improved with even minimal training in the discipline.

Table 8. Rating the value of social science information at the state or national level.

Question 2: How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the state or national level to address broad concerns?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very high – 1	71 5.68 10.58	52 4.16 15.95	50 4.00 19.84	173 13.85
High – 2	201 16.09 29.96	114 9.13 34.97	89 7.13 35.32	404 32.35
Moderate – 3	248 19.86 36.96	110 8.81 33.74	80 6.41 31.75	438 35.07
Low – 4	67 5.36 9.99	18 1.44 5.52	13 1.04 5.16	98 7.85
Very low – 5	17 1.36 2.53	8 0.64 2.45	2 0.16 0.79	27 2.16
Mean Response	2.60a (0.038)	2.39b (0.053)	2.26b (0.060)	2.48 (0.028)
Don`t know	67 5.36 9.99	24 1.92 7.36	18 1.44 7.14	109 8.73
Total	671 53.72	326 26.10	252 20.18	1,249 100.00

Frequency Missing = 2

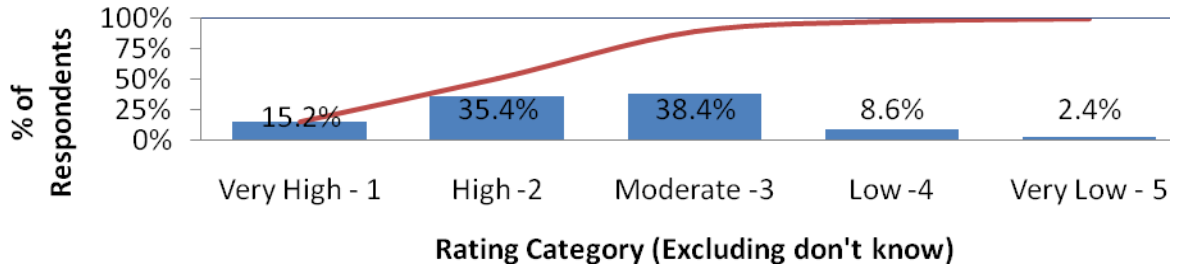


Table 9. Rating the value of social science information at the district office level.

Question 3: How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the District Office level, including its use in Environmental Impact Statements and Resource Management Plans				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very high – 1	135 10.82 20.12	89 7.13 27.22	72 5.77 28.80	296 23.72
High – 2	283 22.68 42.18	140 11.22 42.81	101 8.09 40.40	524 41.99
Moderate – 3	145 11.62 21.61	54 4.33 16.51	38 3.04 15.20	237 18.99
Low – 4	57 4.57 8.49	16 1.28 4.89	7 0.56 2.80	80 6.41
Very low – 5	13 1.04 1.94	1 0.08 0.31	2 0.16 0.80	16 1.28
Mean Response	2.26a (0.036)	2.00b (0.053)	1.94b (0.061)	2.13 (0.027)
Don't know, does not apply (no District Office)	38 3.04 5.66	27 2.16 8.26	30 2.40 12.00	95 7.61
Total	671 53.77	327 26.20	250 20.03	1,248 100.00

Frequency Missing = 3

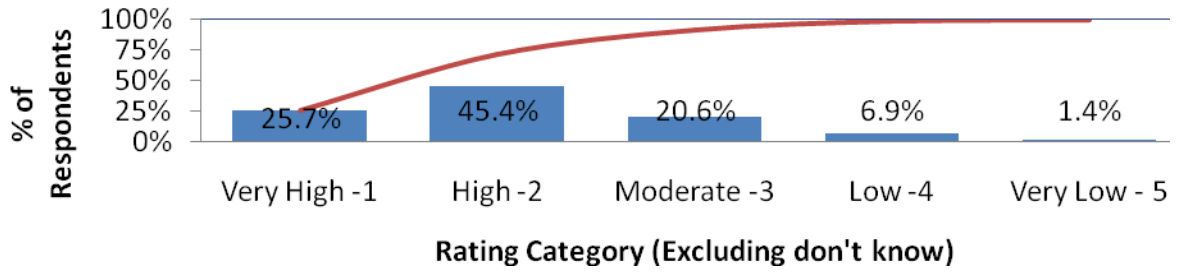
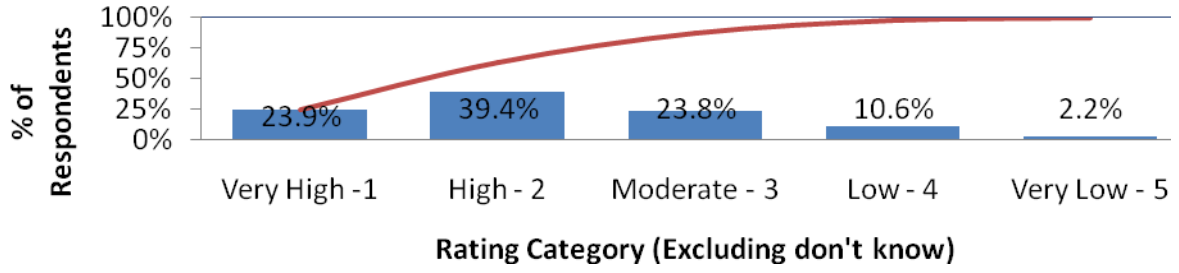


Table 10. Rating the value of social science information at the field office or resource area levels.

Question 4: How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the Field Office or Resource Area level as an on-the-ground activity among managers and staff?

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very high - 1	152 12.20 22.72	66 5.30 20.31	63 5.06 25.00	281 22.55
High – 2	244 19.58 36.47	125 10.03 38.46	94 7.54 37.30	463 37.16
Moderate - 3	155 12.44 23.17	77 6.18 23.69	48 3.85 19.05	280 22.47
Low – 4	82 6.58 12.26	27 2.17 8.31	16 1.28 6.35	125 10.03
Very low - 5	20 1.61 2.99	3 0.24 0.92	3 0.24 1.19	26 2.09
Mean Response	2.35a (0.040)	2.25ab (0.058)	2.12b (0.067)	2.28 (0.029)
Don`t know	16 1.28 2.39	27 2.17 8.31	28 2.25 11.11	71 5.70
Total	669 53.69	325 26.08	252 20.22	1,246 100.00

Frequency Missing = 5



Survey Section 2: Use of Social Science Data within BLM

This section of the report investigates how social science is used in different areas within BLM. There were numerous ways social and economic analysis was completed at BLM offices. Just over half (51%) of all respondents indicated that non social science BLM employees were responsible for such analysis. One in eight (12%) noted that no one in their office addressed social science issues. Again, about one in eight (13%) noted that social science issues were handled by a BLM social scientist, and fewer than one in eight utilized private contractors (12%). Only 3% of the various offices hire university researchers for social science issues and one in fourteen (6%) responded that they didn't know who did social science analysis in their respective offices. Based on these data it becomes apparent that just over one in four BLM offices utilize a trained social scientist to conduct and analyze social science data.

A descriptive look at the data reveals several interesting differences. Because of some of the small numbers involved when the data are divided into District and Field offices (Below State), State offices, and National offices, only the larger response categories are discussed. Three trends emerge from the data. Most significantly, at the district and field office level almost six in ten (58%) responded that non social scientists conducted and analyzed social science information—a figure that drops to nearly four in ten for State (41%) and National (44%) offices. State offices were more likely to have a BLM social scientist (20%) as compared to National offices (18%) and only 7% of the offices below the state level had access to such expertise. Likewise nearly one in six State offices (15%) used private contractors compared to 11% of offices below the State level, and 9% of National offices. Between 15% (National) and 10% (State) noted that no one addresses these issues. In summary, social science expertise is more likely to be concentrated at the National and State level. If social science issues are examined at the District or field office, the work will be done by a non social scientist.

In order to shed more light on the conduct and analysis of social science information, respondents had a choice of selecting an "other" response. If so, then they were probed to specify other options for gathering such data. Originally 57 respondents selected "other", and, of these, 29 respondents at the district or field office level reported an open-ended response. Although not uniform in phrasing, eight respondents stated that most everyone pitched in to gather data and complete social science analysis. These staff, although not trained as social scientists, did have some knowledge of social science techniques and analyses. Participation was limited by competing projects, staffing levels and funding. Three other participants noted that social science was done by staff archeologists or anthropologist and two individuals at the district level noted that their office relied on economic expertise provided at the State level. Four said that such information was handled by managers, planners, or environmental coordinators. Two respondents noted they were the only ones in the office with training in the social sciences, but the extent of this training is unknown.

Based on the text of the open ended responses, 18 individuals in the "other" category were recoded to one of the other listed categories, because what the respondent said closely matched that particular category. Many of the survey respondents had difficulty picking just one type of analyst that would be considered to be most responsible for social and economic studies in the office. With prodding, most did select a single category, but 27 individuals were not willing to choose just one category and their response was recoded and reflected in Table 11 as a "combination of above" category (2% of respondents). The combination category was usually a

combination of BLM and third party contractors with bits and pieces of the analysis being contracted. Given the choice many other respondents would likely have answered with a combination as well. Based on the wording of the open-ended comments and the reluctance to select just one category, clearly in some cases, whoever is available becomes the "social science" analyst.

Table 12 provides a summary of responses regarding BLM employees' perceptions of the importance of *identifying* social and economic information, research, or data (Question 6). Across all strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 69% of respondents felt that identifying social and economic information, research, or data was "important" to "very important", with 23% feeling that it was "very important". Conversely, only 8% of respondents felt that identifying social and economic information, research, or data was "unimportant" to "very unimportant". Mean responses were not different among the three strata with an average response of slightly below "important" (2.18).

Table 13 provides a summary of responses regarding BLM employees' perceptions of the importance of *analyzing* social and economic information, research, or data (Question 7). Across all strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 66% of respondents felt that analyzing social and economic information, research, or data was "important" to "very important", with 21% feeling that it was "very important". Conversely, only 11% of respondents felt that analyzing social and economic information, research, or data was "unimportant" to "very unimportant", with only 2% feeling that it was "very unimportant". Twenty-three percent of employees responded in the "neutral" category on the question. Among the three strata, analyzing social and economic information, research, or data, was seen as least important at the National level (mean response of 2.39, indicating an average response between "important" and "neutral"). It was most important at the State level with a mean response just below "important" (2.17). At all three strata, *analyzing* social and economic information, research, or data (Table 13) was rated somewhat less important than *identifying* social and economic information, research, or data (Table 12).

Table 14 provides a summary of responses regarding the employees' perceptions of the importance of overseeing individuals contracted to provide social and economic information, research, or data to the BLM (Question 8). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 55% of respondents felt that oversight was "important" to "very important", with 21% indicating that oversight was "very important". Conversely 21% of respondents felt that oversight was "unimportant" to "very unimportant" with 6% feeling that it was very unimportant. Twenty-three percent of respondents indicated that they were neutral on this question. Among the three strata, oversight was seen as most important at the State level (mean response of 2.36, indicating an average response closer to "important" than to "neutral"). It was seen as less important at the District level and National level (mean responses of 2.52 and 2.66 respectively, indicating an average response closer to "neutral" than to "important"). In summary, while the majority of BLM employees felt that oversight of contracted social and economic information, research, and data was important, a significant number of employees were either neutral or felt that oversight was unimportant.

Table 11. Responsibility for conducting social and economic analysis.

Question 5: At YOUR office, who is MOST responsible for conducting social and economic analysis?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
BLM social scientist	49 3.93 7.31	66 5.30 20.25	44 3.53 17.60	159 12.76
BLM employees not social scientists	389 31.22 58.06	133 10.67 40.80	110 8.83 44.00	632 50.72
University researchers	15 1.20 2.24	12 0.96 3.68	10 0.80 4.00	37 2.97
Private contractors	74 5.94 11.04	49 3.93 15.03	23 1.85 9.20	146 11.72
Combination of above	15 1.20 2.24	8 0.64 2.45	4 0.32 1.60	27 2.17
No one addresses these issues	85 6.82 12.69	32 2.57 9.82	38 3.05 15.20	155 12.44
Other	7 0.56 1.04	2 0.16 0.61	3 0.24 1.20	12 0.96
Don`t know	36 2.89 5.37	24 1.93 7.36	18 1.44 7.20	78 6.26
Total	670 53.77	326 26.16	250 20.06	1,246 100.00
Frequency Missing = 5				

Table 12. Importance of identifying social and economic information at your office.

Question 6: At your office, how important is it to identify social and economic information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	134 10.74 20.00	90 7.21 27.52	65 5.21 25.90	289 23.16
Important - 2	320 25.64 47.76	136 10.90 41.59	92 7.37 36.65	548 43.91
Neutral - 3	155 12.42 23.13	65 5.21 19.88	63 5.05 25.10	283 22.68
Unimportant - 4	37 2.96 5.52	20 1.60 6.12	16 1.28 6.37	73 5.85
Very unimportant - 5	9 0.72 1.34	7 0.56 2.14	12 0.96 4.78	28 2.24
Mean Response	2.19a (0.036)	2.11a (0.053)	2.27a (0.060)	2.18 (0.027)
Don`t know	15 1.20 2.24	9 0.72 2.75	3 0.24 1.20	27 2.16
Total	670 53.69	327 26.20	251 20.11	1,248 100.00

Frequency Missing = 3

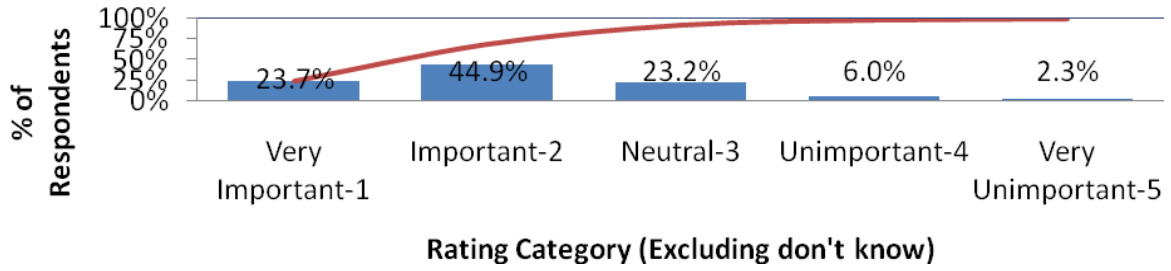


Table 13. Importance of analyzing social and economic information at your office.

Question 7: At your office, how important is it to analyze social and economic information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very Important – 1	118 9.45 17.61	81 6.49 24.77	55 4.40 21.83	254 20.34
Important – 2	317 25.38 47.31	142 11.37 43.43	90 7.21 35.71	549 43.96
Neutral – 3	151 12.09 22.54	64 5.12 19.57	68 5.44 26.98	283 22.66
Unimportant – 4	59 4.72 8.81	23 1.84 7.03	24 1.92 9.52	106 8.49
Very Unimportant – 5	9 0.72 1.34	8 0.64 2.45	12 0.96 4.76	29 2.32
Mean Response	2.27a,b (0.037)	2.17b (0.054)	2.39a (0.061)	2.27 (0.027)
Don`t know	16 1.28 2.39	9 0.72 2.75	3 0.24 1.19	28 2.24
Total	670 53.64	327 26.18	252 20.18	1,249 100.00

Frequency Missing = 2

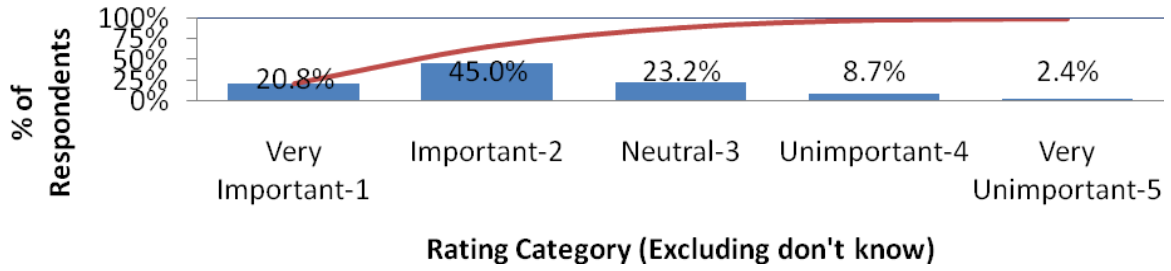


Table 14. Importance of overseeing contracted social and economic information gathering and research at your office.

Question 8: At your office, how important is it to oversee contracted social and economic information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	115 9.25 17.32	68 5.47 20.80	51 4.10 20.24	234 18.83
Important - 2	207 16.65 31.17	121 9.73 37.00	60 4.83 23.81	388 31.21
Neutral - 3	134 10.78 20.18	67 5.39 20.49	62 4.99 24.60	263 21.16
Unimportant - 4	99 7.96 14.91	31 2.49 9.48	46 3.70 18.25	176 14.16
Very unimportant - 5	30 2.41 4.52	16 1.29 4.89	18 1.45 7.14	64 5.15
Mean Response	2.52a (0.047)	2.36b (0.065)	2.66a (0.074)	2.51 (0.034)
Don`t know	79 6.36 11.90	24 1.93 7.34	15 1.21 5.95	118 9.49
Total	664 53.42	327 26.31	252 20.27	1,243 100.00

Frequency Missing = 8

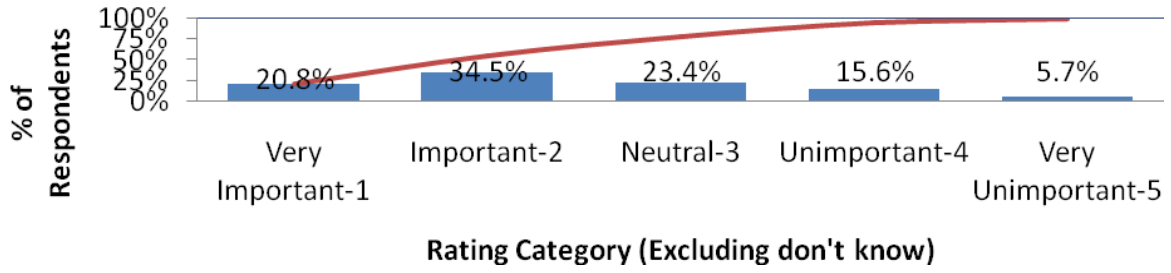


Table 15 provides a summary of responses regarding BLM employees' perceptions of the importance of using social science data to list alternatives and/or design mitigation strategies (Question 9). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 68% of respondents felt that the use of these data to list alternatives and/or design mitigation was either "important" or "very important", with 26% indicating that it was "very important". Conversely 12% of respondents felt that the use of social science data was "unimportant" to "very unimportant" with 3% feeling that it was "very unimportant". Twenty percent of respondents indicated that they were "neutral" on this question. Among the three strata, social data use to list alternatives and/or design mitigation was seen as most important at the state level or below (mean responses of 2.15 and 2.13, respectively, indicating an average response close to "important"). It was seen as less important at the National level.

Table 16 provides a summary of responses regarding BLM employees' perceptions of how well project implementation needs are met using social science information, research or data (Question 10). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), the majority (52%) of all respondents felt that the use for project implementation needs was "adequate". The remainder of the responses were about evenly divided between those that indicated that project needs were met "well" to "very well" (25%) and those that indicated "poorly" to "very poorly" (23%). Mean responses among the three strata were not statistically different with an average response of "adequate" (2.97).

Table 17 provides a summary of responses regarding the employees' perception of how well land use planning needs are met using social science information (Question 11). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 41% of respondents felt that the use of social science information for land use planning needs was "adequate". Of the remainder of the responses, more rated the use for land use planning needs from "well" to "very well" (42%) than rate its use from "poorly" to "very poorly" (17%). The use of social science information for land use planning needs was rated higher at the State level (mean response of 2.46, indicating an average response at near the midpoint between "well" and "adequate"). At the District and National levels the use of social science information for land use planning needs was rated lower (mean responses of 2.71 and 2.74, indicating an average response closer to "adequate" than to "well").

Table 18 provides a summary of responses regarding BLM employees' perception of how well trend monitoring needs are met using social and economic indicators (Question 12). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 40% of respondents felt that the use for trend monitoring needs was "adequate". Of the responses from the rest of the employees, 23% rated the use for trend monitoring needs from "well" to "very well", while 37% rated it from "poorly" to "very poorly". The use of social science data for trend monitoring was rated lower at the District level (mean response of 3.24, indicating an average response between "adequate" and "poorly"). At the State and National level the use for trend monitoring was rated somewhat higher (mean response of 3.03 and 3.04 respectively, indicating an average response close to "adequate").

Table 19 provides a summary of responses regarding perceptions about how well local and tribal community development objectives are met using social science information, research, or data (Question 13). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses),

Table 15. Importance of social science data for listing alternatives and designing mitigation strategies at your office.

Question 9: At your office, how important is it to use social science data to list alternatives and/or design mitigation strategies?

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	173 13.90 25.94	88 7.07 26.83	52 4.18 20.80	313 25.14
Important - 2	289 23.21 43.33	135 10.84 41.16	82 6.59 32.80	506 40.64
Neutral - 3	131 10.52 19.64	55 4.42 16.77	56 4.50 22.40	242 19.44
Unimportant - 4	47 3.78 7.05	28 2.25 8.54	26 2.09 10.40	101 8.11
Very unimportant - 5	12 0.96 1.80	8 0.64 2.44	21 1.69 8.40	41 3.29
Mean Response	2.13a (0.040)	2.15a (0.057)	2.50b (0.066)	2.21 (0.030)
Don`t know	15 1.20 2.25	14 1.12 4.27	13 1.04 5.20	42 3.37
Total	667 53.57	328 26.35	250 20.08	1,245 100.00

Frequency Missing = 6

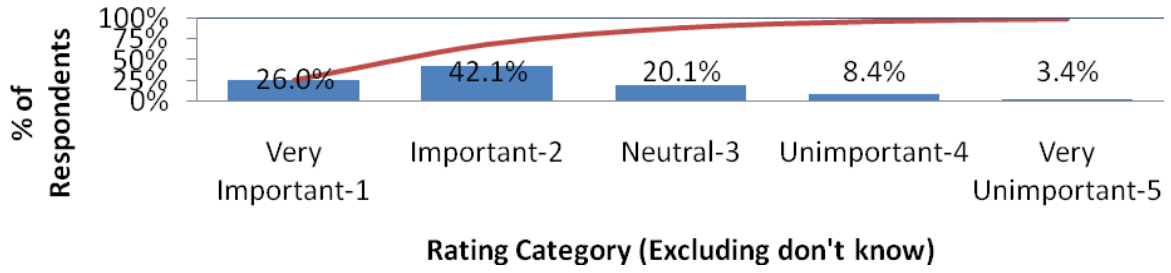


Table 16. Adequacy of project implementation needs using social science information.

Question 10: How well are project implementation needs met through the use of social science information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well - 1	28 2.26 4.20	13 1.05 4.02	16 1.29 6.37	57 4.60
Well - 2	115 9.27 17.27	66 5.32 20.43	42 3.39 16.73	223 17.98
Adequately - 3	354 28.55 53.15	149 12.02 46.13	90 7.26 35.86	593 47.82
Poorly – 4	119 9.60 17.87	53 4.27 16.41	57 4.60 22.71	229 18.47
Very poorly - 5	18 1.45 2.70	10 0.81 3.10	9 0.73 3.59	37 2.98
Mean Response	2.97a (0.034)	2.93a (0.050)	3.00a 0.058)	2.97 (0.025)
Don`t know	32 2.58 4.80	32 2.58 9.91	37 2.98 14.74	101 8.15
Total	666 53.71	323 26.05	251 20.24	1,240 100.00

Frequency Missing = 11

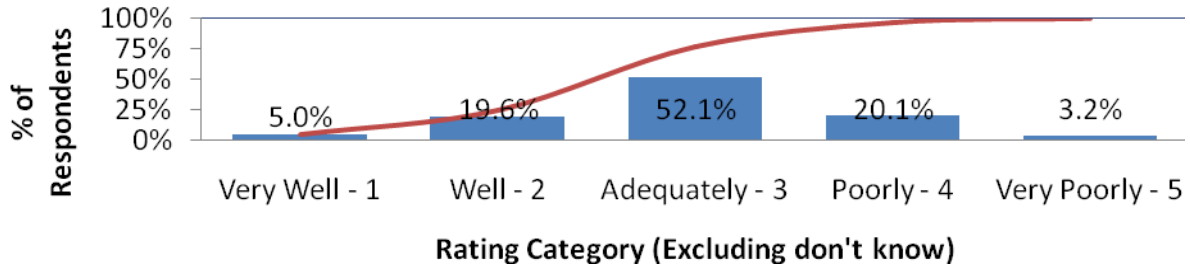


Table 17. Adequacy of land use planning needs using social science information.

Question 11: How well are land use planning needs met by using social science information?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well - 1	55 4.42 8.25	56 4.51 17.13	26 2.09 10.44	137 11.02
Well – 2	193 15.53 28.94	85 6.84 25.99	53 4.26 21.29	331 26.63
Adequately - 3	278 22.37 41.68	118 9.49 36.09	71 5.71 28.51	467 37.57
Poorly – 4	100 8.05 14.99	28 2.25 8.56	43 3.46 17.27	171 13.76
Very poorly - 5	8 0.64 1.20	6 0.48 1.83	5 0.40 2.01	19 1.53
Mean Response	2.71a (0.037)	2.46b (0.054)	2.74a (0.066)	2.65 (0.028)
Don`t know	33 2.65 4.95	34 2.74 10.40	51 4.10 20.48	118 9.49
Total	667 53.66	327 26.31	249 20.03	1,243 100.00

Frequency Missing = 8

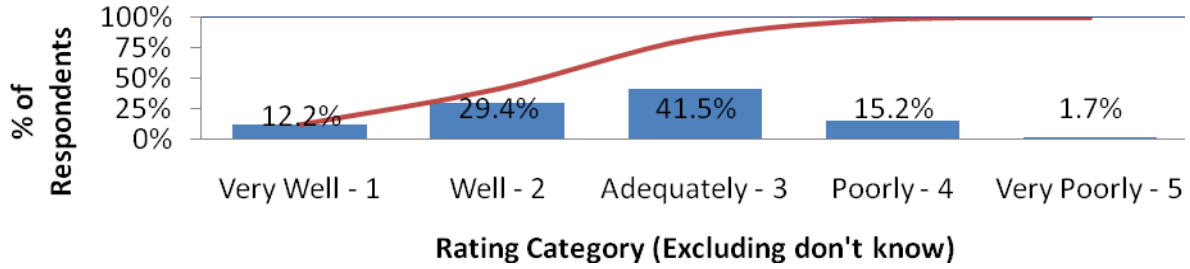


Table 18. Adequacy of trend monitoring needs using social science information.

Question 12: How well are trend monitoring needs met by using social and economic indicators?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well - 1	17 1.37 2.54	13 1.05 4.00	17 1.37 6.77	47 3.78
Well – 2	96 7.72 14.37	50 4.02 15.38	39 3.14 15.54	185 14.87
Adequately - 3	228 18.33 34.13	112 9.00 34.46	73 5.87 29.08	413 33.20
Poorly – 4	196 15.76 29.34	74 5.95 22.77	67 5.39 26.69	337 27.09
Very poorly - 5	35 2.81 5.24	5 0.40 1.54	7 0.56 2.79	47 3.78
Mean Response	3.24a (0.038)	3.03b (0.058)	3.04b (0.064)	3.15 (0.029)
Don`t know	96 7.72 14.37	71 5.71 21.85	48 3.86 19.12	215 17.28
Total	668 53.70	325 26.13	251 20.18	1,244 100.00

Frequency Missing = 7

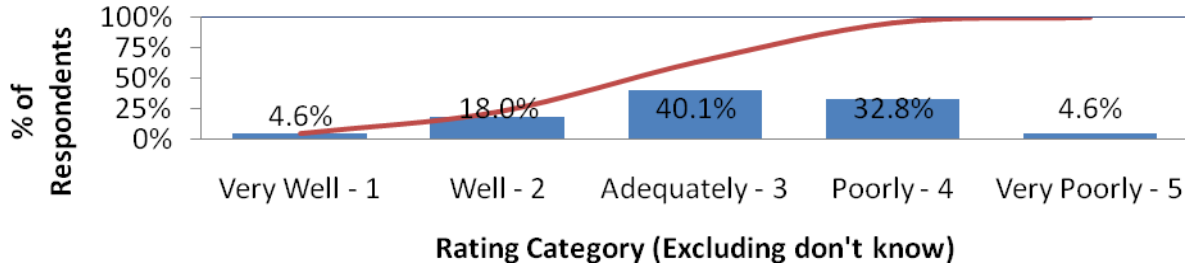
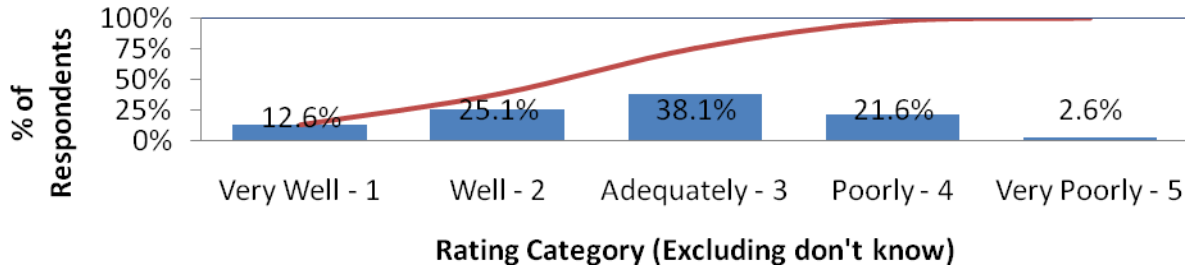


Table 19. Adequacy of local and tribal community development objectives using social science information.

Question 13: How well are local and tribal community development objectives met by using social science information, research, or data?

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well – 1	72 5.78 10.76	34 2.73 10.43	20 1.61 7.97	126 10.11
Well – 2	147 11.80 21.97	72 5.78 22.09	31 2.49 12.35	250 20.06
Adequately - 3	208 16.69 31.09	105 8.43 32.21	67 5.38 26.69	380 30.50
Poorly – 4	123 9.87 18.39	45 3.61 13.80	48 3.85 19.12	216 17.34
Very poorly - 5	16 1.28 2.39	4 0.32 1.23	6 0.48 2.39	26 2.09
Mean Response	2.76a (0.042)	2.67a (0.062)	2.94b (0.077)	2.77 (0.032)
Don`t know	103 8.27 15.40	66 5.30 20.25	79 6.34 31.47	248 19.90
Total	669 53.69	326 26.16	251 20.14	1,246 100.00

Frequency Missing = 5



38% of respondents felt that social data use to meet local and tribal community development objectives were "adequate". Of the remaining responses, more (38%) felt that social science data used to meet local and tribal community development objectives was met "well" to "very well" as compared to 24% that felt these needs were "poorly" to "very poorly" met. The meeting of local and tribal community development objectives was rated lower at the National level (mean response of 2.94, indicating an average response of "adequate"). At the State level and below the meeting of local and tribal community development objectives was rate somewhat higher (mean responses of 2.67 and 2.76 respectively).

Table 20 provides a summary of responses regarding the employees' perception of how strategies for public participation are aided by the use of social science information, research, or data (Question 14). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 45% of respondents felt that effective strategies for public participation were aided "adequately". Of the remaining responses, more employees (36%) felt that effective strategies for public participation were aided "well" to "very well" (36%) than felt that effective strategies were aided "poorly" to "very poorly" (19%). The aiding of effective strategies for public participation was rated higher at the State level (mean response of 2.65, indicating an average response of between "well" and "adequate"). At the District and National level the aiding of effective strategies for public participation was rated lower (mean responses of 2.78 and 2.81 respectively.

Table 21 provides a summary of responses regarding perceptions of whether recreation management needs are met using social science information, research, or data (Question 15). Across all three strata (excluding "Don't Know" responses), 38% of respondents felt that recreation management needs were being met "adequately". Of the remaining responses, more respondents (45%) felt that recreation management needs were being met "well" to "very well". A lower percentage (17%) felt that they were being met "poorly" to "very poorly". Meeting the needs of recreation management was rated the highest at the State level (mean response of 2.48, indicating an average response of about midway between "adequate" and "well"). At the National level, the meeting of recreation management needs was rated lower (mean response of 2.59, indicating an average response of between "adequate" and "well", but closer to "adequate"). At the District level, the meeting of recreation management needs was rated the lowest (mean response of 2.64, indicating an average response of between "adequate" and "well", but closer to "adequate").

In terms of importance, across the three strata, identifying social science information was rated as most important (mean response of 2.18, Table 12). Following identification of social science information was use of social science data to list alternatives and/or in designing mitigation measures (mean response of 2.21, Table 15). This was followed by analyzing social science information (mean response of 2.27, Table 13) and overseeing contracted social science information (mean response of 2.51, Table 14). The mean responses for all four questions were between "important" and "neutral", with the top three being closer to "important" than to "neutral". For the oversight question the mean response was approximately midway between "important" and "neutral".

Table 20. Adequacy of strategies for public participation as aided by social science information.

Question 14: How well are effective strategies for public participation aided by the use of social science information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well – 1	49 3.94 7.35	36 2.89 11.04	22 1.77 8.76	107 8.60
Well – 2	166 13.34 24.89	77 6.19 23.62	45 3.62 17.93	288 23.15
Adequately – 3	274 22.03 41.08	131 10.53 40.18	93 7.48 37.05	498 40.03
Poorly – 4	103 8.28 15.44	39 3.14 11.96	43 3.46 17.13	185 14.87
Very poorly – 5	15 1.21 2.25	5 0.40 1.53	3 0.24 1.20	23 1.85
Mean Response	2.78a (0.037)	2.65b (0.054)	2.81a (0.064)	2.75 (0.028)
Don`t know	60 4.82 9.00	38 3.05 11.66	45 3.62 17.93	143 11.50
Total	667 53.62	326 26.21	251 20.18	1,244 100.00

Frequency Missing = 7

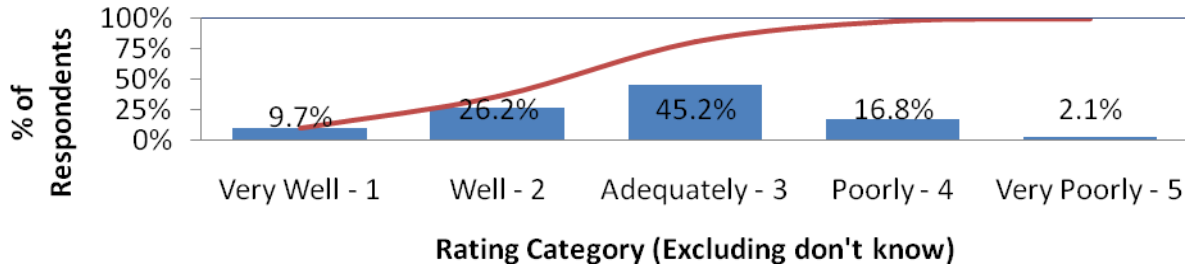
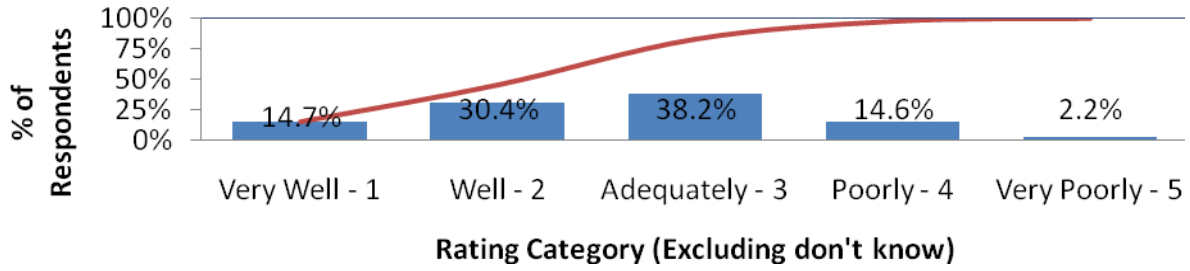


Table 21. Adequacy of recreation management needs using social science information.

Question 15: How well are recreation management needs met by using social science information, research, or data?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well – 1	82 6.59 12.26	45 3.61 13.80	26 2.09 10.40	153 12.29
Well – 2	183 14.70 27.35	82 6.59 25.15	52 4.18 20.80	317 25.46
Adequately – 3	214 17.19 31.99	114 9.16 34.97	70 5.62 28.00	398 31.97
Poorly – 4	107 8.59 15.99	21 1.69 6.44	24 1.93 9.60	152 12.21
Very poorly – 5	13 1.04 1.94	6 0.48 1.84	4 0.32 1.60	23 1.85
Mean Response	2.64a (0.040)	2.48b (0.059)	2.59a,b (0.074)	2.59 (0.030)
Don`t know	70 5.62 10.46	58 4.66 17.79	74 5.94 29.60	202 16.22
Total	669 53.73	326 26.18	250 20.08	1,245 100.00

Frequency Missing = 6



Rankings were fairly consistent among the three strata with the following exceptions. At the district and field office level, use of social science data to list alternatives and/or in designing mitigation measures was ranked higher than identifying social science information. At the National level, analysis of social science information was ranked higher than the use of social science data to list alternatives and/or in designing mitigation measures.

In terms of how well social science information was used across the three strata, use of these data to meet recreation management needs was ranked the highest (mean response of 2.59 or midway between "well" and "adequate", Table 21). Second after recreation management needs was use of social science information to meet land use planning needs (mean response of 2.65) followed by the use of social science information to aid effective strategies for public participation (mean response of 2.75). The lowest rankings were for use of social science information to meet local and tribal community development objectives (mean response of 2.77), use of social science information to meet project implementation needs (mean response of 2.97), and use of social science information to meet trend monitoring needs (mean response of 3.15). For these questions the overall ranking was near "adequate". For trend monitoring the mean response was between "adequate" and "poor".

These rankings were fairly consistent among the three strata with the following exceptions. At the District level, use of social science information to meet local and tribal community development objectives was ranked marginally higher than use of social science information to aid effective strategies for public involvement. At the State level, use of social science information to meet land use planning needs was ranked marginally higher than use of social science information to meet recreation management needs.

Survey Section 3: Current Social Science capabilities in the BLM

This section of the survey asked about perceptions about the current social science capabilities the BLM can draw upon, including both people within the agency as well as external contractors. Table 22 summarizes perceptions about the most fundamental barriers to conducting social science research and data collection within BLM. The two major barriers were identified to be competing priorities (28% of respondents) and lack of funding (25%). Sixty-three respondents felt uncomfortable selecting just one barrier category and felt there were multiple factors limiting social science research. Of those listed in Table 22 under "multiple reasons", 12 persons (1% of respondents) combined the top 2 barrier categories as their selection. A similar but separate category of "Not a priority among managers" was the third most common reason noted (13% of respondents). An additional 7 individuals combined this category along with lack of funding as their "other" selection. In total, 55 out of 63 (87%) of the "multiple reasons" respondents included lack of funding as one of their multiple selections. If it is recognized that different jobs compete for funds within BLM and that managers will spend money where their priorities lie, then the primary barrier for social science research is that social science research and data collection is not a priority with managers that have many competing priorities with limited funds. This combination of factors was mentioned by 70% of the survey respondents. Further, these top three responses, "Competing priorities," "Lack of funding," and "Not a priority among managers' all speak to issues of staffing, funding, and a shift in thinking by managers from traditional commodity uses of BLM lands to more people-centered activities such as recreation.

Listed in the "Other" category, a minimal number of survey respondents (12 individuals) felt social science data were not needed at their office. A similar number (11 individuals) felt there were no barriers for social research and data collection. Six survey respondents noted the lack of social science staff at their office as the primary barrier. The remaining 9 responses provided unique barriers including time constraints, survey accuracy, lack of communication and knowledge about job duties, and no response given.

Analysis of question 16 by district and field office, by State office, and by national office respondents did not yield substantive differences between categories. The top three responses categories all related to priorities and funding and there seemed to be more similarities than differences. In the category "Competing priorities" responses varied minimally from 24% (State), to 29% (Below State) to 29% (National). Likewise few differences emerged for the lack of funding category. Although the differences (percentage difference) are greater for "Not a priority among managers" there seems to be minimal variation from local to national levels with 11% (Below State), 14% (State) and 15% (National) revealing again a culture that focuses on commodity-oriented versus non-commodity usage of BLM resources.

Table 23 provides results with regard to employees' perceptions of priority areas for additional social science capabilities if BLM offered training opportunities to current staff. Among the overall response categories, 'Conflict mitigation and response' (37%) and 'Economic principles' (17%) ranked as the most frequently selected priority areas. 'Sociology / human behavior', 'Specific methods such as surveys or interviews', and 'Non-market values' were all ranked lower by respondents to a nearly equal degree. Within these results, the category of 'Conflict mitigation and resolution' notably exceeded the others in the frequency distribution, highlighting the pervasive need among BLM employees for skills to manage social conflict in relation to resource management. While the survey did not include an open-ended response option for this measure, we can speculate the 'Conflict mitigation and resolution' category is broad enough to have captured a variety of related phenomena occurring in relation to BLM lands that contribute to the pattern of conflict now characterizing public land management in some regions of the western United States. While this pattern of response is true across the three strata, National-level employees indicated the 'Conflict mitigation and resolution' category as a priority less frequently than did employees at the State level or below. This result suggests that while over one-third of employees feel this issue warrants additional training, the National level employees may not recognize this need to the same degree as state- and local-level employees who must deal with the public on a daily basis. This result implies a greater perception among the district, field office and State-level staff about the critical importance addressing conflict has within the social science capacities of the agency. In contrast, the National-level respondents indicated slightly higher priorities for 'Sociology/human behavior' and 'Economic principles' categories than the District- and State-level staff did. Very few respondents (3%) indicated a response in the 'Other' category to suggest a priority other than those listed by the listed survey categories.

Table 22. Barriers to conducting social science research and data collection.

Question 16: Which factor do you think presents the MOST fundamental barrier to conducting social science research or data collection within the BLM?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Not a priority among managers	79 6.33 11.79	46 3.69 14.11	39 3.13 15.48	164 13.14
Lack of guidance in the handbook	13 1.04 1.94	10 0.80 3.07	5 0.40 1.98	28 2.24
Data sources for social and economic information	45 3.61 6.72	17 1.36 5.21	13 1.04 5.16	75 6.01
Lack of funding	166 13.30 24.78	84 6.73 25.77	63 5.05 25.00	313 25.08
Competing priorities	194 15.54 28.96	78 6.25 23.93	72 5.77 28.57	344 27.56
Insufficient training among staff	60 4.81 8.96	28 2.24 8.59	23 1.84 9.13	111 8.89
Inability to conduct survey research	25 2.00 3.73	12 0.96 3.68	6 0.48 2.38	43 3.44
Multiple reasons	39 3.13 5.82	13 1.04 3.99	11 0.88 4.37	63 5.05
Don`t know	28 2.24 4.18	25 2.00 7.67	16 1.28 6.35	69 5.53
Other	21 1.68 3.13	13 1.04 3.99	4 0.32 1.59	38 3.04
Total	670 53.69	326 26.12	252 20.19	1,248 100.00
Frequency Missing = 3				

Table 23. Priorities for social science training.

Question 17: If the BLM were to increase the social science capabilities of its current staff, what do you feel the most useful training opportunities for your position would be?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Sociology or human behavior	78 6.34 11.85	45 3.66 14.02	44 3.58 17.53	167 13.58
Economic principles	113 9.19 17.17	50 4.07 15.58	50 4.07 19.92	213 17.32
Non-market values	85 6.91 12.92	31 2.52 9.66	33 2.68 13.15	149 12.11
Specific methods, such as surveys or interviews	93 7.56 14.13	40 3.25 12.46	33 2.68 13.15	166 13.50
Conflict mitigation and resolution	261 21.22 39.67	118 9.59 36.76	79 6.42 31.47	458 37.24
Don`t know	28 2.28 4.26	37 3.01 11.53	12 0.98 4.78	77 6.26
Total	658 53.50	321 26.10	251 20.41	1,230 100.00
Frequency Missing = 21				

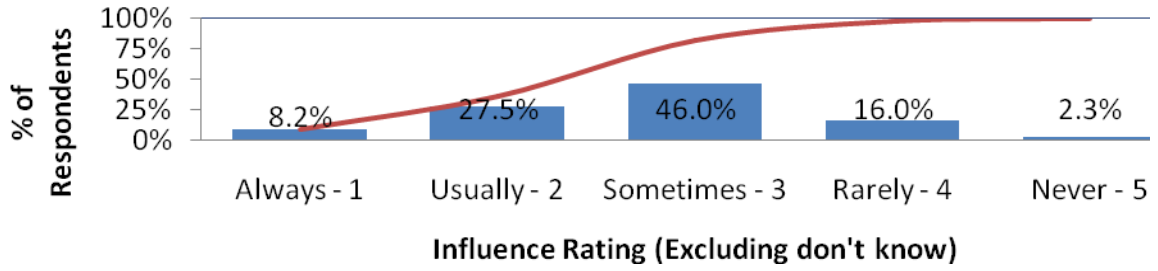
Table 24 summarizes data about the extent to which respondents think social science information, research, or data influences management decisions at their offices. The overall frequency distribution for this measure indicates a relatively normal distribution with a slight skew toward greater perceptions that social science information *does* at least sometimes influence management decisions. Within the scale categories (1 = always influences; 2 = usually influences; 3 = sometimes influences; 4 = rarely influences; 5 = never influences), several patterns emerge. Within the 'Always influences' category, State-level employees were more likely to indicate agreement, followed by National-level, and then district and field office-level employees. Within the 'usually influences' and 'sometimes influences' categories, the National-level employees fell below both the District- and State-level employees in perception about the extent to which social science information affects management decision-making. National office employees were more pessimistic about the impact social science data and research had on management decisions with a mean response of 'sometimes influences' (a statistically significant difference). National-level employees show a greater trend of perception of social science data 'Rarely influencing' and 'Never influencing' management decisions compared to field office, district- and State-level employees. For each stratum, however, results yielded 'Sometimes influences' as the most frequent response category by far. This pattern indicates one of two things: 1) a claim of uncertainty among many employees within BLM about whether social science data actually apply to management decisions; and/or 2) belief of an inconsistency about how and when social science data may be used for management decisions. These results indicate varying levels of uncertainty within the agency about the applicability of social science data if only about one-third of employees across the agency levels indicate some confidence that the data and information collected in a social science capacity matter to the management decision-making process. This lower level of expectation about how and to what extent social science data get used reinforces perceptions that these data do not matter, or at least not as much as other data, with regard to land management policies set within the agency.

Table 24. Influence of social science on management decisions.

Question 18: Please tell me to what extent you think social science information, research, or data influences management decisions at your office.

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Always influences – 1	45 3.61 6.74	34 2.73 10.40	20 1.60 7.94	99 7.94
Usually influences – 2	189 15.16 28.29	91 7.30 27.83	52 4.17 20.63	332 26.62
Sometimes influences – 3	306 24.54 45.81	149 11.95 45.57	101 8.10 40.08	556 44.59
Rarely influences – 4	97 7.78 14.52	37 2.97 11.31	59 4.73 23.41	193 15.48
Never influences – 5	11 0.88 1.65	5 0.40 1.53	12 0.96 4.76	28 2.25
Mean Response	2.75a (0.035)	2.65a (0.050)	2.96b (0.057)	2.76 (0.026)
Don`t know	20 1.60 2.99	11 0.88 3.36	8 0.64 3.17	39 3.13
Total	668 53.57	327 26.22	252 20.21	1,247 100.00

Frequency Missing = 4



Survey Section 4: Social Science Applications in BLM Programs

As an open-ended question, responses to question 19 (Which BLM program area do you think is most underserved with regard to social science?) were highly variable. Based on the responses, we recoded and consolidated patterned responses into broad program areas. For example, 80 individuals selected *range management* as the area most underserved by social science (Table 25). Descriptions provided included range management, grazing, and the range program. Other area descriptions were more non-uniform and may now too broadly reflect the respondent's choice. As an example, the *energy, minerals, and mining category* (Table 25) included descriptions like energy program, oil and gas, energy and minerals, solid minerals, energy development, hard-rock mining, mining, economic development and leasing for oil and gas, and other similar statements. Some respondents may have had more narrow areas in mind within energy, minerals, and mining. Similarly, the grouping of *natural resources* was combined from varied statements like resources; non-renewable resources; renewable resources; resource management; resources in general; natural resource specialists; resource management; physical sciences including mining, soil, water, air, geology; and the resources department.

Out of the 1,251 survey respondents, 327 (26%) did not provide an opinion about which BLM program area they felt was most underserved by social science. The "*other"* category (14%) included a wide and varied set of responses that were unique or had a relatively low number of responses (<1%). These responses ranged from individuals that thought all areas were equally underserved to programs like the wild horse and burro program, Native American issues, archeology, public relations, law enforcement, social science staff, and training, among others.

Respondents at the district and field office level overwhelmingly suggested that "recreation" was the area within BLM that was most underserved (154 of the 671 respondents).

The next three areas selected by respondents below the state level were in the more traditional commodity arena with 61 selecting "energy, minerals and mining", 54 noting "range management", and 35 responding "forestry and timber." The next broad area of selection dealt with "planning" (including NEPA compliance) which was designated by 41 district and field office-level employees as being most underserved by social science data and analysis. Fire management (22), fish and wildlife (23) and lands/realty (17) all approached about 2% - 3% of the responses.

When the data are examined at the State or National level some interesting contrasts occur as compared to the district and field office level analysis. While recreation is noted by district and field office respondents as being the most underserved, both at the State and National level of analysis, "minerals," "energy and minerals," and "oil and gas" are the most often cited underserved area in terms of social science. About 14% of the respondents at both the State and National level noted energy as the most underserved area (Table 25). Recreation was noted by 35 interviewees at the State level and 20 at the National level. As was the case at the district and field office level, planning/resource planning accounts for a sizeable number of responses at both state and national levels (8%). The other sizeable difference between responses at the National level is the category of "fire management" with over 3 times the percentage (10% versus 3%)

Table 25. Program areas underserved by social science.

Question 19: Which BLM program area do you think is most underserved with regard to social science?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No opinion	144	111	72	327
	11.51	8.87	5.76	26.14
	21.46	33.84	28.57	
Other	91	44	38	173
	7.27	3.52	3.04	13.83
	13.56	13.41	15.08	
Recreation	154	35	20	209
	12.31	2.80	1.60	16.71
	22.95	10.67	7.94	
Energy, minerals and mining	61	45	37	143
	4.88	3.60	2.96	11.43
	9.09	13.72	14.68	
Planning	41	27	21	89
	3.28	2.16	1.68	7.11
	6.11	8.23	8.33	
Range management	54	12	14	80
	4.32	0.96	1.12	6.39
	8.05	3.66	5.56	
Fire management	22	9	24	55
	1.76	0.72	1.92	4.40
	3.28	2.74	9.52	
Forestry and timber	35	6	2	43
	2.80	0.48	0.16	3.44
	5.22	1.83	0.79	
Lands, realty, land planning	20	12	8	40
	1.60	0.96	0.64	3.20
	2.98	3.66	3.17	
Fish and wildlife	23	8	6	37
	1.84	0.64	0.48	2.96
	3.43	2.44	2.38	
Natural resources	16	17	4	37
	1.28	1.36	0.32	2.96
	2.38	5.18	1.59	
Cultural resources	10	2	6	18
	0.80	0.16	0.48	1.44
	1.49	0.61	2.38	
Total	671	328	252	1,251
	53.64	26.22	20.14	100.00

selecting this category at the national level as compared to the lower-level designations. Traditional BLM programs—range management, forestry, and fish and wildlife seem to receive less attention at the State/National level as compared to the District level.
Question 20 asked the survey respondents to identify which BLM program area they most closely identify with as their primary job role (Figure 1). If the respondent was a manager the answer was supposed to reflect the primary function of the office. Of the total 1,251 respondents, the largest single job category selected was energy and minerals (227 individuals or 18%). Eleven individuals did not provide a response to the question and 10 individuals selected multiple job categories.

Planning

Those who selected "Planning" as the area they most closely identified with as their primary job role on Question 20 were then asked a series of questions in a subsection of the survey (Tables 26 – 28). Because the sample is now subdivided by job type, the sample size was inadequate to determine statistical differences by strata in most cases.
The first question in this series asked the level of importance Planners ascribe to non-market values in planning decisions (Table 26). Overall, the majority of employees responding to the question indicated non-market values are "important" (45%) or "very important" (33%) in planning decisions. Within the three analytical strata, the "important" category yielded the strongest response among National- (63%) and State-level (47%) employees, and the "very important" category yielded the strongest response among the below-state-level employees (40%).

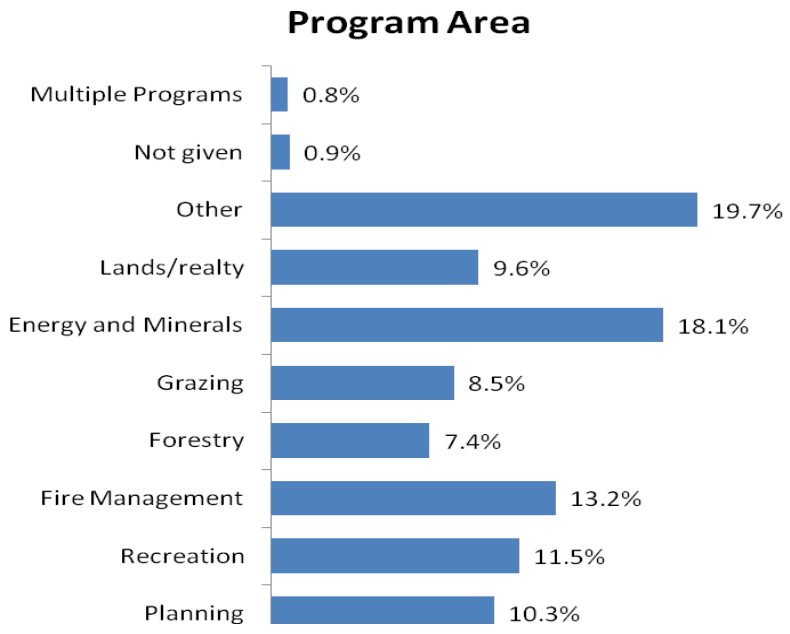


Figure 1. Program area the survey respondent most identified with.

Quantification of non-market values met the needs of planners only adequately at best, with a mean response that was below "adequate" at 3.31% (Table 27). Across the three strata combined, the greatest percentage of Planners indicated non-market values were "poorly" (41%) quantified for use in planning decisions. An additional 8% of Planners indicated a response in the "very poorly" category. However, a nearly equal percentage of respondents indicated a more positive perception by selecting the "adequately" (27%), "well" (14%), and "very well" (6%) categories.

Planners generally felt the top priority in BLM planning should be the vision of the local community (60%, National: 52%, State: 47%, below state level) (Table 28). Community stability was also deemed to be important (22%). Five individuals in the "other" category provided alternatives that mostly said that BLM's top priority should be to minimize negative impacts to the land with secondary concern about what the community desires. Two responses did not like the alternatives given but did not provide an alternate.

Recreation

Those responding within the "Recreation" category on Question 20 regarding primary job role also answered a series of questions (Tables 29-34) reported here. The first question asked Recreation Program employees their perceived level of importance to improve assessment of visitor use-patterns for specific locations. Nearly all Recreation Program employees indicated this need as "important" (45%) or "very important" (49%). The mean response was similar across strata at 1.58 (between "Important" and "Very Important"). Only nine employees responded in the "neutral" and "unimportant" categories (Table 29). The distribution of responses was similar across the three strata.

Recreation Program employees were asked their perceived level of importance to improve assessment of visitor satisfaction with types and levels of services at various recreation sites, including satisfaction with fees paid. Not unlike the first measure in this section, the employees responding to this section of the survey rated this factor as "important" (47%) and "very important" (41%). A slightly higher percentage of National-level employees (48%) rated that factor as "very important" compared to the other strata (44% for State-level and 38% for Below State-level), but the mean response was not different (Table 30).

Recreation Program employees were asked to indicate the level of importance they held for the determination of land management tradeoffs (i.e., costs and benefits to a community or users group if a site is designated as single-vs-multiple use) (Table 31). A strong majority of respondents indicated that determination of such tradeoffs was either "important" (46%) or "very important" (41%). Again, the mean response was not different by strata.

The survey prompted Recreation Program employees about the level of importance they ascribe to providing information to recreation site users about the impacts of use, regulations, environmental education, and site appreciation (Table 32). Only four respondents indicated a "neutral" response, and none indicated a lack of importance on this measure. In fact, of all measures within the Recreation Program subsection on the survey, this measure elicited the strongest "very important" response (71%) compared to "important" (26%) responses. Within the "very important" category, Below State-level employees had the strongest percentage response (76%) followed by National-level (71%) and State-level (54%).

Recreation Program employees were also asked how they rated the level of importance of measuring use-values that will likely differ by users groups (i.e., local, regional, and national) so

that economic values are understood and can be described) (Table 33). Although to a slightly lesser degree than other measures in this subsection, most employees responded this factor was either "important" (51%) or "very important" (31%). Notably, 13% of Recreation Program employees indicated a "neutral" response on this measure. Within the three strata, State-level employees indicated the lowest percentage response (15%) on the "very important" category, but the highest percentage response (69%) on the "important" category. Mean responses were not different by strata with 147 recreation program employees responding to the survey question.

When asked the importance of understanding and addressing conflict between user groups (Table 34), Recreation Program employees yielded responses toward the "very important" (62%) and "important" (30%) end of the category scale. Only 5% of employees indicated a "neutral" response, and only three individuals noted the factor as "unimportant." Among the employees who deemed this factor either "important" or "very important", relative differences among the strata were not great, but the National-level employees (67%) had the highest percentage response in the "very important" category, and State-level employees (35%) likewise for the "important" category. Mean responses were not different by strata.

Table 26. Importance of non-market values in planning decisions.

Question 20A1. How important are non-market values in planning decisions?

Primary Role: Planning

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	23 17.69 40.35	13 10.00 30.23	5 3.85 16.67	41 31.54
Important – 2	18 13.85 31.58	20 15.38 46.51	19 14.62 63.33	57 43.85
Neutral – 3	11 8.46 19.30	5 3.85 11.63	3 2.31 10.00	19 14.62
Unimportant - 4	4 3.08 7.02	2 1.54 4.65	1 0.77 3.33	7 5.38
Very unimportant - 5	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.77 2.33	1 0.77 3.33	2 1.54
Mean Response	1.93a (0.124)	1.98a (0.145)	2.10a (0.172)	1.98 (0.082)
Don`t know	1 0.77 1.75	2 1.54 4.65	1 0.77 3.33	4 3.08
Total	57 43.85	43 33.08	30 23.08	130 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,135

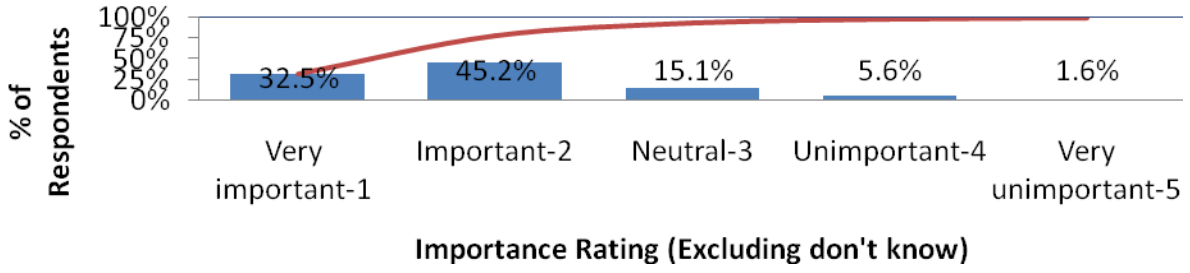


Table 27. Adequacy of non-market values for planning decisions.

Question 20A2. How well are non-market values quantified for use in planning decisions?

Primary Role: Planning

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very well – 1	5 3.79 8.62	3 2.27 6.82	0 0.00 0.00	8 6.06
Well – 2	8 6.06 13.79	3 2.27 6.82	8 6.06 26.67	19 14.39
Adequately - 3	14 10.61 24.14	15 11.36 34.09	6 4.55 20.00	35 26.52
Poorly – 4	26 19.70 44.83	16 12.12 36.36	12 9.09 40.00	54 40.91
Very poorly - 5	3 2.27 5.17	5 3.79 11.36	2 1.52 6.67	10 7.58
Mean Response	3.25a (0.134)	3.33a (0.160)	3.26a (0.196)	3.31 (0.092)
Don`t know	2 1.52 3.45	2 1.52 4.55	2 1.52 6.67	6 4.55
Total	58 43.94	44 33.33	30 22.73	132 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,119

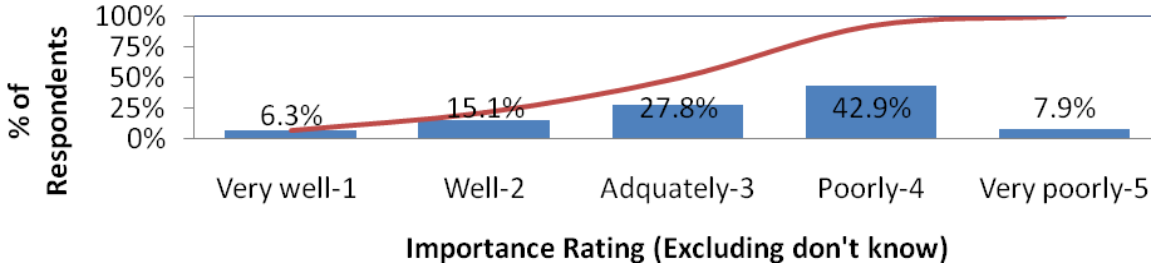


Table 28. Desired priority for BLM planning.

Question 20A3. Rapid change in some areas of the western U.S. may complicate Resource Management Plans (RMPs). In this context, which one of the following considerations should be the top priority in BLM planning?

Primary Role: Planning

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Community stability	14 10.77 24.14	9 6.92 21.43	6 4.62 20.00	29 22.31
Community vision	27 20.77 46.55	22 16.92 52.38	18 13.85 60.00	67 51.54
Disproportionally affected minority or subsistence populations	3 2.31 5.17	4 3.08 9.52	1 0.77 3.33	8 6.15
Historic community identity	6 4.62 10.34	*3* 2.31 7.14	4 3.08 13.33	13 10.00
Other	5 3.85 8.62	4 3.08 9.52	1 0.77 3.33	10 7.69
Don`t know	3 2.31 5.17	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	3 2.31
Total	58 44.62	42 32.31	30 23.08	130 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,121

Table 29. Importance of assessing recreational visitor use patterns.

Question 20B1. How important or unimportant is improved assessment of visitor use-pattern for specific locations?

Primary Role: Recreation

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	46 30.46 46.46	14 9.27 51.85	14 9.27 56.00	74 49.01
Important - 2	47 31.13 47.47	11 7.28 40.74	10 6.62 40.00	68 45.03
Neutral - 3	6 3.97 6.06	1 0.66 3.70	1 0.66 4.00	8 5.30
Unimportant - 4	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.66 3.70	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.66
Mean Response	1.60a (0.063)	1.59a (0.121)	1.48a (0.126)	1.58 (0.051)
Total	99 65.56	27 17.88	25 16.56	151 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,114

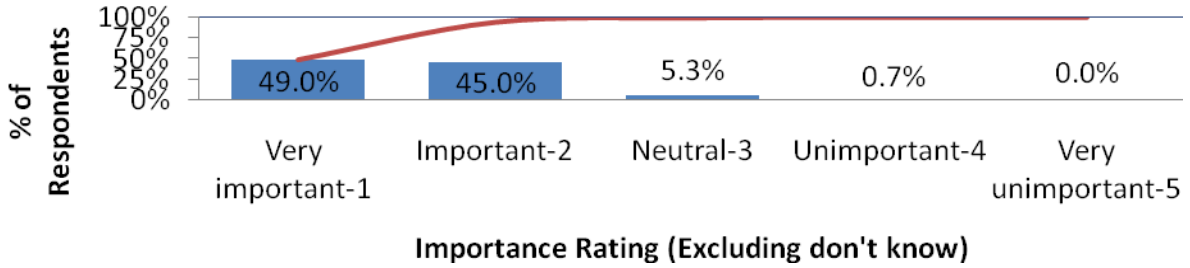


Table 30. Importance of improved assessment of visitor satisfaction.

Question 20B2. How important is the improved assessment of visitor satisfaction with types and levels of service at various recreation sites, including satisfaction with fees paid?

Primary Role: Recreation

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important – 1	37 24.67 37.76	12 8.00 44.44	12 8.00 48.00	61 40.67
Important – 2	49 32.67 50.00	12 8.00 44.44	9 6.00 36.00	70 46.67
Neutral – 3	8 5.33 8.16	1 0.67 3.70	3 2.00 12.00	12 8.00
Unimportant – 4	1 0.67 1.02	1 0.67 3.70	1 0.67 4.00	3 2.00
Very unimportant – 5	3 2.00 3.06	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	3 2.00
Mean Response	1.82a (0.085)	1.65a (0.165)	1.72a (0.168)	1.77 (0.069)
Don`t know	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.67 3.70	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.67
Total	98 65.33	27 18.00	25 16.67	150 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,101

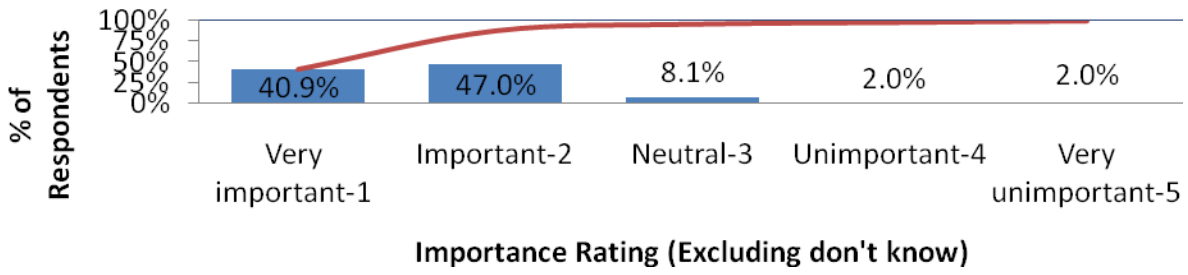


Table 31. Importance of determining land management tradeoffs.

Question 20B3. How important is the determination of land management tradeoffs, (i.e., costs and benefits to a community or users group if a site is designated as single-vs.-multiple use)?

Primary Role: Recreation

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	43 29.05 44.33	7 4.73 26.92	10 6.76 40.00	60 40.54
Important – 2	43 29.05 44.33	13 8.78 50.00	12 8.11 48.00	68 45.95
Neutral – 3	5 3.38 5.15	4 2.70 15.38	2 1.35 8.00	11 7.43
Unimportant – 4	3 2.03 3.09	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	3 2.03
Mean Response	1.66a (0.073)	1.88a (0.144)	1.67a (0.144)	1.70 (0.059)
Don`t know	3 2.03 3.09	2 1.35 7.69	1 0.68 4.00	6 4.05
Total	97 65.54	26 17.57	25 16.89	148 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,103

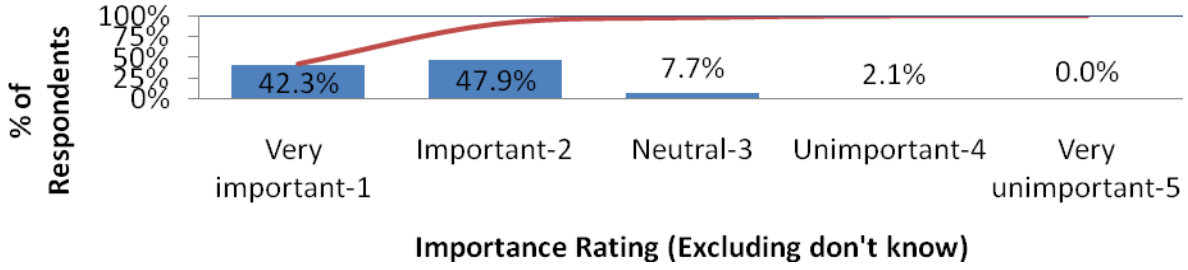


Table 32. Importance of providing information to recreation site users.

Question 20B4. How important is providing information to recreation site users about the impacts of use, regulations, environmental education, and site appreciation?

Primary Role: Recreation

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	74 50.34 76.29	14 9.52 53.85	17 11.56 70.83	105 71.43
Important – 2	23 15.65 23.71	9 6.12 34.62	6 4.08 25.00	38 25.85
Neutral – 3	0 0.00 0.00	3 2.04 11.54	1 0.68 4.17	4 2.72
Mean Response	1.24a (0.052)	1.58a (0.100)	1.33a (0.104)	1.31 (0.043)
Total	97 65.99	26 17.69	24 16.33	147 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,104

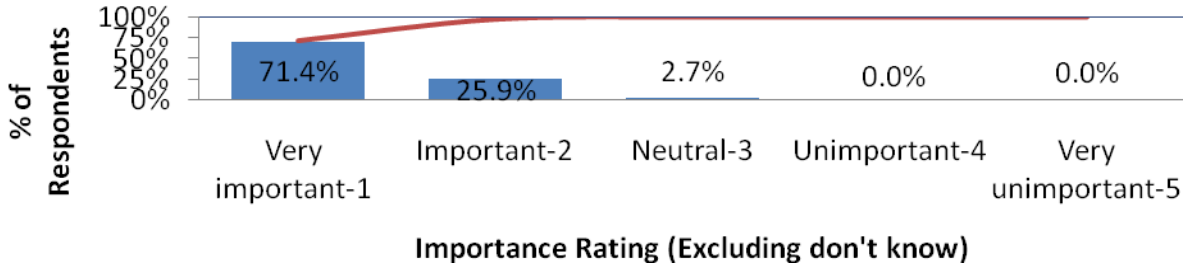


Table 33. Importance of measuring use-values for different user groups.

Question 20B5. How important is measuring use-values that will likely differ by users groups so that economic values are understood and can be described?

Primary Role: Recreation

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	34 23.13 35.05	4 2.72 15.38	8 5.44 33.33	46 31.29
Important - 2	45 30.61 46.39	18 12.24 69.23	12 8.16 50.00	75 51.02
Neutral - 3	12 8.16 12.37	4 2.72 15.38	3 2.04 12.50	19 12.93
Unimportant - 4	4 2.72 4.12	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	4 2.72
Mean Response	1.85a (0.076)	2.00a (0.146)	1.78a (0.154)	1.87 (0.062)
Don`t know	2 1.36 2.06	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.68 4.17	3 2.04
Total	97 65.99	26 17.69	24 16.33	147 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,104

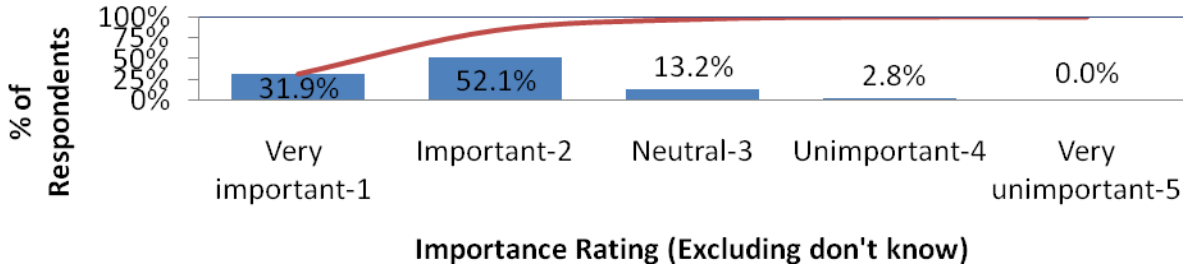
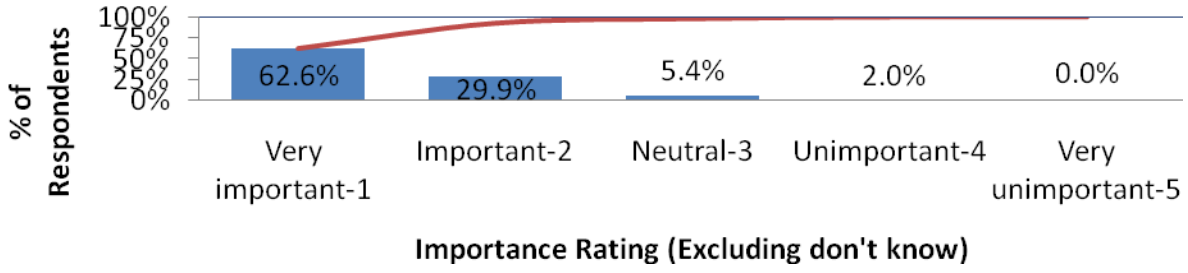


Table 34. Importance of understanding and addressing conflict.

Question 20B6. How important is understanding and addressing conflict between user groups?				
Primary Role: Recreation				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Very important - 1	63 42.57 64.29	13 8.78 50.00	16 10.81 66.67	92 62.16
Important - 2	29 19.59 29.59	9 6.08 34.62	6 4.05 25.00	44 29.73
Neutral – 3	4 2.70 4.08	2 1.35 7.69	2 1.35 8.33	8 5.41
Unimportant - 4	2 1.35 2.04	1 0.68 3.85	0 0.00 0.00	3 2.03
Mean Response	1.44a (0.070)	1.64a (0.139)	1.42a (0.142)	1.47 (0.057)
Don`t know	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.68 3.85	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.68
Total	98 66.22	26 17.57	24 16.22	148 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,103



Fire Management

Those survey respondents who identified themselves as employees within the Fire Management Program responded to two additional questions in this subsection. The first question (Table 35) asked respondents' to state their opinion and perceptions about the greatest need for social science applications within the Fire Management Program area. Four substantive categories were included on the survey along with an open-ended "other" category, as well as a "don't know" category option. "Communication and collaboration with the public" was selected most frequently with one-third (33%) of all Fire Management respondents (166) selecting this category as having the greatest social science need for fire management programs. The remaining distribution of responses included "Community education about fire prevention and safety" (27%), "Agency and community coordination" (21%), and "Knowledge transfer to fire managers" (13%). Five percent (5%) of respondents indicated "other" responses, including the belief that all listed categories were equally needed and the combined need for communication and collaboration with public and community education programs about fire prevention and safety. Percentage distributions across the three strata yielded tendencies for both the below State-level and National-level employees to respond in the "Communication and collaboration" and "Community education about fire prevention and safety" categories, whereas the State-level employees were more concentrated in the "Communication and collaboration" category.

Fire Management Program employees were also asked, for communities in wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones, which resource the BLM should prioritize the most with respect to fire management. Response categories for this measure included: "fire prevention activities," "community assistance," "education about fire prevention," and a "don't know" option. Most employees were divided among two of the categories: "education and fire prevention" (46%) and "community assistance" (41%). An additional 13% of respondents noted "fire prevention activities" were the highest priority. Within the strata among the two primary response categories, the National-level employees (53%) had the highest percentage response for the "education about fire prevention" and below State-level (48%) and State-level (46%) were nearly equal in percentage response within the "community assistance" category.

Table 35. Greatest social science need for fire management programs.

Question 20C1. Which of the following is the greatest need for social science applications within the fire management program area?				
Primary Role: Fire Management				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Communication & collaboration with the public	18 10.84 30.00	13 7.83 52.00	24 14.46 29.63	55 33.13
Knowledge transfer to fire managers	6 3.61 10.00	2 1.20 8.00	14 8.43 17.28	22 13.25
Agency and community coordination	15 9.04 25.00	4 2.41 16.00	16 9.64 19.75	35 21.08
Community education about fire prevention and safety	18 10.84 30.00	4 2.41 16.00	22 13.25 27.16	44 26.51
Other	2 1.20 3.33	2 1.20 8.00	5 3.01 6.17	9 5.42
Don`t know	1 0.60 1.67	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.60
Total	60 36.14	25 15.06	81 48.80	166 100.00
Frequency Missing = 1,085				

Table 36. Priority for fire management in wildland-urban interface zones.

Question 20C2. For communities in wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones, which of the following resources should the BLM prioritize the most with respect to fire management?				
Primary Role: Fire Management				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Fire prevention activities	9 5.29 14.29	2 1.18 7.69	11 6.47 13.58	22 12.94
Community assistance	30 17.65 47.62	12 7.06 46.15	27 15.88 33.33	69 40.59
Education about fire prevention	24 14.12 38.10	11 6.47 42.31	43 25.29 53.09	78 45.88
Don`t know	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.59 3.85	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.59
Total	63 37.06	26 15.29	81 47.65	170 100.00
Frequency Missing = 1,095				

Forestry

Employees who responded to the survey and identified with the Forestry Program in the BLM were asked one follow-up question (Table 37). The question asked Forestry Program employees the degree to which the forestry program should emphasize resource management versus rural community and economic development. Overall, nearly half of all respondents indicated the need to "mostly emphasize resource management, but give some consideration to community and economic development" (49%). In addition, many respondents selected the category to "give equal consideration to resource management and community and economic development" (39%). Few Forestry employees suggested a primary emphasis of one dimension over the other. While almost all of the Forestry respondents were at the below State-level (83%), the few respondents from the National- and State-levels indicated a similar pattern of responses.

Table 37. The degree to which the forestry program should emphasize resource management versus rural community and economic development.

Question 20D1. The BLM has recently been authorized to develop stewardship contracts to achieve land management goals that meet community needs. Please discuss the degree to which the forestry program should emphasize resource management versus rural community and economic development.

Primary Role: Forestry

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
PRIMARILY emphasize resource management	6 6.45 7.79	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	6 6.45
MOSTLY emphasize resource management, but give some consideration to community and economic development	39 41.94 50.65	6 6.45 50.00	0 0.00 0.00	45 48.39
GIVE EQUAL consideration to resource management and community and economic development	27 29.03 35.06	5 5.38 41.67	4 4.30 100.00	36 38.71
MOSTLY emphasize community and economic development but give some consideration to resource management	3 3.23 3.90	0 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	3 3.23
PRIMARILY emphasize community and economic development	1 1.08 1.30	1 0.00 0.00	0 0.00 0.00	1 1.08
Don`t know	1 1.08 1.30	1 1.08 8.33	0 0.00 0.00	2 2.15
Total	77 82.80	12 12.90	4 4.30	93 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,158

Grazing

Grazing Program respondents were asked which was the most important for completing the Environmental Assessment (EA) necessary for issuing a grazing permit (Table 38). On this measure, the distribution of response varied with the highest percentage of response in the category "Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing" (34%). Nearly equal, 31% of employees indicated "Information about changes in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits" and 22% of employees responded that "Understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation" was the most important factor. An additional 15 respondents (14%) indicated a response in the "other" category. Only 10 of those respondents provided additional clarification. Two of these thought all listed topics were equally important. Five of those detailing a different option noted the importance of understanding grazing effects on the quality and sustainability of the rangeland resource. Two individuals noted the need to understand direct and indirect economic effects of grazing decisions.

Grazing Program employees were also asked which of listed category would most benefit BLM from improved social science information (Table 39). Although the pattern of distribution is the same for this measure as that for Table 38, a higher percentage of respondents indicated likely benefits from improved social science information related to "Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing" (43%). Substantive responses were found in the other categories as well: 28% for "Information about changes in land-tenure and land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits and 23% for "Understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation. For this measure, only 6 employees indicated a response in the "other" category and only three elaborated. One thought all listed categories would prove equally valuable and the other two respondents thought influences on public opinion and an improved understanding of economic and social impacts from land use change would be most beneficial to BLM.

Table 38. Important information for completing Environmental Assessments for issuing grazing permits.

Question 20E1. Which of the following information is most important for completing the Environmental Assessment (EA) necessary for issuing a grazing permit?				
Primary Role: Grazing				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Information about changes in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits	26 24.30 30.95	3 2.80 23.08	4 3.74 40.00	33 30.84
Understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation	21 19.63 25.00	2 1.87 15.38	0 0.00 0.00	23 21.50
Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing	28 26.17 33.33	5 4.67 38.46	3 2.80 30.00	36 33.64
Other	9 8.41 10.71	3 2.80 23.08	3 2.80 30.00	15 14.02
Total	84 78.50	13 12.15	10 9.35	107 100.00
Frequency Missing = 1,144				

Table 39. Areas where BLM would most benefit from improved social science information.

Question 20E2. In which category would BLM most benefit from improved social science information?				
Primary Role: Grazing				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Information about changes in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits	21 19.63 25.30	5 4.67 38.46	4 3.74 36.36	30 28.04
Understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation	23 21.50 27.71	2 1.87 15.38	0 0.00 0.00	25 23.36
Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing	35 32.71 42.17	5 4.67 38.46	6 5.61 54.55	46 42.99
Other	4 3.74 4.82	1 0.93 7.69	1 0.93 9.09	6 5.61
Total	83 77.57	13 12.15	11 10.28	107 100.0 0
Frequency Missing = 1,144				

Energy and Minerals

Energy and Minerals Program employees that responded to the survey were asked to indicate the most critical social issue currently in need of assessment, in the context that most social science efforts related to energy or minerals have focused on direct economic effects in the past (Table 40). Responses varied across the categories for this measure, but both "Economic / social effects of the boom / bust cycle" (24%) and "User conflicts" (24%) yielded the highest percentage response. "Effects on community infrastructure" (20%) and "Liability and safety issues" followed as substantive concerns about the social dimensions of energy and minerals development. Fewer than 10% of respondents indicated "Impacts on amenity values" as the most critical social issue, and only 13 employees (6%) indicated responses in the "other" category with no clear additional critical issue needing assessment except perhaps a combination of the economics of the boom/bust cycle and how it relates to community and user conflict.

Table 40. In addition to measuring the direct effects of energy and mineral development, which area has the most critical social issue needing assessment?

Question Q20F1. In the past, most social science efforts related to energy or minerals development have focused solely on the direct economic effects. In addition, which of the following is the most critical social issue currently in need of assessment?

Primary Role: Energy and Minerals

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Effects on community infrastructure	26 11.35 21.67	16 6.99 18.60	3 1.31 13.04	45 19.65
Economic/social effects of the boom/bust cycle	34 14.85 28.33	17 7.42 19.77	4 1.75 17.39	55 24.02
Liability and safety issues	16 6.99 13.33	11 4.80 12.79	6 2.62 26.09	33 14.41
Impacts on amenity values	9 3.93 7.50	9 3.93 10.47	3 1.31 13.04	21 9.17
User conflicts	24 10.48 20.00	26 11.35 30.23	6 2.62 26.09	56 24.45
Don`t know	2 0.87 1.67	4 1.75 4.65	0 0.00 0.00	6 2.62
Other	9 3.93 7.50	3 1.31 3.49	1 0.44 4.35	13 5.68
Total	120 52.40	86 37.55	23 10.04	229 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,022

Lands and Realty

Employees in the Lands & Realty Program were asked a follow-up question in the survey pertaining to which additional information would be most useful to land exchange decisions (Table 41). Two top categories yielded nearly the same frequency of response: Improved information about the cost/benefit ratio for the land exchange (34%) and "Non-market transactions" (33%). "Costs associated with the exchange" (14%) and "Market benefits" (10%) were also noted. An additional 9% of employees responded in the "don't know" category on this measure.

Table 41. Item most useful to land exchange decisions.

Question 20G1. Land exchanges play an important role in managing public land. Which of the following items, which are not always considered, would be MOST useful to land exchange decisions?

Primary Role: Lands and Realty

Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Market benefits	5 4.07 9.80	6 4.88 10.34	1 0.81 7.14	12 9.76
Non-market transactions	17 13.82 33.33	17 13.82 29.31	7 5.69 50.00	41 33.33
Costs associated with the exchange	12 9.76 23.53	4 3.25 6.90	1 0.81 7.14	17 13.82
The cost/benefit ratio	15 12.20 29.41	23 18.70 39.66	4 3.25 28.57	42 34.15
Don`t know	2 1.63 3.92	8 6.50 13.79	1 0.81 7.14	11 8.94
Total	51 41.46	58 47.15	14 11.38	123 100.00

Frequency Missing = 1,128

This section attempted to capture more specific contextual responses to a series of measures divided into core agency program areas for the BLM: Planning, Recreation, Fire Management, Forestry, Grazing, Energy & Minerals, and Lands & Realty. Although the questions asked of

each subgroup were not parallel or uniform, several insights about the key roles of social science in various programs are noteworthy. First was the need for improved and continued attempts to quantify non-market values. Planners indicated a need for knowing non-market values for planning efforts, but they felt those values were currently only "adequately" to "poorly" done. Lands and Realty personnel similarly felt land exchange decisions could be improved with better information about non-market transactions. Related, a majority of recreation employees see the need to measure 'use-values' among different user groups to understand economic values. In addition, Planners indicated these values were poorly quantified for land-use decisions and Lands & Realty employees also emphasized the need for cost/benefit ratio information.

Both Recreation and Energy & Minerals employees emphasized the importance of "user conflicts" as critical to their respective programs, and with respect to needed social science information. Across the respondent group as a whole, employees indicated "Recreation" was the most underserved area in the agency with regard to social science, followed closely by energy, minerals and mining (Table 25).

The Fire Management, Forestry, and Grazing employees tended to emphasize contemporary themes of community assistance, education, collaboration, and public opinion, but usually within the context of agency management mandates. A majority of Planners also noted the top priority to be the vision of the local community.

Survey Section 5: Complexities of Implementing and Using Social Science

Three open ended questions make up this section of the report. To truly appreciate the richness of the open-ended interviewee comments, responses should be read in their entirety (available in Appendix C.4). Also, one should keep in mind that coding and interpretation of such open ended responses involves subjectivity on the part of the telephone interviewer in summarizing the telephone response and for the analysts that grouped and categorized the recorded responses. Some open-ended responses represent multiple, or compound statements that were coded into more than one category in Tables 42 - 44. Consequently, some respondent comments were given more weight than others and the total reported in the tables is greater than the 1,251 people that responded to the survey.

Role of Social Science in Writing RMPs

Question 21 addressed the issue of the role of social science in the writing of Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The open ended question elicited responses from 972 of the interviewees, with 107 multiple responses in regard to the categories broadly discussed in the following paragraphs. Table 42 summarizes the responses and groups the 1,359 responses

Table 42. How resource management plans can use social science information.

Question 21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No opinion	175 12.88 23.18	59 4.34 16.53	45 3.31 18.22	279 20.53
Identify the characteristics and needs of local communities	68 5.00 9.01	43 3.16 12.04	38 2.80 15.38	149 10.96
Identify publics attitudes and beliefs relative to management alternatives	81 5.96 10.73	24 1.77 6.72	34 2.50 13.77	139 10.23
Obtain public input through scoping meeting, conflict resolution, and outreach	59 4.34 7.81	44 3.24 12.32	37 1.62 8.91	125 9.20
Use in action plans and outcome assessments	64 4.71 8.48	37 2.72 10.36	22 1.62 8.91	123 9.05
Social science information is important and must be included in the RMP	47 3.46 6.23	34 2.50 9.52	19 1.40 7.69	100 7.36
Define the demographics of the public of users (who, where, why, how many)	44 3.24 5.83	25 1.84 7.00	9 0.66 3.64	78 5.74
Identifying alternatives, impacted parties and tradeoffs and evaluating the benefits and costs of alternatives	46 3.38 6.09	22 1.62 6.16	8 0.59 3.24	76 5.59
Identifying trends and serve as a baseline into the future	37 2.72 4.90	29 2.13 8.12	9 0.66 3.64	75 5.52
Social science information is important and available, social science GIS Data	36 2.65 4.77	7 0.52 1.96	15 1.10 6.07	58 4.27
Allow for stakeholder input to the planning process and identify what is important to the stakeholders	32 2.35 4.24	16 1.18 4.48	5 0.37 2.02	53 3.90

Table continued on next page

Question 21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Other	20 1.47 2.65	11 0.81 3.08	10 0.74 4.05	41 3.02
Identify economic impacts and economic values including both market and non-market values	12 0.88 1.59	1 0.07 0.28	4 0.29 1.62	17 1.25
Assist in identifying impacts of RMP alternatives	13 0.96 1.72	0 0.00 0.00	4 0.29 1.62	17 1.25
With internal and external education and training in social science	13 0.96 1.72	2 0.15 0.56	0 0.00 0.00	15 1.10
Impacts to natives and disadvantaged groups	8 0.59 1.06	3 0.22 0.84	3 0.22 1.21	14 1.03
Total	755 55.56	357 26.27	247 18.18	1,359 100.00

along common themes with organization in descending order based on response frequency. The 279 who failed to respond were slightly over-represented by interviewees at the field level

and slightly under-represented at both the State and National office level. Responses were categorized into three broad areas: Data acquisition and analysis; Public outreach, and RMP alternatives and modifications. Also there were 41 responses that failed to fit into these broad areas (such as "we need more geological data") and did not seem appropriate to the question.

Data Acquisition and Analysis

Most respondents to question 21 mentioned, in some form, the value of social science data, information, and analysis in the preparation of RMPs. Their comments tended to center around eight distinctive areas, of which the most common was the need to know the composition and beliefs of the communities impacted by the specific plan. One hundred forty-nine noted a need to know the characteristics of local communities as well as their specific needs. Of concern to many was the need to know about the economic structure of local communities and their ability to respond to change and their resiliency to boom or bust growth patterns associated with a specific RMP. Respondents from State and National offices were more likely to select these data needs than those at the field or district office level.

At a broader data level were the 139 respondents that noted the need to survey the population for their attitudes, beliefs and needs. Implicit in their comments was the necessity to know what the "public" is thinking and what they want from their public lands. Many spoke for the need to

have current data on public desires and that data should be scientifically sound. Interviewees at the National office were more likely, while those at the State Office were less likely, to voice a need for public survey data on attitudes, beliefs, values and needs.

Two related categories noted the need for information regarding the traits of those who utilized the public lands. Seventy-eight respondents noted that knowing who, where, why, how many; or the demographics of the "public of users" was essential to a good RMP, and that social scientists would be critical to gathering such information. Another 75 respondents noted that there was a need to project the demographic/economic data into the future. Good baseline data was essential and there was a need for trend data (i.e. the need to forecast shifts in recreational use over time by the changing characteristics of the users). National office respondents were disproportionately less likely to see the need for either user demographics or trend analysis than either the State or Field office respondents.

Two additional categories represent the cost/benefit of the RMP, generally in regard to local communities. Seventy-six respondents noted the need to examine costs and benefits in terms of local economies. Most of these individuals focused primarily on the cost of various alternatives for diverse groups within local communities. A few noted the need to provide mitigation for the various costs associated with the RMP. Here, the focus was primarily on the value of economic analysis for a good RMP. Respondents at the National level were disproportionately less likely to note the need for good cost/benefit analysis than either State or Field office respondents. Seventeen interviewees specifically noted the need for an assessment of non-market values within local communities. Most of these respondents were employed at the Field office level.

Two rather broad categories round out the "data acquisition and analysis" comments. Fifty-eight individuals noted that "social science data and information" was important for a good RMP. Implicit in their comments was that this data would be already available and would just need to be incorporated into the RMP. A few specifically noted the need for good GIS social science data. Even more generic were the 100 comments that simply noted that social science is important and must be included in any RMP. State level respondents were under-represented in the need for social science data, but were over-represented in the generic "social science is important" category.

Public Outreach

Four categories cover the need for BLM to reach out to the public in explaining the various alternatives within a specific RMP. One hundred twenty-five respondents noted that social science could be used to better inform the public of BLM actions. In particular, a majority noted the need for public meetings and/or scoping sessions. These meetings should be used to inform the public as well as to modify BLM plans based on scoping comments. Many thought that social science or, social scientists, would be valuable in conflict resolution. The emphasis on public outreach was over-represented among State-level respondents compared to Field and National office respondents. Fifty-three interviewees were more specific in the focus of these outreach efforts by citing a need to address the concerns of stakeholders. Many of these thought that stakeholder concerns could be addressed in the various alternatives provided within an RMP. Respondents at the National office were under-represented relative to Field, District, and State office respondents. Fifteen respondents thought that outreach could be achieved through better educational/training efforts designed to provide information to the general public. Most of these

respondents (13) were from Field offices. Most specific in terms of public outreach were the 14 individuals that noted that special efforts should be made to work with disadvantaged groups or natives.

RMP Alternatives

Two categories comprised the comments to the "plan" itself. One hundred twenty-three respondents noted that social science was instrumental in developing an RMP and that the RMP was an on-going activity that would be modified as new data were acquired. Among these respondents was the general assumption that social science would be valuable in assessing the impact of various alternatives on different user groups. These respondents generally voiced the opinion that social science could be used to assess the market and non-market cost/benefit of various alternatives on different stakeholders. Respondents sometimes referred to the RMP as "use in action plans," or that they were in transition. More specific, were the 17 respondents that specifically noted the role of social science in evaluating the environmental impact of RMPs on diverse populations.

Information For Managing Social and Economic impacts

There were 1,388 responses included for question 22 which was "What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts of your program?" (Table 43). Of the total, 155 responses represented multiple, or compound statements that were coded into more than one category.

Of the 1,251 interviewees, 942 responded, (309 did not) to the question, another 7 noted that they "already have good data," and 6 individuals stated that the question was not applicable to their program generally because of legislative mandates.

Three response categories primarily looked at ways of gathering social data. The first of these was summarized "as the need for more demographic data" including age/sex distribution, location of population and housing characteristics. Generally these data are available from governmental reports, primarily the U.S. Census and from the Sonoran Institute. One hundred sixty-seven survey respondents noted the need for this type of information. Slightly more individuals, 213, stated that the ability to access a survey of attitudes, values and resource usage data (who, when, why) would be valuable to their program. Of the 213 wanting survey data, only 7 specified a questionnaire, while the others implied either a face-to-face or telephone interview methodology. Twenty-seven respondents specified that surveys of stakeholders, preferably one-on-one, would be helpful to their program. Implied in these comments is that the most vocal members of a community received the most attention, and should.

Another category focusing on talking to people was represented by the 94 comments that centered on public (community) meetings, focus groups, scoping efforts, and communication with people. Many of these comments noted the need for better collaboration and efforts at conflict resolution. Most comments specified the need to have more outreach oriented towards getting the public involved and having BLM personnel incorporate the public's needs and opinions in management plans.

Table 43. Types of information that would be helpful to manage social and economic impacts of your program.

Question 22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts of your program?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No opinion	168 12.10 22.37	76 5.48 18.91	65 4.68 27.66	309 22.26
Survey of attitudes (recreation usage, values, community needs)	121 8.72 16.11	68 4.90 16.92	24 1.73 10.21	213 15.35
Demographic data (snapshot, trends, census, towns, mapping of data points, GIS, housing	87 6.27 11.58	56 4.03 13.93	24 1.73 10.21	167 12.03
Public (community) meetings, collaboration, conflict resolution, focus groups, face to face discussions, meetings, communication	44 3.17 5.86	31 2.23 7.71	19 1.37 8.09	94 6.77
Economic, resource values, locals, commitment, trends	47 3.39 6.26	19 1.37 4.73	15 1.08 6.38	81 5.84
Other (minerals/energy, natural resources, fish & wildlife, monitoring, WUI issues, water	34 2.45 4.53	27 1.95 6.72	14 1.01 5.96	75 5.40
State economies, cost benefit, jobs, land use, ranching, locals	20 1.44 2.66	27 1.95 6.72	9 0.65 3.83	56 4.03
Data portal, data web sites, one stop shopping, clearing house	19 1.37 2.53	10 0.72 2.49	11 0.79 4.68	40 2.88
More information, product use, readable, land use	22 1.59 2.93	5 0.36 1.24	12 0.86 5.11	39 2.81
Education, training/fire prevention, public PR, economy, public	20 1.44 2.66	14 1.01 3.48	4 0.29 1.70	38 2.74
Independent Research, universities, consultants, NGOs	19 1.37 2.53	7 0.50 1.74	11 0.79 4.68	37 2.67
Inter-agency, agency –state sharing of data, inform, planning, local government/counties	21 1.51 2.80	12 0.86 2.99	3 0.22 1.28	36 2.59

Table continued on next page

Question 22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts of your program?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Expertise, social scientist, economists, shifts in BLM priorities and hiring	24 1.73 3.20	7 0.50 1.74	4 0.29 1.70	35 2.52
Indians, social justice issues, environmental justice, ethnics	21 1.51 2.80	3 0.22 0.75	4 0.29 1.70	28 2.02
Survey of stakeholders one-on-one	20 1.44 2.66	4 0.29 1.00	3 0.22 1.28	27 1.95
History of use, life styles, community culture	12 0.86 1.60	14 1.01 3.48	0 0.00 0.00	26 1.87
Funding and budget issues, outside funding	14 1.01 1.86	4 0.29 1.00	5 0.36 2.13	23 1.66
Current policy, agency and public interaction and planning	10 0.72 1.33	4 0.29 1.00	2 0.14 0.85	16 1.15
Non-monetary and non-market use and values	6 0.43 0.80	5 0.36 1.24	3 0.22 1.28	14 1.01
Research journals, meetings, technical manuals, reports	9 0.65 1.20	3 0.22 0.75	1 0.07 0.43	13 0.94
Statistical analysis, interpretation	4 0.29 0.53	3 0.22 0.75	1 0.07 0.43	8 0.58
Already have good data	4 0.29 0.53	3 0.22 0.75	0 0.00 0.00	7 0.50
Not applicable, programs use no social science data, legislative mandate.	5 0.36 0.67	0 0.00 0.00	1 0.07 0.43	6 0.43
Total	751 54.11	402 28.96	235 16.93	1,388 100.00

Three categories focused on social science, but relied more on secondary data and modeling. One of these, the need "for more information," was oriented toward current and past land use, availability of readable secondary reports, and information on product use (such as timber, minerals, etc.). Comments in this category included ideas about community sustainability or adaptability. The other two categories centered on economic issues: effects on state economies in terms of cost/benefit analysis of different BLM policies; the second seemed to center around general economic status of local and state governments and changes in economies over time. Cost/benefit analysis, with 56 comments, primarily revolved around two major concerns: minerals in terms of boom/bust cycles (local impacts) and grazing (ranching)—many of these comments were cynical about the viability of ranching in the West. The latter economic category, with 81 comments was much broader and discussed wages, cost of living, and local values regarding the economy, among others.

One other data-gathering tool, case studies or ethnography, was mentioned by 26 interviewees who wanted to know about communities' histories, life styles and community culture. These comments were generally of the tone: "How do BLM actions impact community self-awareness (for example, a shift from ranching to minerals as the predominate economic driver)."

Three categories dealt primarily with personnel rather than data, per se. Thirty-seven respondents noted the "need to partner more with universities and consultants." Universities were respected for their independent research. Several interviewees voiced suspicion regarding BLM research and interpretation. Thirty-five thought that their program could be improved by hiring social scientists (about equally distributed between economists and sociologists or generic social scientists). Many of these commenters said their program had no one with social science expertise or someone with very little training. Only 8 voiced a concern that they need assistance with social science statistical analysis and/or interpretation.

Twenty-eight comments centered on social justice issues, most of these dealt primarily with American Indians in terms of their relationship to BLM and how BLM actions might impact Indian lands. There were several comments directed at environmental concerns as well as BLM's impact on minority populations. There were no concerns voiced regarding the poor and their relationship to BLM.

There were forty comments advocating accessible web sites or data portals. As one respondent commented, "I need one-stop shopping" while another voiced concern for a clearing house of existing reports and data. Almost all cited a need for easy to access information. Only two persons commented on data available through the Sonoran Institute.

Of the 38 comments asking for additional education/training, most were directed at BLM personnel. A few were concerned about how best to educate the public about BLM's mission and activities. Most of these statements revolved around educating the public about fire prevention and wildlife/urban interface issues.

Thirty-six comments related to the need for inter-agency, inter-governmental sharing of data and information. The inclusion of local and county information was highlighted. A number of individuals noted that lots of data exists at many different levels and that the issue is how to make this available to BLM personnel at the local level.

More nebulous were the comments that centered on lack of funding, tardy budgets, and issues of outside funding sources (from BLM). Here, the jest of the comments was the difficulty in hiring (consultants or universities) unless budgets were available in a timely manner and of sufficient amounts so as to enhance social science expertise.

Three other categories of comments were noted: sixteen stated that current policy and planning should be explicit and inclusive of social science. Fourteen comments suggested that non-monetary or non-market uses should be included in their programs and, of course this would entail social science expertise. The last specific category was an information-based criterion: research journals, meetings, and reports that would enhance their programs in meeting social science expectations.

A broad general "other" classification was the final category with 75 comments. Most of these issues evolved around how to evaluate the socio-economic value of minerals/energy; fish and wildlife; other natural resources (timber); clean water, and the wildland - urban interface (WUI) areas. A number of these comments seemed irrelevant to the question and provide little in the way of useful information for formulating future policies regarding social sciences and BLM activities.

In summary, the majority of comments centered around acquiring social science data through censuses: attitude, value, usage surveys; public participation data (focus groups), or economic analyses regarding cost/benefit analysis, job creation or destruction, wages, shifts in costs of living, etc. The use of these data sources represent over 50% of all comments obtained in terms of sources of information helpful to manage the social and economic impacts of particular programs.

Ways to Enhance Social Science Research Without New Staffing

The last open-ended question asked "What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing?" As was the case with the other open-ended questions, approximately one in six (208) failed to respond to the question with "no responses" being spread proportionately across local, state and national respondents (Table 44). Another 17 respondents indicated that social science research was not needed at BLM or simply "do not do social science." Although the respondents indicating this theme were few, those opposed to social science research within BLM tend to be disproportionately located at the state (5 of 332) and national (6 of 215) level. One hundred thirty-five interviewees gave multiple, distinctive responses, which are included in the 14 category coding scheme (omitting no responses and "don't do social science research)."

Data or Research

Of the 14 coding categories, half dealt with the broad area of data needs and/or how to gather and analyze social science data. The most common response was the ability to contract with outside agencies (unspecified), with 129 such requests. Responses were proportionate across field and district (70), state (36) and national (23) offices. A more specific, but similar response, was "better access to university expertise", with 65 such comments. Here, field offices were slightly over-represented with 40 responses compared to 17 for state and 8 for national office. Many of these comments centered on cooperative agreements and the possibility of using graduate student assistance.

Parallel to Question 22, many respondents (104) at all offices felt a need for "surveys, polls, questionnaires that would measure public opinion and/or usage behavior." Here, respondents also noted a general lacuna of social science data/research. Some were frustrated with the inability to analyze and interpret the data they did have on hand. Responses were proportionate across BLM office level. Fifteen respondents specified tools of analysis to include a cost/benefit model—most involved with grazing permits.

Two similar categories of analysis centered on "develop booklets, manuals, handbooks, and toolboxes" that would better guide social science acquisition and analysis; and "websites" similar to the Sonoran Institute. Seventy-four of the responses noted the need for better in- house research materials. Many of these respondents cited a need for more comprehensible social science in the "Handbook." A number noted the need for these materials to be accessible to non-social scientists. An additional 49 respondents requested the availability of a comprehensive web site for data and for on-line learning (similar to learning modules) that would enhance their access to social science data. Responses for these two categories were proportionate across BLM office levels.

Within the broad category of "data and or research" were the 29 individuals that noted the need for more multiple agency and local/state cooperation in the sharing of information. The jest of these comments was that lots of data exist in other governmental offices (i.e. Forest Service, county and state government), but is not accessible for BLM personnel.

Table 44. Ways to enhance the use of social science research without new staffing.

Question 23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Education/training of existing staff	172 12.42 22.90	100 7.22 25.91	56 4.04 22.58	328 23.68
No Opinion	121 8.74 16.11	54 3.90 13.99	33 2.38 13.31	208 15.02
Contract with outside agencies	70 5.05 9.32	36 2.60 9.33	23 1.66 9.27	129 9.31
Conduct surveys, polls, questionnaires of public opinion, more research in general	44 3.18 5.86	43 3.10 11.14	17 1.23 6.85	104 7.51
Awareness of the usefulness of social science	51 3.68 6.79	11 0.79 2.85	16 1.16 6.45	78 5.63
Communication with the public, more scoping, collaboration, and partnerships	38 2.74 5.06	20 1.44 5.18	17 1.23 6.85	75 5.42
Develop booklets, manuals, handbook, toolboxes, guidelines	40 2.89 5.33	22 1.59 5.70	12 0.87 4.84	74 5.34
Prioritize/elevate the importance of social science at the top	42 3.03 5.59	14 1.01 3.63	11 0.79 4.44	67 4.84
Universities—faculty and/or graduate students	40 2.89 5.33	17 1.23 4.40	8 0.58 3.23	65 4.69
Funding	33 2.38 4.39	13 0.94 3.37	13 0.94 5.24	59 4.26
Other	33 2.38 4.39	11 0.79 2.85	8 0.58 3.23	52 3.75

Table continued on next page

Question 23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
Websites/Sonoran Institute	25 1.81 3.33	15 1.08 3.89	9 0.65 3.63	49 3.54
Staffing	17 1.23 2.26	10 0.72 2.59	9 0.65 3.63	36 2.60
Multiple agency, counties, towns, etc. corporation	13 0.94 1.73	11 0.79 2.85	5 0.36 2.02	29 2.09
Don't do social science, not needed at BLM	6 0.43 0.80	5 0.36 1.30	6 0.43 2.42	17 1.23
Benefit/cost analysis	6 0.43 0.80	4 0.29 1.04	5 0.36 2.02	15 1.08
Total	751 54.22	386 27.87	248 17.91	1,385 100.00

Education and Training

Four coding categories focused on education and/or training for BLM staff, managers, and the public and/or stakeholders. Three hundred and twenty-eight interviewees noted the need for education or training of existing BLM employees. Proportionately, this category was slightly more likely to have been selected by state office employees. In most cases, responses were short and generic such as "education" or "more training" while a few other comments specified the need for education in terms of social science models or training to use existing data sources or in the methods of doing social science surveys. A similar response category was "awareness of the usefulness of social science" research. Seventy-eight interviewees noted the value of social science needs to be emphasized, particularly in RMPs. A more specific response category: "prioritize and elevate the importance of social science research" was selected by 67 respondents; most of these responses were directed at educating high-level managers and national office personnel. As one might expect, 40 of these 67 responses came from the field offices. The underlying theme of these comments was by making social science a priority at the "top," then staffing and funding will ensue.

The last educational category centered on the public. Seventy-five commented on the need to have better communication with the public and/or stake-holders. Here, interviewees noted a need to educate the public about the good things that BLM is doing, particularly at the field level. A need for more collaboration and the creation of more partnerships was noted by many

respondents. Generally, these comments evolved around "getting the word out", or public relations. Some noted the reluctance of BLM personnel to engage the public.

Three Additional Categories

Two coding categories dealt with additional resources within BLM. Fifty-nine respondents noted that their office needed funding in order to gather/analyze social science data. Field office personnel (33 of the 59 respondents) disproportionately selected the "funding" category. Although question 23 specified enhancement beyond "new hiring," 36 interviewees noted that the only way to enhance social science research was by additional "staffing." "Staffing" was slightly more likely to be selected by state (10) and national (9) office personnel relative to number of total responses.

The final coding category, "other" was represented by 52 respondents. These comments varied from "fire all the managers and start over" to the need for GIS. Several of these comments were activity- specific such as fire prevention understanding related to WUI. In general, the "other" category consisted of a hodgepodge of statements, many of which were not relevant to the question asked.

Survey Section 7: Additional Comments

As the survey drew to a conclusion the respondent was given the opportunity to share any additional thoughts they might have about the needs of social and economic analyses within BLM. A complete listing of the recorded comments is provided in Appendix C.4.

Most of the respondents (77%) made no additional comments. There was only a minimal number of multi-tiered or multi-point responses so responses where categorized to reflect only the apparent main closing point. Of those that did respond the most common response (91 individuals) was to reiterate a key point that they had made earlier or draw attention to specific points where social science data is needed, lacking, or could be improved. As would be expected, comments were highly variable (Appendix C.4).

Table 45. Additional comments made about the needs of social science within BLM.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM?				
Frequency Percent Col Pct	Below State	State	National	Total
No additional comment	509 40.69 75.86	253 20.22 77.13	197 15.75 78.17	959 76.66
Reiterated key points	63 5.04 9.39	17 1.36 5.18	11 0.88 4.37	91 7.27
Social science is important	35 2.80 5.22	16 1.28 4.88	16 1.28 6.35	67 5.36
Other	22 1.76 3.28	12 0.96 3.66	9 0.72 3.57	43 3.44
Commented on survey design	18 1.44 2.68	13 1.04 3.96	6 0.48 2.38	37 2.96
BLM is Lacking in social science information	7 0.56 1.04	8 0.64 2.44	4 0.32 1.59	19 1.52
Need to Educate BLM employees about social science	6 0.48 0.89	3 0.24 0.91	6 0.48 2.38	15 1.20
Social science is unimportant	9 0.72 1.34	2 0.16 0.61	2 0.16 0.79	13 1.04
Issue is funding and priorities	2 0.16 0.30	4 0.32 1.22	1 0.08 0.40	7 0.56
Total	671 53.64	328 26.22	252 20.14	1,251 100.00

A closing comment made by 67 of the survey respondents (5%) was to note their belief that maintaining social science capabilities is important to BLM. This belief was uniform across strata. A similar but opposing statement made by 13 individuals (1%) was that social science research and data is not important to BLM, or at least not important to their job or not used at their office.

An “other” grouping included final comments that in many cases clarified the respondent’s role and tenure within BLM; noted their lack of knowledge about issues related to social science

research and data; made points of personal observation; requested that they receive a copy of the survey results, or provided statements that seemed irrelevant.

As was true of responses to earlier open-ended questions, a common theme of many closing comments was that social science is important to BLM, yet the BLM is lacking in social science capabilities and will likely be more deficient in the future. There is a perceived need for education within BLM about social science data, research, and data interpretation. Some of this education is as basic as informing BLM managers about the importance of the social sciences within BLM. It was noted that funding and priorities were moving away from the social sciences.

Approximately 3% of the survey respondents took the time to comment on the survey itself. Most of these comments were negative. Many felt the survey was too long and complex to be administered as a phone survey. Some would have preferred a written or web-based presentation of the survey. Others questioned why they were chosen to respond to the survey given their job and role within BLM.

Summary and Conclusions

This report summarizes perceptions about social science information needs and capabilities as perceived by a broad cross-section of BLM employees. The telephone survey was completed by 1,251 randomly selected BLM employees stratified at three major organization levels (national, state-level, and below state-level).

There is a high awareness about the need for social and economic research and data collection within BLM. At all levels, nearly 90% of the survey respondents rated the importance of social science information, research, and data as having a moderate to high need. Many perceive the major role of social science research and data collection within BLM to be identification of public land users, their usage patterns and their beliefs and desires about important priorities for public land management. Sources of information identified as top priorities for various BLM programs included surveys of user attitudes about public land uses, values, and community needs; and demographic data that define trends and community characteristics and desires. Managers had a higher appreciation of social sciences than non-managers. As would be expected, appreciation for the social sciences increased with the level of training and experience in social sciences. Even minimal training efforts of staff and managers by BLM will improve appreciation of the social sciences within the agency.

Many survey respondents believed that better understanding the demographics and values of public land users would help improve management decisions and improve BLM's interactions with the public. This was perceived to be the major role and need to maintain and enhance social science staff within BLM. Public outreach and interaction were identified as key areas where social science information and research could improve BLM planning efforts.

Just over one in four BLM offices currently utilize a trained social scientist to conduct and analyze social science data. Social science staff are concentrated at the National and State levels. If social science issues are examined at the District of field office, the social science analysis is likely done by someone without a social science background. Non-social science staff members within BLM are currently responsible for over half of the social and economic analysis that is included in BLM planning documents.

Competing priorities, lack of funds, and “not a priority” among managers were identified as the most fundamental barriers for conducting social science research and data collection within BLM. This combination of factors was mentioned by 70% of survey respondents. Many perceived a needed educational program to raise the awareness about the importance of social science data within BLM. Managers spend their budget where their priorities lie and without improved awareness survey respondents largely believed social science research will remain a low priority within BLM.

Though social and economic data were given a high level of importance within BLM, only about one-third of employees across the agency indicated confidence that social and economic data and information mattered for management decisions. This reinforces perceptions that these data do not matter, or at least not as much as other data for setting land management policies.

Recognizing limited opportunities for wide-spread expansion or even replacement of social science staff within BLM, the education and training of existing staff about social science research and analysis was identified by about one-fourth of survey respondents as the way they would enhance and maintain social science research within BLM. Yet, comments were also made that non-social science staff have no desire to become trained social scientists. Contracting with outside agencies and conducting public opinion polls were also identified as alternatives, as was the need to raise the awareness about the usefulness of the social sciences within the BLM and by the general public.

Appendix C.2: Needs and Capabilities Assessment Survey Instrument

Bureau of Land Management Needs and Capabilities Assessment

2007 Survey Instrument

Hello is this _____ of the BLM?

YES—Continue
NO—Is this the phone number to reach _____?
NO—Refused, restart

My name is_____ and I'm calling from the Social Science Research Unit at the University of Idaho. We are conducting a study for the Bureau of Land Management about the capabilities needed by the BLM to obtain and utilize social science information, measured against its current capabilities. This survey was referenced in Information Bulletin #2007-092 and has been approved by the Human Assurances Committee at the University of Idaho.

We sent a postcard last week to explain about this study and to let you know we would call. Did you get the postcard?

1. YES—Continue
2. NO—Skip to no card
3. Unsure—Skip to no card
4. Not available/ Call back—Skip to schedule a call back
5. Refused—Go to persuade
6. No answer, answering machine, etc. –Restart

No Card: The postcard contained a brief explanation about the study and that we would be contacting you.

1. Continue—Skip to OK
2. Would you like another postcard—Skip to address
3. Refused—Restart

OK: Is this a convenient time for an interview?

1. YES—Continue
2. No, call back later—skip to schedule call back
3. Send another postcard—Restart

This interview is voluntary and if we come to any question you would prefer not to answer, just let me know and I'll skip over it. I'd like to assure you that your responses will be kept confidential.

For the purpose of this survey, *social science* provides information on the humans interacting within lands controlled by the BLM and how consequences of BLM operations impact their lives. This includes social, economic, and geographic information.

Similarly, a *social scientist* is defined as an individual with training and expertise in one or more social science fields *and* who uses information related to social science. Some examples include: sociologists, economists, cultural anthropologists, and geographers.

BLM social science information, research, or data may be applied to a wide variety of issues and contexts related to the agency's programs such as planning, recreation, fire management, etc.. For example, social science activities could include community impacts related to changes to grazing allotments or managing user conflict at recreation sites.

Section 1: Awareness of social science in the BLM

This section of the survey obtains perceptions about the use and benefits of social science within the BLM.

1. Please tell me which of the following methodologies is used most often by individuals at your office to gather social science information? (Mark ONE option) **Q1METHOD**

a. __1__ informal communications with stakeholders
b. __2__ formal stakeholder interviews
c. __3__ scoping meetings with stakeholders
d. __4__ ethnography (studies of local cultures through interviews and participant observation)
e. __5__ surveying populations about their attitudes and perceptions
f. __6__ gathering and analyzing secondary data, such as US Census data
g. __7__ None
h. __8__ (Don't know—don't read)
i. __9__ (Refused—don't read)

For the next few questions, please rate the value of social science activity for each of the following scenarios as very high, high, moderate, low, or very low.

2. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the state or national level to address broad concerns? **Q2NATIONAL**

   a. __1___ Very high
   b. __2___ High
   c. __3___ Moderate
   d. __4___ Low
   e. __5___ Very low
   f. __8___ (Don't know)
   g. __9___ (Refused)

3. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the District Office level, including Environmental Impact Statements and Resource Management Plans? **Q3DISTRICT**
   a. __1___ Very high
   b. __2___ High
   c. __3___ Moderate
   d. __4___ Low
   e. __5___ Very low
   f. __6___ Does not apply (no District Office level in their state)
   g. __8___ (Don't know—Don't read)
   h. __9___ (Refused—Don't read)

4. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the Field Office or Resource Area as an on-the-ground activity among managers and staff? **Q4FIELDOFFICE**

   a. __1___ Very high
   b. __2___ High
   c. __3___ Moderate
   d. __4___ Low
   e. __5___ Very low
   f. ___8__ (Don't know—Don't read)
   g. ___9__ (Refused—Don't read)

Section 2: Use of social science in the BLM

The following section investigates how social science is used in different areas of the BLM.

5. At your office, who is most responsible for conducting social and economic analysis? (*check only one*) **Q5ANALYSIS**

   a. __1__ a BLM social scientist
   b. __2__ one or more BLM employees who are not social scientists
   c. __3__ university researchers
   d. __4__ private contractors
   e. __5__ no one addresses these issues
   f. __6__ other (please list) _____**Q5LISTOTHER**_____
   g. __8__ (Don't know—don't know)
   h. __9__ (Refused—don't know)

Please tell me how important or unimportant each of the following social science activities are in your office?

6. At your office, how important is it to identify social and economic information, research, or data? **Q6IDENTIFY**

   a. __1___ Very important
   b. __2___ Important
   c. __3___ Neutral
   d. __4___ Unimportant
   e. __5___ Very unimportant
   f. __8___ (Don't know—don't read)
   g. __9___ (Refused—don't read)

7. At your office, how important is it to analyze social and economic information, research, or data? **Q7ANALYZE**

   a. ___1__ Very important
   b. ___2__ Important
   c. ___3__ Neutral
   d. ___4__ Unimportant
   e. ___5__ Very unimportant
   f. ___8 __ (Don't know—don't read)
   g. ___9__ (Refused—don't read)

8. At your office, how important is it to oversee contracted social and economic information, research, or data? **Q8OVERSEE**

   a. ___1__ Very important
   b. ___2__ Important
   c. ___3__ Neutral
   d. ___4__ Unimportant
   e. ___5__ Very unimportant
   f. ___8__ (Don't know—don't read)
   g. ___9__ (Refused—don't read)

9. At your office, how important is it to use social science to list alternatives and/ or design mitigation strategies? **Q9ALTERNATIVES**

   a. __1___ Very important
   b. __2___ Important
   c. __3___ Neutral
   d. __4___ Unimportant
   e. __5___ Very unimportant
   f. __8___ (Don't know—don't read)
   g. __9___ (Refused—don't read)

10. How well are project implementation needs met through the use of social science information, research, or data? Would you say they are met. **Q10PROJECTS**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know—don't read)
    g. __9___ (Refused—don't read)

11. How well are land use planning needs met by using social science? **Q11PLANNING**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

12. How well are trend monitoring needs met by using social and economic indicators? **Q12MONITORING**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

13. How well are local and tribal community development objectives met by using social science information, research, and data? **Q13DEVELOPMENT**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

14. How well are effective strategies for public participation aided by the use of social science information, research, or data? **Q14STRATEGIES**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

15. How well are recreation management needs met by using social science information, research, or data? **Q15RECREATION**

    a. __1___ Very well
    b. __2___ Well
    c. __3___ Adequately
    d. __4___ Poorly
    e. __5___ Very poorly
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

<u>Section 3: Current social science capabilities in the BLM</u> This section of the survey asks your perceptions about the current social science capabilities the BLM can draw on, including both people within the agency as well as external contractors.

16. Which factor do you think presents the most fundamental barrier to conducting social science research or data collection within the BLM? (*check only one response*) **Q16BARRIER**

    a. __1__ it is not considered a priority among managers
    b. __2__ lack of useful guidance in the handbook
    c. __3__ lack of sources for social and economic information
    d. __4__ lack of funding
    e. __5__ competing priorities
    f. __6__ insufficient training among the staff at your office
    g. __7__ inability to conduct survey research
    h. __8__ (Don't know)
    i. __9___ (Refused)
    j. _10__ other (please list) **__Q16LISTOTHER_____**

17. If BLM were to increase the social science capabilities of its current staff, what do you feel the most useful training opportunities for your position would be? (*check only one response*) **Q17TRAINING**

    a. __1__ sociology / human behavior
    b. __2__ economic principles
    c. __3__ non-market values
    d. __4__ specific methods (e.g. interviews or surveys)
    e. __5__ conflict mitigation and resolution
    f. __8___ (Don't know)
    g. __9___ (Refused)

18. Please tell me to what extent you think social science information, research, or data influence management decisions at your office. Do they... Q18DECISIONS

    a. __1_ Always influence
    b. __2__ Usually influence
    c. __3__ Sometimes influence
    d. __4__ Rarely influence
    e. __5__ Never influence
    f. __8__ (Don't know)
    g. __9__ (Refused)

Section 4: Social science applications in BLM programs

19. Which BLM program area do you think is most underserved with regard to social science? (Please name any program area within the BLM.) **Q19AREA**
_____

20. Which of the following program areas do you most identify with as the primary role for your position or office? *(to the interviewer: If the respondent states they are a manager, then ask: If you are a manager, which is the primary function of your office)*

a. __1 = YES, 0 = NO__ planning → Go to question A1
b. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ recreation → Go to question B1
c. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ fire management → Go to question C1
d. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ forestry → Go to question D1
e. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ grazing → Go to question E1
f. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ energy & minerals → Go to question F1
g. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ lands / realty → Go to question G1
h. __1 = YES, 0 = NO __ Other/None → Go to question 21

We are now going to ask a few questions related to _____. (*Computer/ interviewer fills in program area from above).*

Planning

A1. How important are non-market values in planning decisions? *(To the interviewer: non market values could include beliefs about the value of open space or wilderness)* **A1NONMARKET**

a. __1__ Very important
b. __2__ Important
c. __3__ Neutral
d. __4__ Unimportant
e. __5__ Very unimportant
f. __8__ (Don't know)
g. __9__ (Refused)

A2. How well are non-market values quantified for use in planning decisions? *(To the interviewer: non market values could include beliefs about the value of open space or improvement in wildlife habitat)* **A2QUANTIFIED**

a. __1__ very well
b. __2__ well
c. __3__ neither well nor poorly
d. __4__ poorly
e. __5__ very poorly

f. __8__ (Don't know)
g. __9__ (Refused)

A3. Rapid change in some areas of the western U.S. may complicate Resource Management Plans (RMPs). In this context, which one of the following considerations should be the top priority in BLM planning? (*check only one response*) **A3PRIORITY**

a. __1__ community stability
b. __2__ community vision (such as community planning goals and economic development strategies
c. __3__ disproportionately affected minority or subsistence populations
d. __4__ historic community identity
e. __5__ other (please list) ____**A3LISTOTHER**_____
f. __8__ (Don't know)
g. __9__ (Refused)

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Recreation

Please select the level of importance each item has for the recreation program

B1. How important or unimportant is improved assessment of visitor use-patterns (such as the origin, number, or time-of-year of visitors) for specific locations? **B1VISITORS**

a. __1___ Very important
b. __2___ Important
c. __3___ Neutral
d. __4___ Unimportant
e. __5___ Very unimportant
f. __8___ (Don't know)
g. __9___ (Refused)

B2. How important is the improved assessment of visitor satisfaction with types and levels of service at various recreation sites, including satisfaction with fees paid? **B2SERVICE**

a. __1___ Very important
b. __2___ Important
c. __3___ Neutral
d. __4___ Unimportant
e. __5___ Very unimportant
f. ___8__ (Don't know)
g. ___9__ (Refused)

B3. How important is the determination of land management tradeoffs, (i.e. costs and benefits to a community or user group if a site is designated as single- vs. multiple-use)? **B3TRADEOFFS**

a. ___1__ Very important
b. ___2__ Important
c. ___3__ Neutral
d. ___4__ Unimportant
e. ___5__ Very unimportant
f. ____8_ (Don't know)
g. ____9_ (Refused)

B4. How important is providing information to recreation site users about the impacts of use, regulations, environmental education, and site appreciation? **B4INFO**

a. __1___ Very important
b. __2___ Important
c. __3___ Neutral
d. __4___ Unimportant
e. __5___ Very unimportant
f. ___8__ (Don't know)
g. ___9__ (Refused)

B5. How important is measuring use-values that will likely differ by user groups (i.e. local, regional and national) so that the economic values are understood and can be described? **B5VALUES**

a. __1___ Very important
b. __2___ Important
c. __3___ Neutral
d. __4___ Unimportant
e. __5___ Very unimportant
f. ___8__ (Don't know)
g. ___9__ (Refused)

B6. How important is understanding and addressing conflict between user groups? **B6CONFLICT**

a. __1___ Very important
b. __2___ Important
c. __3___ Neutral
d. __4___ Unimportant
e. __5___ Very unimportant
f. ___8__ (Don't know)
g. ___9__ (Refused

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Fire management

C1. Which of the following is the greatest need for social science applications within the fire management program area? (*check only one*) **C1NEED**

a. __1__ communication & collaboration with the public
b. __2__ knowledge transfer of research findings to fire managers
c. __3__ agency and community coordination
d. __4__ community education about fire prevention and fire safety
e. __5__ other (please list) ___**C1LISTOTHER**_____
f. __8__ (Don't know)
g. __9__ (Refused)

C2. For communities in wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones, which of the following resources should the BLM prioritize the most with respect to fire management? (*check only one*) **C2PRIORITY**

a. __1__ fire prevention activities
b. __2__ community assistance
c. __3__ education about fire prevention
d. __8__ (Don't know)
e. __9__ (Refused)

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Forestry

D1. The BLM has recently been authorized to develop stewardship contracts to achieve land management goals that meet community needs. Please tell me the degree to which the forestry program should emphasize resource management versus rural community and economic development. D1

a. __1__ We should *primarily emphasize* resource management
b. __2__ We should *mostly emphasize* resource management, but give some consideration to community and economic development
c. __3__ We should give *equal consideration* to resource management and community and economic development
d. __4__ We should *mostly emphasize* community and economic development, but give some consideration to resource management
e. __5__ We should *primarily emphasize* community and economic development
f. __8__ (Don't know, don't read)
g. __9__ (Refused, don't read)

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Grazing

Recent changes in grazing regulations re-emphasize the need for analysis through NEPA of "the relevant social, economic and cultural effects of the proposed action" before changing grazing preference.

E1. Which of the following information is most important for completing the Environmental Assessment (EA) necessary for issuing a grazing permit? (*check only one response*)

a. __1__ information related to change in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits
b. __2__ understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation
c. __3__ Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing
d. __4__ other (please list) _____
e. __8__ (Don't know)
f. __9__ (Refused)

E2. In which category would BLM most benefit from improved social science information? (*check only one response*)

a. __1__ information related to change in land-tenure or land-use affecting the viability of rangeland permits
b. __2__ understanding the importance of a BLM grazing permit to the overall ranching operation
c. __3__ Public opinion about the use of land, including the impacts of grazing
d. __4__ other (please list) _____
e. __8__ (Don't know)
f. __9__ (Refused)

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Energy & Minerals

F1. In the past, most social science efforts related to energy or minerals development have focused solely on the direct economic effects. In addition, which of the following is the most critical social issue currently in need of assessment? (*check only one*)

a. __1__ effects on community infrastructure (i.e., social services, law enforcement, municipal services, housing)
b. __2__ economic and social effects of the boom / bust cycle
c. __3__ liability and safety issues
d. __4__ impacts on amenity values (*for the interviewer: examples include the second home market or recreational opportunities)*
e. __5__ user conflicts
f. __6__ other (please list) _____
g.__8__ (Don't know)
h. _9___ (Refused)

NOW PROCEED TO Q21

Lands & Realty

G1. Land exchanges play an important role in managing public land. Which of the following items, which are not always considered, would be MOST useful to land exchange decisions? (*select only one*)

a. __1__ market benefits
b. __2__ benefits not derived through market transactions *(for the interviewer: If asked, non-market benefits include the preservation of open space, improvement in wildlife habitat, preservation of endangered species, etc.)*
c. __3__ costs associated with the exchange
d. __4__ benefit/cost ratio
e. __8__ (Don't know)
f. __9__ (Refused)

NOW PROCEED TO THE NEXT QUESTION

Section 5: Complexities of implementation

Please elaborate on the following key issues and topic areas within BLM social science activities.

21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?

22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program?

23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing?

Section 6: Demographics Questions in this section are designed to provide general background information about you and your work context. Responses will be used for analytical purposes only.

24. Are you a manager?

    a. __1__ Yes
    b. __0__ No
    c. __9__ (Refused)

25. Please stop me when I reach the category that best describes your level of social science training or experience

    a. __1__ No training or experience in social science or economics
    b. __2__ Some informal training and/or experience in social science or economics
    c. __3__ Extensive informal training in social science or economics
    d. __4__ Coursework or formal training in social science or economics (no degree)
    e. __5__ A degree in social science or economics
    f. __6__ A great deal of experience or previous job position in social science or economics
    g. __9__ (Refused)

26. Please indicate the level of the BLM office where you work? (*check one item*)

    a. __1__ Field Office
    b. __2__ District Office
    c. __3__ State Office
    d. __4__ Washington Office / National Center
    e. __9__ (Refused)

27. How many years have you worked for the BLM? (*check only one*)

    a. __1__ 0 – 4 years
    b. __2__ 5 – 9 years
    c. __3__ 10 – 14 years
    d. __4__ 15 or more years
    e. __9__ (Refused)

Section 7: Thank you….

28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM?

Thank you for you time and have a good day!

Appendix C.3 – Results of BLM Employee Survey

Data Summary

Number of Strata	3
Number of Observations	1251
Sum of Weights	6087

1. Please tell me which of the following methodologies is used MOST often by individuals at your office to gather social science information.

Q1METHOD	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
Informal communications with stakeholders	412	2082	80
Formal stakeholder interviews	83	390	40
Scoping meetings with stakeholders	434	2259	81
Ethnography (studies of local cultures through interviews an	19	91	20
Surveying populations about their attitudes and perceptions	26	99	19
Gathering and analyzing secondary data, such as US Census da	79	341	36
None of the above	98	356	34
Don't know	95	447	43
Total	1246	6065	0

Frequency Missing = 5

1. Please tell me which of the following methodologies is used MOST often by individuals at your office to gather social science information.

Q1METHOD	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Informal communications with stakeholders	34.3	1.3
Formal stakeholder interviews	6.4	0.7
Scoping meetings with stakeholders	37.3	1.3
Ethnography (studies of local cultures through interviews an	1.5	0.3
Surveying populations about their attitudes and perceptions	1.6	0.3
Gathering and analyzing secondary data, such as US Census da	5.6	0.6
None of the above	5.9	0.6
Don't know	7.4	0.7
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 5

2. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the state or national level to address broad concerns?

Q2NATIONAL	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent

Very high	173	757	52.8	12.4	0.9
High	404	1907	76.9	31.4	1.3
Moderate	438	2182	80.4	35.9	1.3
Low	98	530	48.8	8.7	0.8
Very low	27	143	25.9	2.3	0.4
Don't know	109	562	49.4	9.2	0.8
Total	1249	6081	0.0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 2

3. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the District Office level, including its use in Environmental Impact Statements and Resource Management Plans?

Q3DISTRICT	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
Very high	296	1351	67.9
High	524	2560	82.5
Moderate	237	1221	67.9
Low	80	444	45.3
Very low	16	94	22.0
Does not apply (no District Office level in state)	33	164	27.4
Don't know	62	245	29.8
Total	1248	6079	0.0

Frequency Missing = 3

3. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the District Office level, including its use in Environmental Impact Statements and Resource Management Plans?

Q3DISTRICT	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very high	22.2	1.1
High	42.1	1.4
Moderate	20.1	1.1
Low	7.3	0.7
Very low	1.5	0.4
Does not apply (no District Office level in state)	2.7	0.5
Don't know	4.0	0.5
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 3

4. How would you rate the value of social science information, research, or data at the field Office or Resource Area level as an on-the-ground activity among managers and staff?

Q4FIELDOFFICE	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very high	281	1366	69.7	22.5	1.1
High	463	2238	80.4	36.9	1.3
Moderate	280	1385	70.3	22.8	1.2
Low	125	666	53.6	11.0	0.9
Very low	26	148	27.3	2.4	0.5
Don't know	71	261	29.0	4.3	0.5
Total	1246	6064	0.0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 5

5. At YOUR office, who is MOST responsible for conducting social and economic analysis?

Q5ANALYSIS	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
A BLM social scientist	156	630	46.2
One or more BLM employees who are not social scientists	620	3200	82.5
University researchers	36	158	25.5
Private contractors	144	695	52.8
No one addresses these issues	155	755	55.2
Other	57	273	34.3
Don't know	78	358	38.4
Total	1246	6069	0.0

Frequency Missing = 5

5. At YOUR office, who is MOST responsible for conducting social and economic analysis?

Q5ANALYSIS	Percent	Std Err of Percent
A BLM social scientist	10.4	0.8
One or more BLM employees who are not social scientists	52.7	1.4
University researchers	2.6	0.4
Private contractors	11.5	0.9
No one addresses these issues	12.4	0.9
Other	4.5	0.6
Don't know	5.9	0.6
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 5

6. At your office, how important is it to identify social and economic information, research, or data?

Q6IDENTIFY	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very important	289	1331	67.7	21.9	1.1
Important	548	2769	83.2	45.6	1.4
Neutral	283	1383	70.1	22.8	1.2
Unimportant	73	347	38.4	5.7	0.6
Very unimportant	28	110	20.4	1.8	0.3
Don't know	27	135	24.8	2.2	0.4
Total	1248	6075	0.0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 3

7. At your office, how important is it to analyze social and economic information, research, or data?

Q7ANALYZE	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very important	254	1172	64.5	19.3	1.1
Important	549	2763	83.2	45.5	1.4
Neutral	283	1365	69.6	22.5	1.1
Unimportant	106	521	47.0	8.6	0.8
Very unimportant	29	114	20.6	1.9	0.3
Don't know	28	142	25.5	2.3	0.4
Total	1249	6077	0.0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 2

8. At your office, how important is it to oversee contracted social and economic information, research, or data?

Q8OVERSEE	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very important	234	1100	63.5	18.2	1.1
Important	388	1899	77.1	31.5	1.3
Neutral	263	1249	66.9	20.7	1.1
Unimportant	176	863	58.6	14.3	1.0
Very unimportant	64	293	34.9	4.8	0.6
Don't know	118	634	52.6	10.5	0.9
Total	1243	6038	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 8

9. At your office, how important is it to use social science data to list alternatives and/or mitigation strategies?

Q9ALTERNATIVES	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very important	313	1549	72.9	25.6	1.2
Important	506	2537	82.4	41.9	1.4
Neutral	242	1175	66.0	19.4	1.1
Unimportant	101	463	43.3	7.6	0.7
Very unimportant	41	156	23.6	2.6	0.4
Don't know	42	176	26.1	2.9	0.4
Total	1245	6056	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 6

10. How well are project implementation needs met through the use of social science information, research, or data? Would you say the needs are met...

Q10PROJECTS	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very well	57	265	33.6	4.4	0.6
Well	223	1072	63.2	17.8	1.0
Adequately	593	3030	82.9	50.2	1.4
Poorly	229	1092	63.8	18.1	1.1
Very poorly	37	172	27.3	2.9	0.5
Don't know	101	404	37.9	6.7	0.6
Total	1240	6035	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 11

11. How well are land use planning needs met by using social science?

Q11PLANNING	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very well	137	607	47.7	10.0	0.8
Well	331	1673	75.1	27.7	1.2
Adequately	467	2383	81.7	39.4	1.4
Poorly	171	852	58.6	14.1	1.0
Very poorly	19	84	18.7	1.4	0.3
Don't know	118	451	38.9	7.4	0.6
Total	1243	6050	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 8

12. How well are trend monitoring needs met by using social and economic indicators?

Q12MONITORING	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very well	47	195	27.5	3.2	0.5
Well	185	888	58.7	14.7	1.0
Adequately	413	2040	78.9	33.7	1.3
Poorly	337	1691	75.3	27.9	1.2
Very poorly	47	263	35.7	4.3	0.6
Don't know	215	978	59.7	16.2	1.0
Total	1244	6055	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 7

13. How well are local and tribal community development objectives met by using social science information, research, or data?

Q13DEVELOPMENT	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Std Err of Percent	Percent
Very well	126	632	51.4	10.4	0.8
Well	250	1276	68.7	21.0	1.1
Adequately	380	1871	77.2	30.8	1.3
Poorly	216	1071	64.1	17.7	1.1
Very poorly	26	132	25.0	2.2	0.4
Don't know	248	1083	61.4	17.8	1.0
Total	1246	6065	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 5

14. How well are effective strategies for public participation aided by the use of social science information, research, or data?

Q14STRATEGIES	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very well	107	492	44.4	8.1	0.7
Well	288	1451	71.7	24.0	1.2
Adequately	498	2452	81.9	40.5	1.4
Poorly	185	908	59.8	15.0	1.0
Very poorly	23	122	24.2	2.0	0.4
Don't know	143	627	48.8	10.4	0.8
Total	1244	6052	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 7

15. How well are recreation management needs met by using social science information, research, or data?

Q15RECREATION	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Very well	153	748	54.8	12.3	0.9
Well	317	1596	74.0	26.3	1.2
Adequately	398	1947	77.9	32.1	1.3
Poorly	152	830	59.3	13.7	1.0
Very poorly	23	115	22.9	1.9	0.4
Don't know	202	827	53.2	13.6	0.9
Total	1245	6063	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 6

16. Which factor do you think presents the MOST fundamental barrier to conducting social science research or data collection within the BLM?

Q16BARRIER	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
It is not considered a priority among managers	156	717	52.7
Lack of useful guidance in the handbook	28	130	23.6
Lack of sources for social and economic information	74	376	40.9
Lack of funding	307	1488	71.7
Competing priorities	340	1680	75.0
Insufficient training among the staff at your office	102	495	45.5
Inability to conduct survey research	43	218	31.4
Don't know	69	304	34.7
Other	130	673	53.4
Total	1249	6081	0.0

Frequency Missing = 2

16. Which factor do you think presents the MOST fundamental barrier to conducting social science research or data collection within the BLM?

Q16BARRIER	Percent	Std Err of Percent
It is not considered a priority among managers	11.8	0.9
Lack of useful guidance in the handbook	2.1	0.4
Lack of sources for social and economic information	6.2	0.7
Lack of funding	24.5	1.2
Competing priorities	27.6	1.2
Insufficient training among the staff at your office	8.1	0.7
Inability to conduct survey research	3.6	0.5
Don't know	5.0	0.6
Other	11.1	0.9
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 2

17. If the BLM were to increase the social science capabilities of its current staff, what do you feel the MOST useful training opportunities for your position would be?

Q17TRAINING	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
Sociology or human behavior	167	765	54.2
Economic principles	213	1026	62.3
Non-market values	149	739	55.0
Specific methods, such as surveys or interviews	166	821	57.3
Conflict mitigation and resolution	458	2291	80.7
Don't know	77	333	35.6
Total	1230	5976	0

Frequency Missing = 21

17. If the BLM were to increase the social science capabilities of its current staff, what do you feel the MOST useful training opportunities for your position would be?

Q17TRAINING	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Sociology or human behavior	12.8	0.9
Economic principles	17.2	1.0
Non-market values	12.4	0.9
Specific methods, such as surveys or interviews	13.7	1.0
Conflict mitigation and resolution	38.3	1.4
Don't know	5.6	0.6
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 21

18. Please tell me to what extent you think social science information, research, or data influences management decisions at your office.

Q18DECISIONS	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Always influence	99	455	42.8	7.5	0.7
Usually influence	332	1664	74.8	27.4	1.2
Sometimes influence	556	2740	83.0	45.2	1.4
Rarely influence	193	900	58.7	14.9	1.0
Never influence	28	118	21.7	1.9	0.4
Don't know	39	187	28.6	3.1	0.5
Total	1247	6064	0.0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 4

24. Are you a manager?

Q24MANAGER	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
NO	933	4672	68.2	77.0	1.1
YES	314	1396	68.2	23.0	1.1
Total	1247	6068	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 4

25. Please stop me when I reach the category that best describes your level of social science training or experience.

Q25EXPERIENCE	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq
No training or experience in social science or economics	156	733	53.4
Some informal training or experience in social science or ec	443	2170	80.0
Extensive training and/or experience in social science or ec	89	440	43.6
Coursework or formal training in social science or economics	387	1906	77.6
A degree in social science or economics	123	577	48.2
A great deal of experience or a previous job position in soc	48	231	31.8
Total	1246	6057	0.0

Frequency Missing = 5

25. Please stop me when I reach the category that best describes your level of social science training or experience.

Q25EXPERIENCE	Percent	Std Err of Percent
No training or experience in social science or economics	12.1	0.9
Some informal training or experience in social science or ec	35.8	1.3
Extensive training and/or experience in social science or ec	7.3	0.7
Coursework or formal training in social science or economics	31.5	1.3
A degree in social science or economics	9.5	0.8
A great deal of experience or a previous job position in soc	3.8	0.5
Total	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 5

26. Please indicate the level of the BLM office where you work?

Q26OFFICE	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Field Office	508	3224	71.8	53.2	1.2
District Office	191	1216	69.9	20.1	1.2
State Office	330	1067	16.9	17.6	0.3
Washington Office / National Center	215	549	19.6	9.1	0.3
Total	1244	6056	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 7

27. How many years have you worked for the BLM?

Q27YEARS	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Std Dev of Wgt Freq	Percent	Std Err of Percent
Zero to four years	230	1221	68.4	20.2	1.1
Five to nine years	253	1284	68.9	21.2	1.1
Ten to fourteen years	86	421	42.6	7.0	0.7
Fifteen or more years	673	3119	82.8	51.6	1.4
Total	1242	6045	0	100.0	

Frequency Missing = 9

Appendix C.4 – Listing of Open-ended Question Responses by Strata

Question 21: Social Science Information for RMPs

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Social science information can give managers a better feeling of the needs of users on the land. In xxxxxx the rural population needs the land to exist, and social science provides the link to make wise decisions about populations that do not have infrastructure.

It is kind of critical that we have some information on how people are using the land, and what their attitudes regarding the land we manage are, and what uses we conduct on them. In particular where we have people who are subsisting off the land, we need to have that information.

It's based so much on social because we deal with the communities. We listen to the public, and scoping is very important to use.

Community involvement and management of land in conjunction with the community. We try to have the communities buy into resource plans.

You have to know what your constituents want in order to know what the public interest is so you can write a good plan for land use.

We identify specific needs for local areas.

Understand visitor behaviors through social science.

If we would know who our users are we would know how to contact them and we would have a better understanding on their perspective.

The resource manage plan could use social science information about its areas and what is supposed to happen in them, and the knowledge of what types of user groups in those areas. For instance, four-wheelers in a particular area where they need to stay on designated routes where there may be multiple uses such as grazing and mining in addition to recreation.

They could get a better feel for the people in the planning area and their goals and views. Also they would be able to address their goals better in the planning process.

I guess it would just involve other views besides the rancher. That would be very helpful.

Information input plays a big role in the RMP process.

The way we did it was they interviewed a sample of user groups, some traditional users, some who recreate, miners, or all user groups.

Socioeconomic information provides guidance and direction, but you have to do implementation which is constricted on the ground, whether it's people or resources you are dealing with.

We are trying to fit the needs of communities that we serve

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

For one thing we could use it in correlating the growth and development of the country. You have to guess what's going to happen, and if we had a better idea of how mineral development would affect the earth in the future we could plan more effectively.

You have the tools, research, contacts, and the public input and you're getting the cutting edge information at the universities.

The best way to use social science would be a predictive work with demographics, both spatial and social, and where development is likely to occur and what the population is going to look like in 10 to 15 years.

You would be able to account for local community benefits and needs as well as individuals or groups or families that use public lands in your RMP.

Use an RMP to disclose anticipated impacts from our decisions.

Who would benefit the most from a plan?

Because there are a variety of levels for recreation it helps determine the types of use levels, public recreation needs, conflicts, fees, and the economic returns for those activities.

Take the information and integrate it into the backbone of the resource management plan.

Socioeconomics can help bring all of the parties to the table so all of them have all the information at hand and can make coordinated decisions with all coordinated parties, which should provided a more useable plan.

Understanding the demographics such as what people want in terms of changes in recreation experiences in terms of designation and allocation. Know who your users are.

There are guidelines for interpreting public desire.

Fringe elements are difficult, but the more mainstream can be worked with.

On every single planning level and decision there's an impact from socioeconomic data.

The people can figure out what drives the community and what they put value in. The values can be put into a plan and management plans can be built around these values.

We need to be able to keep up with the expanding populations.

Accurately address the needs and desires of the public through those plans.

You need to know who's employed where. You need constant parameters that are evaluated over time. The latest information isn't as important as the trends, and the latest information will be dated. The economy is analogous to the boom/bust cycle. Social science is important for budgeting, but also because we try to be aggressive about inspections out of companies who are making money. The organization could really benefit from looking at it that way.

It would help to prioritize multiple use management in areas with conflicting resource values.

Social science is useful in determining impacts, and in field work collecting data is necessary.

Demographics are very important to help plan around the people living near the area you are working on.

To analyze the need and demand and plan the use we need solid data.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Environmental Assessments are being used in RMPs.

An RMP can be effective if stakeholders are included in the plan, or their thoughts are at least considered as part of the plan. Social science is used to obtain these.

By assessing the effects on communities.

It is always best to have the best updated data. That's how we get it to the public.

Your RMP has got to look at the surrounding community. What is driving that community and populace?

If RMPs would incorporate social science data maybe more adequately we could let the minority group voices be heard in response to the plan.

Socioeconomic impacts are part of the resource management plans. They set the tone for a resource management plan.

They need to take into consideration what the public has to say.

Social science is used in analysis of impacts for NEPA purposes.

An RMP does already utilize social science. It takes into consideration a lot of issues such as impact and air quality, economic impact, and social impact. All are a part of it.

Taking more stakeholders' opinions and infusing the opinions into decisions through scoping meetings, or other informal ways to gather information.

An RMP is critical to constituent investment and getting the citizens involved with land management. We can't dictate, but have to listen to what they want, which will lead to a better plan.

Impact analysis is used to guide measures.

Determining where to put resources is affected by public opinion.

Record and evaluate people's opinions to protect resources.

Socioeconomics can give better guidance to build a plan on.

Part of the effects analysis is social science, which needs regulatory requirements.

Serving local communities is our job.

Objectively seek out all sides at local and national scales. Seek out the silent majority.

Social science looks at traditional uses, culture, and changes to culture that are caused by BLM.

A current fault with RMPs is that the time schedules are unrealistic. We did not do a good job reaching some user groups such as ORV users. Social science could be used to design effective outreach and to understand patterns of use.

We use the economic profile system by the national program.

They could ensure that all of our cultures and public are collaborating together. Who is using what? A lot of the educated members of our culture are the only ones that give input. BLM does not look at the problem as it affects ALL of the people, not just users.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We need a more solid analysis protocol, where they would know what to do with the data. They need more detailed instructions on the things they ought to consider such as how many people are involved and how many jobs are at stake. There has to be some specific criteria.

It could help us with demographics of a population and how they want to utilize their public lands.

It is a document for the public and stakeholders to understand, but not many understand RMPs.

Managing the resources in a socially acceptable way.

Socioeconomic information would help BLM select some of their alternatives.

We usually try to use environmental justice to make sure we are not impacting certain minority groups and to see what the economic impacts are on land use planning areas.

We're doing an RMP right now, and we can use social science to make sure we meet NEPA requirements.

We use it in most areas of planning.

It would be able to develop trends based on population levels in the area and stakeholders.

The weakest area is the social part. Our analysis and mitigation is lacking because we have no data on the impacts to users.

Social science would help us with how efficient or economic our land or minerals are going to be.

We control a little service, and our impact is the economic impact of royalties which we share with other government organizations. That is almost always the largest impact our activities have.

Economics of the situation are needed, and the biggest situation we deal with is the amenities. It could help us by not focusing on the economic effects and focusing on the long-term, larger picture.

If we had some of the baseline data that would help. An RMP is like a recipe book the public provides input for. If we had more current and accurate data our RMP could be more useful for everybody.

We could make better decisions concerning local communities by considering the local community over the national norm if we could use an RMP.

The RMP is shallow when it comes to analyzing the impacts on the economic values and weak in having the ability to describe the impacts.

Better understanding how BLM decisions affect the local economy is important.

Utilize social science information in developing alternatives.

We should limit scoping to the proper interest groups.

By better communicating to the public the effects on the public, and the impacts of those decisions. Our planning process is so lengthy and complex that most people do not understand it until it has happened.

When writing RMPs for these areas, you have to know who your user groups are. Ranchers are usually the people who are on the land most often. In the fall there's a huge influx of hunters. You get some picture takers and butterfly watchers.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We use the data by providing a broader perspective for the community and how the plan will affect the different groups.

Resolving user conflicts can be accomplished with a good RMP.

The planning process needs input from both physical and social sciences. Archaeological inputs are a major factor. Zones and parcels within zones are a factor. Surveys and scoping meetings give us input that is very useful.

Values of people in the area are being taken into account.

We have to know what the resources are, what the needs for the community are, economics of the community, and economics of the resources available. It's important to understand the attitudes of the citizens, because the plan will be only as good as the support the community gives it.

Proper information to reduce impacts on area plants and wildlife that may be influenced by users.

Being able to get all the information together before the plan is made is difficult.

It's critical to know our users groups, like what they like to do and what they believe should be done with the land, and we need to protect our resources.

This information is important in that you can look at things objectively.

Social science can allow us to plan better and provide a better understanding of the impacts so we're able to work around them to make it a better fit for everybody.

Identify the needs of stakeholders in terms of concerns of the impacts of BLM operations.

Open up some eyes that a plan is not cut and dry. The public has the right to give their opinions.

Benefits-based recreation set by the Forest Service's ROS is a good example of social science's usefulness.

By knowing the communities in your area, their economic base, and where they are trying to move to you can improve your RMP.

Conduct field meetings during the week to discuss upcoming management plans and public review periods. Conduct town hall meetings in the community.

I'm not enough of a planner to know how or what the strategies would be, but I assume broad based plans would need more social or economic information. It is not my field.

Strategic direction is set for that land, so you have to be in touch with the social science framework and fabric.

If you do a good job of analysis and reaching out and trying to understand the social desires of the wide variety of folks and have a dialog for stakeholders then you can make informed decisions.

Knowing the needs of the people helps the process.

Use the information to be able to modify your planning depending on your variables.

An RMP is crafted following community input from scoping. It just is.

Incorporate the data at a more localized scale for setting long term objectives.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

As far as providing the economic return of utilizing sources and determining economic contributions from recreation, we need to be determining the demographics of employment levels and looking at the trends, the obstruction of resources and how it has affected the community.

Making use of social science would be an improvement over how we do things now. We take information from scoping, but we can't get the state of Washington to buy into it.

Incorporate the opinions and desires of the people that will be affected by the plans.

You can see trends such as what you need and want to use.

Use social science to find the needs factors in the RMP.

It's part of the plan. An RMP already addresses social science.

If they had a section that addressed such things as environmental justice that would be helpful to me. We don't have the time or the manpower to conduct that research ourselves.

It has to address all the values, intrinsic included, which social science can identify. You need trained personnel to put a dollar value on wildlife for economic impacts.

The needs of human environments are based on the way people interact. You use that to try to do your scoping meetings. It could help determine some of the scoping needs. You can get people in a more comfortable situation.

Use data to track the effects of plan.

Managing resources for the public, you have to understand what the issues are for the public and figure out what the trends are and use them to plan.

Impacts to the community are important in the RMP process.

Analyze the economic impacts of the RMP in the communities along with the industries and the businesses in the area.

Critically important in long term planning to look at our constituents, because our decisions affect the community in a massive way.

The RMP is an opportunity for the public's voice to be included in either alternative design or parts of it that reflect the needs of the community.

They could hire somebody to do research on a whole myriad of things that are important to rural communities. I don't know if anybody's figured out what people's views are up here. If we have a fire issue, I go to the community and talk with them.

We need to have surveys on what people's visions are in land use and try to come to a reasonable consensus.

Historical preservation.

A better understanding would help direct education programs.

This plan guides what we do to manage the area, so if people understand what the plan says they can understand what is going on with their area.

We want to take into account who is using the land and who will use it.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

The benefit ratio effect is important.

If they collected good data about what needs to be done and attitudes, they might be able to tailor their message better to convince the public of what needs to be done.

Social science can help identify key issues for management planning.

We already have land use plan decisions. The most effective use of social science would be planned use needs, time, funding, and having the community drive the planning of the program.

Not only do we have to manage the resources and protect the wildlife, but we also have to manage our lands to benefit the local communities. They rely on access to public lands.

They currently work on using social science, especially the economics aspect, to create jobs, which is a good thing. However, the pendulum swings too far, swinging from resources to humans. There should be a balance between both; maintaining them for future generations.

Socioeconomic data needs to be taken more seriously and used better.

We need to develop our alternatives range. There should be seven alternatives instead of three.

Allow for adjustments within the plan in regard to needs within the community.

The reason you make an RMP is to use social science as a guide.

We could go out and gather better data; we don't do a good job of that. The data would relate to socioeconomic things.

It would assess what the public demand or desire is for the resources we have, and the use of resources.

It could help us make better decisions by understanding our users better and help us balance conflicts.

It gives us the ability to find out local information. It can help us understand the desires and best wishes of the local community, and how what we do will benefit them.

We can get more alternatives in the plan itself based on information regarding effects on the environment.

By addressing the public's needs and concerns on different levels and ensuring that local and national levels are taken into account.

Dealing with conflict management would be very helpful.

I would want an unbiased opinion.

Implementation plan requires an interactive relationship with the community. It's not just knowing the problem, but getting things adjusted.

Narrowing user groups to look at their needs and desires for each site.

Understanding the economic bases of small rural communities is vital.

It's very useful and much needed. It will help drive our decisions.

Expectations and preferences of existing and future visitors are taken into consideration.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

It would be important to know how the public is using the management or resource area and what changes have gone on in recent years, and what changes are expected to happen over the time period the management covers.

We need to look at project trends and needs of the population better than we do now.

It would have a big effect on how to use the land.

We have more science information available digitally we could be able to draw upon when making resource management plans.

Public participation helps an RMP.

Find out what stakeholders want.

We're in the process of updating all of our plans in this district, and there's a lack of subsistence information. We have one anthropologist on staff that's in charge of about eighty million acres. Staffing is the biggest problem we have here.

By holding more scoping meetings and doing more thorough investigations into subsistence populations.

Understanding your customers.

An RMP needs to take into account all of the aspects of social science to target user groups.

Plans should reflect the needs of the people.

For stakeholder multiple use issues.

That's what RMPs do. They utilize the information we gather.

We have to make decisions about how to manage the resources. BLM listens to the commodities and puts up with the environments. We need to gather more objective opinions from both sides.

Costs and benefits, the impacts of our plan, user opinions, and how to serve the people is all information we can learn from social science.

It is critical to use social science data, growth statistics, planning characteristics, recreation in our environment, and have a public use focus.

Since I'm in an urban area, we need to know what is going on, and at this point it isn't done to a satisfactory degree.

It could provide adequate information that would be needed for an RMP.

If you get everybody involved in the collection of the data it is helpful. You need to involve people other than the social scientists.

You have to have it for your environmental impact statements.

These sorts of things have a very important effect on allocations on uses, various pieces of plans, designations of road systems, impact areas with community growth, providing electricity, and road systems for the public.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We are a public agency managing lands for the public, therefore we need to know what the public wants to do.

We need input on people's reactions in regards to endangered species.

To determine what types of people are coming to the area and what their economic status is.

Helping us to understand the public that we are reaching with the RMP and helping us understand and target the public.

Identify users and potential users.

We could use some help in terms of social and economic information.

If you understand the public and their fears and concerns, based on our knowledge and planning data the chances are the plan will be more of a success.

Do what the public says follow their advice.

Social science provides a better study of non-market values and economic values.

Using GIS and collecting information from research done by other researchers.

It will help me to comply with the state laws and with laws or policies I'm not familiar with. That's what our social science persons are here for: to help me know about the existence of laws and comply with them.

If you know how many people use BLM land and set a goal for it, you can use social science to find that.

It helps identify our stake holders and helps to develop the range of alternatives.

In the west there's been a substantial demographic change, and it would help if we could identify trends and then provide more recreation opportunities.

We are determining our user demographics and gearing surveys toward that.

If we had enough surveys to determine what people are really looking for, we might be able to provide it.

Social science information is used in displaying alternatives.

When one is discovering the urban interface they need to take into consideration what the locals want to use it for.

Inform the public of different areas of land for recreation on the internet and webpage, and identify different issues that are brought up about land use needs and concerns.

By understanding the various needs of our costumers and calculating those needs with respect to all the other needs to make the right decisions.

If you have good information on the local economy, you can make better decisions.

We just did our RMP two years ago, and we used that information to determine what staff resources were needed for the land. We did visitor monitoring and our RMP was able to determine what financial resources were needed for that area.

It could affect the alternatives based on the public's interest.

Scoping.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Priorities are established through data analysis.

Using information from social science by applying it to community development.

If we had the information we would be able to know how many users and which users are visiting our recreation sites due to the changing trends of recreation use.

Public scooping and work with interest groups aids the RMP process.

This information acts as an aid in helping to determine different areas of the land to develop, recreation opportunities, and what the public wants in individual programs.

It would give information about demographics of our field office area, economic bases that we are drawing from, and the possibilities of engaging the public in the program.

Future direction, public input, and guidance on areas we would like to examine in the future.

Economic analysis of the area.

Growth trends and interest areas are collected.

Social science is important to help us balance what is feasible from a biological stand point.

Off-highway vehicles and motorized recreation: it is so vital to understand the people that do these activities. Social science could allow us to make better decisions for all of these users.

Information on users and their activities within the recreation area.

Social science gives a broader knowledge of society and how the resource planning will impact it.

To find out people's attitudes towards the impacts of grazing.

We are provided more information on impacts on the environment and what the public has to say.

One weakness is we do not have good tools to access economic impacts.

With better socioeconomic data, we could have better described our plans and why we made their decision about grazing on land.

You get better information that's more well-rounded.

The BLM and recreation program manages people, but we don't have a good grasp on doing that in our plans. Plans are designed to manage land. We need increased knowledge of visitor demographics to make more useful plans.

It's nice to have a better idea of who is coming and what they were doing and when they were coming and when they were using the land.

Forecasting future trends is one of the key things. Not only what people are going to want, but how our natural resources are going to be impacted and how that's going to affect social trends of today.

An RMP must look at data and plan around it.

It would be important to educate our staff.

We try to identify areas for specific development.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Making sure you have the input of groups about a plan's effects.

Socioeconomic information could help with future planning, especially when it's concerning an area's population. Currently, I think it is absent for some of the plans. For community development, it would be very beneficial.

Population and economic development are intertwined. Let's say a resource area is expected to explode in terms of population and economic development. A town in xxxxxxx could reach a population of 20,000 people in 20 years. They're currently at 3,000.

Social science is used in the geographic and planning and recreation areas. It could help in the planning portion of an RMP.

Local socioeconomic information can partially affect how the land is used.

Public participation tells us how their attitudes influence the planning process.

By involving all the stakeholders and understanding their individual needs an RMP can be more beneficial.

In almost every single area, all of our various users have requirements that need to be met.

Serving local small communities.

We're in the process of completing an RMP amendment. If we could forecast areas of growth that would probably impact our decision.

The data would look at activities not driven directly by mineral and resource exploitation. There would be an interest in recreation and other topics.

The most useful aspect for an RMP would be a socioeconomic study used as an appendix that community leaders could look at.

Probably through public scoping and comment periods we could make a more rounded RMP.

It could plan out how to use the land better and make it more equal.

Listening to constituents and evaluating the needs of the people who will be affected by our decisions.

It tells the planners how the resource management should direct the research by emphasizing public interests and public needs in the plan.

A lot of times we are going by project proposals, so most of our decisions are based on what actions get proposed. It would be nice to know the opinions of the people who aren't proposing but are impacted so we could look at the broader impact.

Determining people's preference for activities is important.

Community assessment of all the local communities. Bring them to the table to identify what their concerns are, and then use that information in order to consider that to know where to start from as we initiate the process.

The community needs to be understood when in conflict with BLM.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Most of our direction comes from Congress, but it is important to involve the local community with certain decisions. Social science techniques could help us serve the community better, even if it only helps us gather opinions.

By making better decisions on land use.

We already have a section in our planning documents that's covering that. It makes use of social science by formulating a picture of what the local community wants.

Social science data could play very well into the environmental justice sections of EISs, RMPs, and environmental assessments.

We do lots of scoping.

We are supposed to be including the socioeconomic aspects whenever we deal with EISs.

Use socioeconomic information to predict trends, community growth, demand for resources, potential areas of conflict, and formulate alternatives for the RMP.

Use social information to guide the direction of plan.

There is a need to anticipate needs of the public, so we need to look to the future to see what will need for planning.

Social science data could help focus and target the goals and objectives of the RMP and produce a plan specific to a local community.

The scoping end of things is helpful when integrating the input, analyzing it, and prioritizing it.

During the public forum hearings that we have on the RMP, data they gather could be used to make future decisions addressed in the RMP.

Allow managers to communicate and make better plans with community opinions, for example historical land sites.

Social science could only be utilized by revisiting the resource plan on a more constant basis.

They could help by focusing more in laymen's terms on the different alternatives for land management changes and their effect on social and cultural and economic aspects. We just did an RMP.

We need to listen to the people. Not just listen, but actively listen and do something about it.

We do a socioeconomic analysis to see what the consequences of our actions will be on those around us.

It tends to address the social and economic issues, so it is a major part of a management plan.

The social and economic questions and issues presented and clarified in the RMP could be better researched and a better solution could be presented.

Any information would need to relate specifically to the decisions being made in the plan.

We just have the baseline data as far as what the given area of the plan covers as far as the main program or occupation of those who provide the socioeconomic information.

Understand demographics of area and the use patterns of public as it relates to plans.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

The RMP uses social science with public comments. It's no difference than the xxxxx gold up in xxxxxx. They looked at the local area up to xxxxxx(a different community). They're trying to get everybody's comments in via email.

In the planning phases of outdoor recreation as far as road closures, restrooms, and things like that we use collected data.

Through scoping and a wider range of interviews we can improve social science plans.

Through the public input process, so you're looking at a variety of other resources besides grazing.

RMPs use socioeconomic information to show representative groups to determine regional impacts and economic effects.

I would like to see an RMP make better use of survey results. If formal surveys are conducted, we could do a better job of engaging people. With respect to monitoring, we should see if we're meeting the social needs of people out there.

The number of people doing different activities on the land gives us projected trends in different kinds of uses.

Social science could be mostly used in land use planning, but we need to know what the public around the area want in planning and what they would like done with land.

There needs to be some data collection from the area that the RMP is being prepared for. Relevant data would be very useful.

Project future recreation use levels in the region and district as a whole.

If there is a good database it gives you a better understanding of the population you will be serving. RMPs are only as good as the data you get.

Socioeconomic information is used to better establish the decision space for how resources will be managed in the future. The paradigm is shifting towards recreation and conservation rather than resource extraction.

They would be able to put more emphasis on education in the plans.

It would designate areas of cultural importance to Native Americans or archaeological sites. Designating those sites is one of the first steps in making an RMP.

Interview and get input from the community.

I hope we're doing that with our current plan. With adequate characterization of the social environment we have a much better chance of having an appropriate plan.

It would be helpful to have social science information to write all the different parts of an RMP. There's not one part that stands out to me.

The data would run through all aspects of the RMP from initial conception through to decision. It would be essentially critical through every stage of it, and in every department.

The most important thing is to figure out what the current uses are by the general public on that particular piece of land such as hunting, bird watching, etc.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Use focus groups to look at economics in terms of what benefits will be received from certain land use allocations. Also, having meetings helps to get the public's input. Looking at trends either in community growth and development or recreation use will help to make long-term decisions which can potentially be sustainable in the future.

We have to bring together interests of groups affected.

The plan can address the individuals actually using the resource.

I think it is becoming important to find the socioeconomic impact on the people who would be affected by the plan or how people will be affected who are within the area.

Looking at growth and trends as well as recreational activities as well as job needs and demographics.

I think social science information affects the decisions and how plans are written.

By providing decision makers with better data an RMP is more effective.

Social science is changing all the time and resource management is stagnant for about 20 years.

They could capture workforce trends in communities. Many ranchers have more than one job, and that's not reflected in the census data we get.

An RMP should involve the public, but social science data is so big it is hard to say.

It is useful to have a better idea of the social background of the people who will be impacted.

Identify the market that an RMP appeals to. Local users are different than regional travelers.

Development of alternatives is a use of social science.

We recommend objectives and actions based on economics and what the communities needs, wants, and what it is lacking.

Addressing issues through early identification and conducting good scoping research with all public involved.

Demographic information is used to examine needs.

I don't think social science could help an RMP. They basically just do what they want here.

If we had better local and regional data, we would have a better idea of how our decisions are going to impact folks at that level. People either make a living on our land or don't, but our decisions still impact their lives.

We can help by being on-the-ground employees and just being there for people.

It could tell us how the land is currently being used and what the people see as the priority for land use. Social science could place values on different geographic areas and would help identify specific populations and how they relate to the area, such as Native Americans.

The plan can use the information to build markets that don't exist to aid communication opportunities.

You can have stakeholders develop alternatives for you.

Public opinion would help direct your long term planning decisions.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

It would let you know who your users are, and could target the certain areas in RMPs which need to have more discussion. You would have a better management plan through the use of social science.

We look at information along the lines of how our plan impacts everybody economically. The uses are changing and we're getting more and more demand for recreational use and access. We have people who control large access to land and use it, and that should be addressed.

A better understanding of social science would help.

A better understanding of the public land users in a particular area and more follow-up with scoping.

The RMP would definitely have some impacts from the social sciences, so understanding social sciences is very important for making decisions for the RMP.

There is a need to identify what a community is and what they want and what role BLM lands plays in the economic activity of the land.

The planning must be in place. They must be knowledgeable about the land uses before a proper decision can be made. Much of the information is available on the databases.

They need to be out in the fields talking to the people who use the land on a daily basis, not just having a meeting.

Good data can provide guidance in decision making.

Overall communication of the plan itself is important. Everyone needs to be in touch when drawing up the plan.

We use information to better forecast the future needs and make planning decisions line up with those better.

We are identifying at least the most vocal stakeholders, and making sure that they don't participate in all formal interviews. We have to find a way to include the public at large, not just the vocal components.

The social science aspect is very important when considering alternatives.

Initial research needs to be sufficient.

Knowing what is all going on in the area helps with an RMP.

Increased awareness of social issues is useful.

An RMP is based on public community needs and opinions.

If the horse and burro program were better equipped to target an audience of adopters, we could go into communities around the country and look for them. Plus, advertising and competition would bring attention to it.

Appropriate information would enable us to plan long-term use of federal lands and ensure multiple use and conservation of the resources. If we had a better idea of what the priorities of the surrounding communities are, we could plan more effectively.

Data can affect leasing procedures, determining whether we are going to lease the land or not.

It's important to evaluate the impact an RMP would have on the communities.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We could show the impact of the encroachment issue of homes coming into the area.

It's important to target the needs of the public and try to coordinate that into the resource management plan.

An RMP must look at the quantity used, the type of use, and demographics of use.

You can communicate better with everyone to get an agreement of what you can do with the RMP.

An RMP has many areas of concern for social sciences.

They must decide on how they are going to manage land around communities, and use the land for recreation and other plans in order to boost the local economy.

Make sure that the RMP is consistent with the demographics and trends within the planning area.

Better gauging the impact on surrounding impacts on communities aids the RMP process.

More RMPs are using data concerning public opinions about what the public might want to see done with the land.

A more solid and more united plan can be formed with socioeconomic data.

Northern New Mexico has a few different cultures. A lot of them go back a long time, so we have concerns that other areas might not.

Social science helps the development of the alternatives that we consider and select.

Capture the public you are trying to bring in and involve with the plan.

Share more information with the public through more communication with the state and corporations, and include the public in that communication.

It is important to use social science because resources are dependant on the social science aspect.

Economic impacts of the RMPs would be the number one priority.

If they wrote an RMP up in a way where we could help protect different communities' space.

All aspects have to be analyzed and taken care of. The public has to be included.

Take in all considerations and rewrite the RMP to improve relevance.

Surveys and public opinion polls are social science.

Information is used by evaluating the affected resources and mitigating adverse effects. That's what we do every day.

It goes back to scoping and trying to get a feel for what the communities we're dealing with want so we can try to come to some agreement.

Taking the needs of local people into consideration is vital.

Through adequate disclosure of social science issues we can make a better RMP.

Take into consideration the needs of the consumer.

By incorporating in the RMP economic impacts of the public we are making good use of social science information.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

You need to be able to communicate your vision for whatever you're trying to accomplish.

More collaboration and needed assistance is needed for working on relationships.

We could identify what the public is most interested in regarding recreation and livestock, and come up with alternatives while still meeting resource objectives.

Using data right now would be the most effective use.

BLM could make it easier for members of the public to provide input.

Use of public lands and what the uses the public wants shape RMPs.

The biggest thing is knowing the opinions and having the data available when they're putting it together.

General trends and general knowledge is all we have. We need more specifics such as how many people visit the land.

The interaction with the community can be the social impact of co-existence with federal land.

That kind of information is imperative because it is more site-specific.

The decisions of local population are most valuable.

In the urban interface we use science to meld existing documents with other documents of other government agencies in order to make sure that no conditions conflict.

It is easier if you use social science to gain support with the public for any RMP. Communication is the key.

It would help us formulate alternatives if we knew what the public was thinking, their wishes, and their concerns.

Socioeconomic data has to be considered as one of the factors in an RMP. How they gather it, I'm not certain.

Planning environmental impact statements is a critical component. We use trends from populations to see where we are going for long term planning.

By tailoring the plan to the local people, our RMP is much improved.

Using collected data is how to best serve the public. We know where people want development of recreation areas.

Without data you can't plan for the future. We use data from the public and community.

Social science would be able to help you understand what was taking place in your management area and what actions need to be taken to better manage that land.

Good data would help us to identify trends for long term planning and help guide what we would do for land disposals and where we would be going with energy and development.

Primarily we use social science in the areas of recreation planning and land disposals.

Recreation area management planning looks at who uses the area, who doesn't use the area, and why and why not. If they do, how do they use it and how can we make it better and safer for the users?

Our land-use plan has a small social science section that doesn't say much.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

More public scoping is required. Writing up a management report involving the public more and less politics is imperative.

Finding alternatives through the use of social science.

Social science information could be used to refine management alternatives and highlight the problem areas with regard to population areas.

The use of past and current trends aids our understanding of the public view of land use.

The RMP process discusses what user groups are being served with the decisions and which ones benefit from them.

Demographics are being used to outline needs.

Data analysis would just add to the benefit to the overall document and the quality of the document.

Social science provides the background on the public within the planning area. The economic area is an important consideration when making those decisions.

We've got to make it possible for everyone to know what the plan would be if there was an incident regarding to fire.

We have been determining trends or values of a local population and using that to shape management alternatives.

Gauge potential market demands or certain resources that might be available for use in an RMP.

Finding out timber values and how much timber should be sold would be nice. In recreation, outlining the social needs of the people using the facilities would be food information, along with how the general public feels about managing lands.

To understand how people are impacted we need social science.

There is a link from EA back to the RMP. Having more access to the specialist would be handy.

Social science would be providing some sort of information to the program.

Taking data and executing the plan is how an RMP is done.

Social science can be utilized within the area of concurrent uses.

Publishing and monitoring information leads to a more successful implementation.

Interaction with stakeholders is used in an RMP.

An RMP can bring to light issues that are not being considered or not considered adequately.

Social effects are a key factor in a plan.

When you analyze alternatives in an RMP, you take into consideration effects of different things. We use it to select and analyze alternatives.

It's important to have an understanding of the demographics involved, the uses of programs, and public views.

Proper use of data can tie the community with the plan and give them more ownership of the land.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We use the information in the management policies: federal versus public. It would definitely create some more interaction between the public and the federal government.

Socioeconomics can lay out the different aspects that the plan covers such as demographics.

NEPA documents needs socioeconomic analysis, and cannot take action that will affect other groups. They cannot put a dollar value on someone's needs. That's a shaky ground to make a decision on.

Scoping reports tend to make sure that we don't impact the ranchers, whose minds are already made up. We don't pay much attention to social science information.

An RMP must pull in all information to build on.

Social information could give a better idea what economic impacts each alternative would have on the users of the land.

Determining the impacts on the users and community is an important part of the RMP process.

Trends in the economy and new developments serve as a base for an RMP.

Alter plans to fit changing demographics.

You see what the public wants and how they want their land used.

Working with the land owners that are using those public lands and then talking to special interest groups who have an interest on the lands we are working on, and looking at the whole spectrum.

In every phase of the planning process we examine social science information. We can change how we deal with public right at the beginning.

By identifying the group that may come into conflict with the plan or the outcomes of the plan we are using the data.

We can determine future trends in terms of demographics and the economics that would go with that trend, some of which are the non-market, non-traditional products.

Social science is critical, and goes hand in hand with RMPs.

We need meetings, experts at the meetings. Some information was put on the internet. There is lots of communication.

The way we involve the public in decision making could be greatly improved.

We could probably avoid conflicts and lawsuits in the public if we used social science.

If you pay attention to what you're doing in regards to the people, you’re on-the-ground operations will be successful.

Social science makes an RMP better able to have a good relationship with the community and management choices.

Local community input into our decision making is useful.

They could analyze the impact on the community and use geographic information to help describe what they propose doing in the plan.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

A good RMP lets you meet multiple-use needs much easier than a single-use status would.

We could effectively gather information from a broader range of the public. That would also help define stakeholders in different aspects.

Don't bias socioeconomic information, and don't leap to conclusions.

Social science research is geared to the local areas that are most affected and need to understand the area.

Community interests in old growth and other things are useful, along with scoping and public meetings.

Good data would basically give us a more accurate estimate as to what the trade-offs would be.

Alternatives can be developed with the use of socioeconomic information. By scoping we get feedback from the public and develop alternatives or different ways to do the project. We also learn the end result. The RMP goes to the public for a vote and then they polish it up and work on developing the plan.

Incorporating the data within that plan.

For an RMP, use analysis of socioeconomic effects.

Any plan that you make should be based on social science research, and you also want to take into consideration the public opinion.

An RMP can feed back from the public and community input and gets the community involved more with land use.

BLM needs to learn to hear the values that are present. Often that has to come from outside the agency; finding the voices and understanding them.

Scoping is a major part of the RMP process. Understanding where the demographics lie helps us understand what's best for the land.

Economics are social science.

Socioeconomics would help get more of the community feel of what directions management should go.

Determining social and economic impacts on the public we serve is the main use for social science.

We need to review the mining act to see if it could be appealed or changed. xxxxx and xxxxx has an act to be reenacted and cleaned up, but we must maintain the current guidelines with the endangered species there. Federal lands should be moved away from old timber harvest, and improvement of the water for fish passage is a big issue.

Surveying would give us a better understanding on the populations we serve: what they are looking for and what the barriers are, and how we can help them.

The use of social science develops your plan around the public.

Information could help with priorities to better benefit the community.

The RMP looked at a lot at social and economic development. What kinds of different users are there?

Use public opinion to determine how to manage lands.

When collecting information they could have more focused questions to ask our users.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

We should be formulating the plan.

Social science is useful in terms of getting a feel for where the community's values are and what they are and what their needs are.

Identify the concerns of the whole community.

The information could help us with trends and providing for the local communities when coming up with compromises between interested groups and helping us to get our plans implemented.

RMPs could be more effective when they get input somehow. The comments could be more documented, and given more acknowledgements just so that we know.

Crafting alternatives for land management plans is easier with good social science data.

Having data available to make or describe trends is important. We even need numbers of permits and number of AUMs over the years.

It's nice having more information to base good decisions on.

I use socioeconomic data to develop the projects based on the input given.

Assist the upfront planning by analyzing social and economic information.

Mitigate contentious situations or unnecessary controversy.

In our scoping methods we find out the information we need for an RMP.

We utilize social science information by using economic information and numbers of people and what they are interested in for making projections for the future to plan what we should be doing.

We have different opinions of resource regulation. It's nice to know what and why folks support one or more options and their social desires.

Considering changing values relating to non-commodity resources could help with making a good RMP.

Having a good understanding of what the public perception in the area is would allow you to address some of the concerns in some of the guidance developed in the RMP.

RMPs should provide sustainable economic funding to counties while providing for responsible natural resource protection.

We need help surfacing the extent and type of culture and customs of communities that are being affected by decisions as well as their economics.

Provide a chance to identify workforce and resources in areas while identifying recreation uses.

If the plan is reaching the entire public there needs to be more evaluation of that public.

Depending on the issues of the plan you would get feedback from the public therefore you would use those parameters to assess your plan as needed.

A good example would be the xxxxxxx plan revision.

Survey the need for special forest products like mushrooming and specific brushes.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

I think it will depend on the area of the resource. It is important to understand the community and the tax base.

Affects of community need to be made higher priority.

Come up with alternatives for planned activities.

Through more public outreach during plan development we will become more in tune with local economic needs.

I think if we have the social science information, we could better come up with alternatives for our RMPs that would better serve the areas we are surrounded by.

By doing scoping and incorporating that information into the decisions, stakeholder input is very valuable to RMPs.

How planning impacts joint land owners is important to take into consideration.

We're about ready to do an RMP in the next couple years. It would be used to develop alternatives for how we would manage lands. It would be used as a decision tool and a way to gather information about the surrounding communities and better serve them.

You have to gather public input and public perception of the multiple uses of the land.

Resource planning uses social impacts of their opinions by understanding current opinions about current activities from the public and surrounding communities.

You make an RMP by reviewing all available information and reviewing all funding related to the plan.

Local areas are more effective at managing the public lands, meeting needs of the majority of the users, becoming more interactive, soliciting in many formats, and using people's ideas.

By formally considering all aspects of the public we serve their opinions.

I think it would help to improve the organization if we used more social science.

Social science information would help guide the implementation of the resource plan.

Bring out more of what the public wants: more sociology, better incorporate their opinions in the plans, and more specific information.

You have to address the protocol and how to spread the information to the public and have to identify what you are going to do about the issues.

Plans require that information. People use the land so we have to manage the people in order to manage the land so we need to know how they use the land.

In every aspect of what we do on public lands, social science comes into play.

Gathering information of economic information of how different alternatives impact the community.

Consider what the information is saying instead just taking it for paper value, and look at it on a local basis.

Reduce user conflict through better management of recreation sites.

Social science determines the status of the population, or the needs

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

Protecting the environment and water aquifers.

Analyzing economic and non-economic values of the people that will be affected by the plan.

Information used is not always the best but it is what is available.

Economically, social science can impact an RMP.

By better understanding the true effects that BLM decisions make on the true economy.

Social science just helps us to write environmental documents and to know more about social scientists.

As far as expressing the economic implications and effects of decisions, social science can give an issue the proper attention.

There should be some more ethnographies done. We did a Native American ethnography, but no European ethnography. That was a mistake.

It is the purpose of the RMP to use resources in an economically stable manner, protect minority groups, and to protect the resources.

We get the information through scoping and it would be effective in determining the direction that management would go in the policies.

By incorporating the opinions and views of people impacted by the decision.

Identifying the needs and wants of people using the area.

Ethnographic information helps an RMP.

Definitely the surveys need to be done more to gather public opinion.

What different effects are on other individuals, the economic effects for the major users, and the effects on the minor users.

All this information comes from our office, and every division has input.

An RMP must stay flexible and should be written with evaluations.

Address the geology part of the plan.

An RMP could include the information in the decision making process.

Economic studies and how they would benefit counties and communities discussing socioeconomic benefits of the land use plan.

Social science could be a benefit if the plans were more directed at the public and how nonusers have a say in the land as well as the people that are using the land.

Gather more information and points of view.

An RMP can be tailored to needs based on social science information.

Social science helps establish goals and expectations of where we are going.

In formulation of alternatives it would be important to have local information. You could better assess impacts.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

By making the concept of an RMP clear for the public.

Most important is knowing what the public would like to see with public lands and have the RMP direct their plans that way.

It could help with some of the decisions for the different divisions or groups trying to come up with alternatives and mitigations.

By obtaining the data and disclosing it to the public.

Everything we do affects the communities.

Know what your community is like that you're serving: know the economic basis and how they use the public land to live.

It goes into recreation as well as all the resource aspects out there. In terms of multiple use issues, we can recognize regulations. Instead of just making it up, we could realize there are rules and regulations.

It would give a feel for the public opinion.

By using social science that can better meet the needs of the users. Find out all of the users involved.

Public input is key.

Make sure we are addressing the issues the public feels are important.

Analyze local census data. Economy classifications are available. People want to know what the BLM does and how our department affects it.

Better understanding of public opinions and decisions so we can relate better and get more useful information from the people you're working with.

Make the public more aware.

It gives people the opportunity to comment on those issues, and also gives the opportunity for the resource managers to look at different management issues within that RMP themselves. It gives the public the opportunity to look at the issues in the RMP, and to have a dialogue as to what is being implemented in the plan.

Take more things into account such as wildlife and wildlife viewing, and oil and gas effects. Identifying these impacts is a big step.

By going out and gathering human opinion with regard to programs in a particular area and how the people would like the lands to be managed.

It would be used in terms of community preferences and goals.

We emphasize the use of non-market data, by identifying non-economic values associated with our customers. It is useful to have information on social demographics and their values of public lands.

Determine the public's viewpoint towards the resources being managed.

Putting out an RMP without public input; you are dead in the water.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = Below State.**

The BLM fails at getting the opinions of lower status people on surveys and asking the stakeholders. We mainly only work with people that are higher up.

Local demographics like land use by people and what they want to use for the land as far as recreation is concerned.

The actions of the plan could be affected by a study so there is a direct impact as to how the public perceives their responsibility.

Planning for development in a year and how much personnel would be needed. How energy development relates to planning.

Our RMP looked at information that is given to managers and applied it to what the people want.

To make sure that all of the "players" involved are understood and given a voice. You must understand all the people's opinions.

We need a detailed analysis of how all alternatives could affect various fractions of the community.

It wouldn't leave so many things open to interpretation and it would work better if our RMP used social science better.

It is very necessary to have the needs of the community and critical to have all that information in order to make those decisions.

If they were collecting more data they could distribute the data in a meeting form so we get the information.

Listening to the general public's opinions makes for a better RMP.

Social science can help the managers make an informed decision of what's important to the stakeholders.

It gets into what's most important in the nearby communities. To some extent it can help with grazing. There's a lot of intrinsic value in good data.

By being able to use newly collected or up-to-date data. A lot of the data we use is very old.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Social science looks at impacts on public health in local communities and the local infrastructure.

It would give some indication of how the public uses the lands.

Going out and having public meetings and interfacing with people in the area or on the land.

Social science could help look at the broader patterns & not focus on one research area.

We will make effective use of social science through the RMP. We will collect the data and bring in the public who gives us comments, such as pointing out historical assets and endangered species. RMPs will have to address every opinion.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

An RMP would collect and use population information, ethnic information and influence what we are addressing. Recreation uses would use social science to find what the use to the land we are evaluating is historically. What type of society uses it?

Population of the western US is increasing with the Western Urban Interface continuing to grow. Social science is very useful is planning based on demand for materials and the effects of the quality of life for the people that live close to the amenities

When rewriting plans, pulling in outside information is crucial.

How an RMP would affect the land. What, when, how, and why they are doing the plan. The plan must be used to protect anything the plan may put in danger, such as animals and land, and look at how they will manage the effects.

Social science is directly related to the community. The BLM values visual resources, which can help create a document for 15-20 years.

If you understand the populations that are being impacted and better understand their needs, you can take into account their needs.

This is a big question. Social science should play a role in RMPs. I am not sure of all the methodologies myself, although it is important in regards to the RMPs to get a better decision.

Who our plans are affecting would be one principle criteria for evaluating alternatives for land use planning.

By considering the impact to the environment and the people who live in it and changes they're going to make.

Looking at desired future conditions and getting a feel from the public and our user groups on where they want us to go and how we would get there, (what kind of tools we'd use.)

Multi-use issues are addressed by social science.

By actually understanding socioeconomic effects of the BLM's decisions on the community. It is not always analyzed as a decision-making factor.

More planning and studying would be helpful.

People need to be trained to use that data.

It will influence the likelihood of growth of the community.

To consider impacts to the local economy.

Public meetings, contact with public, and using maps to describe and paint a picture for the public creates better understanding.

By collecting base-line data and presenting trends in the affected environment in the Environmental Impact Statement for planning decisions.

Formulating management directives based on outcomes and studying predictions.

BLM uses benefits-based management to look at non-tangible benefits such as having a place be multiple use versus closing it to vehicles. Then we can see the impacts of displacing users.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Social science looks at the effects of the development on residents of the area.

We could do political analysis. We could look at historical impacts and forecast future impacts, look at trends of our customers, look at what the public expects of their public lands, and look at current and future energy needs.

We need a good window into the current conditions before we go into an area and make big changes.

Read what the impacts are and use them in the decision making process.

The information from the public could help choose alternatives in the use of resources.

The use of census data to show trends and economics of different resource uses and protections and demographics. I know there has been recent concern in trying to get younger folks interested in public lands management and enjoying the outdoors.

RMP process solicits public needs in the local area.

The RMP process should be better coordinated with the public.

They have a process in place, and it is in the manuals and shows how to use it. I think the process and procedures are well documented and appropriate.

We have included a very thorough review of the county economics, and that's a keystone part of what we're doing. Almost 60% of my county's discretionary budget is gone. They are secondary effects.

Our decisions are narrow. We need to assist the community in reaching a long term vision by understanding what's important to the community. The agency should listen to the public we serve.

All of the interest of the public is brought into making the determination of whatever the land use plan is, and the pros and cons are evaluated. It allows us to mitigate potential problems or perceived problems.

Enable them to look at alternatives more precisely.

With social science the RMP can make the most use in terms of a clear picture of the public's characteristics and response to the activities they are interested in.

We do that with scoping & planning processes to develop our alternatives.

Mandated items and economic effect on communities are required. We don't have the capacity to do that. We are identifying stakeholders and interest communities and preparing better implementation, and using the information to realistically forecast the

In the land-use allocation process you need to consider the social and behavioral aspects of the public you're serving.

Brings together issues that cross cut land ownership.

There is interdependence among all parts. They have to be used together.

It could better understand the resources and people in a management area to manage it towards multiple uses.

To better refine the target market for recreation and assess the level of success our current plans are having.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

It could use the findings from public surveys and public meetings and incorporate mitigation activities within the plan that address those findings.

You look at trends, which are so reactive right now that we have no idea what is coming down the road. Planning lacks because of that. Social planning is what we lack.

To identify the level of economic contribution a resource makes to a given area.

To help define alternatives in a planning sense.

Finding out what user preferences are and the economic impact on the land.

Have a better input in order to determine what the public's needs and what their expectations are.

By truly assessing the needs and desires of a community.

Create a baseline for future developments.

RMPs have extensive information. Good and up to date data helps to make decisions for the future.

It's essential to factor in social science information for records and decision-making.

Address the impacts on local native villages.

An RMP needs to identify the community and users out there. A land-use plan could be benefited by social science research.

In oil and gas development, we need to know the extent of any impacts on the environment and if that would affect the economy.

It would play a more important role in formulating the RFD for minerals, (it's a critical component of that document).

Local/Social and economic information shows the range of activities as they help different social groups, taking back information from the public and considering it rather than just answering questions.

Social science information would give you an idea of where you would have potential conflicts with the individuals who live there or conflict with minerals, and help lay out where everything is at.

In the decision-making process and planning.

You can make better decisions with it; it would drive more options in the plan.

Economic impact to locals adjacent to the project.

Check how the impacts could affect the resource. Is the plan good or bad for the people living in the area?

Social scientists need to figure out who they are supposed to be talking to, and to focus their needs that direction.

Spot trends and changing economics in given areas, look at environmental changes, demographics, and expanding communities.

Social science is an integral part of the background research and factored in the decision making and option generating process through informal meetings with the public. We need to let the public review data.

In terms of environmental assessment it's really an important factor to consider.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

We take a look at the life style of the folks who are being affected.

Where there are resources that need to be planned for or identified. The issues that are there in the environment for future planning. An RMP shows land patterns and critical elements, so that planning needs and trends can take place.

Use native knowledge to build plans.

Knowing who is out there and knowing who will be impacted by the decision in the community and as individuals.

Trying to balance the needs of stakeholders and resources is tricky.

Looking at social science helps everyone understand the process better.

We could do better planning.

Better determine all possible uses of the land and the costs and benefits of each use.

Any sort of survey information or geographic information is useful.

If they can get the information by working with other people that helps. You get better information by tapping different sets of people.

The most effective use an RMP can make of social science is while developing alternatives.

Gather data from the subject are. It depends on what the issues are, and how the RMP affects the local populations.

Through stakeholder meetings.

We need to look out for public safety and land use.

Economic data for recreational use with respect to community growth helps with an RMP.

Collecting up to date data in a fast growing state is difficult.

Alternative evaluations lead to more complete data.

We could work on resolving conflict between users.

Public contact, scoping, windows of feedback and protests are all useful. A lot of work on mitigation if feedback is available to look at how communities are affected.

Take the social science information and you'll have trends about what the public is thinking and how they're educated. You can tailor the RMP to what those trends are. It's important for us to gather that information to make decisions.

Social science is important to an RMP.

By knowing who the audience is and what their thoughts are, we can draw the plan to accommodate more people. We can't make everybody happy, but that's the goal.

Public opinion on programs is useful. The importance of economics in our programs is immense.

By identifying conflicting interests.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Outline all uses of land in questions addressed to the public.

We can better identify areas of concern by looking at social science.

Social science would come into play with cultural considerations, archaeological considerations, and recreation.

In the aspect of health and safety concerns, it's which areas are higher priority to individuals versus OSHA or other agencies.

When I think of social science information I think of social trends, recreation trends, culture of the area, what the area identifies with, and that sort of thing. I think all that information can be used to guide alternative solutions.

An RMP should determine how to make lands available or unavailable for grazing.

Outreach and education.

It's extremely important to look at the total array of issues within the public; cost benefit analysis including non market values, environmental impacts, doing whole ecosystems productivity, and doing analysis of each value incorporated in the plan.

By understanding the economic impact of our actions and the needs of the community.

Socio-economic assessment helps the RMP process.

Social science information is a fundamental in a resource management plan.

We do utilize surveys and do pay attention to processes of the people being surveyed.

We need to find out trends related to uses of our lands.

Socioeconomic information helps us with finding a balance between needs of certain areas and competing uses. For example, if an area is grazed heavily then the recreation suffers, and vice versa.

We make and RMP through demographic and economic information to identify trends during the planning period.

We can be more effective in understanding the conditions in the area affected by the plan, including things of economic value and non-economic value.

To regulate and research other resources for management.

An RMP needs to incorporate education, outreach, and economics.

Long term economic and social settings are addressed by social science.

Social science could help in an array of alternatives.

Social science helps develop alternative uses of the land and resources. It helps in looking at the interface between people and the land they occupy.

We use social science techniques to show value of an action which is being purposed.

Look at demographic trends, (immigration, coming and leaving, professions), to see how to adjust the plan to meet their needs.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Developing alternative plans.

There needs to be more emphasis on collaboration with local communities and agencies. We assume they know what is going on but that is not most often the case. We need to find out. We need to be proactive in getting the community together with us.

It is better to designate what is wanted from the community.

The more input from the public the better.

They would need information on people interacting and their needs.

The effects on the community, the financial effects decisions would have, and effects on the quality of life.

The plan needs a section that draws on more public outreach. We need to engage the public and include them in RMPs. We need the social science to know how to engage them.

The information could help BLM understand the area that they are writing the RMP for. What is happening with the land?

We want to get involved with the industry and their needs and the economic impact of an RMP.

Because BLM is across the U.S. and every area is geographically different, it needs to be assessed in each area specifically, versus saying one thing that works in one area is specific to all lands.

Social science is important to better understand the needs of people when making decisions.

Understanding costs and benefits of alternatives.

We could use GIS capable tools to their capacity in developing spatial models of resource concerns.

Social science information helps guide the decisions that we make, whether it's in regards to recreational needs or grazing.

Primarily in determining public attitudes.

It can provide information on value added with support to the people, and how it adds that value.

Working more with the public.

Providing information of the social economic impacts helps the RMP process.

Data modeling census data and business and economics development data that is currently available.

Consider the different uses of a piece of land and try to accommodate the different uses.

Social science can help effectively mitigate some of the conflicts for different users, and they might have an idea of the impacts.

We have to incorporate what we find through social science, and the alternatives we lay out as what will be our decisions and our plan.

Aid management in planning and considering impacts.

The community can help us to know the best way to disclose the types of things that their area is in need of, like infrastructure and local community needs.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Community inputs on the plans.

The BLM needs to look at local communities and the impacts they might endure.

The general attitudes and social aspects of a local community and how you represent the BLM decisions.

It helps to know what is going on in the communities, so we can get the products from the lands that the locals want.

You need it for all of your alternatives. It's a requirement, and it formulates how the facility will be used.

I use social science now to see the impacts of different social groups to see how they are affected by the plans.

Most often, social science is used to paint a picture of what the social and economic impacts are to a specific RMP that identifies alternatives of how that land is to be managed.

You have to take into account public viewpoints and thoughts. This information needs to be taken into account and address the human element in the plan.

Decision making tool.

More published research about people's attitudes on fire and what we could do to change or direct their attitudes.

The land use plan itself fully understands the needs of the public.

Social science research gives us demographics of people in the planning area. If they don't support certain activities the plan needs to be aware of public opinion.

Economic factors and impacts on local community as an effect of the plans.

Social science is an alternative analysis tool.

To determine the effects that it is going to have on the social economics in the area, this needs to be a consideration.

Scoping with communities about the environment.

Social science should be used in everything we look at before making decisions.

To learn the specific needs of various stakeholders throughout the community.

BLM does their best to protect everything and keep everybody happy.

Communicate with the public in order to address their concerns, have meetings, and publish information in the local newspapers. BLM needs people's input.

Factor in determining various alternatives.

Our plans currently do. I'm sure there's someone who doesn't agree with me, but I believe we try to cover every aspect in our plans.

It could use appropriate statistics and methods to analyze the social attitudes; what the various public sectors are thinking about propositions.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

The RPM should implement demographic information and consider what makes a viable operation in the region 7. We try to balance this with our duty to sustain ecosystems for long term sustainability. Current operations and management want fast turn around

By taking into consideration the needs and desires of the public in variations of groups.

An RMP can address economic considerations and how you manage your plan. Knowledge of economics can help you manage emergencies and will will vary by location and what is at stake during a fire.

Social science helps make the right decisions.

By determining the needs of the people in the area.

Alternative analysis and alternative development.

It is essential because it measures public perceptions and influence.

Gathering public input and formulating alternatives.

Sustainable development can be aided through social science data.

The analysis just supports the decisions, rather than the other way around. You look at primarily minerals analysis to see the impact on the habitat, although there isn't much done about it.

Helps to make better decisions. If you looked at local information the plan would be more complete.

We could make better use of data if it was gathered systematically and presented in regards to the issues at hand, as opposed to waiting for the interested parties at hand to bring up issues.

I attempt to direct or allow or disallow activities within public land depending at the time they are considered. RMPs don't take into account the time and how to manage public lands at the time they are written.

By knowing what all the constituents want and figuring out the economic input that the visitors have so that we can work with the community to enhance and sustain the values that the visitors are coming for.

By improving our skills at relating the need for planning and decisions to the public.

Showing changes in desires of how the land is managed. What is the public's priority?

I have never made effective use of information.

They could be responding to the public's interest at large rather than a smaller group we habitually listen to. We are on the end of the political whip.

By adhering to what people want.

It's important to determine needs and attitudes of the local people in order for the right decisions to be made.

By looking at the economic factors and sustainability issues in the community. What we are putting in an RMP is not at odds with citizens and stakeholders in the community. We must at least consider it to lower roadblocks.

By bringing the scope of social science into play, there would be greater buy-in from the public. It would engender more support by the community if we took their opinions into consideration.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

What's needed is concrete numbers, charts, graphs, etc. associated with social information. We make a lot of decisions based on data. We know how many spotted owls there are or acres.

Tailor the plan to the affected populations.

It would discuss trends and current populations. It would help - potentially - in knowing the way to write the plan.

Starting with the structured gathering of data and analysis and presentation in the plan that uses language that both the public and professionals understand.

I think that resource planning can always use social science information, but here we don't have the capacity to use it. We don't have natural resources or sociology positions. If we had trained sociologists then we would have expertise.

Evaluate the data sets and shape lands use plans based upon local, regional, and national values.

By having qualified people to do the analysis.

With the current planning, influence to the county is a very big issue. We have done a very fine job on this area.

Use social science techniques to get an idea of what the public wants and to act on it.

It helps you develop alternatives and see if they are viable.

Socioeconomic information is useful in all areas. The information is used to give to the decision makers to have an impact on what they decide.

It can be used for developing alternatives, looking at history, gathering data for the future such as where to go and the interests of the public in regards to community development.

Participation of all the public, so the more information you can provide the more specific you can make the plan.

For disposal of property. It would identify areas where there is movement of people surrounding public lands. They could go through a disposal process of that land.

Manipulating and managing resources which affect people in jobs and use of resources, (consumption and no consumption), and trying to be balanced in the approach.

They could improve the economic values.

Typically, we have done a fairly poor job in quantifying non-market values in our program. We have no way to discuss the person who gets off his horse, or that wants to shoot the animals. We have no way to predict the impact on the community.

Tailoring our programs to meet the socioeconomic needs to the people close to the lands we manage might make sense.

They have to have the information, they just need to include it in impact decisions. Such as, do we have information that supports the development of recreation areas? If so, let's not put oil and gas tanks around it.

Overview of changes in socioeconomics in managed areas.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Planning is done by what the public needs.

There could better analysis from a socioeconomic standpoint.

It would help the exploration in my field around the community. It would be an out-of-sight type of thing; not in the community.

From social science they can decide what the best mix would be from the plan.

It could increase the knowledge of the true value of different land uses to the general public. You can gain an amount of certain use of the land. Social science would show the structure of the public's different perceptions of land use.

The RMP process is based on communicating the needs of all involved parties with a multiple-use viewpoint. You can better base your decision on your use plan and what the priorities are. If you're able to get the viewpoints, opinions, and desires and co

The best way is in our impact analysis, so we would know the real tradeoffs between different ideas.

By getting a good feel for the affected parties of the plan itself.

By understanding human behavior and people's desires.

Many ways, mostly in decisions on what to protect and what to develop.

We also have to consider human resources and what the public wants.

We learn direct alternatives and the economic impact locally and nationally. We need more communication.

Provides balance and support.

Considering the results of queries regarding input.

The fundamental is how the land-use planning decision affects the local communities.

By evaluating the economic consequences of leasing or not leasing.

The alternatives in the document will have some impact on the social and economic factors, and those should be analyzed.

It could identify the different issues that could be present.

We could identify how to deal with the community infrastructure in the boom bust cycle.

Data collection from the past will always help decision making in the future.

By actually looking at the area and what is happening in that particular part of the state. We must take into consideration all of the values.

Having social science more involved with planning and understanding all the sides of it.

The social science aspect could be better served by incorporating social science heavier into the different alternatives and cumulative impacts.

We can do all of the resource planning and on-the-ground work, but it all comes down to who yells the loudest. You've got landowners carrying on, and industry saying they want it done. It's just whoever hollers loudest.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = State.**

Through the planning process we have to give proposed alternatives with sufficient guidance.

It would be able to give you a better demographic of constituents and public users and what they want and their perceptions about what we do.

To better evaluate & disclose effects of land use allocations over time.

Social science research would be the coordination between the federal government and outside entities.

Identifying public values perceived and real and how those are affected by RMP objectives. Although we don't get a good idea of national public opinion, we get a good idea of local communities only.

Getting a wide range of people's points of view.

Analysis of impacts of proposed actions.

The way I would like to see an RMP done is if social science information was able to capture the desires of a better cross-section of our society, rather than just interest groups with time and money to be involved. We need a representative sample.

It would help us make more intelligent decisions.

Use of GIS for social science is the most important tool for planning.

Assessing the sensitivity of people's attitudes and concerns relative to planning decisions. We need to do that at the local level and beyond; we can't just focus on the local level.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = National.**

I believe that trend information can model land decisions; it is critical.

It would be impossible to write an RMP without the social science information.

By taking into consideration all the communities involved in the west or in large lands, conflicts between local folks and tribal organization and governments that view the land and resources as traditional use areas.

Weighing alternatives and putting values on them.

It would be serving the public well if they served the needs or demands of the locals within the counties or state.

It could help us identify who is using the land and for what purpose and to what degree.

If they use social science information we would have a better clue as to the changing trends or values on our landscapes.

An RMP should consider the economic effect of the community, non-market effects, and the perception of local communities with regard to land use plans.

You could use it to determine the outcome of the decision you make.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

It would consider the socio-economic thoughts of the area.

By evaluating the economic impacts on the local economy.

You could look and see what trends or individuals are affected. How do they think and feel, how would they use their land, and why.

Identify problems for the communities, serve as an informative role between communities and the Congress. Communities can use information that they are given to solve problems.

Good socio-economic profiles can be made with social science data.

Social science use is limited, but can identify the user community.

Social science information can help to identify the types of uses that are important to lands and the effects it will have on the local communities and potential conflicts brought on by those uses.

Unite community needs into the plan and study habitat.

An RMP encompasses not only a snapshot of the situation at the present time, but should also be a projection into the future.

Getting the social science information you would have a balanced exposure that should result in a balanced plan.

Both by identifying the needs of the local community and looking at impacts on those areas.

Management decisions could be guided by social science, user conflicts, understanding what might happen if you change something, economic outcomes and social outcomes of the decisions. Know who your users are.

It helps in developing the alternatives for people to understand the tradeoffs that are occurring; conservation or consumption. As long as they understand what the economic impacts truly are instead of how they're merely perceived.

It should be a major part of an RMP. It would make for a better plan.

Looking for patterns and trends in population expansion and in high use areas of visitation.

Through more educational tools as far as training. Adding additional funding to support programs.

Social science can describe more clearly the social impacts on communities.

Make good decisions and find out the needs and wants with the users & balance them with protecting the resources.

We could explain better what we do for the public and articulate trade-offs with different strategies.

Social science is used in identifying and assessing the communities we are working in and understanding their issues instead of just our own issues. Very rarely do we really understand the communities we work with; socially or economically.

Announce public meetings alerting the public to what the BLM is doing.

By including public involvement.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

I haven't done an RMP in awhile. From what I recall, you look at the socio-economic impacts of the proposed action.

Looking at the economic issues and population expansion or population trends.

We need to do a better job at reaching out to disadvantaged and traditionally non-participatory groups to find out what their needs, desires, and wishes are. We can't let scoping meetings count for all of our information.

To be more effective forecasting future needs and population.

By addressing the educational needs to help the community understand how they can reduce the ignition zone around their houses.

Data collection and availability of data is vital.

By identifying where the users come from and why they're there.

Our biggest problems deal with how to deal with recreation, conflicts between resource extraction, recreation, and environmental concerns in general. A lot of those areas could use meaningful social science inputs.

Understanding the needs and priorities of the public should be important in all the plans.

Planning needs to look at effects. What is the effect on the land and community?

Social science could be improved with improved internal training and contracting.

In all planning documents, social science information is important. Particularly on the local level, but also in larger planning areas. When you look at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, they're doing five plans at once.

To include social science in part of the analysis of the alternatives.

That you can describe what recreational attitudes & beliefs people hold.

You can reach out to students of this generation, identify needs of the buyers, get training for those reaching out to the students and develop skills needed to recruit.

Just making sure there is adequate information gathered about those involved in the plan.

Identify shortfalls in areas and they can make long term and short term goals better.

By actually incorporating the information into the plan.

Effective use of economic proportion in terms of the cost-benefit portions of the decisions.

Open up resources and to know what resources you need.

By investigating ecological services and the economic impacts they provide.

Compiling information on current use in addition to proposed use and trying to find a balance to determine what's best for the resource.

Sociology or the impact on the human environment should be taken into consideration, along with comparison to non-market values and local recreation abilities.

By providing a framework you can compare and comment on.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

Through public meetings and scoping. You need resources to get that done: public comments and responses to those responses.

Either through mitigation or change in land-use planning based on social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Knowing the benefits of what the users want, economic benefits of the community and state, helping to resolve conflicts between user groups, and user damage that is occurring.

It would collect a broad range of community data that could better serve the RMP process.

It gives information about the customers, what they are interested in, where they are coming from, and helping to build a plan.

Because they effect the community, interaction and knowing how to interact with the communities. It depends on who you are working with in respect to economic issues

Every RMP needs to have input from stakeholders; you can't do them without it.

Helping frame the resource issues and economic and social data, and bring them to discussion points to understand what they mean together.

Include it in the planning process.

If we had good social science data that would support resource management plans we could better communicate our plans to our constituents. Being able to collaborate with social science will help us holistically.

They could be better written and perhaps not take so long to get approved if we had that information up front.

Identify changing land uses and community needs.

By showing the non-economic benefits.

We need to know what the effects of our actions are in the social and economic aspect in the communities.

Builds a strong system to proceed on.

By involving the people who are affected by the decisions or impact of activities.

A resource management plan needs to take into consideration all the competing issues and take into account the area and land with the balance of the protection of the resource in mind. [Now single use for the driving force needs to be the best uses.]

Community involvement, surveying, and sharing of the resources and information.

By conducting local surveys about the likes and dislikes of an existing RMP or a sensitivity test of the current RMP to make the revised one a little bit better.

Gathering the information and evaluating it and using the information to help you make your decision.

By getting to the root of what people really want for an area, and understanding the dynamics of an area.

By having the best quality social science analysis provided up front in the process.

In order to work with tribal entities or to know what's out there before prescribing fire plans.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

Build the plan on community needs.

It allows for directing investments properly.

Through adaptive management coupled with the community's on-the-ground concerns.

Asking the public what their issues are, working with special interest groups, nature conservancy, stake holders. It is issue driven, and those issues are determined by what the public says.

They can take the pertinent local, regional, and national information that the public and users want to have in that area.

The RMP should take into consideration the environmental impacts of the plan.

We need to understand the community in order to balance the plan needs. We need to know both economic and personal perception, what goods and activities are available in the community, and community values.

By establishing what various stake holder groups expect from the land, and what the BLM mission is.

The information would help in development of alternatives to be evaluated by the public, using public input and opinion of non-market and market values to look at how they would like to see the land managed and the resources utilized.

More input from a scientific standpoint.

It helps describe the sphere of influence for the decision made in the plans, from both an economic and social standpoint.

Trying to identify future trends of how people will want to use public lands.

Surveys and gathering information.

Social science looks at the significant effects on communities in the area of an RMP, impacts on a community as the result of land use, decisions on how the land is going to be used, and whether or not the land is going to be used.

It can gather feedback on what local communities and partners want and predict future changes to the landscape; social and natural.

Base plans on needs of public and educating public.

Get the information from the research and use that to explain and write the plan and take into consideration the people involved.

By looking at impacts, as far as the socio-economic status for an area is concerned.

Identify opportunities the people are looking for, also determine how to communicate with the public.

Attitudes on resources - cultural and natural - that people have.

A plan needs to have information to protect the land on necessary levels.

To look at population pressure and expanding needs.

An RMP is a contract between the public and BLM. We need to know what the public wants and understand the social factors when choices are made.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

Social science could help with implementation.

It can help with communities. Communication is a big part of an RMP. In order to follow a plan social science needs to be in place.

In projecting expected results for comparison against actual results in the future.

Characterizing communities and their resilience and planning to change by assigning the responsibilities of change and resource management.

You would expect the RMP could be tailored to the social science information you receive.

Social science can help managers make better decisions during planning by receiving more and better information about these areas.

Information should be considered in all steps of the plan and be used in ultimately making the decision. It's important and it needs to be considered with equal emphasis as other planning factors.

It's paramount to understanding human actions on public lands; you have to factor that in.

With social science we could have a better handle on the users of the land and opinions on what could be used in the future for the land.

By polling the population affected and having the stakeholders in the process.

By seeing what potential stakeholders are saying.

It can provide a platform for evaluating non-commodity resource uses and allow a more fair and equitable comparison to commodity resources. We can compare dollar value with dollar value. Each portion carries some economic or financial significance.

It should already be included.

They have to review the protests and comments they're getting.

Something like that would cause an increase in public interaction.

Social science is useful in terms of understanding the population better, understanding economic and non-economic uses, and both recreational and non-recreational use of the resource area.

By explaining exactly what is needed to meet the organization's missions and goals.

I need to understand key issues & trends to make balanced decision

We need to prepare home owners better if they live in the WUI zone to survive a fire better.

That's one of the reasons they do plan. Geography and all those things are really important.

Social science helps by identifying the target audience that need to be aware of plan.

They could do a better job of collecting better feedback from the community and applying that in the plan.

Use social science by bringing the community together to agree upon a strategy.

By identifying all resources that are affected and alternative uses, assigning uses, and taking into consideration all users and the public in general.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

It's just as important as all the other parts to make a land-use decision.

We have been trying to manage recreation from an aspect of public benefits. We need to know what the benefits are. We need training in social science.

It is just part of the information that goes into making a decision.

The problem is that we just make a decision and we could be much better off if we had much more information about the surroundings and buy off possibilities.

The individual, public, and cultural attitudes aren't well-represented in RMPs.

Somehow using a survey to capture public opinion at a local, regional, and national level would be very helpful to gain some perspective. I don't think we're doing a good job capturing the ideas of the people.

The outcome or selected alternative would be affected by or would show that the decision had been looked at in the decision making process.

It could accurately depict how people are using the land for recreation or economic needs and how they would be impacted by BLM decisions.

There's a lot of social and economic analysis that should go into an RMP process.

Spend more time with directly affected public workers and make decisions together.

Social science is basically analysis of the market. Also in the RMP it must be clear to the users that the bureau understands them at least a little.

Focus on changing socioeconomic condition and changes in the attitudes in the local communities to better reflect community needs.

Help identify what people within or around the lands want and what they want done with the lands.

For better information transfer to the public.

By presenting the information to the public we provide services for. Education to the public is vital, especially with regards to fire management.

Involve it at the early planning stage to allow for input from stakeholders.

You need to gather information in terms of public perceptions and their goals and objectives that would then be incorporated into the plan.

Develop strategies to help communities in the WUI zones and to educate them.

Provide a more focused direction.

Values of putting social science into an RMP include pulling in ecological, social, and economic sciences. It takes the people to work together as the uses to the public are critical.

Let public assist in setting up the plan and setting up revenue.

To find out the amounts of a resource used and impacts on the land.

Understanding the demographics and economics and understanding the trends.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information?
Strata = National.

Help determine wants and needs of the people you are serving. It also helps in competing interests of who you're dealing with.

Where the effects impact the environment.

Getting the demographics of the less populated population & how they can best be helped.

We need to use social science information to determine how the action of the plan and how our actions affect other states and local regions of the delivery of resources or determine the downstream effects of the energy and mineral programs.

Market values and non-market values given a choice between resources. Also trade off and resource demands and the social context of balancing the different community values.

Determine expectations of the public in managing natural resources.

In making land-use allocation decisions.

Better describe the impact of communities and the socioeconomic impact.

We need to do a better job of centralizing a library of relevant material and sources and use it as a part of the planning process.

The main advantage that I'm aware of for social science information in an RMP is to help us get past the noise of the interest groups who are always there. What's hard to deal with when preparing an RMP is how to deal with those who don't feel strongly.

By understanding the needs of our constituents.

The planning process takes into account public interaction and comments and impacts of certain activities by the agency. We try to identify the short-term impacts that project into long-term impacts, and analyze them.

Education summarizing could be useful. I want to know what the interests are of our stakeholders.

Look at community needs and direct accordingly.

Social science provides guidelines and a base to start from.

With social science you end up with better end products that serve better the needs of the public and have a better understanding of priorities.

The information you can look at can show the proposal to see if it needs modification.

The obvious for me would be to have put questions and interviews with the key groups in the community and incorporate them into the plan, but you have to have the time and experience to do that. That is the issue.

We're in conflict here with what's best for the land in the long term. We need to gather information from stakeholders and make our decision that way.

More concise data to know what the on-the-ground needs are.

Use your resources; train your people.

The more information the better decision that can be made.

Build plan around the actual impacts as reported by stakeholders.

Q21. Please describe how a resource management plan could make effective use of social science information? **Strata = National.**

It depends on the position, but it definitely could be used in most of the fields.

Helps the field office better implement the plans and aids more forward thinking in there areas, and what to focus on.

Tailor the RMP to the population.

Focus in on needs at national and local levels.

You can look at the whole area of how people use a particular area, what types of activities take place, and who wants to use that area. Trying to access what the local people want in that area is important.

Better decisions would be made in a timelier and efficient manner with the use of social science, and broad decisions that affect a big group of users could be more efficiently made.

Understand target audience; both customers and employees.

Bring the right people together. Border issues are an example.

Use contractors to base the plan on stakeholder needs.

A survey to look at whether or not the BLM meets the needs of the community we serve.

By making the link between social science and fire in the community.

The scoping gives you the views of the people that it affects. I think I know what people are thinking here in xxxxx, but that's often not the case. So infrequently do you get to meet them face-to-face that I always take the opportunity.

Question 22: Useful Information for Your Program

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

The federal government Bureau of Land Statistics; if the office had an updated list of local, state, or government-university studies of issues, the national data sets are readily available but local or state governments are not well known to BLM people.

Subsistence use data; patterns; just the whole thing.

Surveys and data on stakeholders.

It would be helpful to have information on people's values on biology such as preserving species and land in order for future generations to enjoy them. Overall we need to know the intangible values people have placed on biology.

Knowing ahead of time what the objective is.

Visitor prefaces.

To know who is coming, when they are visiting, why are they visiting, what they were doing when they came and whether they'd like to continue coming here.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

A better idea of why people come when they come and why they don't spread out their use into other seasons. They are basically coming in the summer. What draws them to the area? Why don't they spread to shoulder seasons?

Local economic data, community plans, and the community planning efforts going on. What kind of things communities are planning for.

We just don't have a strong social science representative within the small offices, and that would be helpful.

Ethnographic sources.

I guess information on demographics.

Understanding more socioeconomic issues of the visitors attending or participating in recreation activities on public land.

Sonoran Institute research.

A professional, local, on-the-ground survey. I deal with day-to-day stuff. A survey done by a real social scientist would help.

Networking with universities to get information and offering training. Things are always changing and everything is connected to funding and more money.

Census data and most others are already in place, but probably a survey of the population of opinions and values of land use would be good.

In-depth surveys of users in order to understand what their needs and experiences are, what they are seeking and how to provide for them, and to manage resources.

Different values people place in public lands for economic and non-economic commodity uses. They change over time due to demographics.

NEPA guidelines.

Analysis of existing facilities and existing use patterns, surveys of users, and a comprehensive survey prior to a land use plan to see the need for improvements, needs, or fees.

Any increase in the availability of data and training to what resources are available to get the data and information.

Provided social importance of information and website training of information to help the field get their information to all areas.

Scoping reports and recreation plans from the state.

Use of resources.

Current census data, current demographic data, current trends data and excellent future modeling data.

Property values.

Standards that are user friendly and up-to-date information.

Accurate visitation data including the characteristics of the visitors.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Economic data like whose employed where and people's preferences and expectations for the lands locally and regionally. We know that from people when we get letters from people. Basic economics and how these things affect who you get in communities and

Market salary rates and private sector market salary rates, which are a huge chunk. Recreation use information. Also the prognosis or estimation of oil and gas development. How long is this going to happen? Prognosis for future for stability and instability.

BLM's existing data, personal experience in data gathering, natural trends, census data, and university and college literature.

I wish the general population had a better feel for the mineral development data.

Operator demographics, economic impact of their operation, cash flows, and positives and negatives to enforce my job.

The economist is in the state office.

It is best to know what is being done first.

Community data, recreational use data, industry data, and job market information.

Up-to-date GIS coverage and information available to get a hold of local social information for NEPA documents.

More data an actual use of the land. What activities people do on the land, annual income of people that use the land, how many hours they recreate and other user information.

County records and contractors.

Survey data & scoping information.

Demographics and population projections with better and more current information in both of those.

Education program for the general public about what we actually do.

More about how having a national monument impacts local economy and demographics.

Primary stakeholders and private land owners.

Surveys and trends.

More data.

Long term trends. Changes of land use such as residential development. Increase the need for space.

Traditional use and harvest data of Native American peoples, health of area peoples, and information on the economy and culture.

Local studies, economic analysis of the value of recreation and census data. What segments of the population are growing? Do we need Spanish speakers?

Better understanding of the users of public land.

We would benefit from information on how to communicate to our technological public today. It's a new era and the BLM needs to change with the culture. Our policies need to adjust.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Statistics as far as what the current social and economic impacts are.

A summary of findings of all the research that we could reference when working on our RMPs.

More information from the national level.

Information from contractors about how the stewardship program is run and how much of the public is aware of what we are doing.

We use economic analysis and economic numbers of certain jobs in the areas. Our last RMP was talking about livestock grazing from the area received and how many people were involved in livestock grazing and found what impact it would have.

More information in general.

Information from the county on types of residency and dividends and mean income.

Economic data that relates the income in the livestock industry to the economic and employment rates in the rest of the community.

Things like county budgets and outlays for schools and roads which royalty money is supposed to be used for.

The sources aren't the problem, it's interpreting the data. It would be meaningful for managers to make those decisions.

The biggest issues here are the grazing issues and the environmental issues. There's a lot of conflict and we need both entities to understand that they are after the same objective; to build and sustain an area.

Tribal information would be useful to my program.

To get tied in with the local or regional folks we can look at how the actions affect the public and forecasting.

Having an understanding of grazing permits.

Values of people in the community.

Economics.

Some packaged information at the county level, and making it consistent from county to county the way we address the impacts.

Hunter dollars and days, because there's millions of dollars pumped into New Mexico by hunters.

More training to let us know what is available.

More community involvement.

Community employment in the past, present and future.

Cultural resource surveys are a limiting factor in land decisions. Land use studies would be nice in terms of optimizing benefits to the community and looking at cost-benefit ratios.

An understanding of development and growth trends, projected needs for parks, public services, and schools to be able to better project where it is going over the next few years.

More education through non-profit groups about destroying land that they are using. They don't care what they are doing to the land.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Tourism and environmental education of the local population.

Census and cultural values.

We need to look at the needs of the social groups. Who are we not serving?

Having better access to ways to generate the information.

Scoping meeting.

Recreation management, what other areas are doing, more funding, continued training on shared use and conflicts, and partner shipping.

County reports.

What the general community is composed of. Is it rural versus non-rural to tailor decisions to base it on?

Research and studies from institutions and also recreation.

Demographics, economics, and the range of social diversity and needs.

The people themselves, county governments, and a little bit of state economic analysis as far as job sectors, etc.

Values people see in our lands.

Being able to get tools or programs to get the economic information from the communities along with their needs.

The community involvement question-and-answer meetings have always had some success.

Economic profiles for the county, citizens, and businesses, trends in population, age, education, and community interest and population interest in their public lands.

The market of resources. Is it declining or increasing? Is it fluctuating and why would it be most useful?

Just having a social scientist available. I've never really had that option.

Literature. University studies. College collaboration.

Whether there are environmental justice groups within the planning area, information on populations, and all that kind of stuff.

Cumulative effects would hit both social and economic. People can't recognize what human effects would amount to.

Most important are the people that live in the area. We need to know what their needs are when you're doing this stuff.

Where to find needed information.

The Nexis Lexis account and be able to get into libraries and be able to use the good studies that are already out there.

Benefit analysis on fuel treatments.

Economics, what it takes to drill wheels, how many people, etc.

Jobs, income, and housing costs.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Taking what the public is saying into account.

The University of Alaska does a lot of social science stuff. We probably need a social scientist on staff.

Interviews and surveys.

Demographics and future demographics regarding the structure of the area and ethnographic studies.

Education.

Having someone dedicated to collecting the information.

Having real cost-benefits analysis.

Mapping and GIS. You can depict trends or potentials, and get the message across better. Then you have to convince political leadership to act on what we say.

Find out what is really out there, including public opinion and desires for land use.

Watershed management area: looking at it. Things are changing and we need to know where the community of interest is and what is their landscape goal? Clean water and air needs want to be met.

Where the communities want to go. Do they want to stay small or grow? Also how does the public wish to see their lands used?

Do more of a survey about how locals utilize those resources, so we can see if those resources are available to them. A lot of times, you're just guessing.

Field data collected by staff. Share data with other agencies.

Better information on private lands within a timber base.

Large scale demographics, resource information, and resource use.

Historical data, current public opinion, and current technical information.

Studies and research or contracting in some cases to get better data on the impacts we're proposing in the fire program. Things that affect people with respect to range management and others.

Who uses the land? Urban growth factors.

Visitor expectation information.

Economic information on communities and non-market values.

Demographic information of user groups: what their activities are and their land management philosophies.

I would want good economic studies.

Information on community trends, local land use planning, and county plans or city plans.

Demographics of user groups: desires, origins, satisfaction, and feedback.

Having economists in contact with rural offices.

We would look at the demand for the material and its sources. We can get population information from census data on the internet.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Visitation data, user preferences, basic demographics, distance traveled from home, and recreational activities engaged currently and in the future.

To know what the trends are and the use of the resource areas. I'm not sure where the information comes from. A lot of it we just guess at.

Supply and demand and economic information.

Information.

Demographic interviews.

Recreating public.

Subsistence.

Income, culture, and lifestyle perspectives.

Knowing what people use the land or resources on the land and how much and often they use it.

Recreation trends and demographics.

The way the public uses the resources.

Scoping.

Market influences, human behavior on public land, impact of community and the land itself, focus groups, and visitor surveys.

Interface with all other programs, recreation assessment, statistical growth patterns, and geographic information.

A study showing the use of our lands around Phoenix.

Interviews and some surveys.

Surveys from the general public.

On-the-ground information and surveys of the local populous.

A good library. It would be nice to have all of the ethnographies for this area and I don't have them.

Increase funding to allow someone to hire someone to do that, but the lack of funding is what prevents us from doing so.

Some sort of summary information and pooled information.

More information about the public input.

Whether the users are increasing or decreasing, where people are coming from, group size, and visitor age.

More information of field treatments in the WUI.

Trends, public attitude trends, and demographic information that is social science related towards the federal government.

Knowing users better.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

State databases.

Internet.

Have access to the people who know.

We would like to know how many visitors come to the preserve. What are they doing there? We'd like to know what the ethnic background is, and how to reach out. Should we have tours in Spanish?

Visitor use studies, how far people are coming, money spent, and payment in lieu of taxes.

We're starting an EIS, and we just finished another one. I had to gather most of the socioeconomic data, and I mainly used California state websites that had some good information.

Written surveys.

New survey data.

The ability to conduct current surveys on the ground of visitor perceptions regarding recreation sites.

Public scoping: getting local views as well as views from other sources about what is to be done with the plan and the impacts it may have.

Informing staff member of problems, more staff meetings, more cc emails and attachments and an emailing list.

Public scoping and economic data and resource user data and census data.

Economic data available in the community; how forestry impacts local economy.

Visitor-use surveys are good every few years. We only do them sporadically, but it would be nice if they were more regular.

How different groups are thinking as to use and needs of areas.

Non-local visitor use.

Local benefits, how the public reacts, and what the public opportunity might be.

Understanding the clientele and what their needs are.

Understanding users and interest groups.

National importance of the lands and productivity of the land. What should the land be used for; luxury or cattle and farming or grazing? Does public opinion support grazing?

Up-to-date information on new methodologies for acquiring the information.

Population trends and income trends.

Good GIS summaries.

Economic benefits in my program.

A better understanding of social trends and needs of communities.

Training in social science research or a contractor that we can use consistently.

Recreation databases, land value appraisals, rent sales, and accessed land values.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Better, more adequate data for the fuel loadings and vegetation layer mats for fuel mitigation projects.

A study of the communities within our resource area and recreational users using the public lands and their attitudes.

Surveys.

Economics of society and the moderate income of a community.

Demographic information, surrounding communities' input, growth trends, new industry, new materials, energy needs, and crime and criminal-type data.

Fire mitigation.

Access expertise in seeking out the information.

Training our staff on using data that is provided.

Visitor sociological studies and surveys.

All special interest groups' participation helps in making land management decisions and budgeting from the Congressional level. We're all based on budgets every year. We don't have an approved budget for this year.

Surveys involving the public.

Population trends and movements.

Direct surveys of user groups.

Outside sources. Everything from user groups, partners, and local and state agencies. User groups are like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Community information such as feedback from the interested parties. Everybody should be involved and give their input.

Research. Know what other people are doing.

Better working knowledge of how local residents view the impacts of energy development in this part of the country. Although there is information it's not really coherent to how the individuals habituate.

The demographics of the population in the area.

Economic information is very important to the field office.

Non-consumptive visitor use information.

Growth trends in the community. Also if we could get information from the County Planning Commission and work with them.

Data related to tourist expenditures, visitor days, and the local perception. How do the locals recreate?

A clearing house. A lot of different areas do reports, but it's hard to find out what they've done.

Marketing information.

Growth information.

What do the majority of the users want or are expecting from us?

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

With the boom-bust cycle, simply knowing the average income and specific area would be helpful. Also the job rate after the bust.

Survey data.

Community values.

Availability of the format of the data. Is it digital?

I'm not sure if it's categorized, but I need property ownership trends.

The full spectrum of demographics and interests, and any sort of trend data that the counties and cities would be putting together.

Scoping.

Visitor preferences, community values, local and regional demographics, and growth predictions and trends.

Population projections, data on existing trends and the use of land, and development trends.

Try to obtain some understanding of why people are ignoring the WUI fire issues that we're seeing in a lot of communities.

Letters from scoping is what we currently use in addition to phone calls and informal visits with committees and stakeholders.

Listening to the public on what they consider important to them in their communities so we could manage fire and meet the majority's needs in that community.

Surveys.

If we had more access to ranches' economic statistics such as the size of certain ranches and what those economic statistics and factors are which make a ranch viable or not viable.

Demographics and economics. We work a lot with tribes, so tribal culture information could be helpful.

Computer or Internet information from federal and state agencies, direct public input, and state officials.

Census state financial data and community and county information.

Sources that would have credibility with the public we're dealing with.

Social and financial demographic information.

Information on crime trends in field office areas.

More community awareness. I already do that; I go talk to Migrant Head Start with Smokey the Bear.

Get information out to the public regarding the detrimental impacts of weeds.

Hunting and recreation use. What's becoming more of a thing is mineral development.

Population data, area and regional incomes, and recreational data.

Surveys, meetings with stakeholders, and scoping meetings.

Hunter data from Fish and Game.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Effectiveness of our prevention efforts, how our current prevention messages have gotten across to people, and what information they need to prevent wildfire.

Relevant up-to-date information about socioeconomics for the areas being managed, and all other uses within that area.

More information on forecasted economic trends, especially regionally within specific portions of the state.

Population trends, mean income, and mean housing prices.

US census data.

Information from the communities involved.

More education for the public about how fireworks and how to prevent fire.

Resource professionals.

Surveys would be useful.

If we had some sort of survey we could use for planning that we didn't need an OMB process to get. The paperwork you have to get is a hindrance.

It would be the five Ws of interaction between the different aspects of the recreation perspective, and how they relate to the other programs.

Universities and the Sonoran Institute. Look to other agencies to see if they've done any social research. Focus groups and public meetings.

Demographics.

Satisfaction of people using the lands, use effects, and use costs both to the environment and to the budget.

User surveys, economic profiles of affected areas, and information solicited from people that live in the area who are going to be affected by the planning process.

Growth and water supply.

The economics of the small towns and areas around the grazing allotments.

Current demographics statistics.

Quantitative information like demographics and income. The ability for us to do surveys.

Here we have endangered fish, which drives up the cost of everything. I would be interested in the overall community economic impact in terms of before and after endangered fish's presence.

Appraisals.

Hire more sociologists. We need more formal interacting.

GIS data pertaining to demographics and other social issues.

It is a good idea to know what other agencies are up to in the region to provide information across agencies. There are regulations.

Make-up of communities.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Employment and what lumber companies and private loggers are doing?

Scoping process with the public and proper identification of all interested parties.

Conflict management.

Studies like this one so we can see what we are finding out from the public and organizations.

Ethnographic data.

Outreach to our customers.

Current employment data: not just numbers, but fields of employment.

Surveys and being able to have a method of public input.

If we had local groups to participate.

The state office should help a little more. We don't have that type of specialist in the field office.

More money and more people to help.

They have to talk to the public and get everyone's views, not just the people who have control of it.

Spatial information.

Collaborative information from local stakeholders and surrounding communities.

Understanding the local community's social interactions and all the communities in the area affected by the RMP. Some more local studies on the issues.

Land user surveys.

Current studies and information.

To have the managers and supervisors more involved in the special interest programs and to balance the workforce accordingly.

Having the data available.

Combine data in one place.

Better ethnography and information.

Turnover in rent operations. Either kids who don't want to stay in the businesses or selling private land. More information in that area to understand trends.

The public's perception.

Local economic demographics and information.

Historic background of the community and the financial ability of people to feed and care for the animals.

Historical data on oil and gas production. Suturing needs and plans for not only communities but for the various industries.

SMA coordination and what they want in house oil and gas and dealing with tribal conflicts.

How oil development would impact the tribes and tribal data.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

A lot more GIS land data.

Demographics of use of recreational areas.

Any type of information in my area would help.

Internet information should be available.

Land exchanges and how the project is going to impact the existing economy either good or bad.

Social and economic data on surrounding communities, historical data, and how programs affected those communities.

Feedback from technicians.

Economic impacts on wildlife and more demographics.

A lot of things we do are based on history and not best practices.

Information that we receive from our public and economic constituents.

General information and demographic information.

Give the public more information than is reared in this department.

It depends on the local resources available, development, and good communication with those who have access with the information holders.

Cost of doing business on public lands.

If they had an estimate of the cost of how much was being disturbed.

If we had an employee that dealt solely with social science.

More adequate training.

Historical land use.

Chamber of Commerce information and resources.

Protection of the resource is number one.

Any kind of economic information we can glean from our consumptive users. We do a lot of oil and gas stuff and grazing.

Local opinions on how what we are doing affects them economically.

Informal conversation with site users.

Academic studies about the impacts of the decision that we make.

Knowledge transfer for knowledge, and more discussions.

Understanding the permits on the ground right now.

Increase in recreation, economic information, and demographic information.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Just having more available data on the district instead of having the data by digging through the Internet or calling the economist at another field office. We need to put more people in those positions so that we can tap into them.

Visitor counts and surveys.

We usually contract that out.

Census data would be helpful but not always keep up-to-date.

Trend analysis.

Education.

Basic demographics of the community would be useful, if we knew what their goals and concerns were.

Census data and contractors and public comment.

Demographics and the economics of the community.

Tailoring the plans to the local people.

Having lots of social information to choose from, like studies and that sort of thing. Interns or volunteers or contracted employees could conduct research.

More economic resources.

It would be good to know what the current demands are versus forecasted demands for energy.

Dealing with private land issues to increase our cooperation with private landholders.

Partnerships and growing them and sustaining them. Organization with different cultures, etc.

Someone with a major in social science.

Understand local and regional values.

Existing laws on development in the WUI and changes and increases in homes.

Trends in the public and population movement.

Public input.

Native American concerns.

Better access to census and demographics of an area and the needs of an area.

Having current reports that we can refer to.

Inventory of private property and properties at risk.

Universities and the agency itself look at special projects and land grants and have extensions service people.

How contractors feel and their perceptions on how we do business.

Having access to the data studies.

Fishermen interview data.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Economists doing survey data plans would be affective.

What percent of land base is public or private? Things like this.

A real understanding of the economic viability of some of the ranches. Some of these guys are in trouble and we're just prolonging the agony.

A good understand of the local history of community grazing. What trends are in the past and what is in the future?

Better funding and more people to do more training.

Public opinion polls.

Basic economic analysis on different programs and different costs of suppressing the cost of not doing anything. In other words, a risk and benefit analysis.

Demographics.

Public meetings. Calls for information surveys.

Social scientists in state offices and district offices.

We typically use our economist to complete the socioeconomic portions of EAs or land plans. I don't know what sources they use, but they're probably more regional. It would be nice to have a broader idea of what the impacts are.

Being able to tap into other states' information.

More reference materials on social science and more on RMP would be very helpful

Economic.

Different demographics of the local community and economics of that area as well.

Annual tally for costs of operation on private land for feeding, care, and management compared to BLM.

Non-market values surveys.

Trends and demographics of an area.

Economic background, the likes and dislikes of the people who use the public lands, and surveys.

Local databases in use area.

Historical land use.

Modification of use information and taking a detailed look at historical contexts.

Conflict resolution among adjacent populations.

Past use and what the current management thinks in relation to what you've got.

Interviews and conversations with all stakeholders. Demographics

Problem population’s identification.

Determining the public and what they want, their needs, and other issues.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Keep trying to get a variety of people to get their input.

Economic impact on communities to the decisions we make and engaging public opinion to the goal.

Land information: values, historical use, economic trends and demographics.

A private firm who is contracted to conduct the surveys

Being involved with WUI people.

What kind of direct impacts will the community have as a result from proposed management activities? We want the reactions to those.

Public meetings.

Communication with the community and private industry.

Values and the sense of community in urban versus rural areas.

Forthright analysis. From an unbiased source. By someone other than ourselves.

Public meeting and demographics and written comments.

Non-monetary, cultural values.

More RMPs for public management and conflicts in the public.

How many people fish the streams we manage and how much money they spend in that pursuit? How many people use ATVs on our lands and how much they spend in that pursuit?

Internet, access to university studies, clearinghouses or workshops training, and communication tools with the public and help to resolve conflict.

Private contractors and universities.

General information.

Local data tables and local trends.

Economic impacts of the BLM on the community.

Visitors and public enjoying the outdoors. The values that are beyond timber management.

Understanding the diversity of our stakeholders. We know we have people that are economically dependent on the resources we manage. Understanding where and who our stakeholders are helps.

Federal guidelines for impact zones, contracting, US Census Bureau information based on income levels of the area, and using the xxxxxxxxxxx sociology department.

Surveys and demographics.

More current science that's out there and available.

Cooperators who have funds available to join in a stewardship operation. Trying to get more funding from private agencies. Fire protection.

At the national level it's important, but the local level should be weighed more heavily.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Data about users of all kinds. How important is it for products? How does society feel?

Having a sense of how much people out there are interested in the program that I'm involved in.

Direction from management, priorities supported by the district, and priorities set by the national level.

Knowledge about the education of fire management to the public.

Collecting more information for the environmental programs from the public.

Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to make trends for recreation use, census data, and scoping for projects.

A clear process where we are aware what sort of comments come in and can get better feedback from management who are more involved with the public.

The average citizens versus special interest groups.

Local wage costs.

Monitoring information.

xxxxx and xxxxx railroad's recent needs.

Employment information cost of living, income, and making a living information.

Local sources.

Economics and visitor preferences, visitor use patterns, and visitor satisfaction and conflicts.

A user survey as a combination of economic patterns and demographics.

Overriding public concerns in the geographic area the RMP was being developed for.

Public social surveys regarding public opinion of what BLM forests should be managed for.

Data-associated costs.

Community knowledge and demographics to better address problems.

Trends, opportunities, wants, needs, and desires. What will be the thing to do in 10 years?

Environmental justice data and information is a key source.

Demographics of the public through surveys. Age, what they enjoy, and how they rate our facilities.

More interaction with universities.

Demographics and public opinion surveys.

More economic factors among communities and their opinions and more census data.

Look at unemployment conditions for people who work in the forest industry.

Statistics regarding tax use, the effect of timber sales on the community, and tax bases.

Demographics of local population and user preference.

Social and economic data and a profile of users.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Local capabilities and the current structures which exist. What are potential sources that could be brought in?

Economic analysis would be the best source.

Tribal and university studies and more input from rural communities along with values and expectations for BLM land.

Specific training.

Informal stakeholders and the public. One-on-one feedback.

The kind of data you want to gather is basic census data; that would be helpful. And how do those people want to see the BLM manage lands? Those could be best answered by conducting informal surveys or interviews.

More information on the impact of changes in the levels of grazing use in the surrounding area and on the communities and change in the communities.

More easy access to databases that have social and economic data.

Public meetings, questionnaires, and short, concise telephone interviews.

More meeting with and talking to people to see what their opinions are in the area we will be working.

Various kinds of research, surveys, field work, and speaking with the public.

More detailed demographic information.

More sociologists and more state officials and planners.

Education levels, public awareness, and the enforcement of rules.

To known what sources we have available.

BLM library. Internet. Journals and publications.

Local economic statistics.

Human behavior and the economic outlook of area and live stock.

Financial information.

Recent social science studies from academia.

Common sense would dictate what the trends are and the needs are. Open your eyes.

More outside sources.

Comparisons of property and home values, suppression costs of large fires compared to fuels costs and vegetation management and the returns on the investment.

We need a better way of getting the social side and the sense of community and how the decisions affect it.

Having better, dependable visitor use pattern data.

Impacts of the community that use the public lands.

General information about how much people spend on non-motorized activities in certain communities, trends, and desires of our user groups.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Talking to the tribe and using the Internet.

Sources of revenue that can be used outside the BLM to accomplish goals.

We could use more social surveys.

Information about the local population resources.

It is important for BLM employees to communicate the communities' needs and wants.

The costs of implementing different programs. It would helpful in planning.

Funding so you could do surveys. Implementation through survey education.

Extrinsic value.

Anything that is going on in the oil field affects us. Find out information from word of mouth.

We don't have authority in our program.

Need help identifying what sources are available.

Public input.

Demographics of the local population and land values.

The lifestyle of those who use the lands and trends I would like to have. Studies done by the state.

Agencies with touring information like demographics and where people are coming from. We get a lot of international tourists and it's important to know where they're coming from. The tourism agencies or universities could provide us with that.

There's probably a lot of information on the Internet. That's where I would look first.

Scoping meetings.

Internet.

Census data and population data.

43-CF4.

We need somebody to implement studies.

Social and economic GIS data.

What is going on in the communities that are affected?

Informal surveys often done by contractors and they go out into the public and talk to people.

There is very little social information because there's no one collecting that information. They try and use what they have.

Training availability and some type of training that would focus on communication skills both within the agency as well as out of it.

Non-monetary opinions about the land.

Some better survey type of other information like a public survey.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = Below State.**

Values for economic values of off road vehicles and casual users of public lands and trends.

A better understanding of what the public's concerns with the land are. Perceptions of what their fears and wants are and what they'd really want to see.

Social geography.

More funding for university studies.

Scoping or public meetings for gathering information and a random survey gives an honest evaluation.

Demographics of age in a variety of individuals.

We have scoping meetings and we have a lot of information open to the public. Speaking with the public and getting their opinions.

Grazing permit concerns.

To know which social groups are affected by the program.

The data that would reflect how the population in the community is changing and the infrastructure because of the energy development.

Instead of asking for a plan then put it into an action plan. Follow through.

Getting more public involvement and input.

User numbers, user origin, frequency, and demographics.

User satisfaction, the demographics of the users and motivation of users.

More specifically quantified data regarding growth in Phoenix. Most of the numbers we get are grossly underestimated. We need to get in there and really look at the population growth in the area.

Access to current and past research both academic and governmental. And the ability either through funding or government sources to conduct research at the field level.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Scientific research through discussion with communities, stakeholders, and people who use the area.

If there is information available it would be useful.

Public feedback.

Knowing if it was a critical health and safety concern, a resource protection concern, or a green America energy conservation concern that would help.

We would want to know populations, density, income levels, and how much leisure time they have. What people are using land for, (photographers, hunters, etc.)?

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Census Bureau information helps with keying in on economic data.

Multiple uses of the lands being understood better.

Basic information, public information, mining claims, and maps. And how it is an asset to each agency.

Community information and also information on people who visit the lands, because they are important to the value of the land.

Demographics and economic factors such as income and employment information. How long people have lived in area verses others. Age and race.

You would need to understand socioeconomic environmental information of communities to be affected by authorization of a given mining activity.

We do a broad area of things and we can't be specific to one. If we had funding to get social scientists into positions, they could scope the various avenues we're missing.

It would be nice to have detailed information on what our user groups are thinking in regards to their concerns, interests, desires, and priorities. The same goes for our stakeholders.

Everything is important: what the needs of the people are, the environment, energy, and education to people is key.

Information from the stakeholders, statistical information on how people derive their incomes from the community, what impacts does BLM own, and what managed lands have on the economic health of the community?

Information relative to benefits to the economy derived from wildlife programs.

Housing market projections, environmental impacts in this program, and economic forecasting.

Direct access to someone who is a sociologist for the BLM.

The federal government Bureau of Land Statistics; if the office had an updated list of local, state, or government-university studies of issues, the national data sets are readily available but local or state governments are not well known to BLM people.

Recreation benefits-based surveys.

It's hard to put a price on the use of public land. There's no direct value; it's intrinsic. We have a hard time figuring out what loss users would suffer if land was made private or what benefits they would gain if it were public.

Economics are very important in my office.

Political analysis. Local census data. Labor statistics. Tourist information in regards to past and future needs. Contractors who know business.

Travel, tourism, and recreation aspects of humans. Once we know those patterns, life will be much easier.

Census data, information from local partners, scoping, and demographics.

Census data.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Census data, community needs and expectations, and economics as they relate to what portion of the local, state, and national income derives from public lands. The non-consumptive values of public lands, wildlife viewing, recreation, and clean air and water.

Publications that relate to the amount of money for wildlife programs.

That is why we hire professionals.

Economics.

There's census data and a whole bunch of useful things.

Surveys conducted by people outside the agency because the BLM is bias.

Additional funding and new staffing.

Having an economist to know what to look at.

Cultural and economic information derived from rural native communities.

More detailed information on current and ancient land use.

The informal discussions with affected or interested publics.

We use UC for our information. We could use more of that from the university.

Community economics, impacts of management decisions, outreach for implementation, and forecasting future trends.

The most recent academic studies to agency resources. We use a lot of NASS information and economic data that we don't generate. The most current economic and social information available. Whatever we can get our hands on.

Economic trend data, surveys with public land users, and information from county planners on their land use plans for counties.

Visitor expectations and communication with visitors for safety issues.

Surveying.

Focus groups.

We've designed specific surveys regarding my program, and you don't almost have to do a survey. It's not readily available through other sources.

BLM specific data: some of the things brought up earlier like usage data, etc.

Recent economic studies of local communities.

Better ties to the sociological research community.

Understanding behavior of people & understanding the boom bust cycle and the impacts of these.

Public opinion surveys and focus groups.

Information about the culture.

Cumulative environmental impacts of our programs.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

State commerce data and demographics. The information isn't always available.

User expectations, benefits they want to derive from our lands, and demographic information.

A lot of it would be non-market values.

Overall customer satisfaction in authorization holders regarding the process, and working relationships. Also, maybe a poll on various types of industries that requires authorizations from us and what needs they may have.

Use a specialist.

The mineral industry actually providing us with information and how that affects the local infrastructure.

Knowing what groups were there and what they practiced.

Specific surveys and training.

Better communication and training.

Awareness and understanding of the people and how they make a living.

Being aware and familiar with cultures and who you are going to be dealing with to learn the history of the community you are going to work with.

Community expansion.

Census data, formal and informal meeting results, and economic and sociological background information.

The program that I'm in is sort of a conveyance of title to land, so none of that is a factor. It was taken into consideration when they passed the laws.

Historical native use.

Little booklets that are easy to read that convey the information.

Communication can be better, allowing for there to be more visibility with me being able as a land law examiner to be able to connect with the people, (native groups/corporations), and allowing for the workers to be more involved with the decision making

Subsistence and traditional land use.

Engaging the university in more studies.

Because we have a lot of contact with native stakeholders, it would be important to understand their culture and beliefs before we interact.

Funding for employees, training, and presence on the ground.

Reporting.

Human behavior could affect it.

Geographic data.

I'm a GIS specialist so I mostly deal with land status. I need to work with land. It was here before we were.

Local economic impacts are very key to us. The other part is the very broad national economic impacts related to oil and gas.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Information provided involves the need to know what the resource areas are being used for by the local populations and what those uses are.

Fish and wildlife data.

Educating more staff and managers on the history of how land is distributed.

Economic impact studies.

Demographic data.

Analyzing user groups.

Demographic information of the community, such as ages of the folks.

Demographics of the community, population of the community and public interest in regards to recreation and fire-watch groups.

I would look to contractors or universities.

An online resource with results of previous studies.

Find out what the public wants from us and to make that our priority.

Broad resource use and resource information.

User data like industry and money in area.

Information about Native Americans in the area.

Help with scoping meetings and gathering public input.

Recreation planning and other planning.

An electronic database that's readily accessible and user-friendly provided to employees with a minimal amount of training.

Demographics would be useful.

Understanding and characterization of communities such as interest groups, and we need to be understanding community income and impact of BLM actions.

Community economic values and data as well as national values.

People and funding.

Demographics and social diversity.

Urban planning data and information about the population moving into the WUI zone, like age, etc.

Surveys. We need to determine the education level of people that you are planning on working with so you need to know how to teach them.

Trends and uses of land and monitoring effects of our projects.

Economic studies of recreation and how that affects local economies, grazing, and logging. Objective studies of what that impact is and how long that lasts. Is it a short-term or long-term impact? We struggle with visitor usage, which is a hard number

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Census data, economic information or databases, and demographics.

Demographic information and input from individuals who live in the locality and their stakeholders that may not live in the locality but use the resource in the locality.

Consumer psychology studies.

Literature, meetings, conferences, and visits from scholarly areas.

Economic perimeters.

Individual direct surveys.

Knowledge about historic community identity.

It would be good to have a list of sources we could use for reference. Right now, many of us aren't sure where to begin.

Data from the local level.

Information on hunting and fishing licenses, recreation user days, and off highway vehicle use.

More attention to urban interfaces. Different communities have different priorities. We don't take that into consideration with the different communities across the nation.

Surveys from local populations of what they would like in their area.

Population in the area, how people in that area make their living, how many visitors go to a particular area, and different types of recreational pursuits in that area.

Demographics and economic data.

An expert that you can call and ask questions.

If BLM were to listen to the public. Look at how the weather has affected things.

Funding.

Public interests, available resources, community impact, and partnership.

Surveys and customer value input.

Having an economist onboard.

Everything from economic analysis that we develop to surveys conducted by others.

Local law and attitudes towards fire suppression. Here local means rural areas, counties, and state governments.

Senses of what publications are out there for fuel treatments and the public.

How few people are trained to do LRIS.

Public survey.

US census and chamber of commerce business data, and economic development analysis and modeling for an area.

Projected population growth and what type of things come with that like schools or hospitals.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

RMPs, scoping meetings, notes, and EISs.

Looking at resource development on a local scale, and more local scoping.

Information on quality of life and property values, etc.

Consumer-use surveys and also the age and income level categories.

Statistic information, and information from other agencies, information from county, city, state, and state government studies.

Hard data such as visitor-use patterns at recreation sites.

Usually the kinds of information I need relate to tribal historic values and are public lands in xxxxx and xxxxx and xxxxx.

Makeup of the populace such as urban or rural, etc. Know the uses of the area, and the recreation and other public actions that take place in that area.

Both BLM-collected data as well as seeing what the current trends are, such as economic trends of the area.

Literature.

A better understanding of the public's expectations.

Understanding the economic concerns of contractors and social concerns of the contractors that we are working with.

I need to know where to go to look; I can't find anything.

Data on education, income, job opportunities, and recreation likes.

A specific need of the community throughout the planning area.

Funding and open forum communication with all the levels of office.

County officials.

Public contacts through meetings and groups.

Having a full description and assessment of ranching operations' cost and what percentage the ranch can offset the cost.

Public perception about return investments and resource management.

News releases to the public, fire information officers to deal with the public and get feedback, and a fire budget analyst.

Talking to the different people including the county and city and the reports they do.

University level studies.

The local economies and what is influencing them. Is it changing or projecting change among the constituents that we deal with? Are they changing and how are they changing? How they affect and manage the public land.

Housing density and water sources; those are the two big ones.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Gathered information from public meetings.

Better economic understanding in communities where energy development takes place.

The information required to find out what the impacts of mineral development are going to be.

Objective economic analyses, clear economic analysis of what we need, and how that would conflict.

Timely resource management plans.

Outside contractors.

Economics.

We just need the RMPs and information on what is going on.

Information from tribes, information from the interested public that cares about what we do, (special interest groups, non-profits), the public, (anyone but non-federal government people).

Additional information from local government and city government, planning tools and what their requests and demands are today and in the future, like in 10-15 years.

It would be helpful to have better visitor use patterns to see what they are using, and how much they are spending so we can figure out the economic benefits.

Real current economic conditions and recent geographic condition mapping.

People's interest in what they want to do in the public lands.

Up-to-date technical manuals.

More contracting information.

Information from an independent source.

Sell mining claims so they need to keep up-to-date prices and the changes of what they charge and whatnot.

In my area we just collect the money.

Public attitudes towards resources and the economic values of those resources.

Economic trends and analysis, more knowledge of wood projects, biomass, and the greening of products specifically with forestry.

There's so much diversity in the ways people do recreation. That's a concern that needs to be examined more closely. Some of the amenity trade-offs would be helpful to examine.

Details about economy. If we make this decision how will it affect businesses? There's a ripple effect. If we put some loggers out of business will it affect twenty loggers or millions of people?

Surveys, questionnaires, and face-to-face interviews.

More of the socioeconomic environmental justice that looks at the disproportionately affected groups.

Market trends, lots of economic information, social values, and conflict resolution in association with values.

Contractors incorporate them into planning and resource management plans.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

The ability to make projections on future financial outcomes to our counties. The implications of our plan are well known.

Timber market data.

Economic forecast. County reports on where the money goes and what the money is doing to help.

University researchers, research, and an economist that is easy to access.

Knowledge of sources like an index of resources.

Perceptions from the outside public.

Two levels: more active access geospatially to census data and the need for a better understanding of the value of recreation.

It's so hopelessly underfunded I wouldn't know where to start.

Recent crop studies are valuable. The 51's need to keep track of chip prices and the stumpage values. We have to know stuff about housing and land values.

Basic census and demographic information analyzing community stability and economic impacts of our land use decisions. There are polarized communities, but how do we evaluate the average person who is not a raving environmentalist; who doesn't do anything

Data on economics.

The benefit of actually having the information and the social type of information. We usually end up creating the map products which display the information.

More information on the subjects at hand.

Demographics, trends, and uses of managed areas.

Access to an economics expert.

More information on economic effects and how development will affect the public.

Biology and wildlife.

Record management over several years to see how the local economy is doing.

Direct research through surveys.

The public values that we receive from public input, and the most reliable economic input we can find.

Demographics of areas.

Books, research and data.

Economic return on development of land because we need to know what kind of value you are getting relative to its preservation value.

WUI information, population, location, and sizes.

Attitudes, motivation for people to change, and leadership.

Local committees and county commissioners' support.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = State.**

Social science help.

Economic impacts on stakeholders

Public affairs.

We need to better demonstrate the effects of BLM actions.

The internet, primarily.

The thing that would be important in energy and minerals is the effects on the community, the boom-bust cycles, and an analysis of how the state distributes its funds. At the state level there's some issues which we should identify.

Effects of industry and effects to surface ownership if it doesn't belong to the bureau.

If we had data from the towns that are affected by our projects.

Community outreach.

Statistics on idle wells and environmental problems. We could then go to Congress with the findings of oil and gas bonding.

If we could just stay ahead of the trends of what is happening. We aren't doing enough analysis of the future.

Better understanding of the different aspects and better communications between the programs.

More dialogue with the stakeholders.

Our job pretty much stays the same. Congress does their thing and we have all the protesters, but we just do our job until Congress tells us to do something differently.

Consulting with the people and coworkers.

Population demographics of your principle users of the resource, the amount of use that your consumers use, as well as the importance of that use to them in being able to use the public land.

Increasingly effective models to reflect local impacts.

Local government information working locally.

National-level attitudes.

Student information from university minority student information and trends in educations paths.

The Census Bureau.

Demographics and economic studies either done by the state or universities.

University researchers and research getting a more representative sample of voices.

Trend data. User profiles.

We use what natural resources are on the ground; they're from all over the place.

Unemployment data, recreational use information, public land contributions to state and local economies; that type of thing comes to mind.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

BLM needs to have independent research on expectations and needs and of the public at those various scales like locally, regionally, or nationally.

More funding and more trained social scientists involved in the planning programs.

Recreational desires of the population in the area. How many people go elsewhere other than in the local area and why. I'd like to know if people thought the BLM was spending enough money on facilities.

What would be the local and regional impacts of decisions that we make?

Economic sources would be very valuable. Ethnicity changes, also.

Economic analysis, looking at the structure of communities, looking at non-economic concerns, and examining way-of-life issues for locals and the broader constituents.

Visitor satisfaction.

Surveys or more one-on-one interviews.

Bureau census, known as a BBR.

Being able to do surveys to get up-to-date analysis on social trends along with economic trends to figure out where we should have horse adoptions.

Motivational study: what motivates people to work and what is their motivation?

Somebody in the office that knows what to do in regards to funding and how to inventory data.

University studies, periodicals, private studies, literature, and contract studies.

Direct communication with user groups and local governments.

University or industry or NGO research, information on the internet, scoping and communication with the people that use the areas, and the information gathered by the community leaders.

We have plenty of access because of the Internet.

Population growth, encroachment of the urban interfaces, more accurate information on visitations to public lands, and the types and numbers of people visiting.

Something on the demographics by age, in particular, and background and ethnicity. We try to identify what the best and most likely places to recruit are. It's generally available information.

Individuals trained in the social fields. Someone who has formal training and experience. Experience would be better to have than formal training in the field of work in social science.

Who are the users? Where do they come from? How much do they bring to the community of the NLCS unit, culturally and economically?

Funding is the big issue; budgets are always being cut.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

Demographics. With the way the west is changing; understanding who is there and what they do. Understanding the difference between non-labor and labor income.

We need better information. We need current information and we need to know where to find it. A lot of times we don't have good information.

Census data, population expansion trends, visitation statistics at campgrounds and recreation areas, and user fee information.

More funding.

Better demographics of affected areas and population from more serious studies.

Find out why people break the law. What motivates the user to violate the regulation or protections?

Need to hear more from the stakeholders; we need better communication with them.

Community assessments.

More feet on the ground; more knowledgeable people. There should be a newsletter for the community.

Public meetings.

When I'm working in the area of local resources.

Some real data of some rural villages or communities.

Public perception and public knowledge: what they do know.

Surveys and smaller, more intimate public meetings, a better understanding of the current general information out there and how to analyze it and train with it.

Local studies and demographics.

The biggest challenge right now is how to identify the values in a given community so we can identify what the people are more interested in.

Anything we get from counties or universities.

Why they're there is a critical question that's often missed. The data of who they are is always collected, but sometimes it's more important to know what they're doing there.

We need to have a whole lot more input from local communities when we go in to clean up. We've run into tricky situations where entire areas' economics are based on tourism, and we want to tear all the things that attract tourism down to make things safe

An understanding and review of policy and a sensitive, responsive approach to public input.

Census, operational history, and any social science records.

Improved community demographics and cultural and economic dimensions.

Statistical analysis of how prevention works to influence homeowners and their building in fire safe areas.

Interagency interaction.

More data on projects at hand so we'd be able to prioritize by the budget that limits it.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

Education.

We often turn to studies that have been done and are publicly available and can be publicly cited. Controversial reports that have been published by universities are very difficult to work with.

The trick is to identify what information you need so you can gather the right data. We're very weak in methodology. We don't have people to design, administer, and analyze our research.

I want to know about attitudes of recreation fees and attitudes about BLM fees.

Information from students to find out what their beliefs are about the federal government and then information from them to find out what they would consider an ideal job and how they would perform their job efficiently. Do they like to work as a team or not?

Current policy and getting it out to in-house users as well as outside users.

Economic investment that is represented by the local people who are invested in the programs.

Establishing resource and economic values.

Community interviews.

A variety of things such as data concerning personal land use.

Professional societies provide literature.

Additional inventory and monitoring of social science, developing ethnographic history for sacred sites, increased tribal concentration on museum collection including NEPA materials, and a better working relationship with tribes.

A one stop shopping tool or portal that would direct you to a person with appropriate expertise and tools relative to development and conflict resolution, and help recognizing these resources.

A database of all this information we gather.

More information to help evaluate the environmental justice and socioeconomic impacts of NEPA documents.

Patterns of use by visitors, money spent in an area, knowing people's opinions of fees and non-fee sites, and providing environmental education and interpretation.

Multi-agency corporations.

Population demographics.

Posted information on BLM and public websites.

We rely on good information from the recreation and wildlife programs to decide which properties to purchase. The better and more accurate the data supplied to me, the better decisions I can make.

Research and surveys.

State economics, census information, government job reports, and demographics done by the state.

The programs I work with are regulatory driven.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

Community meetings and collaborations. Having community input through surveys and interviews. Techniques that would get us that information. It's difficult to generate interest about fire management if there isn't a significant fire emergency.

Training and education.

Anything that provides economic data, state and county data, or census data.

Public information.

Research on conflict resolution and on socioeconomic impacts and community modifications as a result of those impacts.

Economic information and information concerning individuals residing in the community. Demographic information that shows if someone can adopt a wild horse or not.

Data gathered from state and local governments.

On the economic side, we need better information on our budget and what we have to work with. We have to wait on budgetary issues.

A survey of the stakeholder satisfaction at the current time. A survey of folks who have a vested interest in grazing permits or energy interests. Contentment or discontentment with current management decisions.

Up-to-date and accurate information from Indian country.

Demographics.

The current market values of property in a given state.

We don't need IMs, we need people to come and talk to us. We get forgotten up here in Fairbanks, so it would be important for people to talk to us.

Better information on how products could be used in the field.

Demographics, trends in population growth, economic information, and competing community activities or commercial activities.

Extent and amount of resources available and the effects of the extraction of that resource to the other social concerns in the area.

User trends, population data, and the effects on public lands by increasing urban interface.

Socioeconomics of individuals or specialists that would help to work on the RMP or planning documents, whether it's BLM employees or contracted individuals.

National Fish and Wildlife surveys and state surveys.

Demographics, non-market values, information from local community economics, and what sustains the local economy.

How effective are prevention/education investments in reducing human-caused fires and providing the public with the importance? How to provide information about fire safe their homes while providing a system on how to evaluate the opinions.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

Economic information.

Economic analysis, productivity of management of our program is, the effect on communities that are adjacent to public land.

Environmental justice.

We need to be able to deal with the public in a way that both us and them can understand about fire prevention and what plans of action we would use in the event of a fire.

Having data that you could cross-reference between offices and between agencies.

What people value on those lands.

Attitudes and values on resources and how people interact with the resources.

Historical use, trends, previous attempts, and weather history of local areas.

Local or state planning and the information needed to make those plans.

Special interest groups. We can use university literature.

More information in general.

Having better information on the impact of jobs in an area we're developing.

More availability of research surveys and opinions and working more with the public and political people that are in charge.

Information gathered from talking with local communities.

Look at what the local governments and states are doing with economic analysis.

How people make decisions and how to get them to change or look in a different area.

Internal demographics of employees and moving towards the future in terms of type and size of organization the BLM will need to become.

How much is my budget going to be?

We currently use the five year Fish and Wildlife Assessment that comes out.

A greater understanding of what the community needs to get the community more responsible for their lands.

Training in economics would be helpful.

The effects of fire and benefits to the environment from prescribed fire programs.

Having a better idea of circulation of income with the communities and a better idea of the impact and non-economic impact of fires upon the communities, in both short and long term. Social demographics of firefighters within the village populations.

All information related to training and education.

Enough examples on where to get the data and how to use it.

To consider where abandoned mines are when they develop. It's kind of a problem that people keep developing without regard to abandoned mines.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

Impact of climate change on communities and environments.

Basic socioeconomic information on a county by county basis.

Websites.

Visitation numbers, trends, visitor survey of values of site, etc.

Intelligent, qualified, educated staffs who is social scientists.

Need to know all about the recreation providers' needs, wants, and quantities.

The wants and desires of the affected people.

Being out of touch with the private sectors we deal with and especially the tribes' interpersonal relationships. We need to figure out how to deal with people and to read people; it would help with conflict.

We get most of our information from the field, state, or engineering offices. We could use more of it.

Population growth and people's attitude toward water and clean water.

Demographics and use trends.

Attitudes surrounding the WUI zones.

Surveys on management trends.

Contacts for local agencies. We don't know who to talk to in the community.

Case studies would be helpful.

What the changing social attitudes toward wilderness are.

GIS information.

Economic sources to see how much money is available.

General public involvement.

User trends.

The social science of fire managers and the public. How the public perceives fire management with regard to how we will take care of their land and homes.

Getting a dialogue going.

Cultural values of the lifestyles, heritage for them and their children. What does the social value bring to the community?

Better understanding of weaknesses.

The changing demographics & how the changes are incorporated.

Know more about the current users such as surveys to get a better idea of what kind of people we are dealing with.

More published products.

Number of tribes and their education, work, and salary histories.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

State and local and tribal demographic databases discussing and providing current needs on infrastructure. National databases on mineral and energy resources extracted from public lands.

Impacts of activities we do on the human aspect. Attitudes that would come from the surveys that are done.

Non-market values of wilderness.

More information from the community.

Research journals.

Evaluation of non-monetary resources.

Better data to be able to forecast.

Basic population demographics: unemployment and economic information and state employment information. It can come from a variety of sources and levels.

Historical information.

Scientific data would be the most significant way of making a projection of what fire management would be affected by. We need access to research data.

Public comments on proposed regulations.

Understanding current public views.

Visitor use and user studies.

Impacts on the county with a focus on that plan's economic information.

More training for the staff, mostly in the state and fields who don't have the training, expertise, or knowledge of what should go into a plan.

We serve a number of communities: state, private vendors, and private contractors. We need a measure to address their needs; a pipeline for communication between groups.

Population data and economic conditions.

Data from past programs.

Information on effects on non-market value.

Energy needs and population growth.

Devolvement plans for an area requires a survey of recreation for that area.

Demographic trends, economic trends, and projections.

The amount of visitors that use an area and the money they spend in that area to help out the local economy. Do they cause damage to the area? Is the area cost effective for the recreation that it is allowing?

Community surveys, demographic surveys, public forums, community outreach, and outreach to public schools.

Demographics: education, population and language spoken.

Information on energy industries.

Q22. What sources of information would be helpful to manage the social and economic impacts in your program? **Strata = National.**

More incoming information on the way the public uses the land.

Information on watersheds' effects on lives and areas.

Having the proper information. If you have incorrect information you can't carry out your job.

Surveys.

It's vitally important to get out and meet individuals face-to-face. More poignant than surveys for me is to sit and talk to people face-to-face.

Question 23: Enhancing Social Science Research

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Contract ability to have it more readily available to gain more current research

I guess, our only option would be contracting.

We really need a socioeconomic person, one that specializes in that. Otherwise, we could contract a project. None of our people really have a background in socioeconomics, and a walkthrough with someone who dealt with the field or a contractor would help us.

Use a contractor.

Have a BLM focused website that provides links and resources for people interested and BLM employees themselves to deal with problems at hand.

Public perception of the agency and its roles

Use it

List of universities that would like to do the surveys for me.

More money, bigger budgets, to do the things we need to do. More environmental awareness, including interpretation or brochures, other forms of getting that information out to the public. More connection with user groups and various visiting public we know are visiting the area.

Encourage the use of it within the RMP process.

Finding someone who is interested in having informational meetings for those who are interested in social science.

I guess by using existing data that is available including state demographics for planning and zoning, and maybe by using contractors or grad students.

There could be training (computer), or an individual could come into the office, brochures or other written material.

Increase the training opportunities, new staff takes so long to get them up to date on the BLM.

Some kind of a program or system to allow us to contract or gather data that we don't have

We need contracting and funding to gather data

Training for BLM managers, as far as the value of information to their decision-making.

More training

Contract with university, graduate student to help with project, contract with consulting firm

Make online resources available, raise priority level of social science on the daily level as it affects the daily workforce

Providing formalized background training in social science, including on the group component

University programs that are under contract. Need to make use of people at those university, and money to pay for external contractors and university researchers.

Training

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Collaboration and talking with interested people.

Education of the planners and the planning teams and managers.

Collateral duties with other folks that are already involved with that stuff.

Enhance coordination as for sharing information with common projects, use of interns.

More and better training, and better scrutiny by managers.

I would look to contracting and partnerships. There are any number of research groups and universities and there's probably a lot of base information available. If you have a bit of funding and you can build a partnership, you can set up a structure of social/economic information available to BLM, local governments, and whoever else is interested.

Enhance or allow for more public comment on a wider variety of projects. Having more outreach, more BLM-sponsored outreach, town hall meetings or seminars. Benefits would be huge.

So more user surveys, if he had more staff.

We have training but need training where there is an understanding of how the consequences of what we do effects the population. BLM provides a lot of training but most are useless.

I would refine the information to my needs.

Training and web site with resources

Attempt to make managers more aware of the use and consequence of not using social science research. I believe its managers minds that need to be changed. Many managers would rather disagree with local constituents and do what they want, rather than attempt to compromise.

Develop resources for studying the effects of BLM decisions.

Training

Bring in some kind of state position to provide that information, and then it can trickle down to those of us in the field offices.

Access to information,

Contracting, or finding available data. He doesn't know where to get data for the use of public lands and user info.

Training on how to use the information.

Make it a priority to people who are over me and provide funding.

Have management be more interested.

Outreach.

Take some recommendations and use them for directional policy and things of that nature.

Have a better grasp of what types of resources are available for my use, and what I can use them for.

Better training

Contract

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Better guidance for staff

New staffing is a must, we need more staff, and current staff training

Bring to forefront of planning process

More objective and statistically valid reports.

Better training for staff, work with relevant public to build trust

Given our budget needs and lack of funding the best we can do is identify needs and contract them out.

More training

I would communicate with those groups that are readily available (land use and recreation people). Taking time to collaborate with the groups that the BLM effects. We don't do enough public outreach we need to adjust.

Create partnerships with the universities. utilize those grad students who are looking or projects who will be willing to do that research

Help us collaborate with the local population.

More documentation on research because it takes so long to get to the field office-more of a direct line to the field office.

Try to develop a pilot program for using social science research

Hire a contractor to provide that has expertise. We try to get temporary people or contract out.

Some training in social training in how it relates to social science planning.

Training.

Training and more awareness

Adequate training they could provide better input; NEPA documents could explain it more thoroughly to other staff.

Contract & data collection

We can have some online training; make it more mandatory in this particular field. It's an important part of realty specialist, but I don't see much of it.

I'd try to standardize the types of research and sources, and as we usually do, we try to use the resources already developed by states, municipalities, and other federal agencies.

We would look at internal training, or looking at universities or contracts.

Better training. Our budgets in interior have been declining in the last few years. We could train our specialists in more specific ways in relation to social science.

Become more supportive or involved with the universities to get information

Information on data available and being able to access this information

Provide basic social economic background descriptions to each field office

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Make it a performance measure for management.

You would have to have some sort of cooperative contract with others outside the agency.

If you put it in a report, we can quote the report. If you knew how much ranchers bring in with beef or lamb or wool that would be nice. Somebody has that information; it's just a matter of getting your hands on it.

Give seminars

More training on how to use it.

Provide additional training for staff so they can do cost-benefit comparisons. We need to have data exchange systems, too.

Other resources available, contracted work, universities or organizations.

People need to know what is wrong in the area. More communication between people in the field and office people.

Make the contracting process not so hard.

Utilize information already available and contract out.

Continue the surveys we are doing.

Make it more available and have more in house training.

Incorporate surveys about user satisfaction for areas that are being managed for their desired recreation activity.

Empowering the existing staff to get creative.

Again, I am not quite sure, I am not the manager.

I primarily focus at the RMP development time, do surveys or research through university or contractor.

I think I would provide a tool and maybe it would be web based that would capture census economic questions, to generate input. Scientific surveys to capture wants and needs of society themselves.

Having more demographic information available.

Funding to get the staffing.

I would develop partnerships with local universities or college for graduate studies or research studies related to BLM implementation at the project level.

Have information collaborated and usable to field offices and district. Chain of commands so that we don't recruit, that way we can use that information.

We pretty much do everything we're supposed to, but it all gets down to the state and Washington office support listening to what's going on in the public. I don't know if they would take it seriously if it was contracted out.

A better way to get our message out as a organization.

Easier tools to get to. It is difficult to find the data you want.

Provide training for the responsible parties who are working on those issues.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

If we could come up with the money, contract it.

Training to make people aware of how to interpret the information.

Online database of research for staff, identify sources for staff

Need to have good online training and what social science is and what it relates to, and good solid overview.

Having some.

More funds contractors

Managers need to take it seriously, upper management needs to take this seriously the negative impacts are ignored. We are blind sighted by changes.

Educate the current staff.

Just having data bases that are easily accessible.

Internal communications and follow current policies.

More sociology training for current staff, more time researching, focus on current.

Money.

Not outsourcing. Probably more money; increased funding.

Use contractors & universities

More education to resource managers about the potential usefulness of social science data.

Summary newsletter of information from the communities that particular offices severe, have summarized from peer reviews to articles.

Matching our projects and initiatives with the community needs getting the right input and requirements.

Contact and seek advice from academic programs or professional groups.

Training.

Good introductory training, what it is and how it can be used. Find out what the advantages are, so there is more of a strive to use it.

Better funding, more opportunities for training for increased knowledge.

More time of trained staff to gather web information.

More training and education.

Training in the methods used in Social Science research.

Education. Most of our managers don't have a background in social impacts, so they're not necessarily high on their list of considerations.

Training, more exposure and insight into what it is and how to use it.

I would allow the staff to ask some of the questions and make the process less formal.

Contract out more.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

More training on social science information

Turn to universities and contract out.

G general introduction to see what kind of techniques and what type of training might be out there, we can look into using.

Train us where to look for the info.

Look at mitigation measures that would modify the social and economic effects, secondary impacts are important.

Do more studies on valuing land and marketing.

Training and information on economics of small areas.

It's important as a program. RMPs are outdated within two to three years.

1). Improve the basic social capability of staff 2). Develop a contractor list of researchers capable of not only conducting the research, but able to communicate with relatively unskilled BLM staff.

Debrief the people who are leaving positions after a long tenure. I could have benefited substantially to exposure to personnel who held my position previously. Also, talk with public relations personnel. We don't utilize the experience of older employees as much as we could.

Increase the awareness of management on Social science

Make it available to all resource specialist in the offices

Better training.

Issue contracts to poll people.

Contracting.

Increase public contact through publicity.

Explicit training in social science so we could do it ourselves.

Get staff involved in doing studies.

More thorough research.

With my department I don't know how I would improve on research. I don't deal with the public.

Funding.

More training.

Objective info gathered, surveys etc.

Applying it towards the natural resources program.

Beef up NEPA analysis, refine scoping techniques, design of facilities, and know who we are talking to.

Use it somehow in planning determination, and use it to show what the RMP needs, scoping communities.

Planning documents that we are currently using.

I would offer courses.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

More funding.

More funding.

Training. All employees trained in certain areas.

Encourage dissertations of thesis available in the area.

Get higher management on priority of things we deal with.

Central location to post summary info, on the internet within our agency to post info about trends, demographics etc.

Volunteers. We need some social scientists to volunteer for a little bit of time.

Surveying, visitors on sites.

Most efficient way is to develop a list of contractors that would be able to be used for field offices.

Clear policy statements.

Training on methods & what we should be looking for.

Having more info available in order to know and apply it to the projects.

Train what we have.

Try to create databases that would allow easy access and up to date data.

Funding.

Actually having data I could enhance. I don't need more staff, just the data itself.

Implement the information in the workshops. Education and values of the public.

Providing more training opportunities for specialists who may not have that training but could benefit from the use of social science.

Contracting with insurance w/ PhD programs.

Determine the impacts and how we can better provide recreational opportunities.

Training and awareness of the staff. There're tools we could make much better use of than we do.

Managers need to make it a priority.

Ethnics training, online training.

Increased awareness and increased funding.

Contracting out.

We could do more contracting with universities.

Education on the way you should address different groups where there are conflicting opinions to work through the process.

Develop a system of agreements with university.

Program focus.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Be sure staff is updated on all information gathered through studies and university information.

Provide funding for private contractors.

More awareness and training.

Training

Training to the existing personal, and how to go about squiring the information necessary.

More training.

Training of current staff.

Easily available.

Working with universities through the CESU.

Training of existence staff of how to find it and how to use the research.

Value of social science research needs to be known more by the management.

Training

I would pay our employees better with better benefits for retention and replacement of retirees.

Encourage training in the field in general.

Better training.

Sharing meeting data within the write-ups.

Better pay for the employees.

Training & access to the data & how does this work into our NAPA plans.

Training

Training and education.

Through partnerships with the gateway communities.

Utilizing university students and programs on the ground is a great tool for the bureau, university, and students. It's an un-biased resource. If we do it we can manipulate the results any way we want.

Data quality.

Bigger budget.

More web-based surveys.

Training.

Increase training for existing staff.

Education or training.

More oral histories. More formal interviews with the public. Discover what they want done with the public lands in their life.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Some training available for various staff members, because some have never been exposed to any social science.

It needs to be made a part of the process.

Cooperate more with universities and community groups who are able to help the BLM collect social science information.

Keep up with current soc. science research.

Training for existing staff.

It would have to be a more important part of the decision tree. Right now, I don't think it's even on the tree.

With the existing staff we often overlook NEPA requirements. It's a lack of training among project coordinators.

I would make it more available and make more people participate in it.

Get funding and hire outside contractors.

Acquire funding to contract to get the information we need.

I would talk with people about their perception.

Being able to get research continuously.

Hire consultants.

Between state and local government, to have better communication.

Training and having management bring it more to the forefront in our approaches to things.

Training.

Educating the existing staff, and contracting out the economic sections of the RMP.

Better training for existing staffing.

Contract social science research and surveys.

Training on methods and what is available and what is needed for info; how to used it and find it.

Have some standard operating procedures or something we utilize. We collected different ways because of different leaders, we should standardize this.

Use the existing staff to share their research with the communities in my area to help educate them on the wild land fire management.

Internal and external expertise in universities to help and provide information.

Better public, more informed public website with detailed info to inform public.

Training for resource specialists in techniques for doing socio-economic research. We lack the training. Specialists in other fields are being relied on to do things they're not trained to do.

One of the problems with the government is we've hamstrung ourselves with so many rules and regulations.

Training. I'm a biologist, so I don't have a background in social science. We need local training.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

I don't know we need to enhance it; we are utilizing it to a maximum at this time.

Designated as a priority by an upper management.

Have the scale of data collection be correlated with the size of the decision being made.

Contract out.

More access to stats data in law enforcement and study behavioral problems.

More education within the organization.

Provide more through contracting.

Training of current staff.

Contract to get some more social science done.

Improve the cumulative effects analysis and protest appeals.

Trying to have more presentations as part of our regular NEPA training. When we do things related to RMPs, we should have presentations to help us incorporate social science more into our plans.

Know what type of social science resources are available.

Contracting generated products to get the data for RMPs, third party product that is not bias by staff.

Develop good working relationships with contractors who have a working expertise in that area.

Tie efficiency in everyone's tasks with that data being available. increasing productivity without increasing costs.

Training

Additional training.

I would encourage staff that we already have to do more.

Collect good information on the ground that could help at the district and state who are disconnected from the people in the communities but make the decisions and do policy making.

Get the right people to educate the public.

Better scoping.

Try and get more people out in the field to catalog important cultural sites. As far as economic impacts, that's not adequately investigated. Often people don't know the economic impacts a site may have.

Train people how to use it more effectively in their jobs and more often in general.

Inter-disciplinary training.

Spend time helping managers understand how it can help them. We won't be able to adopt new policies if management isn't on board.

Investing in the people you already have.

I would improve the data by gathering new data. I would like to see it considered across all disciplines throughout the bureau.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Training on how to find the information.

Training, and brown-bags (where people come into the office to talk about a project or methodology, whether they're from a university or business.) Or another agency, an online discussion group, or list serves.

Web site bringing together all information.

Make it more available to those making the implementation decisions.

I think training, increasing awareness of available staff, how to collect it and how to use it.

If there were some updated information about communities in South East Idaho and how they are changing, it would be useful. I would like to be aware of the data.

Training

Increase funding.

More Training.

Training for all the specialists.

Training

Contract out.

A blanket survey to consolidate to collect information.

Provide training on the most successful examples of public planning , and why Social research is necessary

Learn more about where you can go to get the information.

Implement it into their work schedule to get everyone on the same page.

Better training.

Outreach to our customers, both internal and external.

If we had better data we would have more confidence in using it. We just finished an RMP, and a lot of our data was regional at best. The numbers are skewed because we can't get local data.

There's a fear of individual employees to reach out to the people. We need to go out in the community and talk to the public.

Peer reviewed literature.

An internet newsletter to share information on social aspects.

Educate the staff you already have.

Train managers to get the information and have the information accessible to them.

More training and more understanding of social science through visual display, or some way to get people to realize that it is important in all aspects.

Existing understandings of the use for their program areas through additional training

Getting more guidance and policy. Need to know that it's important to understand and elevate its' importance.

Training

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Training the existing staff.

Talk to a recreation person who does surveys and work with him/her to put in questions related to my program area(s).

Emphasis on training.

I would use the trained contractors that are in many of the positions we hold. With employees retiring, I would make a shift from contracting to federal employment. This would eliminate the training involved and they would already be knowledgeable.

Pass along information I hear since I am in the law enforcement area.

Training of current staff.

Allocate more funds for it.

Education and training for the existing staff.

Educate existing staff.

Use of the local university.

More training in social and economic fields.

I don't know if we need it.

Better training.

Use contractors.

I don't think we really need social science research, it would be more beneficial for BLM employees to be trained in social science to guide their decisions.

Educating all employees about the use of the information and what it means not only to the agency, but to the communities we serve.

Education and training of existing staff.

Use the kinds of info that is already available.

Try to increase more training on current employees.

Better communication nationally.

Training current staff, or more contracting.

Put the people in the office right now through training and informal questionnaire just to get them familiar with the social science program.

Training

Trainings

I would say in-house training.

I would look at enhanced training, and possibly contracting.

Nepa Documents need to become more available.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

New staffing and training for the old staff.

Make it a priority.

Learn Spanish.

Training

Some training to the existing staff to show them how to utilize that information.

More surveys, and experts are in the area of social science and research, and should give more access to information by the public and schools.

They don't need to find new ways as long as they have contact with information holders.

More classes or training on impacts.

Employee training and involvement.

Broader knowledge by the existing employees.

Better training and online interaction.

Average resident opinion and surveys.

New staffing.

Training sessions for the field office to help people recognize and realize the effects that our actions have on those around us.

More informal public meetings to spread the word to the public.

Guide on developing grazing solutions.

Raise the visibility by using it in discussion and writing analysis of impacts.

Try to get a better understanding of the people we're trying to serve.

Utilization of the skills that are already known.

Take advantage of what's out there. We have a hard enough time getting the information.

Try to incorporate it more in formal documents.

Continued training.

If we just had more knowledge of available source, we wouldn't need additional information, just additional information.

Try to conduct surveys for information.

Just make it more visible. A lot of people don't think of it, and it should be a large part of our everyday decisions.

Environmental Documents, more research and information.

If we can't get staffing then we probably need more training.

Providing a list of contractors would more helpful.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

I would get the money used for new staff and improve our office.

Draw on expertise of local agencies.

Better collaboration with public and other agencies involved.

Outsourcing to gather information of constituents of a whole as a baseline, can't do it by ourselves.

Making it a more integrated part of our general education.

Using universities for information, and science committees.

Nothing, I think we need more social science research done.

Planning phase of various projects.

Try to be out on the ground more and gather data from the people.

Providing guidance to current staff as to the best places to conduct research, and making sure the staff is learning something and collecting what we need. We need to find some more funding somewhere.

Have more accurate up to date information accessible.

Just more up to date information because social data is a year or more old and doesn't reflect current situations.

Provide training to existing staff.

Changing skills, training or contracting for those services.

If you try to train people that have no interest in social science it's a waste of time, so I really think we need to bring in staff who are interested in that area.

Online courses, one day training, sending out mini examples of environmental documents.

Building partnerships with universities.

Gain information on existing laws and also update data.

Other than staffing, I don't know. It goes back to community assistance.

Talk to the public.

Training

Money to have more contractors.

Training

More training for current staff.

Advantage to us to have greater knowledge of the social economic factors involved into the environmental assessment and planning.

Probably more outreach.

More information out there, i.e. what it is for and how it pertains to us.

Set some different priorities. Make it a priority.

Having the ability to determine what data or studies are useful or capture.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Put more emphasis on collection of social science data for project development.

Contract more and create data base from information that has been gathered previously so other could access the information.

Make it more available and have more data.

Going through universities to do masters projects to look at some of the bigger pictures.

Have training for management.

Public can see how important it is for them not be so anti government.

Increase funding.

Rely on BLM expertise.

We can sight more social science stuff.

We need a better understanding of what social science is. We don't have a clue on what all is needed.

Train existing staff.

If we had a little more standardized protocol on that it would help.

Research partners.

Make it a higher priority to come up with more accurate information. Recently I saw some training on developing socio-economic impacts, and I don't know if that's happened yet or not. But it would be our economist who had to go to that training.

Contact out study of recreation users from other states.

More formal training of current staff.

Considering they want to cut staffing, you could provide training. Some kind of formal, informal, or online training could work.

Clearer direction on how it should be used.

Fund it better, make sure the data is assimilated better.

User friendly to laborers, Make it more applicable to what is going on in the field, more specific to locality.

Not sure that it is not important, would not do nothing.

Online training.

I think I would use it to make better and stronger documents that users of public land could make it applicable to all the people.

More funding.

Contracting

Use all the social scientists.

Base agencies groups with information, pod to react to specific problem.

Training

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Use more OSU students.

Current employees more aware of what it is and how to use it.

Offer some level of training to the general workforce so to understand why it is important. Contracting.

Obtain sources for the information.

Contracting

Contracting and finding good sources that are already out there as much as possible. (county data)

More emphasis on the data that we get.

Contract with private companies or academic institutions.

I don't know, some sort of outreach program to get outside opinions in our program.

Everything is Internet based, and if folks want to get information then it's available on the Internet. They just have to take the initiative to find it.

Broaden the scope of sources of information gathered.

I would publicize what we are doing.

Training the current staff.

Training of the current staff and time for people to learn and become familiar with technology.

To better meet the public's requests, desires, and needs we need to try to figure out how to users' requests.

Fund objective broader scale research.

Better communication of current information.

Contract

More connection with university programs, to provide more research.

If I had someone with social science skills on my staff I would include them in public meetings.

Increase funding.

Raising awareness of employees, workshops, conflict medication on developing workshops.

Continual training, continuing on down the paths we're already going.

You could utilize a lot of resources that we are not using.

Contracting

Additional guidance on how to use it, and training.

More funding. Manager need to allocate more hours to this project.

Take advantage of public institutions and their research, extension offices.

Training has to start at the universities.

Training the staff that we currently have.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Normally what we do is through scoping meetings and public participation. Once we do have a draft of what we want to do, it goes out for public comment.

Mandatory requirements in contracting, simple yes or no questions.

I would train my staff if training is available, or connect with university programs that are available.

I would probably look to consult with someone who knew more about what we were doing. I think it is important under all situations to do so.

More education and training of the staff.

Newsletters of latest information, materials, research.

More widely available, and some mandatory training

Contracting

Contracting

Train people to show them that social science can be a useful tool.

There doesn't need to be an enhancement.

Basically take what research we have and disseminate that to the people in my staff.

Some training to what social science data, education.

Paying attention to all of the aspects of the agency.

A little more training for existing staff on how to gather data, how to use it, where to find it, and how to quantify it.

Within the agency, some training that will help people, so that they know how to process and know what to do with the information, they know how to analyze this sort of information.

Incorporation of results from social science. Need more research for what the public feels.

Higher percentage of the public by getting more information from the population as a whole.

Central website will help to use it correctly and quickly.

Make it a priority.

Better public relation, like press releases, news papers.

Personal training.

Increase funding.

Training

Do research ourselves, re-align out priorities to do our studies.

Fund it.

Contracting

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

I would review it and look for common themes in what the local concerns are and consider how it would be addressed in the RMP. Consider the pool of information is being provided by the public, and see how that could blend with resource management requirements. Meld politics and science together, you can't go a hundred percent with one or the other.

More information of social and economic impacts of using social science information as a methodology to determine the impacts of proposed management actions.

Training

Easily accessible format with specific information, user friendly reports.

Contracts for working with an outside group to collect this information.

Avail and use existing research information

Contract out.

More funding.

Training current staff.

Workshops using planning and using data.

Better funding.

I think you should make sure that there is awareness with the employees. Sometimes social science can get overlooked. More general knowledge.

Contracts

Additional training for existing staff, this more of a priority by management.

It would have to be contracted source, or someone who would volunteer to do it for us.

Make all the senior leadership and other specialists letting them know it exists. Remind people it’s a good way to gather research

I really don't have any handling on what social science is used so I can't respond to that.

Educate and train the current staff.

Training of the people who are expected to handle the social science research.

More information sources for the BLM.

Offer more training.

More BLM of a requirement for the managers to use it more. Managers need to gather the data to make sure that the requirements are met for the public.

Contract

Try and encourage more people to look in to the data of social science.

I would train staff members that can deal with the social sciences.

Training

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

More training for the staff on board and to think more broadly and more outside the box, instead of just doing studies.

Public information using the media.

Make it available and we need to know how to find this information.

Information and training.

Work with ranchers and gather info informally.

Work with local real estate to see what the real values are of range land is in the local community.

Implement current research in applicable areas in recreation programs.

More funding.

I would probably try to make public awareness of what is available through the government office and the BLM.

Outsource

Partnerships with state and local governments and entities to expand and the knowledge database.

Pointers from someone from the state office, and loosen up with the use of surveys without having to go through congress.

Learning more about what is available through contracts or universities.

Use contracted resources.

Fund it.

Public's view on clean water act.

Have it be in a form understandable to non-specialists.

I think education of the particular specialists in acquiring that information and using what they have.

Provide training on what information in currently available and how it can be used.

Contracting out.

With the right kind of research, I could work closer to the visitors outside our country. It would help to have additional information.

Synthesis of existing data in a class 1 overview of xxxxx.

I'm not sure, this would be where non-market value training would come into play.

Surveys or studies done on what the true effects are on the life stock industry.

Make it available to national level so they can get their priorities straight.

Staffing is not the answer to the issues, it would not make a difference.

Have more scoping meeting, because that is where the public brings up their problems and issues.

Good concrete findings of the social science values.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Nothing

New staffing is the only way.

More training, exposure on the job, and seminars.

Increase the budget, we need more money.

Training of personnel.

Better ability to find sources of information, central web site.

If it was easier to get we would use it more often.

We're starting a land-use planning effort, and I'm going to have to research where I can get this information. We would have public meetings and that kind of thing to get input from people.

Get more money.

Position that has the job description to get and distribute that information.

Develop a greater need for SS.

In-house education.

Get rid of government employees and get some real people in. Something other than DOE-Learn, which is just silly.

Training.

Utilizing existing information

Ask for more public opinion and public outreach,. We need to know what they want and what their opinions are

Contracting

Make more people here aware of what's going on with it.

More guidance on how to use some of the information and how to apply it in their jobs.

Training

Training, giving those people that are there the opportunity to receive that training and communication. When you're dealing with public use issues you need to effectively to communicate with other shareholders that might be outside your agency.

Do a better job of assessing the non-common effects of the things they do.

We need to encourage people to get more involved

More contract work, studies, and surveys.

Training, on how to incorporate social information into BLM planning, program development. How individual specialist can utilize this information.

Contracting

Training

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = Below State.**

Political clarification.

Enough people in duplicating areas we need to apply what we already now and have.

Training in social science.

Outsource the requirement you get more accepted result by using a 3rd party.

Better training for current staff and more guidance.

Funding to provide for more research opportunity.

It would just take a change in emphasis from production.

Training

Education in presenting the need for the social economics.

Obtain training.

Training

Training.

Expand the sources.

A website that would link to reports that would link to social science, as well as training.

Training personnel to know how to use it the data. Need to be trained in leadership roles to run the meetings.

Get management to understand the need for it.

Contracting. Identify key needs. Outreach programs with target population.

Educating of how to make use of the information. Enable our folks to find the information.

More training so staff can better understand the uses of social science in their particular programs.

Partnership and internships with community, educational, professional organization.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

I would think make better use of contracts and what's available in the public sector

Requires use of studies. Need to get info from outside sources like universities, if they have a specific thing, they may have funding for contractor or social science studies

Use it as a tool to gather community information, the need for more information.

I would probably get those folks more educated in the engineering program, its importance to what they do and how it fundamentally works, so they can use it as a tool more effectively.

We could contract it out. Or use the internet to research some things.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Enhance social science research, use of employee training.

Information bulletin, pamphlets, what it's doing etc.

Cognate of social needs, make it a priority.

Lobby to make it a higher priority, although I am not sure that would do much good.

More educational opportunities, on how to be more effective.

Training

Put policies in place to ensure that a certain amount of those impacts are certain to be implemented. Make sure that at least three or four out of ten impacts must be acted on.

We're just so busy trying to do our basic job. Social science is great, but often times it is marginalized because we have so many critical things biting at our heels. We don't have the staffing or funding, so it's tough to look at all these peripheral.

A greater awareness among managers on how this could be used in helping to make their decisions.

Participate in the development in criteria's used to develop the program. Whatever is needed.

BLM leverages to all its partnerships.

Become more familiar with available information.

Having someone with those skills to help firefighters change their attitude. Enable us to motivate employees in a safe manner.

A program of awareness, making the other staff members aware of social and economic information, giving them clear examples of how it affects their programs.

Develop handbooks.

We have agreements with the universities already. They're out doing surveys at trailheads and campgrounds to document users' opinions and such.

Contracting out.

It doesn't need to be enhanced.

Contracting

Some sort of awareness program. We need to maybe work with the management to get an appreciation of social science conveyed to all staff. Social science information needs to be kept in the forefront when decisions are being made.

Provided more money for modeling.

The best thing would be having some sort of national contract through Department of the Interior or BLM headquarters that would allow our office to piggyback on a national contract and deal with social science contractors instead of each office trying to go.

Place you could go for information related to social economics per field.

Training, in this area.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

I wouldn't, not part of my responsibility.

I think that the folks in the agency need to better understand what types of social and economic information is needed, and need to understand the process. It just goes both ways. Right now, both are talking past each other.

If you change a piece of a land use plan, what does that do to the well-being of the economy and how do we quantify that?

I would like to have contractors available to us who have access to previous surveys so that they can identify trends for community and public values.

Make sure it's used in all the NEPA processes to a greater or lesser degree. make sure all of the questions are fully answered.

Contract out work may receive information that is not useful, economists working in the field.

Place a greater influence on it.

Work with the university systems.

Training in the area. Information from internet sources or community groups and community leadership forms.

Provide more information to those who need it.

Providing training to existing staff, focusing on specific plans, and assisting with tasks like visitor counting and predictions of behavior.

Make that information available in a usable and understandable format for managers, whether it's a virtual library or training on how to do tasks to show how it is used in decision-making.

More work shops throughout the RMPs

Training, show success stories.

I would train more people. Work force management.

Train people on how to apply social science information.

Give it some funding.

Opportunity to partner with the University that can provide the information. There is just no funding for that.

The Washington office needs to offer better guidance.

More use of contracting for these types of research areas.

Training, economic courses & social science Human to understanding the dynamics of groups, should we be doing surveys & how should w conduct these.

Bring elements of marketing and public opinion research.

Education

Get training classes for employees.

Conduct an awareness program for all employees so they can see how social science could be useful to their program.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Partnerships with state offices and universities.

By making the information more available to the staff. Maybe internet online to get the information.

Training of current employees, relaying the importance of it and the fact that even though you are not schooled in the social sciences, you could still go out and find the information.

Education and training.

Funding

There might be a need for additional training so that social scientists can connect specifically with the job related to it. There might be some fine tuning.

Management, to listen to the social scientists, and converse with the social scientists.

Getting information out to the public,

Analyze it better and gather more information.

Training

We need more staff. Better coordination with our interagency library. It relocated far away from us, so we can't communicate as well.

Familiarize the people with the geographic areas and take classes.

Contract out.

Training in methods and letting people know what is available.

Contracting

Make the rest of the BLM aware of the social science research.

More information to make booklets available

Maybe solicit for volunteers. Look at the actual work products that we're trying to reach. We could gain better help.

More awareness and value of social science and have mangers be more helpful and knowledgeable

Through better training and interaction with native cultures.

Contracting

Training

That's because we have little staff in that area.

Being able to utilize training resources and do more work out in the field.

Make it easily accessible through the internet or brochures or by offering classes.

Money/funding.

A lot of it has to do with awareness, need to heighten that level.

Work on good data system.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Increase awareness of staff of BLM objectives and responsibilities.

Hire new people to use them in land use planning.

Contracting data collecting out to contractors.

Increase budgets for contracts and studies.

Increase involvement with university agreements.

Sway the managers' opinions of social science and more or less show the importance of it. We tap into it quite a bit, but there is more we can do. More funding, it's a good resource. Because of the way the government operates, we don't have the funding.

Utilizing contractors and universities.

Try to use online reports and sources to get a feel of how things look. Also to have an outside contractor we could utilize.

Outsource it.

Contracting for expertise.

Contracting research and new studies.

Contracting

Make use of contractors and information that is already available.

We need to schedule more scoping meetings, otherwise we're operating in a vacuum.

I guess, I would rather see contracting rather than staffing at the planning level.

Through NEPA training, because people do not generally understand Socioeconomic information as it pertains to our needs.

In BLM we get to utilize universities' expertise through the Cooperative Ecosystems Study Units. They're located throughout the country and BLM can use any of them. The cooperative agreement gives us easy access to scientists.

Management awareness to what social science is and how it can be use.

Want to make sure that new staff has great education and training, making sure GIS is multidisciplinary, and training for people to gather info. Want a understanding of the work force to understand values.

Training, awareness.

Funding.

Demonstrate to people how it can be done in planning

Better use of the info that we have, sharing info, swat team approach to using the info in fire incidents.

Getting the knowledge out to the public about our program and what we do with the lands.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

There isn't enough research done for managers to start to write the plans. Scoping is one method of social science gathering but I don't think that it is an entailed but it is the most used, having other methods of collected inform of social science.

Education institutions more involved in SS, addresses the needs of each office level.

We'd have to hire contractors.

Contracting

Contracts, training, use of stakeholders from the community that may have an acknowledge role in the area.

Commit on studies and present results to the public.

Training

Contracting with existing firms.

Incorporate consideration into planning and everyday duties.

Partial complete.

Work with local government to identify needs in community.

Make available different types of training. Different toolboxes.

It would be helpful to have a reference book with standardized data we could all use.

Training on the use of research.

Make sure people working on environmental plans were aware of the need for social science research.

Get universities to help out more. Offer grants to conduct the research.

Better understanding of sources of contracting.

Training

Make sure that managers keep that in the forefront when they're making decisions.

Tap into staff we already have. Many offices do not realize they have qualified social scientists already hired.

Training. Contracting or partnerships with universities.

More GIS application.

Educate and train our employees about it.

See if I could get more funding into the project.

Develop policy and procedure for bureau wide dissemination.

Have management understand the implication of decisions.

Contracting outside sources. We don't need any more websites or newsletters to read. Somebody from outside needs to gather this data.

The thing we're trying to do more of is contract with universities.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Contracting

Create an electronic library indexed by categories relevant to our programs to make it easily accessible.

Addition training with existing staff for specific positions.

Contracting

Incorporate into planning stages.

Budgets and training.

Contracting outside the agency.

Training in data in spatial modeling and analysis.

Do more public outreach.

More money.

Increase funding.

Training

Contract everything out.

More of actual surveying info with local community and land owners.

Educate employees.

I would say course work and a college requirement in cross training.

Getting the word out about what is available.

Training and making everyone take a course in social science and human values.

Use it in smaller documents instead of primarily large documents.

We can always use more data from tribal communities and that requires that we do more consultation and work with them to obtain that data. The faster and quicker we do that, the better the result, because some of that data is continue in oral tradition.

Social scientist need to come and do a presentation of what social science can do for the BLM program areas

Figure out a way to use it in the scoping meetings.

Training.

Research on current information that is already out there about social science.

Research, publish what source of information are currently available.

Increase the utilization of contractors.

Cross training of employees, where they can get the info and how to use it.

Funding

Get funding for contracting.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

More on-the-ground contact with individuals throughout the community.

Educating people more, the employees as well as the public.

Public meetings.

Nothing!

Training

Training

Research, having updated information on business.

Trying to focus on it more and put priority on dealing with the public and educated the public, stepping back and looking at SS as a whole and working with the public. Managing the WUI zones, and just learning more about it and how to use it.

Have the new people know what is out there to help them do their job.

Train management in the useful of social science,

Training

Training

Existing mechanisms and recreate them, easy to use for people to use.

I think increasing the awareness of the importance of it to line managers who are not up on it.

Conduct more public meetings.

Increase training programs.

Allow the employees to become more involved with researchers in their field.

Provide more objective economic analysis, as far as what the decisions mean.

Training

Funding to allow for more staff.

I would have employees be more informed.

Promote the use of social science information.

Upgrading equipment.

I would find more effective ways to consult w/ Indian tribes and the interested public. For larger planning efforts RMPs, experimenting w/ a broader base for responses--seeking information systematically.

The use of experience of professional and academic sources.

I would contract and have agreements with universities to have private sectors and partners. Ideally, that's what we could do. Finding partners to work w/ that have the ability

If it was readily available and easier to use, social science would be used more.

Go to research organization. BLM should not be doing it.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Need staff to do the jobs.

Training of employees.

I would try to figure out some way to specially relate the non-existent social information so we can see where to focus our attention.

Education

Try to obtain better funding.

Continue to contract.

Ensure that employees are educated in the latest technologies and have a clear idea how to integrate social science into daily activity.

Cooperative things that help universities do research and get information we can use. I don't think it should be contracted out. Training within the agency to have a better grasp on methods.

Provide tools to quantify data; take it out of the narrative state and make it concrete.

Use it; get involved in social science. We don't have very many people that use the information.

Training, so that the staffing understands the use of social science in our disciplinary team, to find significance in social science.

I think we lack training. We're emerging in the sense of understanding the value of social science, but we lack the skill and expertise.

Contracts and consultants.

Having good program standards and goals. Having standardized requirements, including social economics and plans.

Use of contractors was very affective.

Sit down with the person who does the work and learn more about it.

Make sure as many employees are aware of what data is available or can be obtained

Wanting to add value to the communities. Education!

Have contracting available, utilize the sources to increase the understanding how they affect the program to make better choices.

Look at the data that is out and then incorporate that information into your decision making.

Make use of more electronic information. If it isn't available, we should work with state and county government to make it more accessible.

Contracting

We are maxed out on training.

Nothing, it is just an issue of staffing and expertise.

Spend a whole bunch of money.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Approved training on existing staff and contracting on social services on a case by case basis.

Training, doing more things on a small level.

Other than increasing staffing, there is nothing unless they buy analysis rather than data. In that case they need to be careful about that.

Use universities.

Training of current staff and better guidance in handbooks.

Full list of sources for everyone.

Work with economic groups and universities and economic specialist needed.

Additional guidance.

Training, I don't have any one with social science or economics training that could fill the need.

Directly fund more research.

It all boils down to new staffing, finding specialists. I don't have any recommendations beyond that.

The utilization of known and dependable sources, such as a university that's accepted by the BLM and the city.

Host trainings, district distribute, research findings.

Integrate with GIS; better use of GIS.

Become more aware of what is available, websites, getting the actual data to us.

The criteria in the things you're doing.

Add social and economic planning requirements.

Contracting

Contracting

Demonstrate results to help sell the program.

It would have to be stressed by management.

One of the biggest challenges that people talk about with BLM is going to be a turnover of employees in the next several years. Both management and employees could use some help.

Specific training in that area.

Make sure it's thoroughly analyzed in NEPA documents. Sometimes NEPA documents are weak, which might be due to inexperience among the people we contract with.

Better training and more adequate management.

I would think that more scoping meetings need to be done at the state level. I'm not sure how the state level communicates with the average person. Give them the ability to protest.

I would try to use contractors more effectively and partner with different educational schools through the university.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = State.**

Train the staff we already have.

More outreach. We've got to attack it from more of a social science outlook.

If the public had a clear understanding of what we're trying to do, instead of just running on emotion.

Further outreach to the management.

Use better survey methods to get a better cross-section of the interested public, their beliefs, values, etc.

Increase the understanding of social science as a resource to federal agencies, close the gap between resource & social science, leadership buy in.

Using the information that is available from other agencies including the forest and recreation. The value of public land to recreation.

Better coordination between all entities.

We need to use the data to better define our objectives and direction in which we are heading.

Use the most modern techniques available.

Generally increase the awareness of socioeconomic things being impacted by management decisions.

Promote more direct link to university research; could be well facilitated.

Educate management.

Contracting, probably through a university. If you do contracting you have to manage the contact, and you need someone to look at it and know what they're doing, so it's a vicious circle.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Fire all the managers, develop a lot of e-learning and resources for all areas, planning for manager Social science needs to be a big part of this.

Gear towards more funds to hire university people rather than private contractors.

In-house training.

Training, look at policy process.

Polls or surveys of the people.

Contract or keep stealing information from credible sources like universities.

The continued support. Management discussions need to emphasize the importance of collecting social science, doing the outreach work, and allowing more flexible data collection.

Try to raise the level of understandings of managers, so they can make better decisions.

Training of old staff.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Include more guidance in planning manuals.

Try to work through universities to get more of it done, since we don't have a budget to hire consultants.

More training to let the field managers know what all is available. Education for management.

Require sometime of training for supervisor and managers.

Funding, training especially with managers.

Establish the strong link to universities and other resource sources through the world wide web, use internet sourcing

Manage the work load of existing staff to allow them time for effective communication with user groups.

Training on the use of social science information, developing guidance, having community more directly involved in planning and community activities.

Staffing is the most critical way to enhance the use of social science.

Education about social science resource.

Dissemination of what's even available in terms of what information is even available here at the BLM would be very useful to know.

Contract dollars give you access to people who are in touch with their field.

We need to identify current staff. Get a little background of these people, and then everyone would know who to get hold of to get specific information, have them available to share expertise in other programs.

Issuing policy or guidance to the field offices on how to use that information and incorporate it into their decision-making processes.

Information needs to be available and the priorities need to be put in place, it would get used more if these things happened.

Training and education.

We use the Sonoran Institute, which helps. Building on those kinds of partnerships and relationships will help. I would do that over staffing because we get in a bind when we overstaff.

Funding is always an issue. BLM has such a huge range of mandates. I would try to define what we really need to know and make sure the work is getting done to find out. It's just competing priorities.

Some training conducted in my program for all of my field counterparts.

Establishing additional partnerships.

Use universities, unit information online for office use.

Work with more students and encourage them to do some research on the public lands.

Training the staff we have already and placing a higher priority on social science.

Hiring contractors and universities to do the work.

More awareness.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Availability of guidance and data.

Include university research.

Training for existing staff.

Training, awareness, understanding what sources can give you what kind of information.

Better communication of research findings.

It's important that we understand what's available and how to get it.

Direction from headquarters in the form of an Information Bulletin.

Make sure all the staff is aware of the research and the results.

Education

Without new staffing there's no sense. Without people who know something about it, there's no sense in it.

Place a higher priority on implementing public needs, desires, and interests.

Training in social science in all areas of the BLM and funding to support this.

Improved training.

Integrate training classes.

Set priorities by things that have larger impacts rather than ones that make the head lines.

Education

Training so managers see the value of social science they're doing as plans.

University help.

Use research not just to hire new people in but also to help development, so I would know how to accommodate the new people coming on board, marketing material and reaching out, looking at data to adjust the way things get done.

That's where a survey would come in.

Give managers more idea as to what social sciences do.

Getting knowledge out, more awareness of what research is out there

Cooperator collaboration.

Not use it.

Hire someone in the field.

Doing more research on social science and from public.

Training for individual programs.

Implementation in our daily activities.

Less as popularity contest ; more as effective cost benefit tool.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Education and seminars.

Some training on what it is and how we could benefit from it, especially those of us in the natural sciences like botany.

Issuing data calls, if we would target a regular calendar when things are due so field knows what to expect then we will do a better job of what is delegated to us.

I want the leaders and managers to make an effort in promoting its value, leaders need to make it a priority.

Modify policy to emphasize this aspect.

More customer surveys more face time with the public. Tell the public what we are doing and why the government wants us to do what we are doing.

Increased training and other information such as program guidance that incorporates NEPA documents.

Use the info, try to manage for that type of outcome, change how you're managing a particular resource.

Training opportunities, and more time in the field

Better training.

Getting public opinions.

We need to make sure there's greater participation in responding to those types of needs among our constituents. We may not be reaching the people that are really out there, especially from a recreational sense.

Elevate its importance.

Education awareness that the information is out there, how to use it in our programs.

Embark on a effort to enlist support of manager and supervisors to raise their understandings of SSR data and how they can use this research.

Transfer of research from universities and research agencies. The transfer could be enhanced.

I don't think the agency needs to be doing social science.

I would make it known. Training people in the various means we have. Letting people know what we have, exposure and training.

Education

Additional training.

Training

More information to the public.

It's all about training. We would provide training on the use and analysis of social science.

Use more contracting.

Keep staff up to date on information.

Offer training opportunities and some field trips to areas to speak with universities. Oversight visits to areas to talk with local and training.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Start making programs aware of social science in the area.

More community involvement, again with the native side of things. We use them to a degree. For us it's an ESS thing, that's the only interaction with them. They have a lot of qualified people we could tap into.

Redirecting staff priorities, making it a functional emphasis. It's now an afterthought, we should redirect it to be a priority/emphasis.

Additional training.

A consolidated website with the best available bookmarks where some of that information can be found without having to search for sources individually.

Have people come and talk to us, more telecasts or information, but not during fire season.

University partnerships made easier.

Broader understanding of how social sciences have made contributions in land management in state agencies or possibly other countries. Basically, an education on the potential of positive contributions made. Especially changes in currently how we do bus.

Take advantage of the new information technology out there, but the other part of the answer is knowledge management, the ability to make available the knowledge that has occurred through all the people working here in the past and current.

Collect the data that is already at hand.

Increase the focus on its existence and what is available and implement it in land use issues.

Contracts

Reemphasize the use of Social Science in all programs, also list the types of Social Science search sources. The handbook doesn't identify the areas of Social Science

Increase its profile within the Resource Management Projects so it became a more important piece of the RMPs.

Trying to partner with other organization to get the info and share info with any other agency university, community groups etc.

Further education of current employees.

Additional research available that is relevant to fire management.

Pay attention to information that is gathered and used in your work place.

Our direction is poorly developed and formed at the national level down through the project level. I don't think the direction is very clear.

Internal communication and discussion of what value sociology and economics can add to the BLM, sociology could add to how others view the BLM.

Make more funding and resources available.

Do more research.

I would probably seek it out to the people that are already here.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Improve the utility of grants in government so that it is easier for social science organizations or universities to access our contracts or grants.

Better education and training.

If people doing the research could spend more time learning from what the people doing the plans are needing from the research.

More formal training.

Sharing information.

Educating current staff and offering combined information for each program.

More contracting.

Improve partnerships with researchers, friends, and supporters, local interest groups. Better job on scoping outside of land use planning process, develop grant program encourage focused baseline science.

If management made it a priority it would happen.

Apply it to all of public affairs.

Better guidelines and best practices.

Demonstrate example of successful collaboration with public.

The availability of it.

Contract for more experience.

Making sure the available social science information is adequate. If it's not, we need to make sure it is made that way.

Encourage through contracting. Budget appropriations.

Training for current employees.

Break down cultural barriers to training and look for trends within the agency in regards to training in and use of social science.

More funding.

Amplify upon its importance in our current handbooks and manuals and require economics to be part of our decision matrix.

Devise more training for this area.

More demographic information prior to going down half on decision making.

Training

Suggest to mid-level managers they take a look at human factors.

Use it to inform decisions, and potentially change fire management and the structure of how we make decisions.

Training, provide web based training opportunities.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Keep training options open.

More cross-training.

Increase funding.

Reseat priorities in the current staffing.

Better ways of doing analysis, better ways of prioritizing work for projects.

Hire a qualified contractor.

Education

Make the data and the info related to resource more readily available to planners and designers.

Look at our marching order, rules, regulations, and guidelines in regard to the use of social science.

Provide training, in social science.

Change policy to be sure it is incorporated in to the decision process.

More objective analysis of that data.

More information and more research that is taken in the area. Give it to the current base management

Making it a higher priority.

Training and building awareness among resource management people and stakeholders.

Train land-use planners in how to review contractors' work. I assume contractors will be doing this work.

Increase the skill level of current staff.

Have ad-hoc membership by key community folks by city council, mayor, local environmental groups. Have them on the interdisciplinary team. Have them be part of the solution. The sooner they are involved, the better.

Build survey skills among the current staff.

Better define objectives at a local level. Have a greater commitment to local issues or field offices with less focus on larger politic issues.

You'd have to increase awareness among the managers and the staff who are in direct contact with the public.

Distribute the findings of social science projects that relate to wilderness.

Education on what it is and how to use it.

Better information; more thorough.

Continue trying to incorporate it into what we do.

Training

Better communication with us and the public.

More funding.

Guidance and policies in terms of insuring public involvement and how that can be done.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Educate employees about its significance and potential.

Increase priority level.

With lack of staffing, trying to combine with other companies like forest service, and figure out what are needs are and then come together and use our combined resources.

Literature search international on the values of other countries on how it has affected them. Learning what they are doing and what works for them. Have a better policy direction from the national office for the RMPs.

University grants and partnerships and contract evaluations.

Contracting

Contract work developing the correct questions.

Web based training.

Make the information more available in the internet.

Additional manuals, places we could get information easier.

RMP and EST leaders become more educated on social and economic issues and more tools for analysis.

More relevance to it.

Contracting out studies.

Develop leaders better.

Training

Find out what social science is.

Increase awareness through some specific training, regarding social economic and impacts. Send current employees to take classes.

More can be done trying to engage the management teams. Day long, hands-on interactive discussion by contractor or national office to talk about what it means for ongoing issues, cross pollinating states.

Demonstrate its relevance.

Publishing articles.

Community workshops, public outreach such as booths at local events.

More training and better information transfer to offices.

More duties under current staff.

More coordination from the state level to the district level.

I would start with a thorough involvement of key staff members and administration and let them know what the issue is and bring it to the forefront. A lot of times, programs like these get buried, even though it's one of the important ones.

Focus someone's duties toward working on surveys and polling the groups I just mentioned.

Q23. What would you do to enhance the use of social science research other than by new staffing? **Strata = National.**

Tools & resources in a easy format.

Train staff.

Training, passing information on so that many can utilize it.

Collective sources to deal with the same problems, training to deal with issues.

Training

More training and more awareness of Social science.

Public outreach programs and partnerships.

Better determine needs for different areas.

More funding to conduct more social science activities and contract out.

Course work in SS research, and cultural anthropology.

Unite social science information in one place to be accessed.

Seeing what the different universities in the area have been doing with these resources.

Putting the right amount of people on assignments in a given area.

Conflict resolution.

Training present staff.

I would give people who are interested in it training and further education.

Make results of surveys and census data more readily available. I have no idea what has been done.

Question 28: Additional Comments

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

We need more social science, it needs to be consistent, a regular program, well funded, more personnel.

Social Science is lacking and needed.

Social Science is a field that has been over looked.

I think there's certainly a need for social science, it is one of our weak links. We assume what social science is, but we need assistance.

Social Science would be very valuable.

We desperately need more staff. The problem is we don't have anybody to conduct social science in our office.

We need help getting information to tackle the task at hand at the field office level.

Fund fire programs.

I am frustrated by lack of social science.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

Management and supervisors need to understand the importance of gathering this information and the importance of benefits based management.

The more information, the better we can manage public lands.

I think social science it is an important part of the planning process, but that is it.

I think there is a need for Social Science.

We need more information and analysis.

I think we need more social science data, we struggle with it because we cannot ask people financial questions, and thus we have to estimate.

I feel social science data is vital, and plays important a part. Human resources and behavior should be a part of management decisions.

Social science in underused over the whole government

We need more social science, because we don't know what to do with what we've got. Our planning and authorization programs need to look at social science more. I don't know what resources to use to obtain social science information.

Biggest concern for the BLM is social science.

We need more social economic closer to the field level.

BLM needs to put a lot more emphasis in social economic information and need more data, we've lost sociologists and economists, paying more attention to social science would be helpful.

The needs of having someone mind the store, having an economist and social scientist available to promote the programs, and for consultation and questions.

There are important elements in NEAP documents.

The need is great, when going into plan revision need to know what the users are doing and what they would like to see pertaining to recreation.

I am glad social science is getting some attention it has been an underused resource.

Social Science is a very important component, communication is the key.

I think there needs to be a continuing priority to use and keep SS as a necessity for all programs within the BLM.

Social Science should be part of the picture, we should really use social science resources.

Social Science needs attention in creating some of the grid lock in our planning and output, because we don't collaborate enough, and need to over look some social and economic things.

Make social science data a priority to be incorporated into all management documents and actions. (And to be available to us).

In our scoping and in our public meetings we are getting asked more and more about social and economic analysis so we are on the right track for finding this information.

Social Science is needed urgently.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

Social Science is needed because most things are based on perceptions rather than actual data.

It's necessary and useful. I don't think we'd need a full-time specialist to do an analysis that came in the front door, but it's useful for understanding trends. On bigger projects you could get tailored studies.

We need it for recruitment and retainment purposes internally, and we need more for balanced decision-making with land management. Caveat on that, that's not necessarily possible given the energy policy in the country at this time.

He felt that this survey was so skewed towards promoting more social science that he refused to continue with the survey.

In the field office a Social Scientist wouldn't have enough to do and they need other aspects in their office other than a social scientist.

Our area does not have Social Sciences, and we do not use that data we mostly just have opinions.

I don't care for Social science research, it is over analyzed, It is not the end all of research. I don't feel I had enough knowledge to answer the questions very well, but did it.

BLM currently doesn't use social science, poor sources and few social scientists.

I have not seen its use except in cases where there was conflict. Perhaps it would be wise to expand that use into areas where there isn't conflicts. Managers wait until people start screaming. Q6-7, we don't identify or analyze data for the sake of do.

I don't use social science because that's not how my position is structured.

I know social science is important. But it just isn't seen in my area.

I've never had a social science data set cross my desk.

The answers cannot be this cut and dry, there is a lot of overlap for many of the answers.

This over the phone interviewing process is cumbersome, he would rather have it emailed to him so he could read and look at the questions.

To expect one answer from the first question is unreasonable--we use all of them. For a phone interview, the content of the survey is lengthy and difficult to understand. There should be a way to design the questions so there isn't so much being asked.

Thinks that this survey is confusing and that it would better as an email or paper survey that he could read himself.

The questions were phrased strangely and were hard to think about over the telephone.

The questions implied connections that are made in some of the questions are not indicative of day to day work at the BLM.

One portion that was lacking that was lacking was human resources. We live in an expensive area, and human resources do not understand this, wages are too low for expensive area. We don't get any aid from them, and it is hard to maintain qualified people.

Question 1 all but the surveys are pretty much equally used. This survey should be written or emailed so the quality of the open ended answers could be better.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

I think the survey was done very well.

More tools at the field office to conduct more social science research. This was a great survey!

A mailed in survey would have been better.

The interview is difficult as biologist.

Elaborate more on the questions of the survey, some of them are confusing.

The questions didn't really address my concerns.

The survey should be done for a higher level...He didn't know what we were talking about even though he worked for the BLM for 30 years.

I needed the opportunity to checking more than one answer for some questions, and the questions need to be clarified/defined.

Difficult to answer questions, I needed more time to look at the questions in advance.

The questions are leading you to answer in ways that aren't going to be meaningful. We serve the public and that is important. But, we serve all of the public not just the ones we hear from. We need to recognize this.

There is a lot more to social science than surveys, need to get out with people and track down the people with issues, educate people about how the system works.

It is important that our management reflect the needs of the public. It is important to identify common ground. It is important to manage ORV use its damages some of our lands, should be allowed on lands where it will do the least damage.

We need better understanding of user groups and be proactive in understanding impacts of our actions.

Just as a proud member of the BLM, we need to focus on as time changes, people have different needs. We need to utilize the public's skills, knowledge, and experience to become a better management. We must change with the times.

We meet the requirements, regarding social science.

Hopefully this survey will help us deal with the communities we're in contact with.

We need to do a better job educating the public. The public is only interested if they are affected.

Social Science data is not always available.

Recreation already makes really good use of social science information. That's a big program here in the desert.

I don't think so, just that more training is needed. We always have to contract out because we do not have the experience in the area. If we could do it in house some day that would be great.

We have a hard time finding the time or staffing to conduct social science.

Social science is not a very high priority.

It would be nice if there was someone at a district or state level that could assist those of us who have no experience with it.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

Our weakness is NEPA data, the socio-economic information, data is not available. We have no contracts because we have no money to collect the data needed.

There needs to be more specific training in the Department of Interior, maybe in adjudication. They don't teach people to analyze. The agency's at least in the eastern states is lax, and it could help to make a requirement in the job description for a c

We're not typical, everything else I'm pretty comfortable with. For that reason we rarely get involved with things, we go to our surface management agency for our social science information.

We would need a little more guidance as to what they would expect and also the expertise available to us. You must have sources.

We make a stab at using social science, but the data quality is not like it should be.

It will be a long time before we get around to looking at analyses that will benefit the local community. It benefits the ranchers, but not the locals. Users of the land are hunters, so it will be a ways down the line until we start acknowledging this.

Unpopular programs don't get the information they need, analyzing the impacts on the communities is most important.

More emphasis put on BLM with new grazing regulations and we need to get more information through training.

Provide each field standard detailed economic information and provide updates when available.

Management's focus on getting the product out, whatever it is, the completeness of the analysis is however not a consideration.

Question 1) It honestly just depends on the issue. Planning is less formal, but permits/authorizing can be both informal and scoping.

We need better guidance to provide ample access to sportsmen's groups. They are being locked out of the western states, and they're the biggest conservationists. Our positions are filled with people who are trained to manage resources, not people.

Need to get more information so we know what is out there, better communications.

It's being used, but I'm not sure how much. It seems like the bigger voices get more attention than the little voices do.

Don't make current staff learn a new discipline, we need to hire people with the expertise, and someone needs to oversee contractors.

One of the big constraints is limited staffing, and a second is recruitment difficulty.

Research is dependent on projects and managers.

Social Science is inadequately met overall.

BLM employees should get more info on economic factors of the community they are dealing with, need to get to know the people and their values.

It takes 1.5 years to get questions ok'd to ask in surveys. Don't make the contracting process so hard.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

With severe budget cuts and lack of employees it's hard to gather Social Science data..

It would be good for managers to have training in this area yearly.

I would like to see more information available, rather than having to dig for it, make it more accessible to help our planning.

Better information/data.

We need more money and people! We are squeezed and then can't do everything very well.

Social science is tied directly to the various resource program areas that BLM deals with on a day to day basis, resource specialist spend more time on the ground compared to offices to deal with on the ground issues to help managers solve issues.

Generational informational needs.

The BLM does a fair job of trying to figure out how people perceive the plans we are putting together, public comment is always a priority.

Time for changes , we are rewriting our RMP's which are very focused, and some programs are being ignored, and I think there should be very strong social science information.

What we need is more interaction and advice and the tools down to the field level, and the visibility of it, through the state and Washington office.

Keep them separate; don't confuse social economics with just an economic analysis.

We are so rushed with all of our projects, it is hard to have the time to include this type of information.

Without tools and help there is no way to get this information.

We send out scoping letters.

My answers are based on the idea that we use whatever data we use is available to us...we never have enough actual data. Generally, the data we have is out of date or applied to more of a regional scale unless land use planning is underway.

We need to have the information available to us, that way we can apply it, since we don't have enough time to research, this will help provide a better understanding to the public of what we are planning and why we are planning and how it would change.

People in the field office are told to do scoping, which they do. We stick our necks out to do what we need to, but we get our marching orders from the state or Washington office, which are far removed from the community. They often do not take the inform

Concerns for Social Science is the ability to get out to the public what we want to do within our plans, they get too much propaganda and they don't know what is going on with the plans, we can't connect with the public.

Look at the smaller details of projects what they do instead of the big picture. We go through a lot to put in a culvert, yet they can breach a dam without looking at the repercussions.

Project implementation data is addressed by a particular group and not individuals so that question does not pertain to everyone, rather just those in project implementation groups.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

I would prefer not to be trained in social science.

We need a source where the social science data is already collected.

People don't have enough training in statistical background to understand that standards or guidelines are not facts. People have to recognize them for the generalities that they are. They're accurate at the national level, but at state or district.

We're trying to avoid getting killed in court for not analyzing things adequately. We're supposed to make sure we do a good job of scoping. In our implementation decision we're pretty weak at using social science.

A lot of problems in fire management is lack of public understanding of wild land fire use.

We need a base line study of public's perception of the BLM and how the public's view BLM and how they believe the BLM views them.

One of the bigger reasons we don't have that information in our hands is because we are reactive. Let's be proactive. The economy we don't have any control over.

The BLM needs to take a look at the impacts of the employees in relation to private industry.

Decisions makers need to take socio economics seriously, the BLM is reactive not proactive & they let the chips fall as they may. You cannot mitigate when you change a ranch into an oil field. Communities are not ready for these changes and management.

The BLM needs to take a hard look of the role that politics play in the use of social science and the information that we receive, no matter what type of study is for.

xxxxx just got our first social scientist. We're behind the curve; stuck in the stone age.

I would be very interested in a copy of the results.

Currently volunteer Status.

Don't knows? Are NA at the district level.

I wish that the budget and positions were not being cut because it makes it hard to do our jobs, when they are doing someone else's jobs as well as their own.

I'm in San Bernardino. We work in an interagency office with the Forest Service, so I don't work in a field or district or state office, and certainly not a national center.

I have only worked for the BLM for several months.

We do not pay for lip service, cost benefits nor do we share with the public.

If you have private parties trying to fight a fire, we're potentially liable and it hinders what we do. We have a program too that's education and mitigation. We go out and do those fire prevention programs and things.

We are doing a decent job with a difficult subject.

Very interested in the results.

I don't work in main stream BLM activities.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

I have only worked for the BLM for 5 months and make maps so don't see the whole picture so was not able to comment on this survey very well.

We don't have a social scientist in the building. I'm signed up to take a socio-economics class.

Question1: Could not answer because his office usually uses both informal and formal for a single project, and uses both equally.

It was difficult to answer these questions from an economic position, as I don't have much background in it.

I have just been here for 4 months.

Need more foresters.

I am very limited experience in using social science.

She has worked for 4 months but has worked summers.

Some of our managers have their minds made up before they look at the data.

It's something we should explore.

The social science w/in the BLM is an afterthought. I think that this should probably change, but I think that one of the answers is to allow the staffs at the various offices have surveys not be such a formal process.

It's not that social science is unimportant, we just don't do it.

BLM lacking in social science information

Social science is neglected by the agency in general, and it should be more of a factor in land-use decisions than it is now. NEPA tried to put it in place, but we still largely ignore.

Not many in the office have a clue of how to use the techniques and really know what it is, It would be helpful to introduce it.

We recognize a need but cannot fulfill this at the field office.

We need to do a better job in using social science.

Inability to get data, better guidance in handbook, online help.

Small offices need help in understanding data.

Social science is important, but we don't do it very often. I don't know how to make use of the data.

In my opinion, BLM recreation planners don't have enough time to collect social and economic data themselves. The priority should be to give them a social science foundation so that they can communicate w/ the contractor at a moderate level of understanding.

BLM could do a better job at pointing us to resources dealing with social science and giving us better access to that information.

Raise the awareness of Social Science, research & data, need more training in this area.

Social Science doesn't seem to be a priority. Used at the national level in recreation management but we don't see it much at all.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = Below State.**

Social science and data collection would be helpful. Complication in doing this is funding, distances from units and colleges, and not recognizing the benefit of educational resources.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = State.**

Looking at the economics and social science of an area is very important, in the past we have not done such a good job.

BLM needs to use social science information more often, and we need to educate the public.

I think this area of analysis (social science) is becoming more important to people, we need to getting in touch with the people in the area.

We need it.

It's all good information, we use social science to some level. However, it is more important in some programs than in others. The engineering program is not geared to using the discussed social science information. It's not as meaningful to us as it i

Social Science is an important factor in how we do things.

It is very important the BLM get data and use it in land use planning and NEPA analysis.

Social science needs to be a focus in projects.

Important to have basic information about what it is and how it will help each agency.

Just need it, as the populations increase it is critical.

I would say that there is a large need for more of it, for higher quality of it, and integrating it into the planning process.

On the whole I am not sure how RPM's should be addressed on certain levels but feel it is very important.

Social Science has not been given as much recognition or importance that it clearly needs. BLM is on the urban fringe of urban communities.

It's a much needed thing. It would do the BLM great service to hire more social science employees. They may outsource them every once in a while. They need more social science people in those jobs.

In our field, fire and aviation and fuels management, we really need to tap into social science research for strategic planning and future decision-making. Figure out what we're going to do, where, and how we're going to do it.

I would like them to see them do more of it.

This survey does not apply to civil engineer in xxxxx.

We do not use social science in my office.

Make sure you talk to the right people for the information you need.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = State.**

I don't know how I got picked for this survey. I don't work in this area, I'm out of my depth and I hope I haven't twisted the survey.

The only thing is that it does not really pertain to my job.

I would have liked this survey in email form.

She said "Not sure Alaska applies to this survey"

This should be an email survey, most of these questions need time to think and it would be better to be able to look at the choices instead of them being read aloud.

This research survey is a good step which will benefit the BLM to developing programs.

The BLM utilizes this information much more than this surveys displays.

This survey is difficult over the phone.

A paper survey would be easier!

The survey would be better writing format, we could have made more thoughtful responses if it was in writing.

QC2. Need to have another category Public understanding about fire.

Q12 not framed right, trends. Academic trends for contractors are unreasonable or unnecessary and are not matched by any other program in the BLM. In Q12, which trends are they talking about?

Adhere to GRAD outcome focused benefits to society, rather than an activity based approach that is currently used now.

We're really just now starting to incorporate social science into our decision-making process.

The impact that the resource management does to the communities is really under analyzed.

Q1, we use all of the above. Project implementation needs do not require data.

We need political assessments on our customers to see current and future needs.

We need to keep using social science. We look at it in the beginning of a project, but then it seems to take a backseat as time goes on.

We are losing most employees who have been the mainstay for social science the last couple of decades. Is the BLM going to hire enough people to replace them? I feel we need 2 socially orientated people, and 2 economists at the federal level for quality.

Social science becomes more important when it comes to land use plans.

The use of social science has to be well-documented and well-explained to have value. Someone has to delve into it instead of using statistical information, some confirmation of its inferences and conclusions.

The BLM has a very huge impact on the public, we need to listen to the public more, it has become a limelight to incorporate into issues.

The biggest thing we need to do is address the social science information and we are not the saving grace.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = State.**

the planning department uses social science frequently, but it is usually by an outside contractor. You wouldn't see a social scientist in the bureau because most employees have some sort of degree or experience in social science.

I suppose, only that there is recognition that the information can be very valuable. It is frustrating when we ask for the information, we get information that is interesting, but is not useful in the process.

It is hard to make connections between changes we want to make and what the economic change will be. Often the BLM has no choice in what we do, regardless of the social implications.

The biggest barrier is cultural in that they don't understand the value of working with communities to reach a common goal, lack of experiences and success, and tend to approach as if they know what's best.

In some areas social science information needs to be better.

The BLM needs economists in the field and not at the Washington level.

Focus more on the topic at hand and in the lower 48...

I'm impressed with how much social science we use now, compared to when I started here. I am very pleased with the land management in xxxxx and the use of social science.

I don't feel competent to make those comments, my program is pretty narrow. I've only had tangential exposure to BLM management roles.

Wants results of the study.

This survey does not apply to the field that I am in.

I have worked for 31 years & some people don't know who the BLM is.

Question 17, I'd use all of them.

We need more geographers.

xxxxx state has done a project, the xxxxxxxxxx, which gathered useful information for their managers and land use plans.

Really take a look at economics, not so sure about social. Lands need to be leased more often and be in a competitive auction, such as smaller parcels in order to get the best price.

I have limited exposure to social science, from my standpoint as a meteorologist.

Rural people don't want to believe the data that is out there. More professionals on board.

Social science is not unimportant, we just don't use it. It's unavailable.

Managers don't see the importance of it because they don't know what it is, they have very little exposure to it in their education and training.

We are lacking in social science data.

Social science is important, but it's not done.

This is an area that the BLM is lacking. In order to serve the public better they need to place more emphasis on using the social sciences to help the bureau be more in tune with what the public wants.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata = State.**

I don't know if we utilize social science enough. We don't use it in minerals-- we are mandated.

BLM does a poor job of understanding what the public needs are.

This is a program I did not know enough about we need a broad base of education, I have never heard about it. I don't know if we have one at the state level but if we do we are not using it.

I think it would be interesting if they would give training in the field. It would be good training to deal with difficult people.

Somebody needs to explain to everybody why social science is important.

No, I think you've covered it very well.

Everything was covered properly.

Key point is that social science could serve us better if we were responsive to filling the obligation to the American public by finding out what the majority want and not just what those with political influence; legal decisions are not well informed.

We had more capability in the past. We at one point had a sociologist and a economist on our staff and the positions were eliminated. They helped us make smarter and more detailed decisions. I would like to see those positions re-instated.

More funding as we are cut down to bare bones and it's hard to accomplish our mission. Plus, we're stressing people out.

Q1, we do all of them. We're fortunate in having an economist here. In the past we had a social scientist, but with funding that hasn't happened. We need to augment the staff, but it's a funding issue. Making them useful to the field, but there's not

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata=National.**

Believe the BLM needs to factor in Social & economic information on all levels.

We need more social science and it needs to be from outside of the BLM, independent contractor.

It's increasingly important, and it seems that less importance is being put on it, especially in the wake of the domestic energy concerns.

I have always viewed this as a need, and it is a scarce skill.

They should try to increase social science data to help make decisions.

BLM needs to do more with respect to socio-economic analysis. We don't know how to use social science.

Social science is a side that we all generally discount and don't focus enough attention on. We often get really wrapped around the axel worrying about hard sciences. We spend an inordinate amount of time there.

Encourage the BLM to bring Social Science to the equivalent level as other programs.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata=National.**

It's useful and needed, but it's not a high priority. It's good information to have if managers have an incentive to use it.

It is apparent there is a need right now, in & out of the government.

We need to require social science information, I'd like to see it, demographics.

It's something that should be looked at, because we're being sued by people who are unhappy with what we do. We need to have more of the social sciences involved to understand what makes people happy or unhappy.

Social science is useful and hope they are used and put in the mix.

Love to see an increase in information & understanding of Social Science.

Really need to hire more social economists, sociologists, BLM does not get involved in non market values, make sure you clearly outline assumption with non market values.

Need strong social science to integrate other studies and surveys that are conducted.

I have seen quite a bit of money lately going into research for social studies related to fire management. I haven't seen much utility come out of those.

Some of the questions I answered would have been different if I had other options, the interview was boarding.

This type of survey would be a great candidate for an online format. We've asked for an economist for years and haven't gotten one.

Difficult to answer questions.

Emailed survey would have been better, survey was too vague.

I'd like to know what in the world the BLM even does that would be available for people to read. A lot of the questions you asked seemed like very important questions, but without having any kind of cognizance of what they're doing it's hard to answer.

We manage education programs so I was pausing because a lot of your questions are about land use planning at the field level. It's a little aside from some of your questions. I know it's the planning group who requested this.

This is an area that needs exposure, this is a good first step to make everyone aware social science.

We recognize the importance of social science, and we're struggling to catch up and incorporating that into the decision-making process, creating the capacity to do that.

If we were to use social science information, the areas we would use it most often in would be environmental education, recreation, and the NLCS areas

The way we do things is always changing and the BLM is proactive, At least coming from forestry.

With the issues that are arising through the urbanization of the west, it is so much more important for the BLM to embrace social sciences. It is so far out of our traditional realm that it's hard to make the connection.

As the west grows, social science is going to be a bigger issue. We need to adhere to all the different mandates that we have, which is a big job.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata=National.**

We need to determine relevance of social science information for environmental compliance and enforcement programs.

For those who are on the verge of retirement the BLM needs to focus on shadowing experiences with the upcoming new BLM employees. The knowledge base is walking out the door.

Public meetings are primary source of information.

Try to find out why people do things to the land & how can we educate them.

We struggle to communicate well with the public because communication with them seems to end up being black and white and what we do in land management is not. Our messages need to be heard. They over simplify the way land management is.

Well, if they are actually going to be hiring sociologists, or economist, they need to be operational at the state and nation level and working with the district level.

I do not feel that I was very knowledgeable about this survey/I am a staff assistant.

Pleased with his area, (fire management).

I'm in an interagency office working on an interagency project. Working with the forest service not the BLM.

We only deal with training and we have really have no idea what is going on in the BLM world

I use to perform research but funding was cut.

I am a writer so don't know if I was of any help.

Working in a Washington office, I don't think we really address some of the things you were asking.

In the last 2 years the Washington Office has been attempting to expand the use of social science, they should be given credit for that.

QC. He wanted to answer fire planning, general fire education for the population they already know about Smokey the Bear.

More of an emphasis and understanding of the types of information and sources out there that could be used to make decisions or planning. There's a lack of understanding or awareness, not a lack of wanting.

A lot of useful research that BLM is not using especially in planning.

We lack significant data to analyze. We lack the knowledge to even begin data collection.

The quality of our social science data is poor.

Our staff doesn't really understand what to do with demographic information. They don't understand the different social aspects, so the information doesn't mean anything. The information's out there, but they don't know how to use it.

Education is needed for what is out there. You don't know what you don't know. Lots of flawed information given, gap between truth and fiction getting wider and wider.

We're extremely weak in it. We have difficulty supervising inputs because of our lack of trained personnel. The numbers are very low in terms of what's out there at this point.

Q28. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share about the needs of social and economic analyses within the BLM? **Strata=National.**

We all know the importance of social science, but we don't know how to use it so we don't even try. We've been trying to change the mind-set of the public, which is not successful.

We need to make a conscious effort that Social Science research is critical to the program and educate the rest of those working at the BLM.

Better training.

No, I think that about covers it.

We have a funding battle going on, so all of our problems seem to come down to funding.

Appendix D.1 – Summary of Resource Advisory Council Interviews

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) ASSESSMENT

Objective 4
BLM Social Science Capabilities & Needs Assessment
(2006 – 2009)

Task Order HAF063F26

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Introduction

Background

Consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (Public Law 92-463), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) in 1995 as a component of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C., 1701 et seq). With FLPMA, the BLM founded 24 RACs in 13 of the western United States correlating to the geography of a large majority of the public lands assigned to the BLM for administration (BLM 2009). The geographic size and scope of each RAC varies from multiple states (e.g., North & South Dakota), to single states (e.g., New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Alaska), to single states divided into multiple RAC Districts (e.g., Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and Colorado), to partial states divided into multiple RAC Districts (e.g., Washington, Oregon, and California).[4] Within this western region, RACs are notably absent in the state of Wyoming. RAC members submit an application to the BLM who then make their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior who makes the final appointments.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the RACs is to provide an ongoing citizen forum to review key issues facing the BLM as well as offer advice and recommendations when possible regarding management of public lands. Each RAC has a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) that serves as a liaison between the BLM and the RAC. The core areas on which the RACs provide counsel to the DFOs include (US DOI-BLM 2004):

- Management of the public land resources within the geographic area covered by the RAC;
- Implementation of resource plans;
- Resolution of land-use conflicts; and
- Assurance of public land use and management plan decisions.

Although each RAC has a separate charter to specify its particular operating procedures as well as parameters it uses to make recommendations to the DFO, RACs do not make recommendations on budget or personnel issues. Representatives to the RAC serve for 3-year terms, with an option to be appointed for a second term. One-third of the appointments are staggered for new or re-appointment each year. Those serving on a RAC must comply with that RACs charter to avoid ethical and fiduciary conflicts of interest.

Membership Composition

RACs consist of 12 – 15 members comprised of representatives from a variety of stakeholder and interest groups each appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Each group has a

[4] Two interstate exceptions exist for this geographic description: 1) the Northeast California RAC includes a portion of northwestern Nevada; and 2) the John Day – Snake RAC in Oregon includes a portion of southeastern Washington and the Hells Canyon area in Idaho. See map at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/resource_advisory/boundary_map.html

relationship to the designated geographic area. Membership composition considers the following criteria: geography; members' interest affiliation, points of view, and place of residence; demographic composition of the population served; and the core public lands management issues facing the BLM within that region. Within the RAC, members may serve on subcommittees assigned to study selected issues. The intent is to have a balance of points of view and function on any RAC committee. Members are expected to stay current with up-to-date knowledge on issues affecting their RAC region.

In order to provide a balance of various types of representation across each RAC membership, appointees are chosen from the groups outlined below:

1. Group 1: persons representing commercial or commodity interests, such as federal grazing permittees, commercial timber industry representatives, or energy / mineral development representatives, or commercial recreation.
2. Group 2: persons representing recognized environmental organizations (national, regional, or state), dispersed recreation, cultural resources and/or archaeological and historical interests, and wildlife and wild horse / burro interest groups.
3. Group 3: elected officials (State, County, or local), or persons representing state natural resource management agencies, Indian Tribes in the same region, natural science or natural resource management fields in academia, and citizens-at-large.

In this study, we organized a sampling design around this three-group structure inherent to each RAC.

Relationship to Social Science

Nelson's (2006) recent review of economic analysis and public lands management noted the 1970s era of environmental legislation (e.g., the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, FLPMA, etc) ushered in a new set of expectations and requirements for federal agencies that mandate social science analyses within land management decision-making. More recently, the adoption of ecosystem management approaches by federal land management agencies (Koontz and Bodine 2008) emphasize stakeholder collaboration, adaptive management, and integration of social and economic data with other scientific information. Each of these trends has increased the need for better understanding of social and economic impacts related to federal land management decision-making. This need for expanded social science analyses in part prompted the emergence of RACs to address stakeholder and interest group concerns over land management issues inherent to the BLM resource decision-making process. While not the exclusive purpose of the RAC structure in BLM, in effect, RACs provide a critical interface between the agency and those affected at local and regional levels. In some cases, RAC members have served as leaders to provide input for national concerns (Salove 2002).

This study, designed to address Objective 4 within the Bureau of Land Management Social Science Capacity and Needs Assessment (2006-2009), included a systematic data collection effort from a selection of current RAC representatives regarding their perspectives of social

science analysis needs and capacities within BLM. The following sections address the methodology for this data collection as well as results from the interviews with RAC members.

Methodology

Design

In June, 2008, following approval from the agency's Human Resources office, a BLM representative sent a census list of RAC members (n = 240) to the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) at the University of Idaho, which was used to create a sample that was later contacted for telephone interviews. At the request of the agency Director, the BLM also forwarded a supplemental list of County Planners with whom the agency representatives had previously worked for inclusion in the study as a separate, but related sub-group. As intended in the design agreed to with BLM, SSRU targeted a total of 100 completed interviews with target quotas (n=25) across each of the four sub-groups: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, and County Planners.

Procedures

Following a modified Dillman method (Dillman 2000), the BLM and SSRU used several steps to administer the interview questions to selected respondents. The Director of the BLM sent an electronic copy of a letter to all RAC members explaining the interview effort and objectives within the larger social science assessment (Appendix D.2). Following the Director's letter, SSRU mailed pre-notification postcards to RAC members during the first week of August, 2008 (Appendix D.3). Using the instrument found in Appendix D.4, SSRU conducted telephone interviews with respondents from mid-August through mid-October, 2008. SSRU called each member of the RAC membership list and left messages with those unable to be reached on the initial contact. Calls continued until SSRU reached the target quota of at least 25 completed interviews for each of the three RAC stakeholder groups. Following the first 10 contacts to those selected within the County Planners sub-group, this component of the interviews was terminated.[5]

Interview Dispositions

As shown in Figure 1, a total of 90 interviews were completed, distributed across the three stakeholder categories within RACs: Group 1 (n = 27; 30%), Group 2 (n = 33; 37%), and Group 3 (n = 30; 33%).

[5] In September 2008, SSRU terminated attempts to complete the County Planner interviews after consultation with BLM representatives and the Assessment Team conducting the overall project. Interviews with the County Planners failed largely due to refusals, lack of viable contact and connection via the information provided, or only reaching personnel who could not answer the questions.

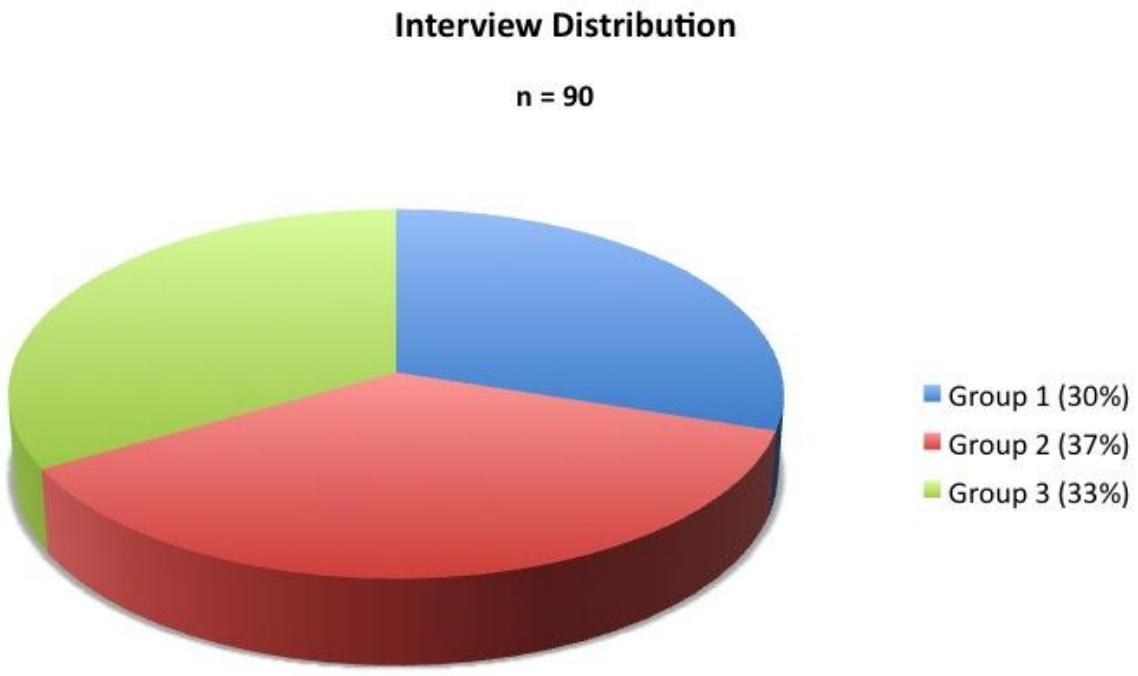

Figure 1. Interview distribution within RAC groups.

Figure 2 displays the distribution of the respondents by the various stakeholder groups they represent within their RAC, categorized by the three groups: Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3.

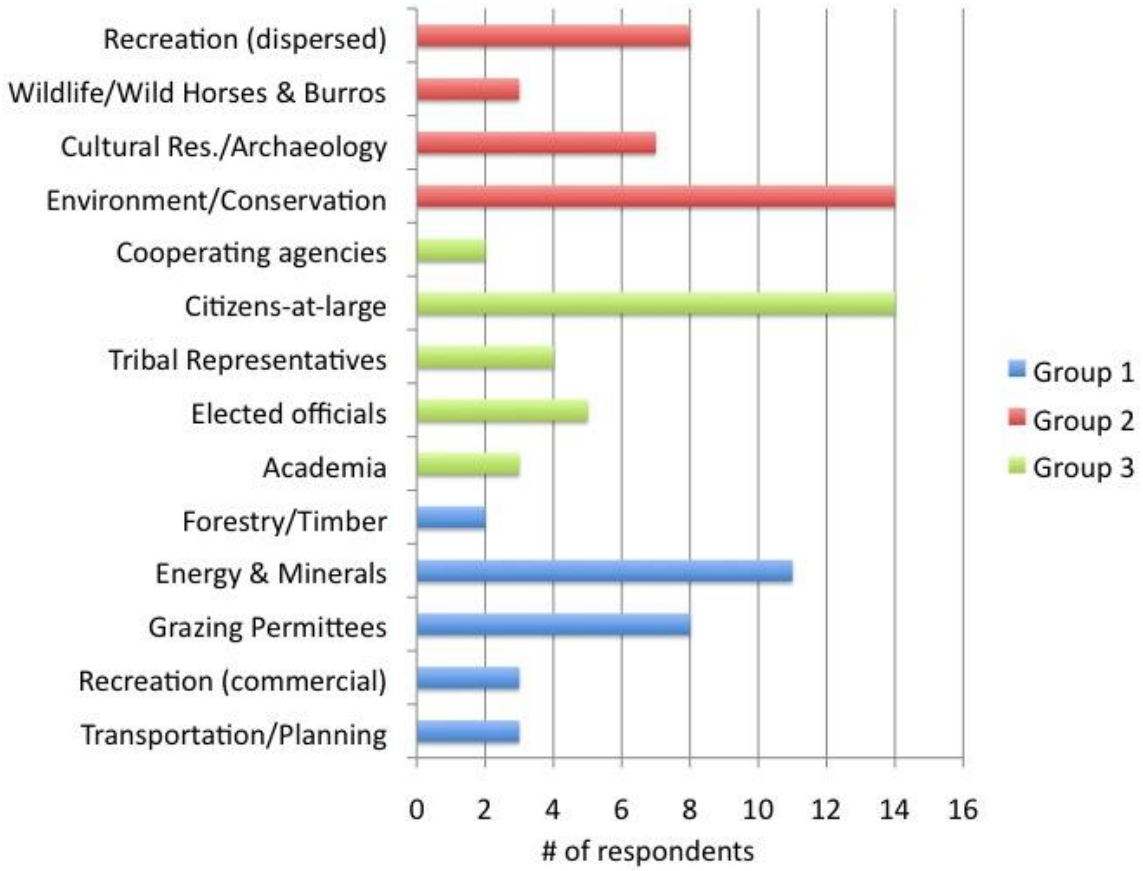

Figure 2. Distribution of interview respondents by stakeholder group and RAC subgroup area

Analytical Approach

Following preliminary review of the data, we applied two analytical approaches. For some questions, the data allowed for an interpretive frequency distribution for more graphical presentation. For the majority of questions, we examined each in depth by placing comments into non-overlapping content categories, or codes. As the questionnaires were coded, it became obvious that most comments could be placed into ten or so categories for each question with single comments placed in an "other" category, which are listed independently for each question as subcategory data. Since we are interested in what constitutes both the greatest concerns as well as the range of concerns of RAC members all comments were coded into some category; consequently, the most loquacious RAC members (with two or more comments) are over represented in the data. Comments for these questions were analyzed according to the group the RAC member represented – Group 3, Group 2, or Group 1 – and then incorporated into a narrative format for reporting.

Results

Profile of Respondents

In order to establish two demographic points of reference for the RAC members completing the interviews, we initiated each interview by asking the individual's *occupation* and *when they were appointed to their RAC*. Together, occupation and length of term provide a brief profile of the group of respondents in order to contextualize interpretation of the data. Figures 3 and 4, display distributions of the range of occupations among the RAC interviewees and the length of term for each, respectively. Figures 3 and 4 also categorize the results by the RAC subgroups – Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3.

The census methodology captured a wide spectrum of occupational categories to provide a well-distributed array of perspectives related to background, expertise, and orientation to resource management. The highest number of respondents occurring in any single occupation category was 23 individuals responding as "Retired" – an artifact of age and more available time for service roles quite common with Advisory Councils, Board of Directors, etc. in many settings.

The length of term distribution displayed in Figure 4 offers insights into several points relevant to the analysis. While the mean scores for length of term are 4.62 years (Group 1), 4.54 years (Group 2), and 3.96 years (Group 3), the modal responses for each subgroup are lower and fall within the '0-3 years' category. The Group 2 subgroup constituted more of a bi-modal response with the highest comparative frequency within *both* of the extreme number-of-years categories (0-3 years and >10 years). The lower mean score in the Group 3 subgroup is largely a function of no one having served on a RAC for more than a decade compared to the opposite for both the Group 1 and Group 2 subgroups.

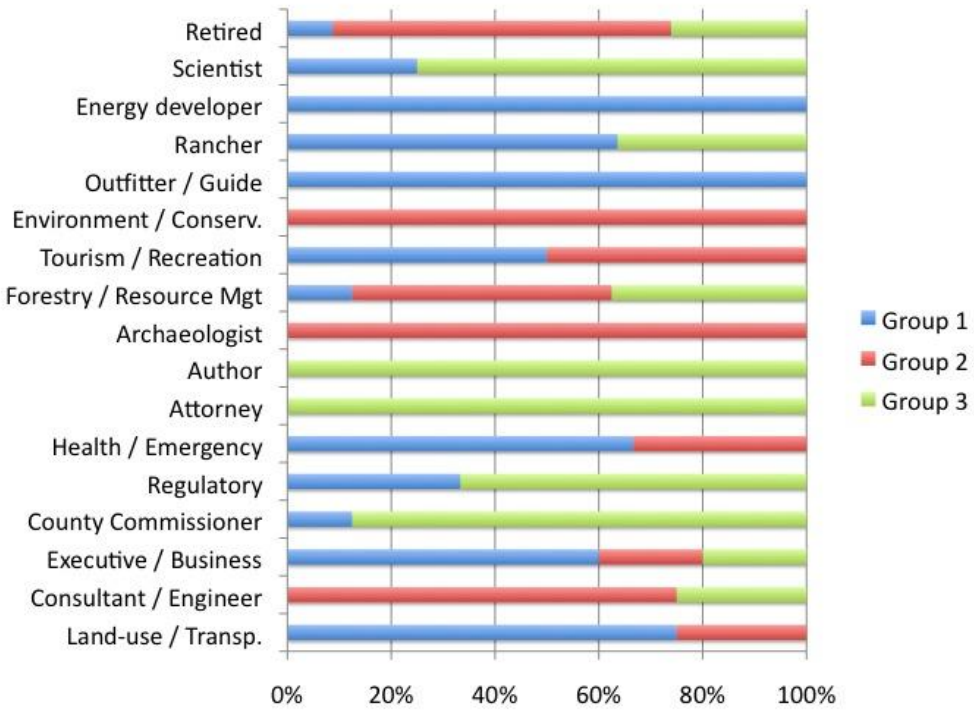

Figure 3. Occupation types for RAC members interviewed in three subgroups

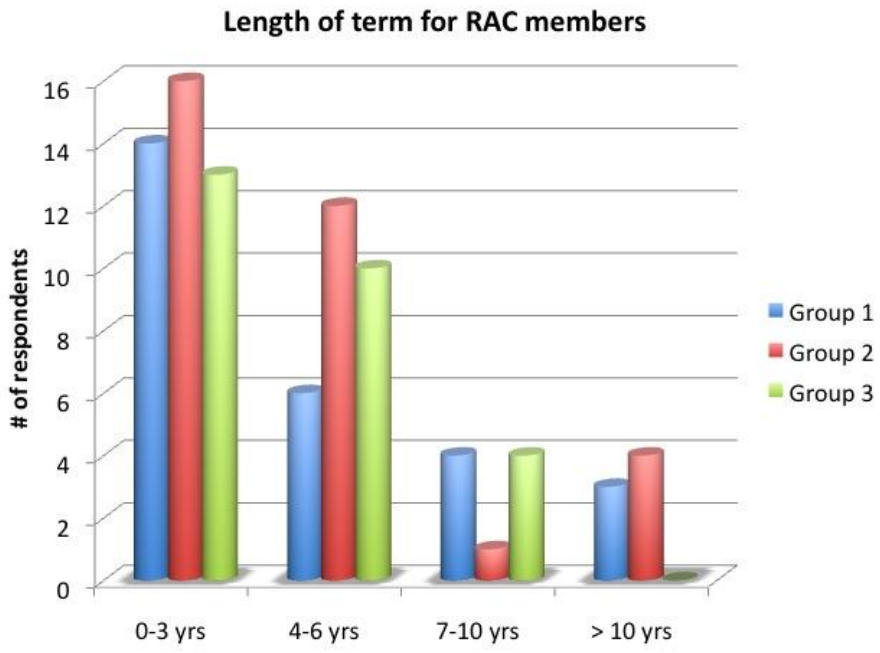

Figure 4. Length of term (# years) for RAC members by subgroups

Variance and importance of issues facing BLM

Of the 162 comments by all three RAC groups, almost one fourth (38) were related to "commodity use". Comments regarding "commodity use" generally fell into the categories of "oil and gas leasing/rules," "uranium mining," "grazing," and "alternative energy." Both Group 2 (10) and Group 3 (6) RAC members listed "oil and gas leasing/rules", including sometimes how the issues intersect with social conflict, as the most important issue facing their RAC while only 4 Group 1 RAC members did so. The following comment from a Group 3 RAC representative reflects this issue:

> *Most important issue oil & gas rules & regulations keep changing; conflict between people who want to play on the land and not step in a cow pie. NGOs push the number of people who can use the lands for different kinds of activity.*

Within the "commodity use" category, five Group 2 members listed "grazing" as the most important issue facing BLM compared to only one representative from the Group 3 sector and two for the Group 1 sector.

Five additional coding categories (52 comments) addressed the broad issue of "land use," including "recreational impacts," "ATV/OHV," "user conflicts," "public land use/access," and "multiple use" as the "most important issue facing BLM in your region." Sixteen of the 52 comments were recorded as "multiple use/land management" being the most important issue with seven comments from the Group 1 representative, six from the Group 2 representatives and only three by the Group 3 RAC members. Twelve comments emphasized "user conflicts" with most of these noted by the Group 1 sector representatives (8) and none by the Group 2 representatives. For example, one Group 1 representative offered the following response to this question:

> *Management decisions concerning various uses and the demands of different factions of people. It's getting more difficult to give everyone a piece of the pie.*

Both "recreation impacts" and "ATV/OHV" were recorded 9 times each by the RAC members with the Group 3 representatives (4) citing them more often than either the Group 2 (3) or Group 1 (2) group members. "Public land use/access" was listed as the "most important issue" by 6 RAC representatives with 4 of these comments coming from the Group 3 representatives and none by the Group 1 representatives.

Twelve RAC members commented that "Fire management" was the most important issue facing the BLM in their region, with five comments coming from the Group 1 RAC, four from the Group 2 RAC members and three from the Group 3 sector. Three responses for each RAC group were recorded for "herbicides/invasive species" as the most important issue. One Group 1 RAC member summarized this issue with the following comment:

> *Managing a large landmass with limited staff and resources. We have problems regarding fire and the fire cycle as well as invasive weeds. It's challenging to manage multi-stakeholder viewpoints. We have to deal with environmentalists, ranchers, miners, and the people who love wild horses.*

Seven comments were made about the lack of funding for BLM as an impediment in allowing BLM to do an adequate job fulfilling their mission. Of these seven comments, five were made by the Group 2 sector of the RAC interviewees. Six comments were made regarding the impact "law suits/appeals" had on the BLM in terms of funding, resource management, and time constraints. Three of these comments came from the Group 1 representative subgroup, two from Group 2 representatives, and one from the Group 3 subgroup.

No other broad category received more than five comments by all RAC members. These, for example, ranged from "need to comply with regulations such as FLMPA" to "BLM's loss of trust by it constituents."

During the interviews, RAC members were also asked: *How important are social and economic issues to the RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions?* As illustrated by the general pattern of distribution in the responses (Figure 5), the large majority of RAC members interviewed deemed social and economic issues of "high" importance to their decision-making. Group 2 subgroup representatives fit this pattern, although to a slightly lesser extent than the Group 1 and Group 3 subgroups. The general character of the level of importance most RAC members perceive social and economic information ought to have is captured in the following response:

> *It is a top priority for us because it is so poorly addressed in all the EISs. The social and economic parts have to be addressed along with soil health, air quality, and habitat.*

These data also represent the complexity often found in this type of analytical approach. As some responses indicate, RAC members also attribute a "high" level of importance to social and economic information in the context of *the need for* a greater emphasis on these types of issues within decision-making in order for the BLM to recognize their importance. A RAC member succinctly summarized this idea as:

> *It should be really important. The precursor message doesn't seem true to me. I don't think the BLM takes socio-economic issues into consideration. They haven't had much emphasis on that in my experience.*

In relation to addressing social and economic issues, RAC members also noted what they perceive as a pattern of BLM failing to seek their input for more locally relevant issues:

> *They never ask us for advice because we have a variety of people and everyone has their pet projects and interests. Our RAC needs to keep in mind the community, get back to basics, and concentrate on the locals. Social and economic issues are very important.*

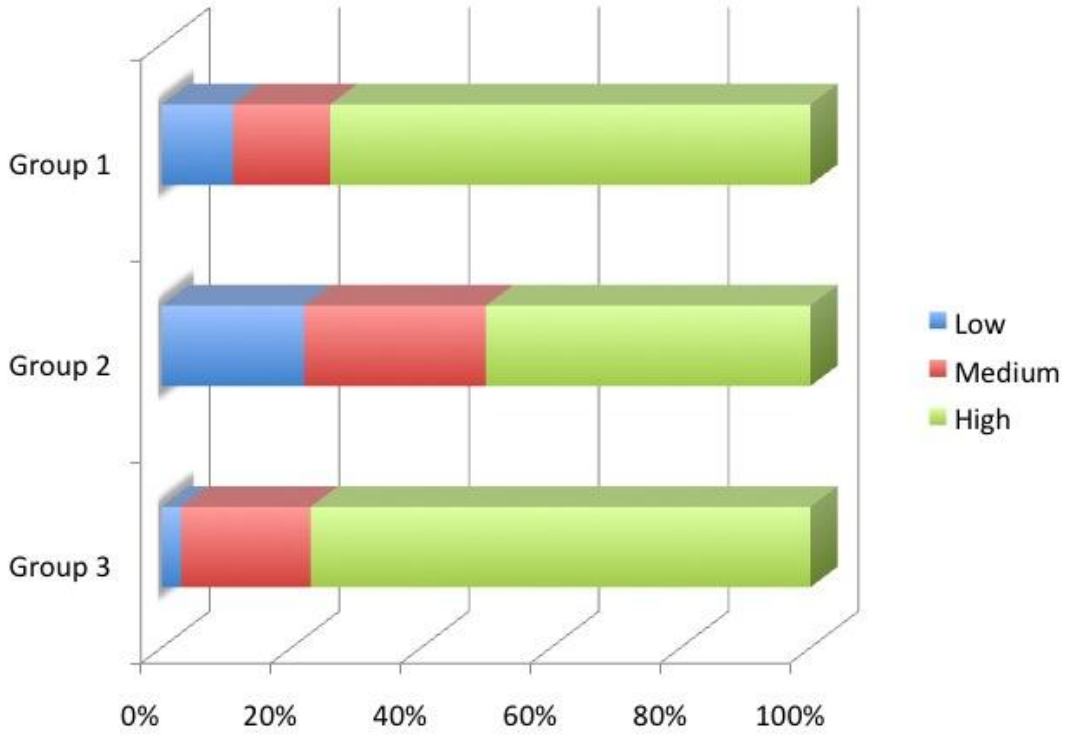

Figure 5. Level of importance for social and economic issues to RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions

Types and Sources of Social Science Information

One category of factors the RAC interview objective sought to develop constituted *Types and Sources of Social Science Information*. To that end, a series of questions were posed to elicit information about RAC members' working relationships with the BLM. This series of questions included:

- Have you worked with the BLM in addressing social and economic issues?
- What types of social and economic information has been provided to you by the BLM?
- Has BLM's social and economic information been helpful in formulating advice?
- What types of socio-economic information do you most need to provide advice to BLM?
- As a RAC member, what sources other than BLM do you go to in order to get social and economic information?
- How can BLM improve public access to social and economic information?

As a baseline context for assessing RAC members' responses on these questions, we first determined the distribution of those who had and had not worked with the BLM to address social and economic issues. As shown in Figure 6, a clear majority indicated they had worked with the BLM in this capacity, with those interviewed from the Group 3 subgroup confirming at a higher percentage (87%) than those in the Group 1 (67%) or Group 2 (67%) subgroups.

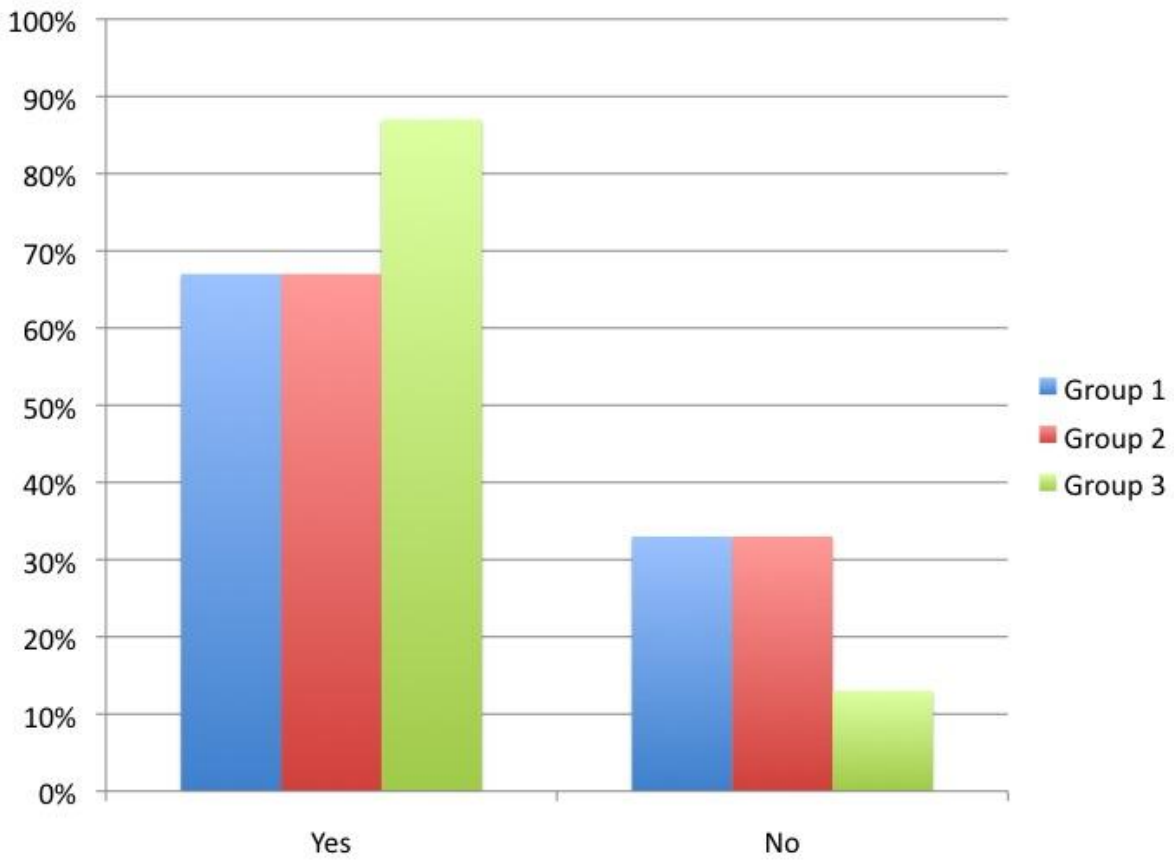

Figure 6. Worked with BLM in addressing social and economic issues?

Types of information provided

RAC members indicated that the range of information distributed to them ranges from "none" to "volumes". Many RAC members expressed that they are given many documents – usually Resource Management Plans (RMPs), Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) [or other NEPA documents], and statements on public land management issues. Some of the key types of data contained in this information includes: workforce statistics, economic profiles, economic information tied to land-use, impacts related to noxious weeds, road closures, power / transmission lines, oil & gas development, recreation, and livestock grazing. However, many RAC members emphasized that they feel they do not receive adequate information or that when they do receive documents, often they are incomplete, insufficient, or difficult to understand. With respect to the objective of this study, RAC members explained that when they do receive

documentation, it may not contain social and economic information, as this Group 1 subgroup representative noted:

> *Not very much information has been given. All we've seen are statements and RMPs. I don't recall any studies or formal ways of looking at socioeconomic impacts.*

In other instances, RAC members are able to document positive and productive working relationships by virtue of obtaining needed information:

> *Demographics in [a County]. Cost of taking care of permittees, cost of maintenance of facilities, fences, costs in recreation areas, parking areas, camping. We've gone over those pretty carefully and were able to reach a good consensus with the County Commissioners. BLM has done a pretty good job there. We're just starting this same process in [a different] District.*

Different perspectives were revealed with respect to whether RAC member roles were primarily generators of social and economic information *for the BLM* or recipients of this information *from the BLM*. The following comments illustrate this range:

> *Plans representing the public and community's uses. BLM brings social research in on the state and national levels.*

> *One part of our job is to gather information for them. They don't provide us much.*

RAC members reported the most common forms of how they receive information to be: presentations at or documents & materials distributed during RAC meetings, electronic correspondence, educational fieldtrips, and verbal communications via telephone.

Information helpful to formulate advice?

More specifically, we solicited input from RAC members on whether the social and economic information they receive helps in formulating advice. Many RAC members confirmed the information is helpful in their processes:

> *I think it has; when we meet, we have the background information in a packet and in the context of managing the public in certain areas, access and costs. This is helpful to get everyone on the same page.*

> *Yes, it was. I think a lot of people have misperceptions about some of the economic and social impacts, and when we were presented with actual data, it really opened our eyes in terms of the issues.*

Although most RAC members confirmed the information provided is usually helpful, many also understand some of the limitations associated with the lack of social science capacity within the current BLM:

> *It's been better than none. I've worked with a number of BLM field offices and been in and out of the D.C. office. The understanding of socioeconomic information is very low.*

> *They don't seem to have a handle on it. They have very little information on this, except with our discussion about fees.*

While RAC members appeared willing to provide examples of how social and economic data were utilized in their discussions regarding BLM management decisions, no distinct patterns emerged among the responses. The full spectrum of perspectives is contained in Appendices D.5, D.6, and D.7, however, several illustrations here provide rich examples of the substantive themes addressed in the RAC meetings:

> *One discussion was about how the BLM perceives recreation on public lands. The RAC's perception was that BLM sees recreation as an intrusion, which must be guarded against. RAC voices are saying that recreation has a very positive value for the people. We're trying to dialogue about looking at recreation as a positive thing.*
>
> *[The BLM] give[s] the RAC a briefing each meeting on current issues such as what's going on and what the problems are. BLM does a superb job starting at the bottom with local people. The BLM stands out among the land agencies. The group meetings work. I was involved in reviewing recreation fees proposals.*
>
> *They really need to concentrate on what's going on in the western region of the state – [several communities cited]. You couldn't raise a teenage daughter there if you needed to. And they know right now they are structuring in more "man camps" that will add to this problem. [We are] a low-population state and that leads to problems. The High School kids from [community A] are now getting bused all the way to [community B]. This is like capitalism without regulation out there and we're now paying for it, and capitalism is not a form of government, it's just an economic system. It's just amoral what's going on. [The State] is kind of independent and reclusive to a fault. If anyone even mentions some regulation, they think you're getting ready to socialize the whole world.*

<u>Types of social and economic information most needed</u>

Given the range of issues RAC members deal with across their groups, collectively their responses vary to an even greater degree regarding the types of social and economic information they most need. While some RAC members noted they themselves have the capacity and resources to inform themselves, others clearly rely on and expect the BLM (or the RAC) to provide the information to be assessed. Some examples of the range of data and topics RAC members noted would be most helpful, included:

> *I want to know the number of permittees included and the impact of decisions on permittees. What cities and towns are close by? BLM needs to give us information on how much money they spend on certain issues.*
>
> *They need a much better understanding than they have about the problems we'll see in the future. For instance, they need law enforcement data, drug intervention policy information in order to minimize the social impact/s.*
>
> *The biggest component is the analysis of the alternatives. We need to have expertise in impact scenarios and differences of how they will affect different stakeholders.*

> *I'm not sure what we need. I don't know enough about the issue to know what we need. RAC members need an introduction to what socio-economic information is, like social-economic 101.*

> *Surveys for the usage of a particular area of BLM land, studies of impacts on the land, what organizations are impacted them. Need more support from Washington, the local people are very proactive in protecting the land.*

Additional general responses included: regulations, maps, statistical data of user groups, numbers of people impacted by decision alternatives, economic spinoff effects, population growth projections, and unintended consequences for the users. Comprehensive listings of responses to the types of social and economic information needed by RAC members can be found in Appendices D.5, D.6, and D.7.

RAC members also cited a number of sources from which they seek additional information, including agencies, organizations, media, and relationships they have with others. Some of the most commonly cited sources were: industry associations, universities, the US Forest Service, US Census, wildlife interest groups, and other RACs.

Improving public access to social and economic information

In the *Types and Sources of Social and Economic Information* section of the interviews, RAC members were also asked: *How can BLM improve public access to social and economic information?* Responses to this question mostly fell into three broad categories: "public involvement," "Web data, etc.," and "NEPA documents." Of the 135 comments, 57 of them are within the "public comment" category with many of these comments suggesting the need for "better advertisement of meetings," "transparency" or "more outreach." RAC members from the Group 1 sector were most likely to make these suggestions (12) compared to ten and six for the Group 2 and Group 3 sectors, respectively. Twelve comments centered on the use of newspapers to provide better or additional socio-economic information and updates. Of these comments, seven were suggested by the Group 2 representatives, three by the Group 1 group, and only two by the Group 3 sector RAC members. Scoping meetings were mentioned by nine representatives with five comments from the Group 2 subgroup, four by the Group 3 sector representatives, and none by the Group 1 subgroup. The other subcategories within the "public involvement" statements included four comments on "schools", three comments on "libraries", and one comment on the use of "stakeholder meetings."

Many RAC members also highlighted the internet as a key source of enabling the public to access social and economic information and that RAC members can act as information liaisons assuming public access:

> *I think they do a good job doing public meetings, but they need more on web sites. We have not been asked to help inform the community—we'd like to do more.*

Other interviewees elaborated these points with some additional suggestions:

> *Most important thing is to use the internet to provide up to date results of BLM finance and other agency finance, and surveys of these important components. Sending stuff in*

> *the mail doesn't seem to work as well. Of course it's difficult to get people to go to websites and make sure they're easy to use. Most of the gov [sic] websites are fairly good, but BLM would need to highlight this information some way to make access quick.*

> *They have to produce it before they can pass it on. There's nothing on the Web and what's there isn't understandable. The [university] is working on information for one commodity to link it to what the State has already done. That information is on the State's website, but not cross-linked.*

RAC members noted a variety of "WEB data" uses within 38 comments clustered around the need for a "BLM internet site/clearing house" with 24 comments (10, 5, and 9 respectively for Group 3, Group 2, and Group 1 RAC members). Thirteen statements focused on the need for better social and economic data such as economic profile data. This subcategory was mentioned most often by the Group 2 subgroup (6) followed by four statements from the Group 1 subgroup and three by the Group 3 RAC representatives. One statement from the Group 3 subgroup mentioned the need for data sets deliverable via compact disks (CDs).

Nine comments noted that NEPA documents should contain social and economic data ergo they would be a good source for socio-economic information. Group 2 representatives made four of these comments compared to three and two made by the Group 1 and Group 3 representatives, respectively.

The "Other" category grouped together 18 statements covering such things as "need more research," "more staff," "use universities," "need to look at bigger picture," "need to look at long term economic impacts," and "need for brochures on multiple use." In these contexts, RAC members reflected on the increasing economic constraints of the agency and that the BLM could rely more on RACs to serve as an interface with the public:

> *The BLM has lost so much money in the last few years and to improve the public's access to socio-economic information requires money. The BLM could use the RAC more to go into the communities and put on meetings or seminars. The BLM does as good of a job as they can with the resources they have.*

There were no more than a total of four comments for any of these subcategories and no apparent substantive differences between RAC member categories, except all four comments noting the need for brochures on multiple-use came from the Group 1 RAC subgroup.

Five comments noted that things were "ok as is and no improvement is needed." Another seven said that "social and economic information is not needed, or called for", with four of those from the Group 3 subgroup. One person commented on their perspective that "little BLM data is made public." Responses ranged even further, however, as this Group 2 subgroup reflected:

> *Not aware that it was the role of BLM to have public access to socio-economic information. I thought it was other organizations' jobs to do that. I thought that the BLM's mission is to manage public lands.*

Also of note, twelve individuals failed to respond to this question: six from the Group 2, five from the Group 3, and one from the Group 1 RAC subgroups.

Large-Scale Social and Economic Analysis

Within the RAC interviews, respondents were asked to provide input on large-scale social and economic analyses. More specifically, we asked whether RAC members perceive if BLM has adequately addressed three areas of effects in its resource decision-making: economic, social, as well as minority, low-income, and tribal impacts, as a proxy for environmental justice. Figure 7 provides a general summary of responses, categorized interpretively as "yes" or "no" for each of the three effects (economic, social, and environmental justice) and by the three RAC subgroups (Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3). For open-ended questions, this format to summarize these data provides the ability to assess general trends and patterns in comparison across the multiple dimensions. These results reveal several general patterns:

- The Group 3 subgroup is least likely to perceive that both economic *and* environmental justice effects are adequately addressed, but most likely to perceive the BLM is adequately addressing social effects of its decisions;
- Within the Group 2 subgroup, nearly equal numbers of respondents indicated "yes" as did those indicating "no" about the three categories of effects; and
- The Group 1 subgroup indicated the greatest level of "no" responses for whether BLM adequately addressed social effects of its decisions, yet close to 60% of the group indicated "yes" for whether BLM adequately addressed environmental justice effects. The group was evenly split in terms of economic effects.

Overall, while seeing these trends is helpful, Figure 7 indicates a wide disparity in perceptions within each of the three subgroups for each of the categories of effects, with the greatest differences occurring in relation to economic and social effects. As such, we describe more qualitative detail about these patterns of divergence in the following sections.

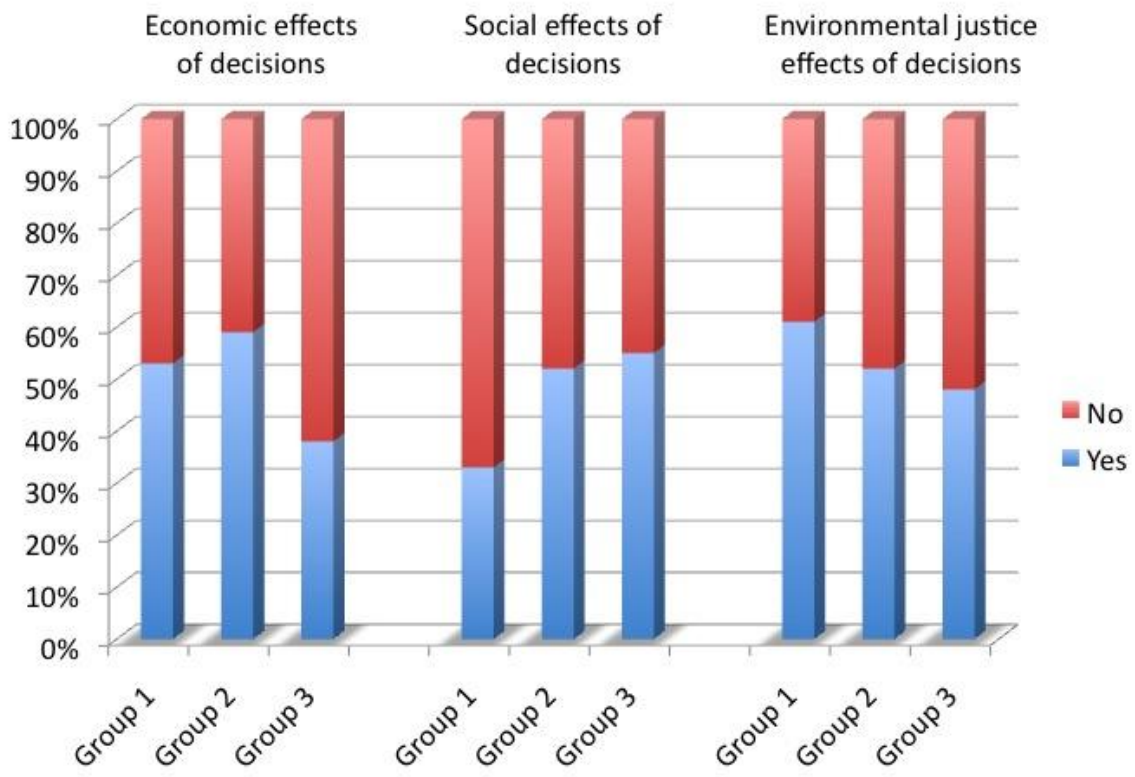

Figure 7. In making resource decisions, has the BLM adequately addressed the economic, social, and environmental justice effects of its decisions?

Economic effects of decisions

When asked whether the BLM adequately addressed the economic effects of its decisions, some RAC members interpreted the question as an issue of scale, as noted by this Group 2 subgroup member:

> *In the national picture no. They look at the small scale economic impacts for local communities, but don't see these on a large scale. This plays a big part and is not presented to the RAC. What is the big economic picture?*

Other RAC members responded with respect to the adequacy of addressing economic effects as limited to "public comment" protocols or biased toward particular user groups:

> *No, I don't. In my six years there I have not seen a lot of economic and social factors taken into account besides public comment periods.*

> *Yes and no. Sometimes they make decisions too much to benefit a particular economic group, such as permittees. Their desires count for too much. The BLM doesn't make decisions based on the best interest to the tribes. There is a conflict there. Recreational*

> *use is really heavily emphasized—the tribes' perception is that federal land managers almost cater to groups such as ORV by making trails. Some say they go out and legitimize illegal trails.*

Social effects of decisions

Similarly, RAC members yielded a wide range of perceptions about whether the BLM has adequately addressed the social effects of its decisions. RAC members pointed out how some individuals or groups politicize social effects to the extent that administrative processes take over:

> *Narrow-minded people always get their way and make small things an issue. The agency is manipulated and the focus should be more balanced. I think they are arrested by legislation and administrative rules. They're forced to do things whether the social effects are addressed or not.*

Other RAC members during their interviews noted a continuum of responses, citing reasons why they believe the BLM does and does not adequately address the social effects of its decisions:

> *No, I don't think they recognize the impacts that decisions can have on communities. We don't see any difference of approach to their managing oil and gas development with $140/ barrel oil than we did at $20/ barrel oil, so there is no reaction to circumstances. The BLM is accountable to a god different than the one everyone else is. In theory these are public lands but if I own the minerals under the public lands do you think I care about a lizard on the land, I would be asking how soon I could drill. I would want to add to the supply of oil and gas and we spend more time asking about the lizards.*

> *Yes, by creating management plans. The BLM reacts too much to the social issues. This takes away time that should be devoted to the problems of the land.*

At the least, the variability in these responses indicates several points. Perhaps most obvious, RACs can constitute relatively diverse groups despite the standard categories of representatives and formats used. Other factors such as local, regional, and state-level contexts dictate the experiences of RAC members such that what the BLM "does" or "does not" do is not monolithic. Additionally, RAC members as stakeholders use the lenses they bring to their role on the Councils to interpret larger agency processes.

Environmental justice effects of decisions

Specifically, the question posed to RAC members relating to environmental justice was stated as: *In making resource decisions do you feel the BLM adequately addressed the environmental effects of its decisions on minorities and low income residents, including tribal impacts?* Similar to the economic and social effects questions in this series, responses varied widely. However, an interesting trend emerged within the responses to this particular question in that RAC members viewed the BLM's focus on "minorities and low income residents" as almost exclusively referring to interactions with American Indian tribes:

> *Yes, the BLM always consults with tribes. They don't look at minorities and lower income folks even though that's how the law was written.*

> *No, but they are improving. Compared to what it was five years ago, when they had no consideration, but they are making efforts to understand these issues. This is some progress.*

> *The BLM has a good working relation with the tribal groups; they are very good at addressing the environmental effects with the tribes. I am not as aware of minorities and low income residents.*

> *No absolutely not. That is a huge problem. The federal government's bias with respect to native people is a serious problem and should be addressed. It's in the realm of political initiative and comes from the top, and if the BLM agency and political appointees don't see it as important, then it's a problem. To give you an example, you can look at the RAC and just see how many Native Americans participate. They don't even bother. Trying to get Natives on our RAC is almost impossible. I've tried to get tribal members and they pretty much recognize that it will be a waste of their time. BLM does the bare minimum to deal with native people.*

Minor exceptions existed to the near-exclusive focus on tribal relations as noted above. This Group 3 RAC representative noted the relative absence of social diversity in their area did create a context in which BLM could develop an alternative focus but has not:

> *Yes, we don't have any tribes! We don't have a lot of diversity! The hunters and fisherman are the low-income groups, but I don't think we really target that.*

Local Social and Economic Issues

The selected interview methodology concentrated on open-ended questions given the variety of stakeholder groups that make up the RACs. In this context, we included several questions in a section on *Local Social and Economic Issues* in order to identify how RAC members emphasize what is most important for the interface of management decisions and local communities.

Considering impacts on local communities

We first posed the question of how BLM considers their impacts on local communities in making management decisions. Responses to this question ranged from deficient to excessive attempts and descriptions of formal to informal means to consider local community impacts. One RAC member critiqued an observed pattern:

> *It's based on the knowledge of the specialist working on the project. There's not a lot of objective evidence being looked at.*

Others noted extensive efforts to intentionally incorporate elected officials into early stages of planning:

> *In [our State], they practice very conscientiously about allowing elected officials to be integral to planning and discussion long before they make a decision. They are able to*

> *extract from local government the impact of what they are planning to do. I think to some degree the public comment aspect of their planning in the final draft form may also be effective in that category.*

And, more generally, many RAC members responded positively about the capabilities of field-level personnel in the BLM in spite of structural barriers to engaging the public:

> *I feel we are advanced in this area. The field managers are public-oriented. But, there may be only 4-5 people attending meetings, so they don't always get the public's full opinion.*

Figure 8 below summarizes the categorized responses to the question of whether BLM considers the impacts to local communities. A majority among each subgroup responded "yes" to confirm the BLM does consider these impacts, with the Group 2 subgroup noting the highest percentage response.

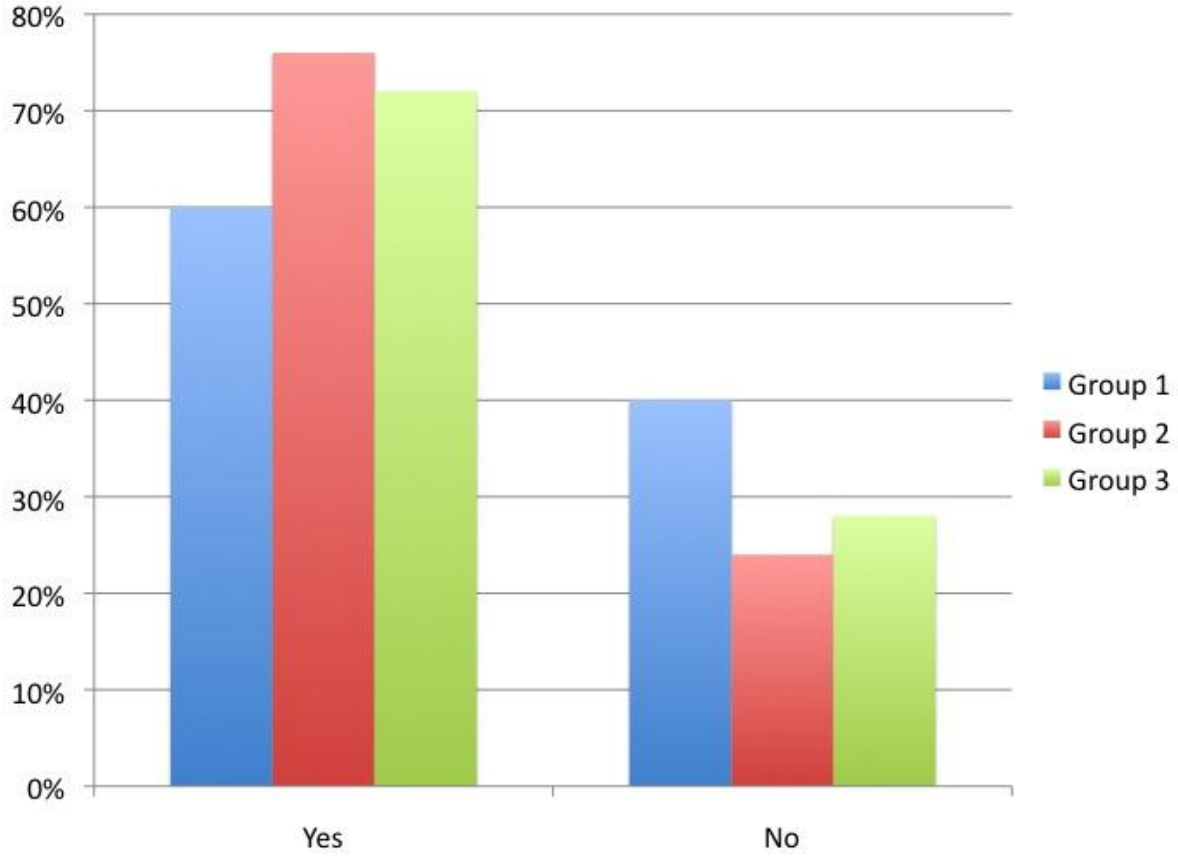

Figure 8. Does the BLM take into consideration their impacts on local communities in making management decisions?

While this generalization speaks well for the agency's attempts to address local impacts, the perspectives of the RAC members varied substantively in their explanations. For instance, one RAC member documented a role reversal in the absence of the BLM's considerations:

> *They don't. In fact, [our] County is inviting the BLM manager to develop protocols and MOUs. We initiate this process because sometimes they don't give us a heads up.*

And other RAC members emphasized areas such as oil & gas development as specifically lacking these considerations:

> *Any of the BLM gas approvals in [our State] have failed to look at these. They have not looked that closely at how they affect local people.*

Similar to the following comment, a wide variety of examples provided by RAC members about how the BLM undertakes consideration of local impacts are contained in Appendices D.5, D.6, and D.7:

> *I think that the BLM, and through the RACs particularly, consider the impacts on local communities. Even this one issue in front of us now, in terms of limiting ATV use has been pretty well publicized, and they've considered what kind of impact that would have on communities who derive economic benefits from having OHV users show up. Between the meetings, RACs and their openness in the community, the economic impact is pretty well considered.*

Support for community development objectives

Related to considering impacts on local communities, we also asked RAC members about whether they perceive the agency to be supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives. Several primary themes emerged within the data for this question: 1) the BLM extends support, sometimes to a fault; 2) a continuum of perceptions about support for tribal issues; and 3) negotiating the use of public lands for local benefit. These themes are illustrated in the following example comments from the RAC interviewees:

> *Good question. Sometimes the local agencies have some strange ideas. Everyone owns this land and so we have to balance this. BLM policy is to listen to the pitch, but they're quick to point out if something isn't viable. Small towns want to use the BLM land as their land, but it is not.*

> *No. Only when there's an act of Congress does anything get done. That's the only way anything can get done because the BLM doesn't have the mechanism or the will to make things happen. 80% of our state is owned by the BLM and Congress had to basically force the trade of the federal land.*

> *I think in large measure, yes. I think they respond to the county and municipal pretty well. In some cases, they go their first. Tribes, no! They just don't engage with the tribes well at any level. There may be back room conversations I don't know about, but it doesn't show up in RAC meetings or documents.*

> *From both sides, BLM's primary job is to protect our public lands. Community development objectives generally require use of public lands, and the more they can use*

the better. So, I think they have been supportive, perhaps more than they should have been. Maybe should have leaned more towards preserving and protecting.

They are hyper-sensitive on tribal issues. The tribes can send one letter to oppose or question a project and it stops everything.

I think they have. Our RAC is supportive of the tribe expanding their land base. Although on artifacts stuff, we lack integrity – maybe insensitivity – and the spiritual side is not taken into account while making decisions. At least not for mine expansions.

Figure 9 below categorizes the RAC members' responses by "yes" or "no" for this question regarding support for community development objectives. The results indicate the large majority of respondents indicating "yes". However, as the examples above show, many do not identify that support as universally applied.

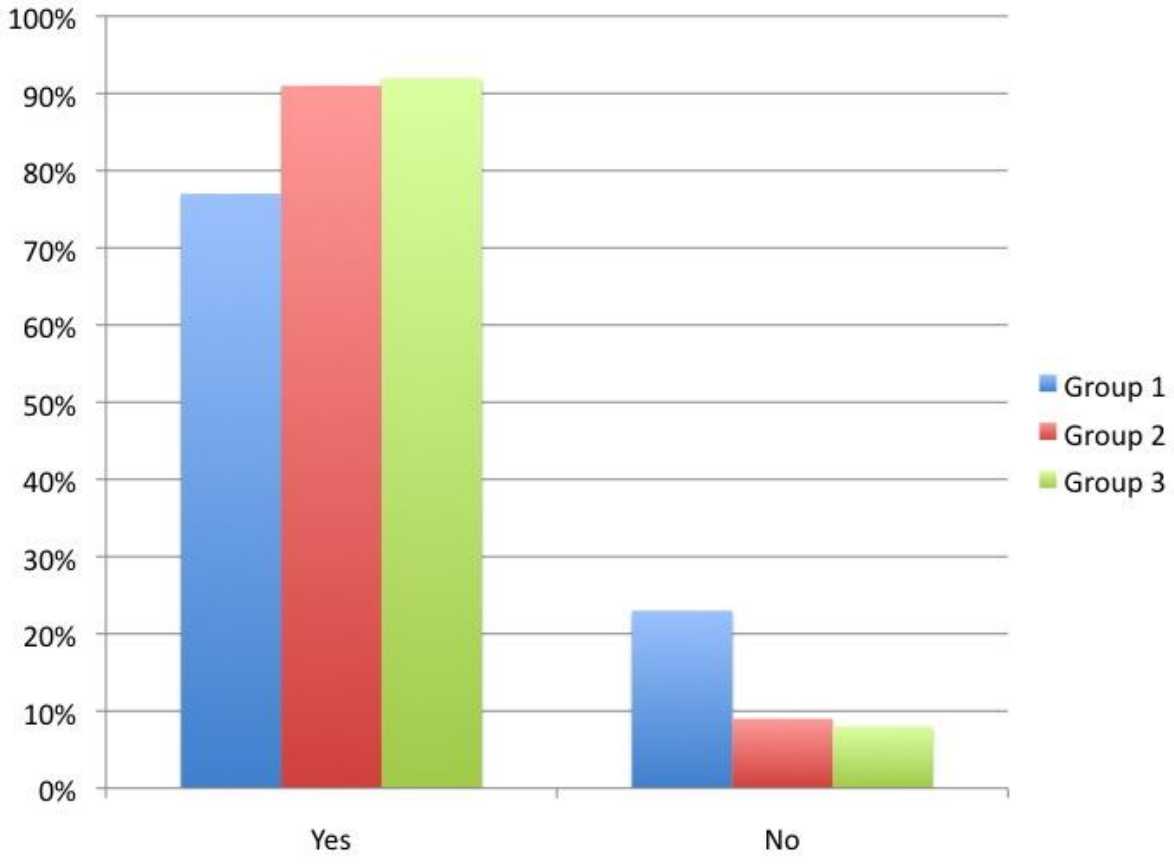

Figure 9. Has the BLM been supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives?

Participation in Resource Management Planning (RMP) Processes

Within the section on *Local Social and Economic Issues*, we also asked a series of questions in the interviews to identify the extent and type of involvement RAC members have had with Resource Management Planning (RMP) processes. We divided our analysis of these questions into two components. The first component categorized respondents' level of involvement as either, "no" or "very little" and "yes." If "yes," then respondents were queried about their "role," "the opportunity to participate," and "whether or not community concerns were addressed by BLM." For our sample of ninety, fifteen indicated that they had not been involved in a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Almost all of the respondents that responded in this category were new appointees. Those from the Group 2 subgroup (nine) were most likely to respond "no" compared to four in Group 3 and only two from the Group 1 RAC members. Twelve respondents indicated that they had very little contact with RMP processes. Again this correlates to length of tenure on the RAC. Group 1 respondents (six) were most likely to have limited involvement as compared to Group 3 and Group 2 subgroup members with three each.

For those that had been involved in RMP (87 comments), the vast majority either indicated that involvement was "meeting with the RAC" (39), or that "they had written comments or served as a reviewer." Those from the Group 1 subgroup were most likely to be involved (14 and 12, respectively) as compared to fourteen and nine, respectively for Group 2 and eleven and four for the Group 3 RAC component. There were six comments from the Group 3 RAC subgroup noting that they had served in capacities with cooperating agencies whereas none from the Group 2 and Group 1 subgroups had indicated serving in identical roles. Six comments by the Group 2 subgroup members referred to providing "input", whereas only one Group 3 RAC member and no Group 1 RAC member made similar comments. Within those comments that had only two or fewer respondents, activities ranged from county involvement, research on OHV trails, public comments, Power Point presentation, to lost faith in BLM process and as a stakeholder.

When asked to comment on the "opportunity to participate" the respondents were almost in uniform agreement with sixty responding "yes" and another eight noting that they had good public meetings. Many of these comments centered on the fact that there were many, good public meetings, but that the public failed to participate. Only three noted that their meetings were not conducive to public participation or else that the meetings terminated too quickly. The following examples represent the general character of comments to the questions of whether the BLM gives communities the opportunity to participate:

> *More recently, they gave the community opportunity early on in the process to be able to voice their opinion. In the old days, it was a black box RMP that had our comments ignored.*
>
> *Yes, the community can be as involved as they want to be. There are plenty of opportunities to participate in the RMP process. It is easier in some communities – our communities can be very far from each other and it is expensive to get to all the areas should in [our State]. The BLM does make a sincere effort.*

In their responses, other RAC members noted the challenges BLM and other land-management agencies face to engage the public in participatory processes:

> *Yes, but it is difficult for the public to participate unless they can follow the whole process and learn. It is not an easy process for everyone to be involved in the whole thing. People don't understand what is talked about in workshops. There is participation at the very beginning at the scoping meetings.*

> *Yes, but again that participation is often driven by the extremes. I don't know exactly how the BLM decides to do the kind of meeting structure they do. I've always wondered why they didn't make it part of an official program from the counties or municipalities, but they hold their own meetings. They go through the RMPs and field questions. Better at a booth in a county fair!! They just get the usual suspects every time they do this. They can almost predict the questions and script the answers, and doesn't seem to be as effective as it could be. But it's also fair to say that they put a lot of time and effort into making these available to the public, but the strategy isn't so good. It has to change based on the increased wired capabilities of the rural [region].*

Finally, among those participants, when queried if BLM was responsive to community concerns, 38 responded "yes", with comments from the Group 3 sector being most positive (fifteen), followed by Group 2 RAC members (thirteen) and then Group 1 RAC members with ten positive comments. Another nine interviewees thought that the RMP action was early and they thought it was "too early to see." Other responses were: "somewhat" (six), "No" (eleven), and "Not sure" (one).

Other responses to this subcomponent provided a cornucopia of comments. The two most significant ones were the need for public meetings/workshops with twelve comments and that the "goals of BLM were different from the community (eight)." This latter comment was generally directed at issues of scale, such as local versus national decision making and that decisions were outside the control of the local BLM field office.

Strategies of public participation to overcome ethnicity barriers

As an open-ended question within the interviews, we also asked RAC members to cite examples of public participation they were aware of to strategically overcome ethnicity barriers or other related factors. The bulk of these responses can be categorized into three main themes of contemporary activities and engagement strategies RAC members observed within the BLM: 1) encouragement of tribal involvement; 2) information mailings of specific information to tribes and other participants; and that 3) the BLM makes attempts to effectively include all groups. Several examples from the interviews illustrate the range of comments offered by the RAC members consistent with these themes:

> *The communities here are not as divided as they are in some places. Indian tribes are reluctant to participate. The BLM is sensitive to this and encourages them to participate.*

> *One of the things we've seen on a very local level is an outreach by both of the field offices to be more user-friendly. To actually have the managers and some of the lead people not just show up at meetings with industry, but actually come by and ask if we have issues. I don't think it's restricted to industry but more of an outreach to the entire community. I think they're trying to be more of a community supporter.*

As elected representatives, we have the ability to affect the process. But the average citizen just gets newsletters and more email. The BLM needs to empower local governments in the process and they need to make contact with the stakeholder groups PRIOR to starting projects.

No, we are not focused on ethnicity; this may be an outcome, but should not be the basis for design of cultural issues. The BLM is up front in all areas: low income, rural – we bring these all to the table.

Well I think that the best thing they do is to provide information directly, and hold local meetings, invite AND seek participation. I know they've done that both with tribes and local communities.

Assessment of Primary Strengths and Weaknesses

In an attempt to elicit summary views of what RAC members perceive as the core strengths and weaknesses of the BLM for social and economic analysis, we posed the question explicitly in the interviews specifically in the context of resource management decisions (see Appendix D.3, Question 13). While we collected a plethora of responses, the open-ended *and* broad nature of this question yielded data with high degrees of variability in topic, scale, and scope. While the full set of responses is contained in Appendices D.5, D.6, and D.7, Table 1 below summarizes the primary trends we delineated from the results, categorized by RAC subgroup. Briefly, the core strengths noted include: gathering public input, openness of the RACs, and good local personnel. The core weaknesses noted include: lack of funding and staff, bureaucratic constraints – or "red tape" – tied to the Washington, D.C. headquarters, and a lack of social and economic science. As shown in Table 1, each subgroup did *not* emphasize each of the primary themes in their descriptions of the strengths and weaknesses.

To illustrate these summary themes in the words of the RAC subgroup members, we also highlight several comments here:

I think part of it is how they use the RAC. They have a large spectrum of people on the RAC! They use that very well.

I don't know. You have to hire a consultant or an outfit to gather that type of data, which requires money, and the BLM in [our State], is horribly underfunded. That's a function of county politics. They don't want the BLM to have money or power, so they keep it underfunded. So I don't see a strength.

Table 1. Core themes in strengths and weaknesses noted by Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 RAC subgroup members.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Strengths	• Listening to comments, gathering public input • Role and openness of RAC	• Listening to comments, gathering public input • Role and openness of RAC • Good local personnel	• Listening to comments, gathering public input • Good local personnel
Weaknesses	• Lack of funding and staff • Washington, D.C. "red tape"	• Lack of funding and staff • Washington, D.C. "red tape" • Lack of social and economic science	• Lack of funding and staff • Washington, D.C. "red tape" • Lack of social and economic science

The listening ear that the BLM has is very good & they listen to what the RMP say from the public comments. Staff very willing to have public input meetings.

The length of time the working level people have been in jobs and truly believe they are doing the right things. The political appointed people are worthless.

Probably their biggest weakness (even though it has gotten better) is lack of planners that actually go into those areas, such as low income, or what the impacts will be on the local people. The farther out in the country, the lower the income.

Educating the public or RAC as to how they reach certain understandings. How the steps of the BLM RAC process works. Listening to the local public and the RAC instead of following personal agendas.

Political hardball. They're controlled by D.C. and have little local input or control.

There are not enough soft science folks. We NEED an economist! I don't see them in meetings.

Overall satisfaction with social and economic analysis

As a summary question, we asked respondents their overall level of satisfaction with the social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions. The response categories

ranged from "Very dissatisfied" to "Very satisfied". The distribution of responses is shown in Figure 10 below and indicates a skewed distribution, with the majority of those interviewed noting they are "satisfied". At the extreme ends of the scale, the Group 1 subgroup indicated higher levels of being "Very dissatisfied" and the Group 3 subgroup indicated higher levels of being "Very Satisfied".

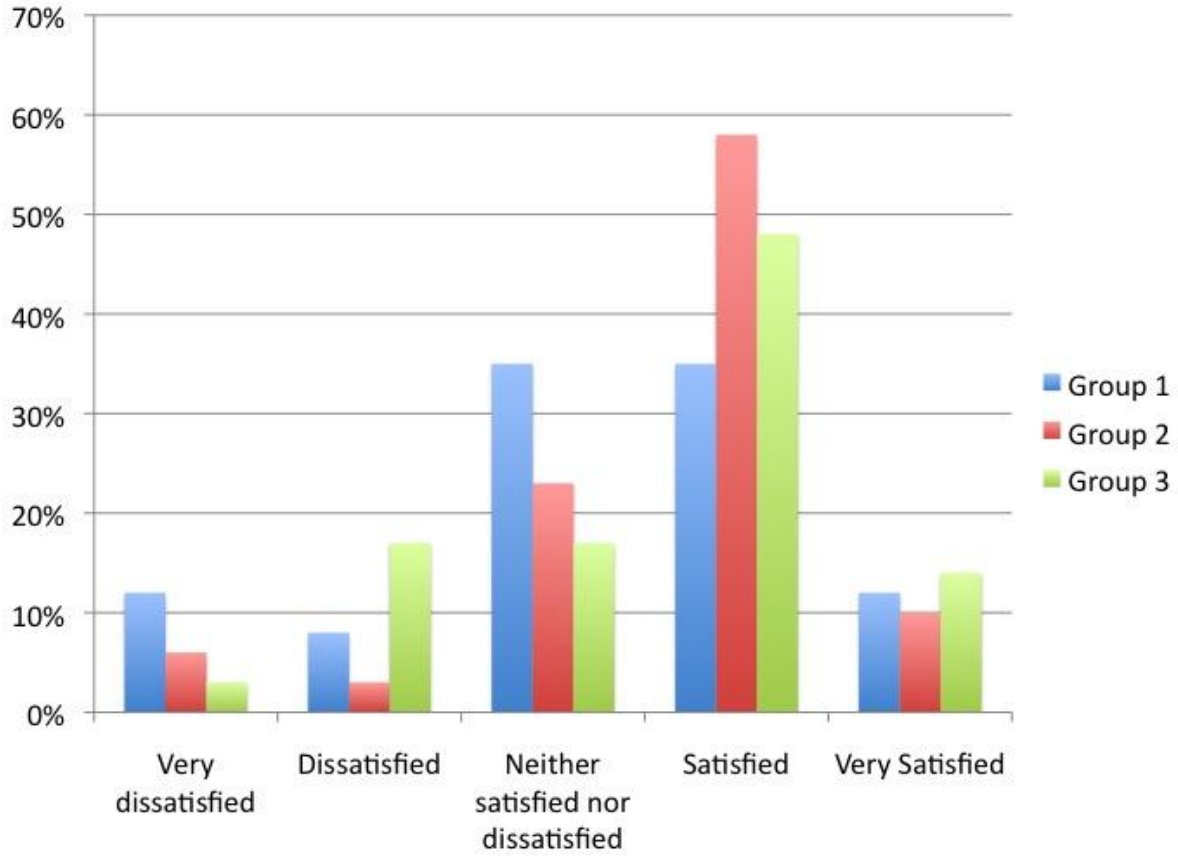

Figure 10. Overall level of satisfaction of social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions.

As a follow up to this question, we also asked them "Why?" they indicated their chosen level of satisfaction. Responses to the "Why" question illustrated many of the same patterns evident throughout the interview results, including a wide range of perspectives on whether the BLM sufficiently addresses social and economic analyses in resource management decisions. For instance, some RAC members noted they believe the BLM is not only doing a good job with these tasks, but also that spending more time than is currently done on social and economic analyses could take needed resources away from the mission/s they deemed more central:

> *I think they do a good job with socio economic information. I can't see where there is a major need to do more.*

> *BLM has so many needs in order to protect the resources. I would hate to see them spend more effort to conduct social and economic issues, as opposed to issues such as weed management or other issues that impact the public lands. I wouldn't prioritize that over environmental activities.*

Others clearly stated that the social and economic analyses constitute significant deficiencies that need to be rectified by the agency:

> *There's lots of cases and a lot of information they have gathered on this but there is a lack of analysis on what uses are taking place and what benefits people derive from the land and what harm the people are doing to the land.*

> *It depends on the situation. They have public meetings, then they don't always listen to what the public has to say.*

> *There's not enough analysis on what uses are taking place and what benefits people derive from the land. They were talking about a popular hunting destination, but never even mentioned the off-highway vehicle use around the area.*

And others explained positions that acknowledge the BLM's efforts to address social and economic analysis, even if some limitations remain:

> *I would hope this information will be read by people at the BLM and take note of the proper steps of what needs to be done. I haven't always been happy with them in the past, and they are still far from perfect. But given budgets, I think we just need to work together and do things the best we can.*

> *This is the second type of survey that I've taken in the past year in regards to their management activities, and I think it's great that they are trying to do evaluation themselves, and so that I hope they actually take these results seriously. I don't get these calls from the Forest Service, so it's a good first step that the BLM is taking.*

Summary

This final section provides a series of synthesis points toward identifying the critical factors affecting BLM's needs and capabilities for social science analysis from the RAC members' perspectives, which remain far from monolithic.

1) ***BLM's social science needs exist within a larger context of controversy embroiling contemporary public land management.***

In this context, simply increasing the frequency, degree, or quality of social science analysis will not provide a solution to the legal, political, and environmental controversy gridlocking resource management in many areas. However, the absence of the social and economic evidence of benefits *and* impacts often exacerbates interest group pressures by keeping those involved in

debating policy outcomes unaware of the likely true effects on human communities. This fact strongly supports the need for the agency to move beyond the failing baseline level of social and economic activities. Most (but not all) RAC members appear supportive of such a priority as a means of assisting the agency out of the mire of conflict and pessimism managers feel trapped within. RAC members poignantly described this perspective:

> *The problem is not just specific to BLM. It's the whole process re: development in this country. This process has become so adversarial; BLM can't do a good job even if they wanted to. Stakeholders show up to argue, not solve problems. The process the BLM uses doesn't get things where they need to go in terms of public input. There has to be balance, and no one can just have their way, as we all need to make sacrifices. The preservationists are going to bring the economy to a halt. They're going to bring energy production and power generation to a halt.*

> *The most important issue is to comply with FLPMA with respect to multiple use and multiple yield. Some special interest groups want to narrow down the use of the land. There are many BLM employees who occasionally say BLM stands for the Bureau of Lawsuit Management.*

2) ***Within the RAC system, a tension exists about the "true" or "main" mission of the BLM that mirrors the internal questioning of some as to whether social and economic analysis is genuinely and formally a part of the agency's mission.***

Whether it is a plea for more weed management or greater scrutiny over oil and gas drilling, a contingent of RAC members (across the subgroups) questions the notion of a deficiency in BLM's social science needs and capacities. This type of dilemma is not surprising given the breadth and diversity of stakeholder groups that make up RACs. When coupled with the BLM's history to emphasize resource management to the neglect of local community impacts, consider community development objectives, and focus on designing effective public participation strategies, the effect can become compounded.

To address this facet of the problem will require a shift in organizational culture tied to resource allocation / redistribution, the scale of decision-making authority regarding social science analysis, and the development of an encompassing set of educational materials for the internal dialogue that is currently avoided. As a reminder of this challenge, reflecting on the RAC member quote (p.22) that discusses BLM's community development efforts as too great reveals the multiple world views not necessarily in synchronization with the broader and evolving mandates given to public land / resource management agencies.

3) ***Similar to the general public, divergent perceptions abound within RACs about tribal expectations and rights with respect to public lands management and the BLM.***

While not true of all RAC members by any means, some of those interviewed expressed perspectives about BLM's work with tribes as simply the lack of will among the tribal members. While that value could exist for anyone, tribal or non-tribal, invoking this claim in the context of a RAC and the BLM's social science needs, it falls short of understanding the likelihood of how

and why indigenous perspectives may guide behavior differently than occurs in non-native cultures and value systems.

In this investigation, an emphasis was placed on seeking input related to tribal members' and communities' interface with RACs and the BLM land / resource management. In the western United States, where either use or protection of natural resources often remain a limiting factor to some activities, many tribal communities continue to experience disproportionate levels of poverty or lack of opportunity often tied to public lands policy, access, or uses. As domestic dependent nations, however, tribes do expect considerations of justice, equity, and fairness that not all agency and RAC members understand or heed.

4) ***For the RAC members who do support the social science dimensions in BLMs mission, they often see first hand some of the direct impacts of limited funding and staffing hindering the agency's ability to mobilize social and economic input.***

For some issues, the lack of analytical capacity intersects with how RAC members perceived other trends – such as the population growth rate among Hispanics – and what those trends signify for public lands management. It may seem logical to suggest the BLM needs to move toward contemporary frameworks for conducting analyses that include an interdisciplinary array of perspectives, including social science analysts. However, this analysis confirms the obvious and known concept that structural and cultural barriers embedded in such a large bureaucratic organization compound these trends.

5) ***The "advisory" capacity of RACs may limit the ability of the Councils, or individuals within them, to develop the leadership capacity to overcome the factors listed in #1-4 above.***

As with most, if not all, organizations that evolve in size and scope over time, the role of the RAC suffers from an inability to empower a higher level of decision-making, especially in relation to local community needs and issues understood better at the RAC level than higher ones. Paradoxically, these interface points with communities and people, lie at the heart of the purposes and reasons that RACs exist. RACs enable the agency to reach out to and engage the public, but even its members sometimes feel disempowered for action:

> *Documents are written to support the conclusion the BLM wants. I question the value of the RAC sometimes. It's hard to find a sense of purpose. We get information, but don't have a chance to actually do much.*

Addressing these types of challenges will certainly not occur rapidly, and for good reason. However, if BLM continues to neglect these dimensions of its resource management mission, the problems associated with people and place *where* the BLM resources occur will likely have negative effects to the productive capacities of the RAC system and to BLM.

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APPENDIX D.2 - BLM Director Letter of Invitation to Participate

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (210)

Dear Resource Advisory Council Member:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking your help with an initiative designed to evaluate its use of social science data in support of its management activities. For this reason, the BLM has commissioned a team of faculty members from four western universities to assess its needs and current capability to provide quality socio-economic information to its planners and stakeholders. I am writing to request your participation in this assessment.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) makes decisions daily that affect the social and economic well being of communities and regions, while trying to balance the often competing interests of many groups. It is therefore essential that BLM's managers and staff have access to sound and cost-effective information on the social and economic effects of our plans and projects.

The team has completed a telephone survey of BLM employees to obtain a perspective from inside the BLM on the usefulness and availability of social and economic information. To gain the perspective of our partners and stakeholders the assessment team plans to interview a sample of Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members. These phone interviews will assess awareness of the social and economic effects of BLM's management decisions, and examine the usefulness of the socio-economic information currently used to support planning and project implementation. The interviews will be conversational and open-ended. Each interview should take no more than thirty minutes.

Participation is entirely voluntary. If your name is included in the interview sample and you choose to participate, your comments will not be individually attributed. The list of participating RAC members will not be shared with the BLM. Should you have questions regarding this assessment or the interviews with RAC members, please contact the external affairs staff at your BLM state office (a list of contacts is enclosed). When the assessment is completed, my staff will be reporting back to the RACs on the results of these interviews, other findings of the assessment, and key steps the BLM will be taking to strengthen its ability to provide sound social and economic information in support of its management activities.

The Resource Advisory Councils play a very important role in guiding the policies and programs of the BLM. Thank you for all the time you contribute. If contacted, I hope you will share your views with the assessment team on this important subject.

Sincerely,

James L. Caswell
Director

APPENDIX D.3 - Text from Pre-notification Postcard

BLM Needs & Capabilities Assessment August 2008

Next week the University of Idaho's Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) will be calling you to participate in a BLM telephone survey to give input on your perceptions of the agency's social science needs and capabilities. This survey was announced in Information Bulletin No. 2007-092. This card is to notify you in advance that you have been randomly selected from the agency sample frame to be called.

You will be called at your office and the interview should take about 15 minutes. If you are busy when we call, please tell the interviewer and they will call back at another time.

If you have any questions about the survey please call the Social Science Research Unit, toll-free, at (1-877-542-3019).

Sincerely,

J.D. Wulfhorst

Director, Social Science Research Unit

APPENDIX D.4 - Interview instrument

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

BLM Social Science Capabilities Assessment

Introductory Script – Read this prior to each interview.

We are conducting an assessment on the behalf of the BLM regarding its current need and capability to obtain and utilize social and economic information in managing federal lands. The information we are collecting will be used to develop an action plan. This plan will ultimately be designed to identify areas where the BLM can improve its social and economic capabilities, and prescribe steps that the BLM should take to better address the human impacts of its management decisions.

The gathering and analysis of social and economic information is an important part of BLM's land use decision-making process. Social and economic information includes population and demographic trends, income distribution, local infrastructure, tax revenues and expenditures, public services, social priorities regarding community and environmental values, recreational preferences, community development, community sustainability and other factors that shape the local quality of life. The BLM uses this information not only to assess the impacts that its land use decisions, including the usefulness of its recreation plans and fire management decisions, to the communities affected by BLM actions. It is important for the BLM to understand stakeholders' views on how it can improve the gathering and analysis of this socioeconomic information in order to can make land use decisions that are responsive to the needs of those most affected.

Your participation in this assessment is entirely voluntary. You should have received an informed consent letter via email and responded to it before this interview. Any comment you make will not be attributed to you as an individual, the list of participants will not be shared with anyone, and the list of respondents will be destroyed after the assessment is completed. If at any point you would like to stop the interview, just let me know. You are also free to not answer any question. We will be writing the answers down as you give them. Although you responded that you agreed to the consent letter, do you have any questions about it? Do you have any questions before we begin?

Questions

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is your occupation?
2. When were you appointed to your RAC (note: they began in 1995)?
3. What stakeholder group do you represent on your RAC?
4. What are the most important issues facing the BLM in the region your RAC represents?
5. How important are social and economic issues to the RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions?

TYPES AND SOURCES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

6. Have you worked with the BLM in addressing social and economic issues?
   A. What types of social and economic information has been provided to you by BLM? (probe for specific social and economic tools and resources such as the Economic Profile System or BBM).

      How was this information provided? (BLM workshop, presentation materials, etc.)

   B. Has BLM's social and economic information been helpful in formulating advice?

      Would you provide examples of how socio-economic data and/or analysis were utilized in discussion between your RAC and the BLM regarding management decisions? (Probe for managing recreation - visitor use studies, gateway community planning; travel management, grazing, etc.)

   C. What types of socio-economic information do you most need to provide advice to BLM?

      As a RAC member, what sources other than BLM do you go to in order to get social and economic information?
7. How can BLM improve public access to socio-economic information?

LARGE-SCALE GENERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

8. In making resource decisions do you feel that the BLM has generally:
   a. Adequately addressed the economic effects of its decisions?
   b. Adequately addressed the social effects of its decisions?
   c. Adequately addressed the environmental effects of its decisions on minorities and low income residents (here, probe for tribal impacts)?

      The social and economic effects on these groups?

LOCAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

9. In your view, how does BLM take into consideration their impacts on local communities in making management decisions?
    a. Any examples?
10. Has the BLM been supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives?
11. Have you been involved in the RMP process?
    a. How involved?
    b. Did the BLM give the community adequate opportunity to participate in the RMP process?
    c. Were community concerns addressed by the BLM?
        i. If so, how so?
        ii. If not, why not, in your opinion?
        iii. Do you feel that the BLM at least made a diligent effort to address community concerns?

SUMMARY QUESTIONS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

12. Can you provide examples of how the BLM supports effective strategies of public participation to overcome barriers based on ethnicity and other factors?
13. What do you consider the BLM's primary strength in its social and economic analysis for resource management decisions?

    Primary weakness?
14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the level of social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions?

    Why?

APPENDICES D.5, D.6, AND D.7

Appendices D.5, D.6, and D.7 provide full transcription of the data from the RAC interviews, organized by question and Group 1 (Appendix D.5), Group 2 (Appendix D.6), and Group 3 (Appendix D.7) subgroups. Identifiers have been removed.

Appendix D.5 - Group 1 Interviews

RAC-- RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

BLM Social Science Capabilities Assessment

Group 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is your occupation?

- *Rancher*
- *CEO rural electric Co-op*
- *Land Manager*
- *Farm and Ranch*
- *Project manager for XDOT(State Department of Transportation)*
- *Regulator Analysis*
- *Vice President of Environmental and Social Responsibility*
- *Semi-retired governmental relations consultant*
- *County Commission*
- *Farmer/Rancher*
- *Oil and gas executive*
- *Tourism bureau manager for [City, State]*
- *Fishing outfitter*
- *Land use Planner*
- *My wife and I own a logging company*
- *Health safety and environmental director for [petroleum company]*
- *I'm a retired federal employee*
- *Veterinarian and rancher*
- *Assessor/ Mining*
- *Mining coordinator of [State] natural resources*
- *Senior scientist in the [federal agency]*
- *Part-time emergency planner*

- *Renewable energy developer*
- *Rancher*
- *Cattle rancher*
- *Businessman*
- *Rancher*

2. When were you appointed to your RAC (note: they began in 1995)?

- *1995 (2)*
- *1997*
- *1998*
- *1999*
- *2000 (3)*
- *2002*
- *2003 (3)*
- *2004(2)*
- *2005(3)*
- *2006(3)*
- *2007(6)*
- *2008*

3. What stakeholder group do you represent on your RAC?

- *Category 1, federal grazing*
- *Transportation, Right-of-ways*
- *Energy*
- *Federal Grazing Permit tee*
- *Transportation/ Right-of-ways*
- *Energy & Mineral*
- *[State and region]*
- *Energy and minerals.*
- *Commercial Timber*
- *Grazing and livestock.*
- *Oil and gas commodity and city councilman*
- *Commercial recreation*
- *Organized recreation*
- *Transportation planning & infrastructure*
- *Commercial loggers*

- *Energy development / oil and gas*
- *Off-highway vehicles.*
- *Resource users.*
- *Energy & minerals*
- *Energy and Minerals*
- *Energy and minerals.*
- *Citizens at large.*
- *Mining*
- *Livestock and grazing*
- *Federal Grazing Permitee*
- *Federal permitees and energy issues.*
- *Grazing permittee*

4. What are the most important issues facing the BLM in the region your RAC represents?

- *To me Education of the public of the multiple uses of land and be respectful of each other's uses*
- *Redo resource management plans to include all stakeholder groups, huge issue in my job has to do with power line right-of-ways a lot of ESA to deal with*
- *Land use*
- *Environmental Impacts, a lot of credit in [State] and very positive*
- *Travel Management plan… Alternate Energy wind, Related to energy corridors*
- *Development & Conservation*
- *Managing a large landmass with limited staff and resources. We have problems regarding fire and the fire cycle as well as invasive weeds. It's challenging to manage multi-stakeholder viewpoints. We have to deal with environmentalists, ranchers, miners, and the people who love wild horses*
- *There are six RMPs they've been working on for six years or more. They need to get back to business. Another issue is energy development on governmental lands and oil and gas leasing*
- *Resource Management Planning – we are working 2 right now*
- *Noxious weeds*
- *Endangered species*
- *Sage Grouse*
- *Travel Management—use of ORV*
- *The use of BLM land for grazing versus environmental uses*
- *Trying to manage a diverse multiple-use, conflicts between users, manage conflicts between multiple use mandates and users*

- *Transition from resource extraction to recreation*
- *Relatively narrow oil and gas, sage grouse, recreation*
- *Currently Fire. The addition of a lot of publicly managed land to provide facilities & demands for all kinds of use for all people*
- *Management decisions concerning various uses and the demands of different factions of people. It's getting more difficult to give everyone a piece of the pie*
- *Responsible energy development*
- *One of the big ones is solar energy and how to accommodate facilities on public lands without creating resources damage*
- *Environmentalist issues. There's an entrenched anti-grazing mentality in the [BLM] District. There are also nitwit judges to deal with and fire. Endangered species*
- *Off Road Vehicles, Noxious weeds & Fire*
- *Land management & doing this in a fair manner*
- *Wind power for electricity. Also natural gas and hydrogen*
- *Recreation conflict and uranium and development of special issues at a national park*
- *Land use issues, conflicts between the users and the respondents has to meet the presidents mandate for renewable energy*
- *Wildfires—millions of acres are being burned up*
- *Impact for mining*
- *Special interest groups causing undo financial problems*
- *Under staffing*
- *Litigation from outside groups*
- *Litigation, endangered species, and land-use conflict*
- *At [National Park], we just finished the RMP*

5. How important are social and economic issues to the RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions? (*For OR & WA, caution against commenting on National Forest and Forest Service lands; need notes re: BLM ONLY.*)

- *Critical*
- *Very*
- *Number One*
- *Pretty important, once they understand Federal Grazing and that small stakeholders are very important and that its and important part of the culture*
- *Pretty Important*
- *Very Important*
- *It should be really important. The precursor message doesn't seem true to me. I don't think the BLM takes socio-economic issues into consideration. They haven't had much emphasis on that in my experience*
- *It's a high priority. This RAC has a good handle on it*

- *Varies by members some very keyed in others not—it depends on interest*
- *Some social & environmental analysis tend to be not as well done*
- *It's important for local people who use the land for economic purposes. If they could use the land they would not be able to run half the animals they have*
- *Most of the folks currently on the [State] RAC would see those issues as extremely important, and mostly because they come from smaller outlying communities. If it was not for our ability to have oil/gas and ranching on state and federal land, then there wouldn't be a need for a community.*
- *Extremely important—dealing with any issue there is usually jobs involved and as the rural parts of America become less dependent on resource extraction and more dependent on other economies (such as recreation/tourism)*
- *Very, specifically because they are the liaison between the BLM and the public*
- *Medium level of importance, There are questions of user conflicts, conflicts with the public's desire to do certain activities in all places*
- *They consider socioeconomic impacts on communities. We faced a decision regarding pelicans that are nesting near to where the 4th of July fireworks are set off. The opinions are varied. A lot of people want us to back off of the birds and others want to see more research*
- *Very important; they are a consideration in everything we do*
- *It's an issue we've recognized. We're working on a recreation strategy and some of our members feel that BLM hasn't recognized certain values of public lands. We on the RAC recognize this as a weakness of the BLM*
- *Very important. In a qualified manner, we all understand the social issues. The majority of the non-users have no idea*
- *When the RAC sits down we look at all issues not just the social & economic issues—all are entered into the equation. We look at the total picture. Very important*
- *Quite important*
- *I joined the RAC and it is a noncontroversial group. We did give them some insight on public safety and public access*
- *It depends on the citizens in the group. Environmentalism isn't usually something valid to consider. Socioeconomic information is something valid to consider*
- *Yes, Very important*
- *Very important*
- *Very Important*
- *Moderately important*
- *Economics are forefront in people's minds here, very important*

TYPES AND SOURCES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

6. **Have you worked with the BLM in addressing social and economic issues?** (*SKIP ALL OF 6 IF ANSWER TO this one IS 'NO'*.)

- *Yes (9)*
- *No (5)*
- *To some degree*
- *No, I have only been a member for 2 years, my experience is limited.*
- *I have*
- *Yes. In my normal job, not so much on the RAC, when I'm trying to do a NEPA documents*
- *We're in the process of making a recreation strategy*
- *I worked with the BLM with which species should be listed as endangered as well as social and economic issues of the public on how we reopened a plant*
- *Somewhat, the RAC makes recommendations. Fire danger is our greatest economic issue*
- *Yes, with land selections & land classifications*
- *Very little*
- *Yes, I do that on a regular basis. I have several apps for wind sites*
- *Yes, during our last meeting we got some ideas put together & wrote a letter more policing needs to be done on public lands- control the use. We talked about how changing this plan can affect income in the area*

A. What types of social and economic information has been provided to you by BLM?

- *None (3)*
- *Have received handouts mining rules and regulations*
- *Info in Recreation Management Plans*
- *Looked at impacts on local businesses, impacts to general population*
- *I've seen some Environmental Impact Statements over the years*
- *Not a whole lot*
- *Did not get a great deal of information but did get some data from the social & economic indicators—this has some good information but was incomplete. When you see one community, you have seen only ONE community -- they are not alike. What works in one city may not work in the whole area. This is also locally driven usually from someone in the area*
- *Grazing and land issues*
- *Anything that we've asked for has been available. What we ask for varies from the influx of commercialism to the influx of recreation*
- *Normally the BLM contractor probably uses this, but I personally have not*
- *Not very much information has been given. All we've seen are statements and RMPs. I don't recall any studies or formal ways of looking at socioeconomic impacts*
- *Information in the RMP talks about recreation*
- *A while back the BLM hired a company to come in and check things out –well I don't think this company understood the BLM. The information they gave us was on the liberal*

side of things. They did not look at the whole picture the BLM puts together. There was a whole bunch of data from a [State] group

- *Indirectly you get this during a RAC meeting & field trips. We see and hear from local residents not just the BLM*
- *One part of our job is to gather information for them. They don't provide us much*
- *They explained procedures and the process. We provide socioeconomic information to them. They don't have anything formal like the BBM does*
- *The EIS for the Region regarding wind development*
- *All kinds of statistics: land sales, recreations dollars, number of livestock grazing on public lands, trail ideas*

How was this information provided? (BLM workshop, presentation materials, etc.)

- *Planning document on CD*
- *Presentation*
- *In an Environmental Impact Statement regarding nearby areas*
- *As part of a package in a RAC meeting*
- *The material was handed out at a RAC meeting*
- *Conference calls about increased population and increased use of the land. It's overused*
- *We usually get the information at the RAC meetings. They're getting better about providing it before the meetings so we can digest it*
- *In RMP form. Usually there's not much discussion of them*
- *During a RAC meeting*
- *Papers. Meetings. We should take one meeting a year to go over the social & economics information filling in the new member*
- *Presentations at the RAC meetings and on field trips*
- *It's provided in meetings in [city]. But there are so many talks, presentations, and field trips.*
- *Educational field trips. We went on a uranium mine tour*
- *Overall BLM action for using BLM lands and doing a Western States EIS*
- *Emails, meetings, materials that are mailed out, workshops, the BLM is very cooperative and go to great lengths to get this information*
- *Nothing was provided to us by the BLM. If we ask a question the BLM finds an answer. We have not asked for this type of information or presentation*

B. Has BLM's social and economic information been helpful in formulating advice?

- *Yes (3)*
- *No (3)*
- *Not really*

- *It's been better than none. I've worked with a number of BLM field offices and been in and out of the D.C. office. The understanding of socioeconomic information is very low. They don't seem to have a handle on it. They have very little information on this, except with our discussion about fees*
- *Only in one case*
- *I think so*
- *To an extent—I don't think the BLM does that very well. It's kind of the softer science, we know how to manage populations and distribution of animals, but in terms of understanding the economic issues of a native village on a [region], it's hard to quantify. The oil and gas industry gets blamed for a lot of issues that probably have been around for a while—"social pathology" such as alcoholism, spousal abuse, etc., these are alleged to be enhanced with development. There's no or only sketchy baseline data to compare pre and post data*
- *Minerals Management Service (1982) did a study, about the only one that has been done. The challenge they ran into is to get credible information from the village. They didn't want to tell the white guys anything about their health, traditions, etc. It's very personal. There is a push to try to do a better job of trying to incorporate socioeconomic information, and they are putting that burden on the industry, and we don't know how to do that*
- *In a couple recent EIS documents, they hired a doctor from [city], and he provided a lot of information, and we had a lot of problem with that and the way it was done. He coined or used the term social pathology*
- *It's lacking because it hasn't been brought up-to-date*
- *It has been helpful, but the people on EOR scratch their heads & the profiles are not put together by the EOR. We the RAC members are creative & resourceful. We can take care of our lands just give us the rules & regulations then get out of our faces and come sit beside us to discuss the pros & cons of decisions we need to make.(the government)*
- *This information has been helpful*
- *No real data's been given to us. We just have discussions*
- *Yes. The field trips give us information we would not have gotten any other way*
- *Not seen those specifically. That I have seen helpful*
- *Yes, we give advice on knowledge*

Would you provide examples of how socio-economic data and/or analysis were utilized in discussion between your RAC and the BLM regarding management decisions?

- *Yes to all in every discussion*
- *Used it related to travel management. [Valley] and the ATVs and the local communities*
- *I can't think of any examples*
- *The RAC's not used in this area very much.*
- *It was helpful to see the persons who were part of a proposed land use*

- *Recently we dealt with the nesting area issue. We left it open to see some new population studies on another nesting area north of there*
- *One discussion was about how the BLM perceives recreation on public lands. The RAC's perception was that BLM sees recreation as an intrusion, which must be guarded against. RAC voices are saying that recreation has a very positive value for the people. We're trying to dialogue about looking at recreation as a positive thing*
- *Land resources become fuel, as people protest against this — the forests are closed down –there is no place to take the timber since the sawmills closed, we need to be stewards of the land. Everything that the BLM tries gets sent to appeals. Then they can't do their jobs. It is enjoyable to help people but not nice to get ragged on*
- *In mining & energy the uranium mining tour pointed out the great cost to the miners to meet the requirements of the BLM. They put a dollar value on the impact they make to the communities they hire from. This helped the RAC gain information we would not have otherwise. The green groups have heard enough to understand the economics of this decision*
- *I am new and can't give any in my limited tenure*

C. What types of socio-economic information do you most need to provide advice to BLM?

- *Have issues presented how different uses of BLM land how those needs affect general public not just specific uses. Not just oil projects vs. oil projects. The majority of population in the East don't understand how public lands work.*
- *The spinoff of economic impact onto other uses, ex. evaluating solar power utilizes a lot of land and a lot of water, economic impact of that use of water and land and how grazing impacts wild horses*
- *Better handle on the number of people in the area and money they spend local economy*
- *All of it*
- *In rural [State] we need information on the population and population growth forecasts. Everything out here is BLM land, so towns and cities have to acquire BLM land to expand*
- *We need balanced information on the social and economic issues related to oil and gas*
- *We need inputs and outputs of the land that should give alternative information. What impact will that have on a community? How does the community use the land? Is economics tied directly to the social they need to be looked at together?*
- *Information on the current uses of land for recreation and business to get an overall feel and see the balance and how it affects the economy and how the land is holding up with population use*
- *These rural communities have suffered recently. BLM doesn't have large timber holdings here like the Forest Service, but BLM has been more aggressive about getting fire salvage up for sale. BLM is a can-do organization. They're under the radar and*

things seem to get done without the environmental community getting up-in-arms. The folks I deal with are not as reluctant to make a decision as it seems some folks are these days

- *I'm not sure what we need. I don't know enough about the issue to know what we need. RAC members need an introduction to what socio-economic information is, like social-economic 101*
- *The impacts of how recreation and tourism on public lands benefit local communities and the indirect benefits to public health. The president has an initiative recommending that people get out on public land for fitness purposes, and I don't think BLM is really playing that up as much as they could*
- *We need more information on impacts and unintended consequences for the user. Say there's a change in plan and it impacts the user, then something happens and the user doesn't feel secure. A decision is made and that user won't be able to use it the same. His use will be reduced. If the user says they're almost out of here, their investment in the land is diminished a significant amount at this point. We need better ideas of what specific things mean. We need to educate the permittee. The ranch is no longer viable, and that was an unintended consequence. Access to the BLM ground to users is often through private property, and if they control the access the users can't get onto it*
- *Statistics, but I am not sure the best place to get it this information. The jobs in the area, employment, what projects are going on in the county, what are the energy projects? Wind power what is going on with that? Business development is tied to economics. Regional strategies*
- *I want to hear how rural [State] uses the BLM land & how the decisions came about & what economic benefits there are. Decisions on how other communities were impacted on like decisions elsewhere*
- *Demographic trends and economics. I haven't asked for advice*
- *We need to have what the direct effects to a community are in terms of revenue to the local community. BLM needs to have someone in economics. Local folks who have a good feel for what's going on would also benefit the RAC*
- *RAC covers all areas of interest related to public lands*
- *We need to hear from the affected parties*
- *We look at impacts on a community or area we are talking about at the time –job loss, job opportunities, impacts on recreation, ranches, multi use land areas do they have positive or negative effects*

As a RAC member, what sources other than BLM do you go to get social and economic information?

- *A lot of different ones: BLM leasing, Cattlemen's associations, involved in local communities, resolving grazing conflicts, work for mining co and oil companies*
- *None*

- *From local people and businesses, chamber of commerce, and county commissioners*
- *Other RAC members, outside sources: Outdoor groups or companies*
- *The Internet*
- *The [town] office is the best. They acknowledge information and look at fees and royalties. We look at jobs created by it, but in [town] not many people are affected. No one lives there. The BLM doesn't consider the ripple effect of jobs created. Independent groups do lobbying. I look at tax records and production records*
- *U.S. Forest service, our county is mostly BLM land. [State] University, get stats from [State] employment departments (this impacts the loss of a sawmill) then people leave and we close an ATV recreation area*
- *Associated [State] Loggers; Forest Landowners Association; American Loggers Council; [State] Waterfowl; Ducks Unlimited; Forest Land Stewardship. There are a lot of other sources. I get a lot of information that other RAC members might not have access to*
- *From non-profits involved in the issues. I have used the National Off-Highway Vehicle Coordination Council and the American Hiking Society*
- *I don't. As a veterinarian and a permittee, I'm on top of this. When I see an article on the use of BLM land I understand it. I get information from newspapers*
- *Department of Employment*
- *EIS information*
- *I get other information from newspapers and meetings with other groups that meet with most of the tribes. The Department of Energy. I live in the area*
- *A Public Lands Partnership group I belong to. It's an informal group. I talk to county commissioners. I hear from the local people because they know I'm involved with the BLM*
- *The universities and the internet the state has some demographics*
- *Newspapers, bulletins, TV, livestock association individuals in the area, stakeholders*
- *Statistics from the state and census figures for the county. County extension work often has good information*
- *[State] stock growers, public land council*

7. How can BLM improve public (at large) access to socio-economic information?

- *Local BLM office BLM and FS in same office. Never seen brochure that describes values of multiple use. And how federal lands benefit the public*
- *Publish the information out there for the public to see like they do with other information*
- *Putting in a separate document so the cost of project is not buried in individual paragraphs that one can go directly to that doc. Read and understand. Right now that doesn't work buried in document*
- *Tricky use best judgment to what they can and can't give out*
- *I think the information is out there. Hard part is getting the public involved themselves*

- *Put information on the Website, hard copies to pass around/end out to RAC members or reports they have gotten through third parties*
- *Anything they could do would be an improvement. The information out now is so limited. There are probably other governmental entities with better information*
- *They have to produce it before they can pass it on. There's nothing on the web and what's there is isn't understandable. The [university] is working on information for one commodity to link it to what the state has already done. That information is on the state's website, but not cross-linked.*
- *Don't know—it is making the assumption they have the information and I don't think they do. Website*
- *It's tied in with the RAC committee. They could have a publication or newspapers and town hall meetings*
- *If anyone knew they actually did any of it. They have lots of good meetings for RMP, but I wasn't aware that type of information [social and economic] was considered. We have endangered species and grazing permits, but nobody seems to take into account the rancher's economic status*
- *I think the best way to improve on it is to get the information out and the most effective way is to have a public relations outlet to get news stories in the papers and on TV to direct people to website with information*
- *When they do have it available the public is a little indifferent. Disseminating the information they do a good job at*
- *Not sure that is part of the BLM's charge. They do a good job thru the media, special interest groups, and direct mailings to stakeholders; they publish reports & findings on the web. Public notices and graph plans are available*
- *They have a website. I'm not real deep into that internet stuff, but my wife tells me it's on their website. Around here the BLM goes to watershed meetings. All of these things pertain to socioeconomic information*
- *Knowledge sharing; they need to come up with some way to share knowledge among stakeholders. I think they do it through NEPA, but is there a website that can be accessed for a given piece of geography?*
- *There's a need for a clearinghouse of studies and publications made available across the BLM. There is lots of information out there that could be consolidated*
- *They need to collect the data first and put it in the decision documents and the RMP*
- *I don't know if they can improve it. Have the information on an updated web site. More flair to the notices that go out & are in the paper for the meetings*
- *You've got to get people to the meetings. Have a drawing that people who attend would be entered in a drawing for dinner at local restaurant*

- *The Advisory Committee works well. There should be regional reading rooms in universities. They should make alliances with lots of community groups and get their feelers into the community. They need regional representation*
- *The Forest Service is also concerned with this. They need to educate. We have other groups in the area that hold forums. They're more broad-based groups*
- *Publish the index of what is available*
- *General information is available you just need to go and get it. I don't think the BLM should provide this information*
- *Publish it to make it accessible*
- *Help sponsor the information getting to the public*
- *Can't answer, what I am thinking of they already do. (I have not looked a lot)*

LARGE-SCALE GENERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

8. In making resource decisions do you feel that the BLM has:

a. Adequately addressed the economic effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No (3)*
- *Part of the time, won't say all of the time*
- *Pretty much, at least in [State]*
- *Sometimes*
- *No, they have made a lot of decisions & have not made the information available to stakeholder & public. They say it is but it is not easily accessible*
- *No. It's just not a focus*
- *No. They're more tilted toward environmental effects*
- *Personally they do a better job than the Forest Service, but have a way to go because the environment always trumps the economic & social aspect*
- *I have limited information on this. I've only been on the committee for a few years*
- *No. Most of the decisions that they make are based on their interpretation on some law, such as a cultural resources law. Every time someone steps on federal land, we have to do a cultural survey, and those costs have been shifted to whomever wants to stand on the land, and can the business operate with additional costs. I've listened to the archaeologists tell us that this is how it has to be, but can do additional interpretation*
- *I think that it's a hard question to answer because BLM is very decentralized and what may be the case in one area is not the case in another. On the whole, they could do a better job. It is varied. Our RAC covers three management offices and two of the three do pretty good*
- *No I don't. In my six years there, I have not seen a lot of economic and social factors taken into account besides public comment periods*

- *Yes, in the 2 years I have been on the RAC it has only come up once---there was a use permit for fireworks—the fireworks have caused in the past seabirds to abandon their nests but, the money to the community during the fireworks were needed*
- *I believe so*
- *Typically yes. In any planning document, they have a bracket time called the reasonable development time (for mining, gas, recreation, etc.). The National Petroleum Reserve, when we lease that we don't know if there is oil there or not. So it's hard to understand the economics until you get there. If they could improve resource estimating that would help*
- *No; absolutely not. There's a Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental initiative looking at the public land allocation. They're not looking at the impacts to the communities with the loss of public land. That needs to be included*
- *No. They have sketchy information and they don't examine the effects*
- *Not always there is a set of regulations & sometime you have to look past the regulations. The county works well with the BLM—you don't want to cut out the counties involvement*
- *In some of the plans they do a good job, I don't know what level of economic effect goes into each project*
- *They don't have the staff to do this. They need an economist*
- *In the local region they try to do that. I can't say on the larger scale. Recreational conflict is challenging. BLM needs to address the conflict*
- *Not all the time. No. Probably the least of the two issues not enough time on the economic issues more concerned about the social issues*
- *These decisions need to be decided case by case, no two are alike*
- *No. It's not part of their mandate. They're more resource-oriented*
- *There is room for improvement*

b. Adequately addressed the social effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No (3)*
- *No, when you are looking at it from a National standpoint, Local Yes*
- *I think they have improved*
- *I think sometimes one sided, they've let certain groups (environmental) have too much influence in their decision by the threat of lawsuits*
- *No, they are not accessible*
- *No. They need training to get the information. The BLM responds to various user groups if they're being hammered by them. There is always a group that doesn't. Upper management does this better by making decisions. The chain of command needs to be constrained*

- *They have done a pretty good job –not sure it has been a fine enough scale. They look at the big scale*
- *I know it was included in the information and plan*
- *No, I don't think they recognize the impacts that decisions can have on communities. We don't see any difference of approach to their managing oil and gas development with $140/ barrel oil than we did at $20/ barrel oil, so there is no reaction to circumstances. The BLM is accountable to a god different than the one everyone else is. In theory these are public lands but if I own the minerals under the public lands do you think I care about a lizard on the land, I would be asking how soon I could drill. I would want to add to the supply of oil and gas and we spend more time asking about the lizards*
- *Even harder to define, but standard and templated interface. Run things by the RAC, then give the public the final version*
- *When appropriate to the land. Having to close down a long use shooting range for fire danger. All aspects were looked at including consulting native tribes when ancestral lands are involved*
- *I do. They've certainly looked at that information*
- *If you asked the villages, they would say no. If you asked me, I would say yes. The social impacts are not very tangible. It's not like barrels of oil. I don't think anybody does that well*
- *That's an area that needs improvement. RMPs just look at vegetative wildlife resources*
- *No. The BLM doesn't collect the information to look at it*
- *Not always*
- *The BLM does a good job listening to people & all they have to say then weighing the social impacts.*
- *They do worry about this the most. They really are concerned about what is affected by their decisions*
- *They try, but they can't always*
- *More than the economic. More worried about people's opinions*
- *These decisions need to be decided case by case, no two are alike*
- *No. People come in and give advice, but the BLM does what it wants for the most part*
- *No, there is room for improvement*

c. Adequately addressed the environmental effects of its decisions on minorities and low Income residents including tribal impacts? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *Yes (2)*

- *No (2)*
- *Strive to do that very good*
- *No, in the RMP we just completed, there is a lot of impact on small ranches & small communities, although the BLM is aware of the problems. I do not feel the smaller groups concerns were addressed*
- *They're making an effort. There's not too many actions the BLM undertakes without tribal consultation*
- *Native Americans are represented on committees sit on boards, they are well represented, low income & minorities is another story*
- *Improved on quite a bit in [State]. Leadership teams are taking everything into consideration they have a positive impact*
- *Yes, they try very hard at that. One of the problems as a council is getting input from the tribes but a lot of times they fail to be a part of the RAC council*
- *No, the BLM does not have the data available. Don't know what the impacts are on these groups*
- *No. The focus is always on the environment and the stakeholders*
- *Yes. The BLM always consults with tribes. They don't look at minorities and lower income folks even though that's how the law was written*
- *I can't answer this*
- *Low income is not addressed but the notion to provide lands that are multi use and for all people is. Tribal communities are adequately addressed but no minorities. Someone from the tribe is always on a committee*
- *It was included in the proposal*
- *I love this question. We don't have any low income folks. If you are it's because you're on drugs. We have full employment and if you want a job you can have it. There are 60 jobs at our local Wal-Mart. The closest tribes are 90 miles away or 180 miles away and when we have a cultural resource mitigation we are hung up for 30 days to see if these people want to consult. They have no interest unless there is a financial gain*
- *As far as dealing with tribes, they are probably the most protective. Bend over backwards to get their opinions. They do a great job of looking at everyone together*
- *I have no experience, but we have not dealt with that issue, so probably not. We have tribal members on the RAC.*
- *Wow. This has not come up as an issue in the region I am in*
- *Again, I personally think so, but I'm not sure about others*
- *I can't say for sure*
- *I don't know that the minorities, low income residents, and tribes are not under-analyzed*
- *Not always*
- *[State] is different, rural [State] (natives) are all minorities & low income people. The BLM does a lot of consultation and they try to solicit information at many public meetings. The BLM gives it their best shot*

- *They don't use a structured analysis like you do in other agencies*
- *The decisions that the BLM makes affect the minorities, especially low income folks*
- *More than they need to*

d. The social and economic effects on these groups? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No. Socio-economic information really isn't talked about much*
- *No one is looking at this issue right now*
- *Sure, because those groups don't exist in our part of the world. Our poorest guy is the guy bringing his camper in to come to [recreation site]*
- *It all goes hand-in-hand*
- *In some cases they probably have, but in others it's not a priority*
- *Resource users are left out on an economic basis. Their socioeconomic situation is not addressed. Recreation users are addressed adequately. Many of the BLM people are users. People in the [BLM] District that work in the BLM are working to protect the resource users first*
- *If you don't have jobs people move away or go on welfare & this burdens the welfare system. We do not have a lot of minorities. Ranching is our biggest revenue in the community. They use the BLM lands, grazing areas & forest service land. We need to look at the stewardship. Need to rewrite the grazing plans & when they do things are held up & you keep going around in circles*
- *This is ignored by all*
- *They do not have the toys ($ for four wheelers and such) or the time to use these lands for recreation*
- *Their needs are not being met—I have also heard that low income groups are not interested in recreation and are left out of the discussion*
- *Probably not. I've never seen it, aside from finished analyses. They're not always looking state-wide, and a lot of these areas don't have many minorities*
- *These groups will have to learn to deal with the decisions*

LOCAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

9. In your view, how does BLM take into consideration their impacts on local communities in making management decisions?

- *Good score, individuals with special agendas need to deal with that better*
- *I think they could do a better job*
- *They look at their impacts and go out in the field*
- *They try to, sometimes they let environmental issues drive decisions more than should*
- *By word of mouth percentage what they have heard from these groups*
- *They try to engage the affected parties*

- *They don't do a good job on this*
- *The BLM looks at decisions & takes into consideration the impacts on local communities better than the Forest Service. They look at the impact of a certain ranch that is affected but not the trickledown effect on the community*
- *They go out of their way to have people express their views*
- *Most common method is meetings related to whatever they are attempting to do. Meetings are locally held with knowledge that very few people might show up. BLM goes beyond what one might expect in terms of having meetings*
- *This is reflected in the amount of work they do to include all involved. Bike trips—make sure neighborhood has plenty of input and ask recreation users of all kinds*
- *They do scoping meetings and invite the affected community. Then they publish their alternatives with a review period. Usually they do more community meetings. It's well-documented*
- *I think a key component is public meetings, and presenting proposals, and then getting feedback from stakeholders and evaluating that feedback. Then changing proposals based on input. They are pretty good at this*
- *It's based on the knowledge of the specialist working on the project. There's not a lot of objective evidence being looked at*
- *The BLM does not look at the economic impacts and it's hard to say what the economic impact on a community will be unless you are in the field talking to a lot of people*
- *Not sure*
- *They try hard to take the local communities into consideration*
- *They try to make a genuine effort. In recent years the new BLM management has been trying to find a balance with motorized action groups*
- *The BLM offices we work with [BLM offices] do as much as they can almost to a fault*
- *Think impact on community is a distant second to the impact on the environment*
- *I don't think they do*
- *Decisions are made by higher up and locals are made to adapt—they have to*

a. Any examples?

- *1 to 1 and public meetings*
- *None, off the top of my head*
- *We have a giant sand dune and on some big weekends they'll get thousands of people out there. There turns out to be a little butterfly that only lives near and adjacent to this mountain. So the environmentalists wanted us to shut the mountain down. The BLM took input from all the different local groups who had opinions*
- *BLM people were not up on water laws. They wanted to use water to keep dust down on the roads. It's us versus them*
- *Locally we had an issue where there is an area where people are using four-wheeled vehicles. They had meetings around the area and discussed all the issues*

- *I'm fairly skeptical that they do worry very much about local communities and the only time they do is if you have an activist community. One example is when private lands become public lands (through purchase or swap) it's a loss of tax revenue. When the county acquires private land, they need to make sure they turn some public land back into private (through selling or swapping). BLM only reacts when someone misbehaves. In other counties, there is no activist group; they don't react to it unless the local folks force a reaction*
- *No examples—public comment is main source of feedback*
- *The [Park] outside of [town]*
- *RMPs modify travel management routes and I don't think they've looked that closely at how they affect local people*
- *The small communities are tied to the land, and the community becomes upset when the land is impaired*
- *By the opportunities for comment at meetings & scoping meetings. In the RMP how a block of land will be used—scoping comes first*
- *Local politics*
- *They're just organizing*
- *Yes, cow towns are dependent on public lands – when push comes to shove the BLM sides with the protecting the lands*
- *The spotted owl would be an excellent example, but that's not really relevant to this area*
- *Smaller groups talked about above*

10. Has the BLM been supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives? (*Why or why not?*)

- *Yes (2)*
- *Fair*
- *I think so. We have a tribal member on our RAC*
- *Yes, too much so*
- *I think so*
- *Yes, for the ones they know about—but can't be aware of all of them*
- *No. Only when there's an act of Congress does anything get done. That's the only way anything can get done because the BLM doesn't have the mechanism or the will to make things happen. 80% of our state is owned by the BLM and Congress had to basically force the trade of the federal land*
- *An RMP has to conform to whatever the community wants, but the community plans are not followed or kept in mind what the BLM is making a decision*
- *I think so, our state does not have alot of BLM land so we don't from them much –but when we had to community they got right on it. The BLM tries very hard to be responsive the local government & they communicate well with the tribes and the state. When there*

was some miscommunication with Sage Grouse the state & BLM came together and worked it out

- *I don't have the experience*
- *I don't think there is a lot of stuff where they have any impact on those. Land managers are not community development type roles*
- *When they know about them, they do take them into consideration. Often there is less contact with state government than there probably should be. But the very nature of local government vs. state government, it's a fuzzy line with what's covered by what. State funds some social programs, but they are managed locally*
- *No experience*
- *Yes there is a good partnership. [Project] partnered with tribal units about ancestral lands. Our RAC includes a Native American. The state, local & tribal governments are all very knowledgeable –in this way they help. What they do is exhaustive. They ask for input from all but there are laws on the books that can stop a project—a hindrance*
- *To the extent that they can. I think the issue is employment opportunities. Oil companies hire people and you have to pass the drug test and have some basic skill level. Communities do pretty well at training, but we can't get anyone to pass the drug test*
- *It's a mixed bag*
- *I can't answer this. That's hard to answer. Some local governments believe that the BLM has not done enough with the RMP. I have not been to a meeting where any group is very happy with all the decisions made*
- *I believe so*
- *Yes, generally speaking in [State] there is a cooperative feeling but the state, local governments have different terms for the objectives*
- *Good question. Sometimes the local agencies have some strange ideas. Everyone owns this land and so we have to balance this. BLM policy is to listen to the pitch, but they're quick to point out if something isn't viable. Small towns want to use the BLM land as their land, but it is not*
- *They try, but the communities are very diverse. They make an effort*
- *Yes more so than need to be*
- *I am too new on the board to speak to this*
- *I think for the most part yes*
- *We're between two tribes and neither has a lot to do with our area*
- *Can't answer*

11. Have you been involved in the RMP (resource management plan) process? (*If no, is your RAC involved in that process?*)

- *Yes (13)*
- *No (3)*

- *Just at the beginning. Not from beginning to end*
- *I was excited to do this RMP, but it was put on hold for a few years because there were higher priorities in other areas. Timber is a high priority*
- *On the surface*
- *We are just getting started in the RMP process*

a. How involved? What was your role?

- *Very much, responding to it, indirectly involved, wrote responses to do with local county commissioner cattle association*
- *Greatly, made comments on two different plans*
- *Commenting on each plan, reviewing analyzing*
- *Reviewing and comments*
- *Somewhat review RMPs and giving feedback*
- *I provided comments & have worked with a lot of RMPs*
- *A couple different BLM offices have had us help with their RMP process. I didn't help much*
- *I was isolated. But I've been involved with the group for meetings. We met with all the field offices and talked about issues. There were state directors, oil and gas people, DC people, [State] delegation, the news, and local papers*
- *Yes, right now our RAC is working on two RMPs. I am not too involved I went on a tour of the area and we get updates at the RAC meetings, addressing items on the RMP that needs to be changed*
- *Many times. How many different times? I've been work groups in the initial assessment phase; I've made comments after the initial RMP comes out*
- *Yes. As a RAC member, BLM comes before the RAC and provides them with entire documentation. There is usually an overview*
- *Just as a RAC member. Mostly comments. Adjunct to main process. Informed on a periodic basis on what's going on with an RMP. Offer comments as much as we care as the process is moving forward*
- *As a member I am aware of two meetings about that process as a group. An individual will also work through something and report the finding or just add it to the RMP*
- *One proposal would have affected where I live, and I got involved. I've been doing timber sales for years, so I've been dealing with the BLM for years*
- *Not in [State], but in [list of states]. Just as an oil and gas industry stakeholder, providing information on the reasonably foreseeable development objectives*
- *As a user, I respond to proposed RMPs. On the RAC I help review the plans and provide suggestions and comments from the perspective of a recreationist*
- *I bother them more than most people, asking questions all along the way. I am very involved*

- *We are just starting the process and we are getting the information out to attend meetings*
- *We see the concept.*
- *Reviewed it*
- *Not involved a whole lot, was part of the concerned public*
- *We've been reviewing drafts and providing comments and asking questions*
- *My involvement in the RMP was as part of the RAC. We made recommendations to the BLM team. The BLM kept us involved through the entire process*

b. Did the BLM give the community (at large) adequate opportunity to participate in the RMP process? (*For some, all, none …*)

- *Yes (7)*
- *Yes, getting public to respond is the problem*
- *Yes, many of them over may states & RMPs*
- *The RMP I'm involved in really hasn't made it to that point yet*
- *People have been giving information*
- *Yes they did, there were lots of meetings in [community area], scoping meetings in 8-10 communities. One meeting in an area was not well attended*
- *More recently they gave the community opportunity early on in the process to be able to voice their opinion. In the old days, it was a black box RMP that had our comments ignored*
- *I think so*
- *RAC is liaison to public, and not aware of other sources (uniformed about others)*
- *Absolutely, every time I've been involved*
- *A lot of these plans have public comment periods and open houses. They're giving the public time, but how they do it could be improved*
- *They sent notices out about meetings, but the meetings were not well attended because the public does not feel their voice will be heard. This is from past history. There is no trust with the BLM. People know how they were treated in the past*
- *Yes, the community can be as involved as they want to be. There are plenty of opportunities to participate in the RMP process. It is easier in some communities—our communities can be very far from each other and it is expensive to get to all the areas you should in [our State]. The BLM does make a sincere effort*
- *The problem is getting the community to participate. They can't force people to participate*
- *More than needed to*

- *Yes too much*
- *Yeah. We've got a lot of good comments, but BLM ignores them. The community supported limited public transportation, but the BLM wanted it to stay open. The BLM needs to manage these issues instead of ignoring what the community wants*

c. Were community concerns addressed by the BLM?

- *Yes (6)*
- *Yes and No! We will see what happens when stakeholder groups are filling protests*
- *I believe so*
- *I believe they tried to*
- *The RMP I'm involved in really hasn't made it to that point yet*
- *It is too soon to tell nothing has come out yet for us to know.*
- *Yes, people have the opportunity to talk about and hear the information through tours open to any stakeholder. There is public review on the web, local media events, meetings are held in regional office; meet with concerned citizens and governments. Plans are drafted and put out for 90 days. All feel the BLM is the one responsible for getting information in to the community. The federal government thinks the BLM is the best at getting information to the community*
- *Yes, though not to everyone's satisfaction*
- *I think they are*
- *This is where there may not be a single voice to represent the community. BLM tries to be balanced, but sometimes the community is not the priority*
- *I can't answer this. Some say no and some say yes. It depends on what side you were on*
- *I don't know, it will be interesting to know how they are addressed*
- *They need to educate the communities that they can participate in multiple public groups*
- *We'll find out as time goes on*
- *Yes, the communities concerns were addressed but you can't please everyone*

i. If so, how so?

- *In the plans*
- *The BLM tend to be influenced by threats of lawsuits*
- *By listening, receiving comments and addressing the comments in all RMPS*
- *I won't know the answer until we get the RMP back. The BLM attempts to address these issues. They try to satisfy too many people so no one is satisfied*
- *Some of the concerns were addressed, but some of the flaws was that there was tremendous effort from the community to be involved. Involved sensitive species, tremendous time commitment with lots of discussion, and there was work by some folks during RMP process, but there was still some items that were adopted that were in*

conflict with community concerns. Changing things at last minute after lots of work by community, and took most of what they did, and made it worse. It just made the detractors point and say you gave up too much, and should have given up less to wind up in middle ground

- *Every comment they get they review and decide if there is some sort of appropriate answer. [BLM] management district has had a management plan under review and it has taken a long time to get enough comments*
- *Yes, and very specific to the RAC, but taking the RAC as a sector to the public they have been relatively helpful in trying to get your concerns satisfied*
- *The local community formed a committee and we put some things into the RMP plan*
- *I can give you an example in the [region], the human health impact assessment. We didn't agree with it, but the agency heard the concerns and incorporated that into the decision*
- *They do the best they can. Have a broad spectrum to attend to*

ii. If not, why not, in your opinion?

- *Sometimes the decisions are not in the BLM's hands—there are issues above their authority.*

iii. **Do you feel that the BLM made a diligent effort to address community concerns?** (*Explain, why or why not? Provide some examples.*)

- *Yes (3)*
- *No (2)*
- *Yes, put out a lot of meetings and did a lot of work*
- *Yes, RMP seems to always reflect who attends the meetings. And doesn't reflect the silent majority.*
- *Yes I believe so they did*
- *Yes, in each one providing comments, addressing each issue above & beyond what is required*
- *They tried somewhat, part of the problem is that when you are concerned about species, they only look at environmental impacts not socio-economic*
- *Yes. Relatively narrow topic—wild and scenic for rivers. Interesting and controversial subject. BLM responsive to all parties. Gave all parties a good hearing*
- *I do. That's a situation where not everybody could come away with everything they wanted*
- *I always do*
- *They have, but it's a mixed bag*
- *[Counties] were not taken seriously by the BLM*
- *Yes more than needed to*

- *Yes a huge effort*

SUMMARY QUESTIONS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

12. Can you provide examples of how the BLM supports effective strategies of public participation to overcome barriers based on ethnicity and other factors?

- *They had community meetings in every community in the area well advertised amusing and beneficial and activities. Diverse groups*
- *All I know is that they are trying more now than they did in the past*
- *They go out of their way to include special interest groups more so than special interest groups such as, ATV, wild horses, etc*
- *I've been to open house meetings for RMPs not well attended and targeted people not always attended. They try! You can't get everything you want*
- *I think a lot of times they tried to have meetings in many local areas to participation*
- *Can't think of any*
- *They have their standard open houses to talk about things. And they put out draft documents for public comment*
- *The Indian Remains Law. There are no Indian tribes that live in or on BLM land. The BLM does a good job and gets comments. I don't know anything about ethnicity*
- *I have no idea*
- *Just by having meetings with all the groups. In town hall meetings everyone is included*
- *One of the things we've seen on a very local level is an outreach by both of the field offices to be more user-friendly. To actually have the managers and some of the lead people not just show up at meetings with industry, but actually come by and ask if we have issues. I don't think it's restricted to industry but more of an outreach to the entire community. I think they're trying to be more of a community supporter*
- *I don't know whether they physically go out and speak to these groups or solicit opinions, but they do provide opportunity to give comment. Can't really speak to it specifically*
- *I haven't run into a lot of race or ethnicity issues. We have some tribal people on our RAC. We didn't for awhile, and I know BLM went to a lot of trouble to get some natives*
- *Yes, they do a couple things. Public meetings. They go to the villages. There is seven [region] villages, and they have several meetings in each village. For subsistence groups, they have an advisory panel and it rotates among the villages, and is well represented by members from each group. And industry consults with these groups. BLM serves as a facilitator for that process*
- *The BLM put together a plan with a lot of community involvement. It was about a national monument and I think they took a really hard look at how to get the communities involved. But the plan has taken longer as a result of the community involvement*
- *We haven't gotten into this a great deal since I have been on the RAC. Social/Economics is only part of the equation. They try to address this and we could use an update*

- *In [town] the BLM hired a local resident to act as a liaison between the BLM and community. This was a person that was respected in the community*
- *One of the RAC members was a member of a [tribe]. There are lots of women and they include them in advisories. Hispanics and migrants really use the BLM land, but are not represented*
- *The communities here are not as divided as they are in some places. Indian tribes are reluctant to participate. The BLM is sensitive to this and encourages them to participate*
- *They hold meetings; communicate with the public, using the RMP, studying the things to death*
- *Mining is a big concern, there are open meetings informing the community of what is going on and what is next and answering and addressing concerns*
- *I think they don't get groups involved in planning until after a draft is addressed… The public gets to input as an after thought*
- *With the tribes they have a "Wings and Roots" program and they have a monthly meeting with tribal spokesmen. It's a government-to-government system, so it's different*
- *Town hall meetings, they had them in most communities & sought out all the people so no one had to travel far to participate and have their say*

13. What do you consider the BLM's primary strength in its social and economic analysis for resource management decisions? (*Explain.*)

- *Ability or fact that they have had public meetings and open door policies for conversations, I don't agree with some of the economics but I don't know where that is pushed from. Maybe they're to satisfy the public*
- *I don't feel they have addressed the social and economics when making there decisions*
- *They put in a lot of time, buried time*
- *Being straight up front. Key is communication. They ask how you will be impacted and have come a long ways with that. They will go right where problem is at. Very productive*
- *Trying to have adequate meetings in appropriate times when people can get there*
- *I don't know*
- *There doesn't seem to be much of a strength*
- *BLM tries to do these at all levels of management*
- *Primary strength they have good people who work locally in the communities where the issues are. They are plugged in to the feelings, wants / needs of the communities*
- *RACs have a variety of people on the committees and give good feedback. They have an opportunity to openly discuss the issues. I'm impressed with the BLM. They are open to all ideas*
- *Don't have any*
- *I would have to say is the fact that the employees live in the communities that are being managed. One of the better agencies for community involvement. Have a vested interested because they live right there*

- *For lack of a better term, on the ground knowledge*
- *The track record in experience & management. The BLM manages a lot & varied recreation land increasing their experience. They have assessed what different activities will do to the land and can use this information to make knowledgeable decisions*
- *That can-do attitude*
- *I think they have strength in economic and not strength in social*
- *In economic analysis, they quantify the actual economic benefit to a region or state*
- *BLM has a good track record of seeking public involvement in RMPs. There could be improvement in how they go about it, though*
- *They try to evaluate the impacts*
- *Strength/weakness, I haven't got a clue, not an issue for me*
- *There is a consistent group of personnel who has been in [State] and has experience and this is of great value. Experienced staff/employees*
- *There are lots of good technical strengths*
- *BLM staff spends time and work in the community*
- *They are concerned once again they are driven my pros and cons and that's well and good because that's business at hand. How you get the public involved is something they need to look at. They need to survey individuals. And get people involved if BLM got involved in opinion business*
- *Trained staff and their willingness to seek information from the community*
- *The staff that they have on hand*
- *I don't think they really have one. Everything is contracted out*
- *To have the where with all to get the word out & realize how important it is have the resources to do it*

Primary weakness?

- *Educating the public or RAC as to how they reach certain understandings. How the steps of the BLM RAC process works. Listening to the local pubic and the RAC instead of following personal agenda*
- *Can't find info that they spend a lot of time putting together and working on*
- *Understaffed*
- *Legal issue afraid of lawsuits and don't always defend themselves*
- *I don't know*
- *It just seems that socio-economic aspects are only briefly touched on by BLM*
- *They can and should do better. There's a lack of trained personnel*

- *The decision making is not done in the local communities*
- *It hasn't been working. It is a thankless job; you can never be able to make everyone happy*
- *If they've been doing these analyses, they haven't been sharing with anyone. Maybe they don't want to share it because some of the folks would attack it as underestimating the impacts on the economics in an area. Some acreage was just withdrawn (for oil and gas , but if I can't lease it, what are my options? So we've had wells that have not been drilled in order to wait for the BLM to get through planning process so they can lease tracts. Need to have determined plans*
- *Probably almost the same answer, in the sense they are so decentralized it is up to an individual locally (area manager) to decide what sort of emphasis to put on it, and some are better than others. Not consistent across locations*
- *Connecting with the public and getting sufficient feedback. BLM makes a good effort to get information out there but the public may or may not be very participatory or know that the information is there*
- *Also the BLM does not have enough resources do what they need to do. The structure the last few decades have become more dictated from above. BLM does not benefit from raises in fees*
- *If I compare BLM to the Forest Service, BLM is much more efficient. They're a government agency and they have to respond to the public. So many different people want so many different things and it gets bogged down in red tape. I think BLM is pretty lean and mean as far as the government is concerned*
- *Social analysis. I don't know if they don't do it well or don't communicate it well*
- *Having some baseline, objective demographic information would help the analysis. There's not a lot of information for planners on what people are doing out there*
- *The evaluation isn't used for economic purposes*
- *The additional cost of doing business in [State]. This work the BLM does needs to be done on a personnel level for the public to believe they are truly helping.*
- *There are not enough soft science folks. We NEED an economist! I don't see them in meetings.*
- *Washington imposes their view regardless of any input that's given*
- *They don't do (what is above) enough!!! They need outreach!*
- *Submitting to undo influence and lawsuits from special interest groups*
- *Public more involved after a plan then when planning. Too much input from the public*
- *Unless you've grown up in an area, it's hard to understand a community. So if you hire community members you can prejudice the outcome, but the same is true for people from other areas. New people lack community contacts*
- *BLM is a very large organization whose budgets have been cut and the BLM moves in a snail's pace, while so may peoples' live hang in the balance waiting for a decision*

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the level of social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions?

- *Very dissatisfied (3)*
- *Dissatisfied (2)*
- *Neither satisfied or dissatisfied (9)*
- *Satisfied (9)*
- *Very Satisfied (3)*
- *I haven't seen much so I can't evaluate this*

Why?

- *Come a long ways*
- *The BLM try very hard & take into consideration everything that is brought to their attention*
- *It's not a priority*
- *I don't think there's a strong understanding of this*
- *They are not doing a bad job but there is room for improvement*
- *I say that based on the last meeting. We went over the plan and there was a social and economic component about what the effects are in that area*
- *The BLM is like any corporation, we have too many folks in Washington, D.C. that don't know anything about what's going out in field. They need to cut the Washington, D.C. staff and reassign those folks to the field office. Typically what happens when budgets get tight, the field office gets the cuts and the D.C. office can still send emails back and forth. It doesn't work. I also would rather see the state staff downsized as well. The expertise at the district/field offices add to the success for the program, and the staff at the state office, even though they are all nice folks, I don't see their contribution as successful. The recently retired state [position] and I encourage coming to [recreation site] and living in a trailer, but he didn't get back to the field in the last 15 years. You can't understand a field person's problem if you haven't been there in 25 years. But he did get me another helper in [recreation site], so maybe in some ways they do respond to social and economic pressure*
- *They bend over backwards to get as much input as possible*
- *I think they make a good effort to get the information out there but the number of comments or the quality of comments may not be sufficient*
- *My experience with the overall BLM has a mission to protect and we can't lose sight of the primary mission conservation to resources, provide recreation to all people*
- *They find reasons to get things done. They don't kill issues*
- *Well, as it relates to the energy industry. They do a fairly good job of engaging stakeholders and trying. Funding is an issue. They don't have the personnel to do the research. The burden is truly on the agency to fund it*

- *There's not enough analysis on what uses are taking place and what benefits people derive from the land. They were talking about a popular hunting destination, but never even mentioned the off-highway vehicle use around the area*
- *They don't understand the impacts on resource users and on the resource itself*
- *There needs to be flexibility with the District manager's interpretation working with the public. Look at what needs to be addressed—how & what we need to do to get a decision made*
- *The RAC has been a good experience and the information development, trust and line of communication—The RAC is one of the best things for the BLM. We need reports to update what happened in the field*
- *The BLM finds itself in the middle*
- *As far as I know they don't do anything*
- *They try. They are bound by complex rules that come from somewhere else. They have a lack of resources. BLM needs sufficient staff to do things on a reasonable timeline*
- *There is room for improvement, under circumstances they are doing a good job with the resources they have*
- *Documents are written to support the conclusion the BLM wants. I question the value of the RAC sometimes. It's hard to find a sense of purpose. We get information, but don't have a chance to actually do much*
- *There is room for improvement and the BLM is making attempts to do that*

Thank-you very much for your time & input.

Appendix D.6 - Group 2 Interviews

RAC-- RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

BLM Social Science Capabilities Assessment

GROUP 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is your occupation?

- *Archaeologist*
- *Retired*
- *Natural resource consultant*
- *Program Director of The Nature Conservancy*
- *Retired*
- *President, CEO*
- *Land manager for [State] Agriculture*
- *Environmental Policy Analysis*
- *I'm a retired BLM employee and work with the State Land Department*
- *I'm retired*
- *Retired*
- *Recreation planner for Parks & Rec*
- *Consultant*
- *Retired attorney & trails Advocate*
- *Archaeologist*
- *Retired*
- *Retired*
- *I'm retired from the United States Forest Service.*
- *Mechanical engineer*
- *Director of an outreach campus*
- *Historian*
- *Technical advisor*

- *Work for NGO, executive director*
- *Retired*
- *Archaeologist*
- *Retired*
- *Retired museum director, research projects through frontier heritage and lands*
- *Consultant*
- *Retired*
- *Energy consultant*
- *Biologist*
- *Retired*
- *Retired from Corrections*

2. When were you appointed to your RAC (note: they began in 1995)?

- *1995 (2)*
- *1997*
- *2000*
- *2002 (4)*
- *2003 (5)*
- *2004 (3)*
- *2005 (2)*
- *2006 (10)*
- *2007 (3)*
- *2008*
- *Have been working with the BLM 20 years*

3. What stakeholder group do you represent on your RAC?

- *Cultural Recourses*
- *Conservation, environmental*
- *Conservation*
- *Environmental Conservation*
- *Environmental*
- *Have me in Environmental*
- *Dispersed Recreation*
- *Conservation*
- *Disposed Recreation*
- *Historical/ Archaeology*

- *Wildlife*
- *Dispersed recreation*
- *Historian/Archaeologist*
- *Dispersed Recreation*
- *Historian*
- *Environmental*
- *Wild horses and burros*
- *Conservation recreation*
- *Dispersed recreation*
- *Dispersed recreation in the environmental sector*
- *Archaeology and history (more of an interest group)—public at large*
- *Conservation*
- *Environmental community, and also owner operator of ranch (agricultural community), natural resource management community*
- *Archaeological / Historical*
- *Historical*
- *E. Mountains*
- *Historical, archaeology*
- *Dispersed Recreation*
- *Environmental*
- *Environmental groups*
- *Wildlife*
- *Environmental*

4. What are the most important issues facing the BLM in the region your RAC represents?

- *In this area is going to be dealing with noxious weeds, we have a lot of off trail where people aren't suppose to go. Not enough law enforcement, and educating public about multiple use*
- *Gas leases, Energy*
- *Probably Native fish conservation/ protection, rangeland restoration, noxious weed management*
- *Funding*
- *Trying to work among all of the stakeholders that have such vastly different interests*
- *Financial, lack of financial resources due to litigation*
- *Managing people in recreation areas*
- *Travel management planning. Uranium mining*

- *Related to recreation they're concerned about how the public uses the public lands for recreation. They come for outdoor enjoyment. The BLM is concerned about protecting the lands from the public and how that can be done*
- *Energy, Development & Off Highway Vehicles*
- *Budget, cheat grass, grazing, manpower*
- *Off highway conflict & destruction of land. Fire $, Grazing*
- *Big push to develop alternative energy, wind, solar, also continuing to search for traditional sources of energy*
- *Dealing with the 3 term system, problems associated with this is a lack of budget, & recreation use fees*
- *Public land access*
- *Outreach to the public and dissemination of information to get consensus to avoid litigation problems. Litigation is eating up budget and time; one judge in particular dearly hates the BLM. Getting info out to public and getting support from the public will avoid. Their outreach, dissemination, and expanded use of volunteers (other states use more volunteers) can give them thousands of hours of free labor. In [State] they have not made use of volunteers and tried to keep everything in house, although it is getting better*
- *The only thing I'm aware of is we do try to provide the best value for the public land. To me that's all I've been into. We talked about trying to match wildlife concerns with the use of ATV vehicles*
- *There's a push by this administration to lease anything and everything. We have to worry about the cumulative impacts in this area. Wise use NOT no use of recreation*
- *Land conveyance*
- *Oil and gas, opening land up, and land plans*
- *I think the most important issue facing the RAC is climate change. I think it's bigger than anything else, but in general land use is the primary modern day issue we have to be as careful about as possible (in terms of policy to review and establish)*
- *Most important issues—loss of credibility, loss of multiple use management advocacy, loss of moral within the professional BLM employees, loss of trust with public*
- *Oil and gas development. Management of the arid lands, they have a couple of tools for management, grazing and invasive species control, and fire management*
- *Multiple use, not representing one user group over another, not communicate well with the public. Way under radar*
- *Energy development, grazing*
- *A lot of National issues, geothermal, gas lines and transmission lines. Significant impact*
- *Law enforcement on BLM lands, feel very necessary*
- *There is a big push to develop alternative energy (wind-solar) while continuing a search for traditional sources of energy*
- *Improper use of ATV*
- *Energy and wild horses*

- *Energy development, wildfires, livestock grazing*
- *Wildlife management*
- *Money for increased use of the land*

5. How important are social and economic issues to the RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions? (*For OR & WA, caution against commenting on National Forest and Forest Service lands; need notes re: BLM ONLY.*)

- *Extremely*
- *Very minimal to little*
- *Important*
- *Very much so*
- *Varies from member to RAC member. More than average*
- *Very important*
- *Very high*
- *Extremely important*
- *Very important, we need to know social uses for recreation and look at protection of the land values.*
- *This is a weakness, not a strong consideration we are working on what is best for the land & people around the land in question*
- *They are essential if the advice is going to be implemented*
- *Social issues is why we exist*
- *We are never asked for advice because we have a variety of people everyone has their pet project & interests. Sometimes people on the RACs focus on their own topic. Try to keep in mind the community*
- *Our RAC has not spent much time on the social & economic issues. Not that important.*
- *Very important*
- *Very important. I haven't been a member of the Rec RAC, but we go over all their work and vote on it and sometimes the fees have to be raised, but it has to be carefully done so you don't exclude people that can't afford it, but if you put the money back into boat ramps and parking areas, if the people can see the money coming back then they are happy about it. It's when they don't see where the money goes that the people get unhappy. But with increasing transportation costs we have to keep in mind that not everyone can afford everything and we need to keep costs low whenever possible*
- *I haven't been involved in a decision yet*
- *As far as economic information, that's off the radar screen. Social information's not on the radar screen until people from the villages make their feelings known*
- *Somewhat important, but not a driving factor. Should be considered among other issues*
- *Important. They are taken into consideration during discussions*

- *Social and economic issues are number 1 item, but it is number 1 by just a little bit over environmental and ecological questions. But they are very closely connected. The most discussion is about socioeconomic questions*
- *Very important—decisions that the BLM makes on public lands many number of economic and social aspects for communities that use the public lands*
- *Very important. For example, in our case, we're trying to work with the BLM on oil and gas development, and incorporate the needs of agriculturalists, and the economic impacts on that community. At the same time our recommendations have economic impacts on oil and gas industry*
- *Social way under addresses, or communicated in an inclusive way. Cater to economic issues*
- *Everything considered it is important*
- *Physical issues on environment prime; misunderstanding people have about impact of these various activities on mental assessment. Real vs. perceived problems*
- *Very Important*
- *They never ask us for advice because we have a variety of people & everyone has their pet projects & interests. Our RAC needs to keep in mind the community –get back to basics and concentrate on the locals. Social & economic issues are very important*
- *Very Important, Economic issues always important*
- *Always concerns high on-list*
- *Indirectly important*
- *Fairly important*
- *Very important*

TYPES AND SOURCES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

6. Have you worked with the BLM in addressing social and economic issues? (*SKIP ALL OF 6 IF ANSWER TO this one IS 'NO'*.)

- *Yes (12)*
- *No (5)*
- *A little bit, 'yes' for management plan*
- *Our work in the RAC has done a little in addressing social issues and almost nothing on the economic issues*
- *I've spent forty-three years with the BLM or the government or on a BLM RAC.*
- *Not directly—indirectly, dealing with other issues grazing, endangered animals, off road vehicles and the money they bring to the area (economic benefit—the land is where the people go to reconnect)*
- *Yea, women at [university] spoke on the human impacts and it requires demographic of the region—this is essential. RAC members are to give advice.*
- *Looked at social & economic –fees*
- *Tried to.*

- *I am not on this committee*
- *Just starting to. We've had one meeting and one field trip*
- *No, not at broad scale*
- *Not really because I just started on the RAC*
- *In the process with input but no*
- *I think we do every meeting*
- *We are working on best management practices. A lot of the information is 40 years old. Uranium information is old things have changed. Internal information*
- *We do at every meeting, always considerations on items*

A. What types of social and economic information has been provided to you by BLM?

- *Information how a particular area might be adversely affected as project goes though. Phosphate mine and impacts financially positively and adversely. The economy of the study*
- *None, can't recall, Only coming up never BLM focus on those issues*
- *Talked about communities w/in RAC and described*
- *No economics for communities that surround BLM lands, just BLM economics, quite a bit social with how impacts user groups*
- *Seen some budget information, seen volumes of data*
- *Periodic meetings as well as periodic written emails*
- *Very little on impacts or actions*
- *We have talked about dollars generated to the BLM from mineral leases, grazing permits, OHV permits. And, how some of the rural communities are enhanced by these people bringing money into the area. I think about the land we are blessed with, but not very much information has been given*
- *This RAC took on an important issue at [mountain] the local flora & fauna was being impacted by users. We needed and was provided by the BLM in the manor we requested*
- *Working in BMP the information you get is 40 years old. Uranium information is so old things have changed. We get internal information*
- *Very little I don't have any examples*
- *Project driven [region] shooting, they provided this information users, uses, conflicts in the area*
- *Demographics in [a County]. Cost of taking care of permittees, cost of maintenance of facilities, fences, costs in recreation areas, parking areas, camping. We've gone over those pretty carefully and were able to reach a good consensus with the County Commissioners. BLM has done a pretty good job there. We're just starting this same process in [a different] District.*
- *As far as target shooting is concerned we've seen some information. It's a society issue but also an environmental issue*

- *Information that's specialized on technology and the role it plays on people in their thirties and earlier*
- *Plans representing the public and community's uses. BLM brings social research in on the state and national levels*
- *Information provided when asked for has been supplemented and been adequate*
- *Information previously*
- *The information we have received is old*
- *Difficult to answer*
- *Recreation use, number of OHV users*
- *Number of ranchers, acres involved in mining & number of jobs provided by this activity*
- *Not social but economic never heard of the BBM did not use the economic profile system. We got the message that small towns want recreation. Have given us information on increased recreation & who is likely to participate, information on fees, educational information for the public in the area-of those who will likely use the land.*

How was this information provided? (BLM workshop, presentation materials, etc.)

- *BLM as well as BLM brings in speakers*
- *Special session of RAC meeting*
- *Variously, ahead of meeting, in meetings, provided by community members, or user group representatives*
- *Presented by BLM staff, some data via email*
- *General handouts or presentations at the RAC meetings*
- *They give the RAC a briefing each meeting on current issues such as what's going on and what the problems are. BLM does a superb job starting at the bottom with local people. The BLM stands out among the land agencies. The group meetings work. I was involved in reviewing recreation fees proposals*
- *Two times a year in our meetings verbal presentation & written format on every issue we deal with*
- *It was handed out, maps of all areas in the report at a RAC meeting*
- *Everything we look at is social issues. Comments from the public, we don't use Economic profile system. We get emails or they are presented at a RAC meeting or tour*
- *We have asked to bring in folks to hear firsthand about the issues, we have just begun this and so far it has been great. Presentations at RAC meetings, Field trips - we get a sense of the land-just looking at the land is good but we do not get much information doing this*
- *Orally—with support documents, & a meeting later*
- *Workshops and scoping meetings, some documents (hard copies) some power point presentations, normally they do a pretty though job, have gotten much better in last few years. More work with less people*

- *Written information, discussion, and a field trip. They've done a good job looking at people's desires for the land*
- *Thanks to NEPA. And another speaker talked about health impacts on development. They provided the information but were told to, so their hearts were not in it*
- *Public meetings and public comments. Oral reports where people talk about public meetings. Guest speakers bring expenses to present to the RAC. They're looking at economics to study different places*
- *Mailed to us*
- *Workshops where people have been brought in, presentations at RAC meetings to hear about the issues. Field trips to get a sense of the land. I don't know what BBM is I have not worked with an economic profile system*
- *Handouts and workshops*
- *Information comes from each other, visited a saw mill, jobs at stake. Grazer talking at meeting*
- *Presentations at the RAC meetings*
- *At RAC meetings*
- *Get brochure, have speakers-specialist from all over, power point presentations*

B. Has BLM's social and economic information been helpful in formulating advice?

- *Yes (6)*
- *I think so yep*
- *There has been very little that our advise has not been based on this information*
- *Yes. The RAC does not often agree on advice. There are fifteen people and we can have twelve different ideas about the same issues. The RAC gives a lot of individual advice that's important to the people we represent. It's an opportunity to say what we think. Our RAC weighted environmental issues. The RAC has changed the way that BLM handles livestock grazing guidelines. We've gotten the public to look at how the ranches can use the land and how livestock can graze. The RAC helps the BLM*
- *It's lacking because it hasn't been brought up-to-date. It gives us another piece of data to base the decision on*
- *Yes, when people are brought in so we can hear about the issue first hand*
- *Yes, we just need more informational advice*
- *No. They should not lump social and economic information together*
- *Yes. A couple people understand things better since they work in that area so we can all understand*
- *Very helpful*
- *Yes, when they bring in people to hear about the issues or trends*
- *Sort of, usually not quantitative, qualitative information like number of OHV users, how much things cost, visitor use studies, & general numbers like there is an increase in the number of people using an area*

- *Yes for the most part, but not sufficient for me. I am interested in the physical condition of the land*

Would you provide examples of how socio-economic data and/or analysis were utilized in discussion between your RAC and the BLM regarding management decisions?

- *Variety of data user fees and used that in recommendations where user fees should be implemented, increased, or non-existent*
- *Not statistics; we need just one-on-one with the local administration*
- *The RAC citizen advisors help the BLM look good to the public. The BLM always has a time that anyone can speak his mind at each RAC meeting. The resource management plans that the BLM uses start with public scoping meetings like this. The BLM reports to the RAC before they finish any meeting. The BLM reviews and briefs us on the plan that goes to the director. RAC brings views and concerns to make sure the BLM has considered all aspects of the interest groups and concerns of the community. We show them the impacts on the land*
- *Can't think of anything we look at what's on the table*
- *Yes, Social. People's impact on habitat is increasing the most near larger populated areas. Example fires by users increase near more people. Wildlife is also decreasing because of social impact. The BLM has not had enough money to enforce land uses. The government increases responsibility for the BLM with no more money to even do visitor use studies*
- *Economic new regulation with no more money to be able to follow-thru with the new regulation*
- *Not so much from the BLM but from the public. We get a lot of maps. I can't recall an instance they drug out figures*
- *I do not have an answer*
- *We used Forest Service data, campground & recreational data when we had an issue of white women scattering ashes on public ground*
- *User fees for [Rivers] and other places where user fees should be, how much they should be, how much people could afford, and the cost of maintaining the facilities*
- *Economic information is always used on projects to reduce constraints*
- *Looking at land plans. BLM was looking at the economic area that's closed and should the BLM bring this forward to Congress. They look at the impacts of people living there. They look at wildlife and habitat. They hold public meetings and tease out who is using what and what the impacts are to individuals and communities. They look at hauling in a port-a-potty for each group and what is the cost to buy or rent one. These issues are presented at other places*
- *If looking at mining activities, geo thermal activities we talk about income to the area, jobs. For the impact statement we get general information for proposals*
- *I think so; the real objective is to protect the land for the future. Sometimes they have to harden off an area where the vegetation has been shredded then you need to build camp sites bring in porta-potty, kiosks with rules so the users will not harm the land. The last*

25 years there has been a big change of the uses of the land. The issues were mines and cattle that were all they dealt with, now the lands have to be divided and dealt with—more man power is needed

C. What types of socio-economic information do you most need to provide advice to BLM?

- *What I need is the basic demographics – like how much land Public (BLM & FS) what the tax base is. Need to know the activity that is being proposed, how will it impact people that realign on that land. How much land, what is going to be impacted*
- *Travel management what uses are already occurring*
- *The Social*
- *In this State, we use population growth figures to anticipate public land user's census data on economic status on that population*
- *State data on public visits from the BLM*
- *I don't need information from the BLM. We are experienced. BLM describes the issues and tells us what they want to do. They do this well*
- *Demographics. Without demographics you cannot project the use of the lands*
- *Probably recreational statistics' on use, the impact of these issues*
- *Everything that is done has an impact on wildlife, archaeology, etc. Example: some land becomes a single use and this is all about resources not including the social economic impacts*
- *Need more stats about who was using the BLM land, could use who lives around it and economics of the area*
- *Numbers of people affected, user numbers*
- *That's a tough one — so many areas. Beyond the demographics with income, what about people that are coming in from outside the local area that are using the facilities. BLM and RAC can only get a general overview of what they think people can afford without cutting programs out entirely. Forest Service has come to us for some things also and they also seem to listen*
- *They've been providing information from different perspectives and different groups of people. They provide open hearings*
- *Health impacts are huge. We need studies before there is a development to see what the impact really is. As far as economics, who is going to clean this mess up and at what cost? What is the payoff? Mining pays nothing to the state because of an 1892 bill. Sure they bring in jobs, but mining costs huge amounts of money to our area*
- *Regulations. I need to have the big picture like people's minimal wealth and what happens to the highway system and the local people*
- *The environmental and economic impact*
- *Wild horses most important. They are in charge of the horses and the gene pool is getting too close need bigger area and more horses*
- *4-wheeler problems*

- *We need a well rounded understanding of how the advice we give becomes the implications of other resources—the impact of the decisions. All the pieces of the pie-community, land, wildlife needs to be put into the puzzle and jiggles around to see what the best solution is for all*
- *Maps, help make up mind about decision*
- *How affect the stakeholders, county and community, tax base*
- *Harder numbers to work with need quantitative information*
- *I look at the various activities after the change has been made – the amount of social & economic impacts vs physical impact in other areas that have made a similar change*
- *Surveys for the usage of a particular area of BLM land, studies of impacts on the land, what organizations are impacted them. Need more support from Washington, the local people are very proactive in protecting the land*

As a RAC member, what sources other than BLM do you go to get social and economic information?

- *SPSS and the GSS. The US Census, Planning and zoning*
- *Lived in quite a few communities with …personal experience*
- *Majority from either State Reports or from the Universities*
- *Turn to organizations: Rural development, [university 1] , [university 2], and the Census Bureau*
- *From my current job or my day job*
- *Census data, government demographer, a program developed by the BLM- Economic profile system, county level data, National & economic demographic data*
- *With all the experience we have on the RAC we are knowledgeable. We go through lots of sources. We look at wildlife, ranges, wilderness, and mining. Each person brings expertise and knowledge to every meeting. We're a group of people with different viewpoints and a collected of varied opinions*
- *The other sources are from other communities activities. I am involved with outside of RAC. – I am a councilman for the community. I have access to all park & recreation information in this area*
- *Forest service, census counts. The office of Technology in Washington. Cities recreation departments.*
- *Statewide SCORP INFORMATION*
- *Papers. We are involving the Uranium exploration companies to help us understand the process so we can determine the social & economic effect of the community*
- *In the past I attended "Mosaic in Motion" conferences. Now from the [community area] open space organization provides this information*
- *I have not done any research on my own*
- *I go to various counties and talk to county commissioners. I talk to commissions about what they think and what they think the area can stand in terms of fees, everything*

touches something else and unless you get some consensus between local politicians, state, and BLM you get more litigation. Or in the case of [environmental organization] they litigate everything

- *I haven't gotten any, but I know that's in the plans. We'll be taking another field trip definitely*
- *I attend local meetings, talk to the other user groups, national groups, native organizations, chamber of commerce, and the industry*
- *I listen to others discussing issues. To the public and general contacts and information from news paper and radio, along with my technical expertise*
- *Use county and Indian tribes. Talk to the people and meet many people and go to organization meetings and stay what*
- *Papers, talk to the Uranium exploration companies, going to the community find out what they are thinking*
- *Get stuff from* Colorado wildlife *and* Outdoor Magazine *and also Trout Unlimited, Nature Conservancy*
- *Census bureau data, but this is not what we need*
- *Universities*
- *I belong to quite a few organizations, I read the newspapers, magazines, I also get opinions from people in the area*

D. How can BLM improve public (at large) access to socio-economic information?

- *The best bet would be to have someone that is well versed in demography and survey techniques. Be a liaison to the public. BLM access to the university sociologist. Should review RMPs as part of the review*
- *One was if information is available didn't know that was advertising*
- *Maybe when scoping new project present part of data*
- *I don't know. So much of data by BLM is considered prohibited from being shared by the public. A lot of the information that they have is not covered from freedom of information act*
- *Maintain libraries and reopen them. Typically part of the NEPA process to have public meetings. They hear the people but the decisions that they make don't actually reflect the public's input or decisions*
- *Not aware that it was the role of BLM to have public access to socio-economic information. I thought that it was other organizations' job to do that. I thought that the BLM's mission is to manage public lands*
- *For small minorities who want the information written correspondence by request*
- *BLM is doing a bad job of this need for social & economic in terms of disclosing BLM projects*

- *I think they do a good job of it. When dealing from the bottom up they have to pull together the social and economic information. They're just the opposite of the Forest Service*
- *Through newspapers, radio releases, put on a web site, in libraries & let people know where to look. People need to hear it they don't go out of there way to search for this information. There is lots of information that is not getting out*
- *The BLM does a good job making information available—considering the budget. If the BLM interacted more with the city & county governments, commissioners, committee's district office level & speak more to the public-- these groups could help pass on information*
- *Electronically*
- *I think they do a good job doing public meetings, but they need more on web sites. We have not been asked to help inform the community—we'd like to do more.*
- *Don't know*
- *I don't know if they collect it*
- *More public hand outs, more things to news media, and their signage is getting better but has a long way to go on what can and can't be done. Frankly, they can't enforce anything (they have a total of four BLM rangers to cover that area bigger than many states), and more things to the media to let people know what they should and shouldn't do, and on occasion being cited for doing something they shouldn't*
- *They need to do press releases and public hearing to get information out. They have to look for input*
- *They have to want to use it in their evaluation. I don't think the BLM wants to use this in the reports. When we were working on biological monitoring mines, we had to first take a baseline, and then add this to the reports. There was no money to do it so no one has. The projects have gone so now there can be no companion information. The staffing is not good*
- *Being in their RMPs makes sense, but I'm not sure how many people find it. Not sure*
- *The people who are interested have looked everywhere. Others don't care. They could do public outreach with youth and schools*
- *Most important thing is to use the internet to provide up to date results of BLM finance and other agency finance, and surveys of these important components. Sending stuff in the mail doesn't seem to work as well. Of course it's difficult to get people to go to websites and make sure they're easy to use. Most of the gov websites are fairly good, but BLM would need to highlight this information some way to make access quick*
- *By completing it! By completing NEPA requirement. Holding public information meetings, disseminating information, and actually using it in decision making process*
- *Do they have this information? I don't know what kind of process they have. They might have a process for RMPs, and they might have meetings, but that's different than bringing information to the table so that communities can have an informed opinion, and I haven't seen a strong focus on this. I could be unaware of their process*

- *The public does have access through public meetings*
- *My thinking is they just need to keep doing what they are doing and present to RAC when they meet*
- *Needs to be brought more to the public, newspapers*
- *The BLM has lost so much money in the last few years and to improve the public's access to socio-economic information requires money. The BLM could use the RAC more to go into the communities and put on meetings or seminars. The BLM does as good of a job as they can with the resources they have*
- *Should be available to the public on a website*
- *Don't know. I have extremely high regard to BLM and offices that we work with.*
- *Direct people to agencies that distribute it. Collect more usable data. The BLM does not collect much socio-economic information, other agencies do.*
- *I don't know I think it is pretty available for those who want the information. Newspaper articles for those who are not looking for it or know nothing about it. It is the people who don't know what is going on until the decisions have been made*
- *More articles in the newspapers, money to build kiosks to educate users, let people know how to take care of the land & how not to treat the land*

LARGE-SCALE GENERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

8. In making resource decisions do you feel that the BLM has:

a. Adequately addressed the economic effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No*
- *Yes, lately not good info to make any decisions. The BLM has completely collapsed in last year in my area. Very bad organization. Seems like lately they have been trying to utilize to much information*
- *No, but doing best budgets allow for them to do*
- *In the US the bottom line is always the $$$. Have a mandate of multiple use. They do a good job not an excellent job. Can't please everybody. Venerable that they don't have an appropriate budget*
- *Yes*
- *Yes, made from cost benefit analysis, they continually have to identify the cost whether it is viable or not*
- *Don't get into economics too much*
- *No; absolutely not. The BLM has a lack of experience for analyzing this information; they are not making the decision & not disclosing this information.*
- *Yeah. BLM is forced to do what they do by political issues. They have to address the economics*

- *No; the BLM's hands are tied to Federal Regulations there is no leeway. Examples: Mineral leases, Antiquities Act, Wilderness Act, these regulations tie up the prospects of going further. Environmental clearances trump anything from going further. If land is designated as Wilderness areas then the congress needs to act & they have not*
- *Yes the district office has an economist*
- *The BLM has attempted to address but haven't seen much from the BLM*
- *Very aware of the economic effects*
- *Sometimes, the BLM has a mixed record –tries to minimize user fees, but the BLM is pushing them to hard the BLM does not appear to consider the effects of user fees on poor people*
- *This is mostly driven by economics of the agency not the users. The BLM is under strict guidelines*
- *Generally they have, people may disagree, but they try. They try to look at the economics of each situation and each area. They can't be everything to everybody*
- *We haven't really had that much to do with decisions, but we do have representatives from all areas*
- *Economic information is always considered if you take into consideration who is going to clean up all this. Money should get into the picture. We have a very limited number of economists*
- *I think they do in what I have seen*
- *In the national picture, no. They look at the small scale economic impacts for local communities but don't see these on a large scale. This plays a big part and is not presented to the RAC. What is the big economic picture?*
- *Yes, it's addressed the economic effects more than anything else. Too much in some cases, that's the primary question, and has a highly political component to it*
- *No. They repeatedly gloss over it, or do not consider it*
- *I would say no. I would say they have probably have not had access to the information or they have it and don't think about it. For example, what is the impact of grazing leases on producers? For oil and gas, do they understand the economic impacts; can they get better conservation practices for the same amount of economic return? They put out ideas that might be very egregious to the industry in terms of economic impacts, and that is not viable or makes their job harder. It's hypothetical, but maybe they could find better outcomes for conservation and for industry if they had better information. End up in a huge fight, and maybe they just needed new ideas*
- *A lot that are economic issues that need to be up there when land issues need to be made. Where litigation is concerned. The public resources are managed for the public*
- *No opinion*
- *Most cases that's true*
- *I think the budget is SO close so they have to pay attention to $$*

- *The BLM is aware of the economics and do their best with the money they have, I am sorry to say because of this they could address the economic effects of the decisions better*
- *Sure I think so*
- *I think they have. Never felt deprived of information*
- *Not adequately—this is hard to address, how do you quantify the use of land? This could be done better--it is a hard job*
- *They do, it is one of the major factors they look at while going through the process—BLM sticks to the process*
- *The BLM tries to connect with the local government, lobby by county commissioners, sometimes the local government are narrow minded & out for their own game, & the government is not in the business to protect land, they want to make people happy*

b. Adequately addressed the social effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No (3)*
- *They do because they hold a lot of public meetings and use the RAC as liaison here in the local economy. They do a good job with the money that they have*
- *They try to*
- *So many publics, hard to address one without turning*
- *Yes, work through a variety of channels, request input from social standpoint.*
- *Yes*
- *I have not been around long enough to make a statement, but I have not seen any thing*
- *Yeah. The decisions are based on the social effects they may have*
- *No, hands are tied by bureaucracy*
- *Yes, by creating management plans. The BLM reacts too much to the social issues. This takes away time that should be devoted to the problems of the land.*
- *The BLM attempts to & they takes into consideration ---we as RAC members should bring it to the BLM*
- *No, the social effects are not addressed*
- *NO, great deal more attention has been given to cultural & social diversity in the BLM lands but, need to take in consideration different cultural groups & avoid having fee structures that keep away these people from public lands*
- *I don't think so. Someone gets left out of the decision*
- *I think they have tried; more outreach to media and public will help with less repercussion*
- *They absolutely have*
- *Absolutely not. In [State] the impacts on native villages is huge. They have a loss of culture. There's a transient population in [State]. These people value their way of life*

and are not vested in the community. We need to convince a panel of sociologists to determine what needs to be done on this issue

- *As well as they can. It's a tough subject to factor that in. There's always going to be different sides. It's hard to quantify social things. I don't know. It's intangible—grey area*
- *Again this forgets the big picture. If you do this, then this happens. Can you actually project the social effects into the future? This plays a part but not as big a part as some concerns. I'm not sure if the BLM are the people who should be making these analyses. The community and people need to bring this to the BLM*
- *I think they've tried, but probably not. But I think that's such a difficult question to answer because sometimes they have and sometimes they haven't. Overall they need to work on it*
- *I know they do quite a bit with archaeological resources/ historical resources. But in terms of social effects, real time, today, such as communities that live near oil and gas development, people that live there would probably say no. But from my perspective I don't have a good sense of that*
- *No. not at all lot of land decisions made and the public has nothing to do with it. Timber*
- *No opinion*
- *Just from my point of view YES. That is reflected by my comments there are some folks who have personal feelings about these issues*
- *Not always*
- *I feel the BLM addresses the social effect as well as can be expected given*
- *the time and resources they have*
- *Right now we have a matter and input on a over the river project and will be issues related to that*
- *Yes in the past*
- *I think they have*
- *This is done better because of the NEPA process the public comments*
- *Generally they do, this is another part of the process & as I said the BLM sticks to the process—this is the primary factor the BLM considers*
- *Not really, the BLM can't let people do what they want because of social pressures. They talk about these—sure*

c. Adequately addressed the environmental effects of its decisions on minorities and low income residents including tribal impacts? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *Yes (4)*
- *No (3)*
- *They tribe always gets the short end of the stick no matter what. However, they always have a tribal member on the RAC. Good to excellent job. Room for improvement*

- *They try but we have had a couple of tribal members before. It's really hard to get a tribal representative to participate*
- *No, BLM budget whittled away too much. They don't have enough funding to take care of anything*
- *Yes, they are very sensitive to the impact they work very hard to include these groups in the decision making process*
- *We need a better understanding of social structures, interactions of communities, compatibility of types of data. There is not enough staff to harvest, compile, prepare & distribute the data*
- *I have not experienced that they have in my 6 years with the RAC*
- *I cannot think of any case that there was a problem. There was a problem with radioactive material & the company who owned it was not taking care of the land so the BLM took over the clean up. Since minorities are "minorities "they are the group which is certainly addressed*
- *Very aware of the economic effects*
- *In my work I have not seen such discussions & can't recall discussions at state levels. BLM needs to carefully & thoroughly associate with their decisions*
- *No, I don't think they have that information available to them*
- *They tried, everything the BLM does in an area, they have to consult with tribal members, because they are a separate nation. The BLM does not know every cultural site that is there, and the BLM's own archaeologists really do try to find them. With low income people, in most cases I don't think they've done anything to hurt them*
- *Yes. We have a representative from the tribe*
- *Absolutely not. In [State] people live out in these areas. They love the wild area. There's no value to hunt caribou*
- *Yes, as far as I know. Someone in the villages might say differently. Yes, from my perspective*
- *It's very interesting but I don't think so. If BLM doesn't do it, then who does it? I'm not sure if there is a federal agenda. I don't want the same group making all the decisions*
- *No absolutely not. That is a huge problem. The federal government's bias with respect to native people is a serious problem and should be addressed. It's in the realm of political initiative and comes from the top, and if the BLM agency and political appointees don't see it as important, then it's a problem. To give you an example, you can look at the RAC and just see how many Native Americans participate. They don't even bother. Trying to get Natives on our RAC is almost impossible. I've tried to get tribal members and they pretty much recognize that it will be a waste of their time. BLM does the bare minimum to deal with native people*
- *I have no idea*
- *Go out of their way to consult with tribal*
- *From a realistic point of view, physical, economic are all considered*

- *Tend to not get involved with the Indians and reservation parts. I think they do good environmental tests but do they follow the environmental Test and what they prove out to be. They make personal decision not always good for the people*
- *The BLM has a good working relation with the tribal groups; they are very good at addressing the environmental effects with the tribes. I am not as aware of minorities and low income residents*
- *Tough one. Attempt to do what they can. There are 60 tribes in [State]. No representation for all of them. A RAC member is a tribal member*
- *Not sure, but feel the BLM takes Native American concerns and adds that to the equation*
- *If you consider ranching I would say yes. Urban –low income residents are not considered. Very high when talking about tribal impacts*
- *The BLM tries to but with the federal government so cash strapped you have to address the majority*

d. The social and economic effects on these groups? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *We have 3 different tribes that we have to work with and there are a lot of checker board land some of the land BLM and some of it Tribal. They have to work very closely with these groups on gas leasing. They have strong social and economic impacts on those tribes. As far as minority goes, the only other people of different ethnicity that live here are the migrant workers and they really aren't involved in any of the BLM processes. There just isn't much interaction there*
- *In some cases they probably have, but in others it's not a priority and is hard for the agency to handle*
- *Yes. I can't think of any social or economic effects on these groups. BLM is proactive and takes care of the issues*
- *Tribal people have traditional uses of the land and some decisions the BLM makes have an impact for these uses. Recreation fees are minimal they should be more to have an effect on people using the land*
- *Just from the stigma of being a minority*
- *No, I see that the BLM addresses environmental effects but no social & economic effects*
- *The BLM is very good at working with and keeping the tribal groups at the table.*
- *I must say yes*
- *BLM is pro-development. BLM discounts this*
- *As well as they can. The economic part is easier to look at than the social part. It's tough. They are doing as adequately as they can with an intangible subject*
- *No. In [State] it is not true that minorities and low income residents are being taken advantage of unintentionally. BLM is making purposeful decisions to take advantage*
- *No. The BLM's primary interest is with the largest stakeholders and politically to some extent, but they just have serious problems they have to address. They don't have sufficient staff. They used to have a historian on their staff, and now they don't, so that's a problem. But it's so obvious that when the BLM staff starts into the latest plan, they've*

never given any thought to anything older than 4-5 years old. They are surprised there is any information about these issues or that they would have any bearing, but the people asking the questions and demanding answers (Congress, etc) don't have their eye on this either. So the local BLM is inadequate

- *For most groups they are positive—the BLM tries to minimize – reduce the impacts to the native lands*
- *The low income people & monitories are in the city and city people are over looked because they can't afford to get to the areas for recreation*

LOCAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

9. In your view, how does BLM take into consideration their impacts on local communities in making management decisions?

- *They have a lot of public outreach meetings. They take comments unofficially when the draft documents come out public has chance to comment. They then compile official comments. They do take into consideration*
- *They rank really high on that. I've worked on a lot of this. My RAC involves three field offices. They all have had long meetings, public meetings open to anyone. Most people came regularly and anyone could say anything that they wanted to at the meetings as they turned out to be tremendously successful. They did a great job of including different users and compromising*
- *Try to look at impacts on local and not local users*
- *The only time that they put information out to the public is when they put notices into the Federal Register. And how many people read that? For the average citizen there is no way that they read them. The only people who take the time to look at those are the special interest groups like the off road people who appoint someone to look out for those types of things*
- *In this state most people in management decisions accurately represent views of people in the areas. It's the higher up people that are the problem*
- *On RAC I have seen BLM work with and reach out to county commissioners and this seems to be growing. They seek to work with local elected officials*
- *Very high*
- *The analysis is usually done by local staff & information is lacking on environments & economic impacts*
- *Start at the ground level and ask the public their feelings*
- *They are doing a better job & try very hard but are bound by Congressional actions and how they do business. They do a good job of listening*
- *Through the management planning process, this works pretty well. This includes anyone who wants to participate. All the meetings are open to the public & the BLM makes a good effort to advertise the meetings*
- *Through public process, all of the RAC meetings are open, off road meetings for the public. This is difficult because the public does not pay attention not many get involved*

- *Don't know think they work with the local governments reasonably well*
- *Mixed, there are occasions where the agency resisted public input on a particular issue & others where they considered it in great detail*
- *They do it by osmosis they live in the communities and know the pulse of the people and know how policies will affect the community*
- *We have one good thing on the [region] area to really look at how the people felt on the development. This was a real product. The results could be applied to the project. All the large companies are pro-oil and gas*
- *By ignoring it*
- *In the general way, I think they try to engage with local communities by saying they are going to RFP and trying to get communities to participate. However, when the RMPs are implemented, and there is a problem, there is no way for the community to stop it. Dialogue goes away. Oil and gas in southwest [State], have working groups prior to going out, but then when the public gets concerned about environmental quality, there is no brake—no place for the community to hit the eject button. There doesn't seem to be an effective way of a feedback loop. If plans don't work the way they were intended how do you get feed back?*
- *Matter of public land belongs to everyone in US the local public be very well served but not the whole US*
- *Series of meetings and work with hunters, environmental groups*
- *Historical impacts supplemented with meetings held with these groups*
- *Always discussed as to what impact would be*
- *I don't know—I think they work well with local governments reasonably well*
- *They use the RAC people to get input from local areas*
- *Yes they have. The best thing about RAC interact between public and government Actions of RAC wide open and involved*
- *They do a good job in the NEPA process in the media, newspapers, T.V. to let the public know about how & when they can give their input and learn more about the plan*
- *The BLM goes through a variety of considerations & the long term impacts, but they react to the local governments when making the final decision*
- *Our [region] area tries to. There are areas going into the Mountains where the city comes to recreate- this area gets worked over.*

a. Any examples?

- *Grazing get strange comments and environmental get starting weed out*
- *In the [town] area [individual person] is the main guy and one issue that they had was with natural gas and oil drilling and the problems included Pollution, Killing Cattle, Noise and he did a good job of balance not letting one stakeholder dominate the other in that area*
- *Another example is the 3209 regs. Mining and attempting to define undue damage from mining. They came up with good regs and were God then Bush took them away. The*

problem within the BLM is that Washington (D.C.) is the problem not the state governments

- *Any of the BLM gas approvals in [State] have failed to look at these. They have not looked that closely at how they affect local people*
- *Partner with counties making good attempts to explain why they can't do what the counties want to do*
- *They try very hard, as they have in [County] and have the compact agreement, gone to town meetings, commissioners, and these are widely publicized by the public affairs director they have had the last several years, try to keep the right amount of traffic away from some places, keep trails closed so they don't go onto public land, prevent gates being left open, or fences cut*
- *We talked about where somebody's trying to make an ATV trip and what kind of effects it could have on the environment and the animals*
- *This is a one-party system and they have a lot of money to manipulate the people here*
- *They factor in public comments, and the public in the area that is regionally most affected by their decisions. They are relying heavily on people that would be affective pointing out how they would either positively or negatively be affected. They may come up with mitigating measures based on those concerns*
- *In [State] they do a good job. They seek out small communities for input*
- *Yes, the main way is to try to use engagement of local interests, whether they're specific to the question ahead of time. If it's rangeland they are looking at permitees, or timber they talk to timber industry, or if it's something related to water they'll look at those folks. The second way is to try to engage people in local meetings and comment period. The problem with comment period is that you get the extremes. You don't get the average opinion. They have very specific issues, property or ideological. The town hall notion is honorable in it's design, but it has it's drawbacks. BLM folks get jaded because they know what to expect and are more concerned about litigation than anything else. It makes them quite conservative, and sometimes that's a good route, but sometimes they don't really address the issue within a broad range of options. So they take the really safe path even if it's not the right decision. When we see it at the RAC, we try to represent concerns, but very few of us have direct investment, most of us don't live in those towns, although some do, and it's more difficult The RAC could be improved by having more local representation, but the current RAC organization structure makes that difficult. It works pretty well as is, and our discussions can become quite heated. The most recent one was global warming/climate change. There were half the members of our RAC opposed to even talking about it, which is kind of scary. We'll see how that plays out. I kind of think that eventually it will lose its political content, but that's one example. There are others that aren't as political*
- *Land belongs to everyone not to just the local community*
- *Livestock communities*

10. Has the BLM been supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives? (*Why or why not?*)

- *Yes (4)*
- *I don't know (6)*
- *Unaware of that activity*
- *Don't know*
- *Probably not*
- *As far as I know*
- *Yes in limited exposure*
- *Yes. Arizona has more community land and the BLM has helped to expand the [tribal] land*
- *They try. It takes longer to get through the process. BLM now has to look at any county or city restrictions on what they can do not just the Congressional acts*
- *Yes, there is a problem communicating with Indians on management decisions for the land. In [State] the BLM works well with the community, talking with them and getting their input. Some of our RAC members have been in local & state government and this has been helpful*
- *I think so—we are all well aware of the obligations to the tribal government*
- *In my years the BLM have supported these interests*
- *From what I've seen, I think so. People may argue that, but in some areas they could have done a hell of a lot better job, but with more time, they are trying harder*
- *I assume so. They don't have a choice but to support local government*
- *Yes. They are mindful of the tribal governments. BLM bends over backwards but is not always effective*
- *I don't know, because I don't know what the objectives are*
- *They have been. They've gone out of their way to contact local groups and tribal groups*
- *I think in large measure yes. I think they respond to the county and municipal level pretty well. In some cases they go their first. Tribes, no! They just don't engage with the tribes well at any level. There may be back room conversations I don't know about, but it doesn't show up in RAC meetings or documents*
- *No. They consistently make decisions that are single resource use that have heavy impacts on social, economic, and community development*
- *Yes the government, but a separation of governments. BLM only one entity. Government revisiting how government works*
- *don't know about tribal governments*
- *Yes, Yes quite a bit going on BLM supported recreation, trail work visitor cent*
- *I think so; let the groups participate through NEPA and listening to the concerns*
- *Yes, very much so*
- *I think they have*

11. Have you been involved in the RMP (resource management plan) process? (*If no, is your RAC involved in that process?*)

- *Yes (13)*
- *No (5)*
- *Yes I currently am involved with the RMP process*
- *No, a subcommittee works on various parts and then reports back to the group*
- *To some extent yes*
- *Don't think so*
- *Yes, ongoing process*
- *A little bit*
- *Yes, but on the side lines, the [State] provide information for the RMP. I was involved providing information & review of the product*

a. How involved? What was your role?

- *As a reviewer, do well with lack of recourses*
- *One is going on and as a member of the public I attend all of the meetings and take notes. I also have worked very closely with the field officers*
- *Latest on [region] and Chair of Sub Group*
- *Quite involved as the recreation chair, drafting and sending letter so that the RMP revision initiated*
- *Attending public meetings listening to public have chance to look at early drafts of RMPs. So I was able to look over the RMPs a couple of times*
- *To the degree each member chooses, I don't have the time to dive into it or be involved. I have been given info where hearings are taken place encouraged to attend and participate but because of time restraints I am unable to do so*
- *I am the chairperson for the land use group and a leader in getting the RAC's input on the RMP*
- *There are so many RMPs going on in [State]. I look at the history & transportation access to the lands my fields of expertise. Different people in the RAC respond to take the lead with the different RMPs they check it out and we take their word on it. (It is not done as a group)*
- *In the beginning of the process by providing data and defining the objective*
- *No much. I went and listened to presentations. I have gotten proposals and looked them over*
- *A few RMPs were developed during my tenure & tried to engage his continuants & attended meetings, made comments to the appropriate groups and was involved in many discussions with my local BLM staff people*
- *Yes, just as a RAC member and to give my input on what effect it would have on wild horses, and riparian areas, and any other endangered things, slick spot pepper grass*

- *I was very involved and I have lost faith in the process. I think they write the conclusion and then the document*
- *As a member of the RAC and member of the public providing comment. No heavier capacity*
- *I work on those in the local areas as much as my time allows. I attend public meetings, bring information to the public meetings, and help bring the low income and small communities' voices to the process.*
- *Yes, I reviewed the RMPs, and I was involved in those steps through a whole process a couple of times as a reviewer. Someone who is asked to read what the agency has done and reacts to it. I think that on our RAC I've seen some genuine improvement on the RMPs because of comments that RAC members have made and the BLM has addressed. It has been worth the effort. That's why I continue to stay on the RAC*
- *Yes, by participating in scoping and public meetings, and commenting. I sit on a local advisory committee for the BLM*
- *Minimal information brought back to RAC and didn't have the biologist perspective. Inadequate information where BLM grazer and all government entities brought to higher government pushed under the carpet and direction muddled as to what they wanted us to look at the RMP process. Need open honest communication*
- *Invited to attend meetings, if we have questions we can be address at meetings, or public hearing*
- *Primarily advisory*
- *Being on RAC board, read info and make comments*
- *Quite involved. Input on various parts of it*
- *I have provided comments & am familiar with the total process*
- *We have subcommittees in the RAC and I have been on some of those and them we report the information back to the RAC*

b. Did the BLM give the community (at large) adequate opportunity to participate in the RMP process? (*For some, all, none …*)

- *Yes (5)*
- *Yes, people are lazy and don't come out then afterwards people at last minute get mad because they are lazy*
- *The RMP hasn't started yet*
- *Yes, most of it. Did they actually listen?*
- *The BLM gives adequate time in the process for the community to participate, there are just too many to respond to--- you don't have adequate time to digest all the parts together*
- *Yes, by holding lots of open process & getting the document out for evaluations. The make up of our RAC to include every community group for good discussions*
- *Yes, what is adequate? If you miss a deadline you don't get your views heard*

- *In most cases they have but can remember one case where public input was discovered during the end of the case & the information was minimized*
- *I think they have. If the community didn't it was their own fault, because these meetings and seminars have been widely publicized. Some groups show up regularly, four wheeler, motorcycles, wild horse people, hikers, ranchers and permittee holders. People that care show up, people that don't care don't show up and then complain. The time to come and put your two cents in is at the clinics, seminars, and meetings, and if they don't come, it's their own fault*
- *The people could participate as to where we were at, but the people were not listened to. BLM in [State] is run through the White House. It's not a balancing act. They just go full-steam ahead on energy development*
- *Opportunity, yes. Do they always listen and make changes based on comments, no. Whether or not community participation will make a difference remains to be seen*
- *Yes, but it is difficult for the public to participate unless they can follow the whole process and learn. It is not an easy process for everyone to be involved in the whole thing. People don't understand what is talked about in workshops. There is participation at the very beginning at the scoping meetings*
- *Yes, but again that participation is often driven by the extremes. I don't know exactly how the BLM decides to do the kind of meeting structure they do. I've always wondered why they didn't make it part of an official program from the counties or municipalities, but they hold their own meetings. They go through the RMPs and field questions. Better at a booth in a county fair!! They just get the usual suspects every time they do this. They can almost predict the questions and script the answers, and doesn't seem to be as effective as it could be. But it's also fair to say that they put a lot of time and effort into making these available to the public, but the strategy isn't so good. It has to change based on the increased wired capabilities of the rural [region]*
- *They gave us opportunity, but they made it difficult for public involvement, and then they ignored what little public input there was*
- *Yes. They had community meetings and tried to set future desired outcome.*
- *I don't know, I think they did*
- *Yes, but community doesn't participate*
- *They did the advertisements and I think they met in several communities*
- *Yes, they had meetings all over and advertised for the meetings*
- *This is difficult so there is always a long period, lots of opportunity to participate if one is interested in doing so*
- *Yes, and the information was seriously considered . The BLM identified them &, identified actions to minimize the concern. The BLM went to great lengths to address the concerns*
- *Yes, have public meetings in the evenings so working people can attend, advertise in newspapers, take letters & emails from people who can't attend the meetings. Have the plan posted on their web site*

c. Were community concerns addressed by the BLM?

- *Yes (6)*
- *Occasionally as long as doesn't conflict with mandate that they have. The more trivial the matter the more responsive they are*
- *The BLM listens & adjusts the plan to fit the desires to fit the community—finding common ground is almost impossible. The BLM took a really hard look at how to get the communities involved. But the plans have taken longer as a result of the community involvement*
- *Yes, I can't think of any I have not been on the RAC that long*
- *In most cases the community concerns were addressed by the BLM in public meetings or the other ways in which gets the information out*
- *I think so*
- *No*
- *I don't know—they are still in process*
- *Not always win with the community concerns. If the community didn't want to go that direction*

i. If so, how so?

- *In [region], they had a really controversial issue with RMP renewal because they were told had to allow drilling in a place no one wanted to see drilling and public meetings were handled VERY great*
- *Tried to have couple of meetings where 3 or 4 BLM employees set up meetings. Not a lot of people showed up as far as issues were took into account*
- *Example would be that if they need to close off a small area to shooting it was easy to do but if it involved stopping drilling or something of that matter it was almost impossible*
- *Yes. They have meetings with the public, getting the views before the process begins*
- *I believe they were. The people around [town], impacted by recreation (motorized and non motorized), closed off trails close to private lands and service roads, to keep people away from local people as much as possible*
- *BLM employees are great. They're totally involved, but they're just doing what they're told*
- *I think so. They acted in good faith. They were all taken into consideration. There were recommendations to lift an old public order, and BLM brought information for reasons to lift and some not to lift in other areas. They thought this was an important enough concern*
- *You can see a lot of response, but I would add a footnote to that in that it's primarily on the basis of what can go wrong and who might sue. And that's a fault of society, it's to suggest that we always have the opportunity for the court system, and I don't blame it on them, because sometimes the authorities don't follow the rules, but I also feel sorry for the agency heads in the fields*
- *Concerns were noted, but we are still in that process*

- *In recognizing needs*
- *The concerns are listened to and addressed. They look at similar concerns decide what is best and address them as one*

ii. If not, why not, in your opinion?

- *Because it's controlled by Washington DC*

iii. Do you feel that the BLM made a diligent effort to address community concerns? (*Explain, why or why not? Provide some examples.*)

- *Yes (5)*
- *Yes, they have a [River] management plan. Provided a lot of meetings tracked all people who made comments to talk to them passed out surveys. If someone missed that they are asleep at the wheel*
- *Yes, Very well*
- *In put is encouraged in all meetings, there is always an open comment period in each RAC meeting. I think the BLM makes a pretty good effort to get information & feedback on the RMPs*
- *Some, not all. Even some comments that are made, they can't make changes based on everyone's comments, you can't please everyone all the time. They did not always provide an adequate response or adequately answered the question. This is in relation to motorized recreation*
- *No*
- *I don't know—still in process*
- *Except the comments*
- *On some issues yes*
- *Yes they do certainly do. The director in my area is a member of rotary club and a lot of functions gets out into the public*
- *Yes, they made an effort but more is needed*

SUMMARY QUESTIONS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

12. Can you provide examples of how the BLM supports effective strategies of public participation to overcome barriers based on ethnicity and other factors?

- *They always send letters and ask tribe for input. It's not for lack of trying. Something that could help with areas with a lot of different tribes they should have someone who is a part time liaison to the tribes*
- *I live within the [BLM} field office and it has mostly white residents. So low income and minority barriers really aren't an issue in those areas. They also work VERY well with the tribes there*

- *Don't know if they always had a public meeting where minority groups were. They do meet with tribal matters. Don't have that much ethnicity in our area*
- *Not really, they do have active coordination with tribes they invite participation they, the tribes are very people oriented and BLM is a Federal Agency and process is most important for them not being people oriented. BLM doesn't have patience to work well with the tribes*
- *I can't think of anything off the top of my head*
- *There is a tribal member on the RAC. Not real diverse area. Seen no examples of discrimination*
- *They're included on the RAC. There's almost always been a Native American woman. BLM was aggressively seeking a Native American person to be on the RAC. They don't attend much or say much*
- *Can't think of any right now*
- *Equality opportunity in the government. Everyone can be involved that wants to be involved*
- *I think they make an effort to get the word out to all*
- *White folk are the minority on [State]. This is not an issue; this is what we do. The BLM has Hispanic managers who speak Spanish & know the traditions that are a big help.*
- *I can't be too specific – our RAC has involved Native Americans & a Native America sits on our RAC and there is an ongoing relation with that community*
- *We don't have many ethnic groups here. Native Americans work on the RAC and for the BLM. There are alliances between the BLM & Native Americans*
- *The low incomes, I don't know about, we try to keep fees low and fair, do consult with the tribes, which I have no part of, take care of issues and questions*
- *I haven't really been involved, but I know they have open hearings for testimony from people. That came up in the discussion about target practice, because everybody can't belong to a gun club. I feel good about what I've done so far with the RAC*
- *When they dealt with the [region], it was good. The RAC could be better but the BLM needs to start using the RAC. Now we are window dressing*
- *During the public process, they have their open house meetings, and do go out to the areas that are a bit more rural. Knowing that certain people aren't going to respond or make comments in writing or be able to travel to big cities. Makes them more accessible to small communities. Whether they are doing enough on that, I don't know. They do make an effort so that people that can comment, which may include low income residents. I'm not sure how else you would make yourself accessible for minorities specifically*
- *This is a challenge for any federal group. The public meetings they have made them local. They provide food and drinks to make this a more relaxed meeting. In some areas they hire interpreters and try to bring in someone local to learn the process and educate others*
- *No they haven't really done this*
- *No, there are no examples. They just don't do it. Twenty years ago they did*

- *No. I haven't seen them doing anything in particular, could be my lack of exposure*
- *Very diverse and balanced, tribal members, government members, recreation issues. Good broad representation*
- *We need information in advance for RAC meetings! I don't feel the public is very informed that the government is working for them*
- *Go out of their way to involve tribal consultation, in my judgment*
- *Some of the activities that involve the placement of transmission lines across public lands have and tribal lands have been worked out with the tribal communities*
- *Most of the time they try to have open meetings. Open meetings*
- *Diverse group of people on RAC*
- *I don't think ethnicity is a factor. Non entity there*
- *I can answer based on ethnicity- this does not seem to be a concern—besides the Native American issues are always addressed the BLM is conscious of this*
- *Presentations provided time for comment & discussion. The BLM made presentations to Clubs, and other associations as well as tribal groups. The BLM went to them*
- *I am not sure how you would do this the BLM is not prejudice the poor people and black people are not interested*

13. What do you consider the BLM's primary strength in its social and economic analysis for resource management decisions? (*Explain.*)

- *To me is the RAC because bring in diverse group of people who are educated. The RAC is their primary strength*
- *Those issues when arrive are given as much weight as other issues*
- *They ask right questions and they tried diligently to get community input*
- *I feel that they get a lot of their information from outside sources so I don't feel qualified to answer these questions*
- *The length of time the working level people have been in jobs and truly believe they are doing the right things. The political appointed people are worthless*
- *Its staff that are on the ground managing the resource and are intact with people using the land*
- *Environmental Protection balanced with social needs and wants*
- *They start on the ground with local communities and government*
- *BLM listens seeking public involvement in RMPs*
- *The people who work in the BLM.*
- *Composition of the RACs they have representatives from all areas including .n*
- *The BLM have great people, State Director, best manager's very high quality people*
- *In our area the involvement to keep the cost of the fees down.*
- *No idea*

- *Primary strength, and it's getting better is outreach to the public. Making the public aware of what, why, how, when they want to do it. It's good public relations, has gotten much better the last few years*
- *The strength so far is just their willingness to listen and discuss and take input and look at alternatives. We're not going to just make a decision without input*
- *They have capable, dedicated employees*
- *Involving the public. That's about all they really can do*
- *They have an incredibly knowledgeable staff that can give good advice and look at the big picture*
- *The primary strength is in connecting the various natural resources in the BLM with the specific local occupations and where the primary measured economic (not social) interests lay. That is what drives the politics. The politics isn't driven by social groups so much as economic interests. They're very much caught in the same political routine that everyone else is and they are constrained by it. They play within the system. They work a lot with the industry interests, and that is legitimate, but they're doing it because that's where the power is, it's where the most focused responses are*
- *I'm not sure they have that anymore. It used to be knowledge of resource, a staff that had interaction and flexibility, and science entered into decision making process (prior to this administration)*
- *I think it tries to incorporate recreation values. Has a strong recreation program*
- *I'm a new RAC member and BLM doesn't have a lot of land*
- *The local field offices that are out in the communities really help. Not just some nameless person! Can actually talk to people in the BLM*
- *1st personal opinion that there is probably 30 percent that address and meets real problems. Other 70 invested in trying to communicate and address issues*
- *Working with public*
- *The BLM has good people! The state director is top notch, Best set of managers high quality personnel*
- *That they actually USE the RAC for recommendations*
- *I think it's the personal that they have. That's a critical thing that you can meet with them and talk with them that's the way*
- *Addressing Native American concerns and the ability to get as much public participation as possible*
- *Attitudes & approach & the seriousness in which the BLM considers methods & strategies in a realistic fashion*
- *The one the ground employees are great & they take into account different wants, needs & opinions*

Primary weakness?

- *Not enough monetary resources*
- *The main weakness is that a lot of things get changed above them. If they had authority of the resources they were managing it would be a lot better*
- *One local gets information and goes to the state and federal levels and it just doesn't work out how the local officials or how they thought it was going to*
- *The primary weakness is the political appointees*
- *The levels of bureaucracy within the BLM that keep people from being able to use their common sense to make decisions*
- *Perceived bureaucracy*
- *The focus is on saving the lands from the people, not for the people.*
- *The BLM is bound by bureaucracy and Congressional acts that removes any flexibility*
- *Not knowing what is happening on the land*
- *BLMers tend to be looking inward looking at their lands so they are very focused on their job. The general public does not know who or what the BLM is/does*
- *In addressing the concerns of minority groups & underserved communities. Weak in involvement from people of color—short sighted in a nationwide fee structure that keeps in mind the low income population. I believe that this failure could one day lead to a decrease in support for the BLM from these minorities that one day will not be the minorities*
- *Probably their biggest weakness (even though it has gotten better) is lack of planners that actually go into those areas, such as low income, or what the impacts will be on the local people. The farther out in the country, the lower the income*
- *I honestly don't know*
- *When it's politically run, how can an agency be balanced like this?*
- *That's a vague question. Well, the planners are not heavily educated in socio-economic issues. They are more management type people involved in the process. I don't know that hiring someone in that area and throwing them w/in a planning process is the best idea. The fact that it's a tough issue to quantify, that makes it very difficult on the staff to incorporate those issues that are brought forth by the local residents*
- *When you look at the social and economic statistics in [State] and look into a federal budget, the federal decisions do not understand the real impact on the community and people who live in the small rural areas that will be important. They do not understand the actual impacts. The true decision makers do not understand*
- *The primary weakness is in trying to address changing demography. Does BLM have any interest in the growing Hispanic population? The answer is no. They have not made any effort to find out what their presence is doing to the natural resources and their relationship to other groups of people. I've already mentioned the tribal issue. The second issue is as the land use changes in the BLM region, and the overall increased focus is on environmental sustainability *(energy, water, carbon footprint, mining, new energy sources, biofuels), BLM is not looking at the past enough to understand what is happening and they are not looking forward enough. They are just focused on the next*

fire season, the next political demand, the next issue. But they are not taking into account the important changes that are taking place and thinking about how to get ahead

- *Political hardball. They're controlled by DC and have little local input or control*
- *Cumulative impact. Understanding how all the decisions they are making impact communities with unintended consequences. Oil and gas development have cumulative impact on air quality—step back and see bigger story of how it's going to come together*
- *Public information and education. Very few people know about the BLM in my area*
- *Lack of funding and personnel*
- *Not enough personnel*
- *That they don't always work with the public. I feel they should work with the public on all issues*
- *BLMer's tend to be looking inward, looking at the lands so are very focused on their job but there are not many people who know what the BLM does or who they are*
- *Don't think that they have one*
- *Lack of funds. They don't have enough funding, the wild horse project major restraint of funding that cost a lot of money.*
- *Lack of quantitative information especially on the economic side of things*
- *When it gets political, pressures are put on the BLM & sometimes these can overwhelm the decision makers & sometimes the decisions are not best for the land*
- *Lack of money, the BLM does the best they can with what they have. Now if the public would understand that*

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the level of social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions?

a. Very dissatisfied (2)

b. Dissatisfied (1)

c. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied (6)

d. Satisfied (19)

e. Very Satisfied (3)

Why?

- *They do the best they can. They have a couple of people on projects look at this and provide information. They don't have expert on board to provide needs because of lack of monetary funds*
- *Sometimes can't make decisions in a timely matter and that is very frustrating*
- *I feel that the socio economics of the BLM is on par with everything else that they do so I do not feel that I can answer this question*

- *It's where they begin. The users of the public lands are not from small towns, They are from bigger towns and they have money to buy recreation items. BLM needs to build a partnership with the outdoor recreation users*
- *There's lots of cases and a lot of information they have gathered on this but there is a lack of analysis on what uses are taking place and what benefits people derive from the land and what harm the people are doing to the land*
- *The BLM goes overboard to handle social issues. Economic decisions—the BLM does not have the money it needs to achieve its goals—due to budget cuts*
- *I think there is room for improvement especially in the economics area*
- *Unfamiliarity people have with the BLM more outreach is needed about their programs & not just when the news media I do not have an answer. I do not have an answer. Hits on a big project. The BLM is not personal to the public.*
- *I love working with the BLM – I am moderately satisfied with the history in dealing with these issues stated in the previous questions*
- *I haven't researched this enough to know*
- *It's getting better. I think they finally realized how important it is to get public input and to get that information out to public*
- *I would hope this information will be read by people at the BLM and take note of the proper steps of what needs to be done. I haven't always been happy with them in the past, and they are still far from perfect. But given budgets, I think we just need to work together and do things the best we can*
- *I think the alternatives are proposed. They take testimony and try to look at all of the benefits. I really haven't been involved enough. The people we've been working with are very open to suggestions. I think they really look to see what people want. The input we've gathered has been very productive. We looked at the area and talked about it*
- *With regards to economics I'm moderately satisfied. They can improve by looking long term and cleaning up their act*
- *It's a difficult thing to incorporate, and they are incorporating it to a certain extent, but it should not be the driving factor behind every decision. They are looking at it, and that's all I think is appropriate*
- *They do take the socio-economic information into consideration and it is part of the decision making process*
- *I can see that there has been an attempt and ongoing work in the area, but some of the work is blinkered, it doesn't have peripheral vision or far-sightenedness. It's really focused on how to get from the start of this quarter to the start of the next. It's worried about the preservation of its own workforce, and I just don't see them pushing very hard to do the things to do the things many of them know they must or should do, but they're oftentimes not going after the big issues. I'm kind of ambivalent about how strong to make that statement, because I realize the BLM can only do what it's funding allows it to do. It can't create data with no people. Whenever they're constrained, I'm hesitant to criticize too strongly, but when they do have money they are often too conservative*
- *Want this available for the public*

- *Because of one issue that has been lagging and they haven't gotten to it. Put offs about information and has been poorly handled*
- *Done a good job*
- *It depends on the situation. They have public meetings then they don't always listen to what the public has to say*
- *The unfamiliarity people have with the BLM –they need outreach about the programs & not just when the big projects hit the media. The BLM is my favorite agency*
- *I think given the time & budget constrains the BLM is doing a pretty good job. Of course there is always room for improvement*
- *The BLM makes a serious attempt & looks at everything realistically. Economic & social issues are elevated higher than they should be*
- *The BLM does the best with hat they have. The money now is going to fires*

Thank-you very much for your time & input.

Appendix D.7 - Group 3 Interviews

RAC-- RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

BLM Social Science Capabilities Assessment

GROUP 3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is your occupation?

- *Professor of Range Management*
- *Veterinarian, ranch county commissioner*
- *Elected official County commissioners*
- *Consultant*
- *Retired District Judge, I work on civil & domestic suits, & am part time farmer*
- *UPS package store/owner have a small farm on the side*
- *Retired, county commissioner. Retired military and governor's cabinet*
- *Civil Engineer*
- *Retired Nurse*
- *Retired State Farm agent*
- *Forester*
- *Retired municipal parks and rec director*
- *Retired*
- *attorney*
- *Chief of the Department of Water Resources*
- *Vice Chair Administrative tribal government*
- *I am the Assistant director of the [Tribe]*
- *Geologist & Director of State Geological Survey*
- *Wildlife biologist by training*
- *I'm a County Commissioner, and I own/operate a ranch*
- *Professor biology dean of a college*
- *County commissioner*

- *County commissioner in [County] and I own a lot of real estate*
- *Rancher*
- *Write and publish books*
- *Retired*
- *Rancher*
- *Chief of Mining for [State]*
- *Rancher*
- *Manager*

2. When were you appointed to your RAC (note: they began in 1995)?

- *1999*
- *2001 (3)*
- *2002 (4)*
- *2003 (2)*
- *2004 (4)*
- *2005 (5)*
- *2006 (2)*
- *2007 (4)*
- *2008 (2)*

3. What stakeholder group do you represent on your RAC?

- *Public at Large (13)*
- *Academia*
- *Elected official*
- *Community at large*
- *Environmental community, and also owner operator of ranch (agricultural community), natural resource management community*
- *Elected official (term limit in [State], two full year term)*
- *Native American*
- *Tribal Representative*
- *I represent [County Commission], which is a cooperating agency to the BLM. I'm a representative for that Commission. We don't have RACs in [State], but we do have a sophisticated system and the State promotes this model. Overall, it works pretty well. Usually, our role is to provide some economics expertise*
- *Academia*
- *Elected officials*
- *Public officials. Elected officials.*

- *Elected Official*
- *Government agency*
- *Tribal representative*
- *Tribes*

4. What are the most important issues facing the BLM in the region your RAC represents?

- *Alter fire regimes and recreation impacts*
- *Energy development, Recreation, Grazing*
- *Public land use, pub interest inland use, personal interactions to protect multiple use*
- *All of [State] – is a complex issue because of the size. Oil & natural gas leasing, invasive species, forest fires, & off road vehicle use of BLM lands & getting a handle on this and keeping everyone happy*
- *Oil & gas drilling, Uranium mining*
- *Most important issue oil & gas rules & regulations keep changing; conflict between people who want to play on the land and not step in a cow pie. NGOs push the number of people who can use the lands for different kinds of activity*
- *The most important issue is to comply with FLPMA in respect to multiple use and multiple yield. Some special interest groups want to narrow down the use of land. There are many BLM employees who occasionally say BLM means Bureau of Lawsuit Management*
- *Wild Horses & OHV*
- *Conflicts between gas/oil & monuments—land use of this kind*
- *Population explosion and more demand being placed on BLM on land use and open space areas*
- *Funding for on the ground management of the land*
- *The most important, probably, is preserving the natural attribute of the properties they are responsible for future generations. Conservation. As well as having them available for public use, primarily recreation*
- *Herbicide use, horses and burros, transportation issues, lawsuits, and appeals by small groups of people*
- *Two—energy development and OHV*
- *ATV, OHV, noxious weeds, and issues with urbanization*
- *I'm new*
- *Cultural resources for all tribes their reservation areas & outside the reservation*
- *Providing balanced projects to protect the environment as well as providing energy to support communities*
- *Biggest issue today is getting the public information re: all the energy development…it's ALL over*

- *The biggest project in [County] is an RMP revision and the issues affecting our County economic viability. There is an economics component within that which they have to address*
- *Conflicting demands on land use in order: water, energy, alternative energy use*
- *Natural resources extrication, gas/oil*
- *Fire mitigation*
- *Access to public land, multiple use of public land*
- *Off road vehicles*
- *Trying to keep environmentalist and ATV people happy. The river project is also an important issue*
- *Resource development and access*
- *Mining*
- *Social issues of Native Americans*
- *Not enough communication between federal agencies and public*

5. How important are social and economic issues to the RAC members as they formulate advice concerning BLM decisions? (*For OR & WA, caution against commenting on National Forest and Forest Service lands; need notes re: BLM ONLY.*)

- *Important*
- *Extremely important*
- *Incredibly important in general RAC members … not to same level as personal*
- *We take them into account, but are not as important as land issues*
- *On a scale from 1-10 tem Very important I give it an 8*
- *Very important*
- *I think they are ultimate. If we're going to make recommendations, we need to understanding economic and social aspects of those who depend on public lands*
- *The state of [State] is 70% public lands. The county I represent is 90% public lands. There is no sustainable tax base, so social and economic decisions by the BLM are ultimate*
- *Extremely important*
- *Top issue-- social & economics*
- *They are uppermost in people's mind but are counterbalanced by need to have better quality of life. National monuments passed on favorably because those would improve quality*
- *Very important*
- *The social and economic stuff is secondary. The primary issue is preserving the property and having it available for general public recreation use*

- *I'm new at this stuff. I represent more people. Rural or national resources are a big factor in our economy and the BLM is getting further removed from the local public all the time. They're making a living based on natural resources*
- *Very important—in the discussions I've been a part of, people are highly concern about decisions impact on local community and user groups, and impacts on resources*
- *Many of the members would say it's very important, but it varies among members. The social and economic information is weighed carefully*
- *Very important*
- *I guess the social issue being able to assess BLM lands in [town] for root gathering*
- *This is a very important component*
- *Couldn't be any higher. There is a tremendous intensity of energy development in the [State] and all the social and economic impacts that have followed from that for at least the last 5 yrs*
- *It is a top priority for us because it is so poorly addressed in all the EISs. The social and economic parts have to be addressed along with soil health, air quality, and habitat.*
- *Depends on what they represent. Because of the diverse nature different folks have different advocacy … Wild horses are an example. Off-road vehicle "people" tend to make the most important issue the one that they are involved in*
- *Very important*
- *I think they rate up there pretty high*
- *If you don't have social & economic issues you lose the viability of the committee, extremely important*
- *Moderately important*
- *Hard to say. They do consider them. RAC is to do the best for the public lands and keep them open for recreation*
- *Not sure how much weight we give that*
- *Very important*
- *Major importance for both for the BLM and RAC member*
- *Very important—we have a wide variety of RAC members with different stakeholder interests, I was not aware of other issues that they would bring up (e.g. Outfitters and guides), and now based on their input and discussions, and now I see that there is a high level of economic interest for those groups*

TYPES AND SOURCES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

6. Have you worked with the BLM in addressing social and economic issues? (*SKIP ALL OF 6 IF ANSWER TO this one IS 'NO'*.)

- *Yes (11)*
- *We have on the RAC*
- *Tried to*

- *Yes—there are two answers. As a RAC member, I made appropriate input. My office budget spent $1 M with [universities] to understand socioeconomic impacts; central office doesn't have a budget of a staff*
- *No not really, but more of a passive type thing where a BLM official may come and brief us on a land-swap*
- *Yes. For the [recreation site] off road vehicle site*
- *Yes but not extensively*
- *Not so much in a technical sense, I was part of a collaborative group about OHV in a rural county*
- *Just being on the RAC and giving my input*
- *No, not directly. I sit on the State Oil & Gas Commission, so I have some contact with the agency there. I've also been a representative within interagency meetings & all the Records of Decision for EISs*
- *Yes, with the economic aspects. I don't really know how to separate them. In all the Energy Development Plans, they are intertwined*
- *Yes. More economic than social. Exploiting eastern part of state about water*
- *Well it's hard to say. As they apply to recreation I have. We've just taken on the role of setting fees for recreational properties*
- *Very little*
- *No*
- *Yes, I do a lot when there is a big project through the NEPA process*
- *The social issues of Native Americans, Yes, I have as a liaison between the tribe government and the BLM*
- *I do, but more at the reviewing stage*

A. What types of social and economic information has been provided to you by BLM?

- *Results on scoping for resource management plan multiple social and economic data provided*
- *Not that much*
- *Limited, proposed power line goes through resource area. Power transmission line and what is meant locally and larger scale of power in West and initial job related benefits*
- *Manage noxious weeds BLM use to, on RAC agenda; maintaining quality healthy vegetation maintains hunters*
- *We deal more with environmental impacts than into social issues. Forest fires are an economic impact. Economic issues for oil & gas. The driving force here is environmental issues. [State] takes each issue at face value*
- *We provided it to them, but not the reverse. [Universities], mining and soc departments provided the information to the BLM*
- *Very little social & economic information has been given to us by the BLM*

- *Have had good meetings on all issues. Example: road closure issues -- Forest Service people were brought in to talk about this entire issue*
- *They gave us the pros and cons of what they were planning on doing. We were discussing a new Wilderness area*
- *They did some needs assessments and a review of local communities and their dependency on it. Kind of reviewed the users we had (people w/ grazing leases, mining, etc.), and the private contractors for recreation guides. Some of the other members have also filled us in on the impact on their communities/constituency*
- *When I got the letter about this I didn't know what socio-economics were*
- *We've been provided social information*
- *Not as much economic information, more social*
- *I don't work in that area*
- *There is lots of environmental information and they work with lots of communities to get industry to work with them*
- *The workforce. The economics of small community impacts and how it affects their infrastructure is a big deal related to the size of the workforce*
- *In [State], there is one socio-economic expert in the State office of BLM. That person provides boilerplate language to the field offices for what they need. For instance, the impact of loss of AUMS and the County Economic Profile, and the Annual Census Bureau Profile*
- *Limited. Not heard of Economic profile systems. Nada*
- *We used social & economic impact as we look at RMPs. Looking at all aspects as we redo the RMP. Have done our studies the BLM is looking at our study that was completed 1.5 years ago*
- *Nuts and bolts, you know. We got that economic information dealing with land uses*
- *I can't remember what tools or resources*
- *No! The people on our RAC are very knowledgeable we are just aware of what is going on*
- *Yes what was being done in other places*
- *NEPA documents, meeting, discussions and I get a lot of feedback from the local community*
- *The RAC receives update reports from field managers; personally the RAC does not get issues information from the BLM we get it reading news papers & other publication*
- *Questionnaires, the draft document, part of my job. The BLM has made it very clear that if I needed more information I just need to ask*

How was this information provided? (BLM workshop, presentation materials, etc.)

- *Scoping document*
- *Predefined BLM brings information forward, RAC member provides information at meetings or discussions*

- *Materials are presented to the private sector—NGOs—inside the agencies. If a cultural or social issue comes up we discuss it but, they are not the driving force with their issues*
- *I am active with a local land partnership & the BLM reports to us regularly as they monitor a Burn Wildlife Site. I also get information from other groups that the BLM reports to*
- *Attended meetings on economic issues for my area put on by the BLM. An economic stimulus presentation. Working groups coming in for presentations—information on oil & gas*
- *Verbal by phone*
- *Attended meetings on economic issues for my area put on by the BLM. An economic stimulus presentation. Working groups coming in for presentations—information on oil & gas*
- *BLM employees came to talk to us and each did a separate part of the presentation. This was 4-5 years ago*
- *Meetings & field trips*
- *We didn't have a workshop—it came up in the course of discussion. We did have limited printed materials. It was mainly just part of the discussion*
- *I got an EIA and in it was a section about this, so I learned about this*
- *Not that much—we provided a vehicle for people to provide input*
- *The BLM does provide some but we get a lot from other RAC members in the area and it's also provided by the public*
- *Presentations at the RAC meetings on the geo tourism we get handouts, look at web sites. This information is more general than specific to an area*
- *They're not doing a very good job with this, but they're trying*
- *Usually in documents; sometimes presentations*
- *The socio-economic for this RMP had documents they gave us as well as a short presentation about some of it. But the County is supplementing their boilerplate language. There was a workshop with the cooperating group and we're a member of the Coalition of Local Governments*
- *In written form in packets with presentations. Lead information*
- *Orally, written, and on CDs*
- *The BLM provides information to us by letter-packets*
- *Handouts, presentations*
- *Presentations at the RAC meetings I went out to the community*
- *Report in a RAC meeting*
- *Through meetings, printed and electronic material, and at facilitated meetings*

B. Has BLM's social and economic information been helpful in formulating advice?

- *Yes (4)*

- *I believe BLM is interested in multiple-use livestock grazing, producers relying on BLM so in cases of doing revision the BLM has good info*
- *Instances of conflict of resource issues and grazing … RAC members are slanted on their view. ESA vs vegetation health the need opportunity and value of maintaining multiple use*
- *Yes, generally speaking the people on the RAC have more experience than the BLM. Information goes back & forth we share information. BLM-RAC*
- *Yes, we could use more.*
- *They don't have any. There aren't two people on the entire national staff for socio-economic analysis*
- *We have not received enough information to answer this question*
- *Yes, a Basin in our area—should gas & oil drilling be allowed? This is where economic information would be very helpful & the social structure community or tribe. Road closures how do they affect the ranches. Grazing rights program on all the impacts. We have not received enough information to answer this question*
- *Yes. They did a good job. Our state BLM people do a good job keeping our RAC informed*
- *This site is owned by the BLM but has private land owner use. They're always trying to gain a permit. BLM worked out an agreement that's not legal. When the private owner experienced vandalism he closed the road. They are working with the land owner. Maybe the county can take over the road. They're looking at all the options. The county has issues, as does the BLM, the owner, and the users. So the RAC can now see things that the land needs to be purchased.*
- *They have issues they need to solve. How people feel about the issues helps resolve them*
- *Not really*
- *I think it has; when we meet, we have the background information in a packet and in the context of managing the public in certain areas, access and costs. This is helpful to get everyone on the same page*
- *Not knowledgeable*
- *It's been helpful, but not nearly enough in this category*
- *Just barely….it's minimal, and we can't rely on it to protect our economic viability*
- *Delivered qualitatively by BLM staff members from the RAC. Not given any "data" sociological or economic. No data sets and that's a limitation!!*
- *This is a key piece*
- *Yeah. We just used it reflectively in general dialogue about the evaluation of impacts on a community*
- *Haven't gotten enough information to answer*
- *Yes, a big factor in rural [State]*
- *Not really, basically speaking as a RAC member we rarely petition on issues pertaining to areas lacking in funding*

- *Yes, it was. I think a lot of people have misperceptions about some of the economic and social impacts, and when we were presented with actual data, it really opened our eyes in terms of the issues*

Would you provide examples of how socio-economic data and/or analysis were utilized in discussion between your RAC and the BLM regarding management decisions?

- *Formed sub groups of RAC alternative RMS EIS*
- *ATVs & Roads one issue for all. The snow machine issue is easier to deal with because there are not as many environmental issues & less use. Of road vehicles joint management with native corporation. Grazing land BLM would need to be more knowledgeable & clearer on what they know & didn't know & develop a plan*
- *The RAC brings issues to the BLM*
- *Yes. You have to take it into consideration. I'm new, but I haven't felt I needed more information in any situation yet. I think they've done a good enough job between the BLM, RAC, and public, to give you a good feel for the impacts*
- *In regards to wild horses and burros, the BLM is between a rock and a hard place and now they need to take care of these animals, but they can't get it done because there are people who won't let the BLM do the right thing. I miss the day when we were a natural resource-based economy and now it has been removed from us. It has affected our economy a lot. The horses get food and we can't get improvements for our schools. Even though the BLM has a remedy it would stir up the hornets' nest and they don't want that. Small interest groups think this is a nice thing to do. I have talked to all of my constituents and their say goes nowhere*
- *We just completed an RMP about <BLM resource area>. They held public meetings and provided a record of what was discussed at the meeting events to us*
- *When the BLM was looking to do a land exchange they had meeting with the tribe several times*
- *Also for the [resource] stewardship program the BLM meet with the tribe many times*
- *They really need to concentrate on what's going on in the western region of the state – [several communities cited]. You couldn't raise a teenage daughter there if you needed to. And they know right now they are structuring in more "man camps" that will add to this problem. [We are] a low-population state and that leads to problems. The High School kids from [community A] are now getting bused all the way to [community B]. This is like capitalism without regulation out there and we're now paying for it, and capitalism is not a form of government, it's just an economic system. It's just amoral what's going on. [The State] is kind of independent and reclusive to a fault. If anyone even mentions some regulation, they think you're getting ready to socialize the whole world*
- *Part of what matters for this specific case is the economic and social impacts of partial vs. all-year development in terms of the resources that come to and leave smaller, rural communities*

- *Boosts to the economy like oil shale—very positive things that have come out of this as well as the impacts & we balance those before we make a recommendation. Our RAC is very active*
- *Local communities are driven by mining projects, and the impacts that will occur, RAC gives information to ask more perspective so the BLM can make good decisions*

C. What types of socio-economic information do you most need to provide advice to BLM?

- *Preference for land uses*
- *Biggest thing we need idea of what it is costing American people and benefits as what negative impacts that relationship*
- *In many instances not adequate info provided by BLM. Would like to know pros and cons of implementing a plan and eco & soc of implementing a plan*
- *Not much, most of us are knowledgeable. Social & cultural ideas are best presented as a question to the RAC & let the RAC give their read on the situation*
- *Job data, growth of businesses*
- *We don't get EPS or BBMs. It is the same people writing the economic & environment impacts (this should not be) and these two issues are usually in conflict. Social impacts get to the communities where the economic issues are involved. Biased information given during meetings—papers are difficult for the average person to read, both sides needs to be studied & written so everyone can understand. (Don't write over people's heads especially if you want regular community members including low income & tribal members to understand the information)*
- *Can't think of anything we look at what's on the table*
- *Information about and social structures of the communities & how the economic change in communities affects the ranches & the oil & gas money*
- *One of the things we needed was the BMPs [best management practices] regarding alternative energy. We had committees to explore solar, nuclear, wind, etc. in order to understand them better*
- *I don't know*
- *I already get it from the Census. They don't need to give it to me. I get the costs and price of hay. There's a barber, seventeen people downtown, and a county judge*
- *You want to know about the economic impact, if you close an area to use, that has an affect on the number of visitors and where they spend money. If you open areas up, then the other side becomes important. That just expands. The other issues are the impacts to the resources and the other user groups. In the example of energy development, you have decreased wildlife, although some may argue that, but the elk disappear. Drives away mountain bikers*
- *I want to know the number of permittees included and the impact of decisions on permittees. What cities and towns are close by? BLM needs to give us information on how much money they spend on certain issues*

- *Not sure what types but we need it*
- *They need a much better understanding than they have about the problems we'll see in the future. For instance, they need law enforcement data, drug intervention policy information in order to minimize the social impact/s. But there will always be impacts. What most people don't realize is that the industry IS willing to ante up the funds to help, but they're not going to volunteer this*
- *They need to know more about options in relation to the steadiness and continuity of this type of workforce. It affects the ability of a town to provide services*
- *The biggest component is the analysis of the alternatives. We need to have expertise in impact scenarios and differences of how they will affect different stakeholders*
- *Direct and indirect metrics. Pumping water out of valleys and grazing people are very concerned about advocacy based on quality of life not economics*
- *Depends on the activity—recreation uses, impacts these has on roads, communities & who will use the land*
- *Mineral extraction—look at impacts to roads, house availability, what impacts to the local community*
- *I haven't seen any lack. I think maybe the only shortfall that I've seen is people not coming to the meetings to give input. I think my first year was the only time I recall somebody coming in to chat with us. I haven't been able to make it to every meeting, either*
- *Represent a broad range area. It goes from [Town] to [Town] state line and east of [Town] to [Town]. We have representatives from all over these parts*
- *The information on what's being done in other places, and knowing if we approve changing fee will that money stay in that area we want it to. We don't want that money to be going to Washington, D.C.*
- *Need to know potential, impacts for the area examples: schools, housing, roads*
- *I have not been a part of any decisions. Socio-economic information has not been a part of decisions we can make. We get updates on fire $ and how it is moved around. I request and want to be informed with issues pertaining to Native Americans*
- *I think it's more than just statistics, but some first hand narratives, whether in person or through email, but just documentation of peoples' perspective. Sometimes it's reports, but those are sometimes hard to read through, and we don't have a ton of time. Summaries are good, and data tables*

As a RAC member, what sources other than BLM do you go to get social and economic information?

- *The University*
- *Try through the county; try and keep up w/ different trucking, grazing, tabs on income how busy.*
- *County as a tool and network. I like to hear what various groups have to say*

- *We go to the people who have a vested interest and find out what their positions are on the issues. Go to the private sector & other agencies find out why they feel they way they do*
- *From county commissioners, regional & District offices*
- *The information we get is one sided from the BLM; the working groups within our RAC are in touch with the community—there is good back & forth communication. I have looked on line. Socio-economic information needs to be brought up and we need to find out what the reaction of the community is. Get out and talk to the people on the street*
- *That's a long list…primarily reverts back to my theme on multiple use. If they make a decision to not allow mining leases, they need to be able to consider what effect that has on local and state economy, to take that economic issue for the county. So any decision that includes or excludes a use has an impact, and they aren't prepared to analyze that impact*
- *I have looked at economic studies on line. Gone to other states that have recently studied on OHVs.*
- *I get information from the working groups within our RAC they are in touch with the community—there is good back & forth communication have looked at economic studies on line*
- *Most of the RAC members are active in other groups and well read. We keep up through our own reading and meetings*
- *Well, I'd like to know the economic impacts, and we need to know the impacts on the current users in the local communities, the public. I really can't think of any others, other than a general review of what would happen if we pursue a given course of action. I think in most cases, it becomes readily apparently. If you let the stakeholders know what you are planning, they tend to let you know what kind of impacts it might it have. Has it been publicized, and have we received any negative comments*
- *We need to get facts out to the people about what the BLM has going on*
- *The University and other experts. We need to give the public an opportunity. I request information on areas*
- *The tribe they are under used and under addressed, tribes are cities in themselves they have compiled their own information. We need to look at this inclusively and separately*
- *The tribe*
- *Those set the baseline. Beyond that, it also matters as to what each alternative means for the baseline*
- *Haven't done that. Maybe some form news reports*
- *Request presenters; ask for speakers so we have a working knowledge, our contact person from the BLM. As a county official I get a lot from public records*
- *I don't have to go; I just get it. I'm really active with the Chambers of Commerce and the [State] Association of Counties. I sometimes get too much information*
- *As a commissioner I attend a lot of meetings and talk to a lot of people*
- *Probably county commissioners and news*

- *Working in the mining industry I hear a lot with my job regulating the mining in the state from non-government agencies, comments from the public, workshops*
- *Local newspapers, [State] updates on issues going on in the state it comes out every month*

7. How can BLM improve public (at large) access to socio-economic information?

- *If they would actually look at long term effects of decisions, such as denying (e.g., oil, grazing, etc.) or in delaying production and what impact it has on counties and people*
- *Believe federal agencies find themselves so involved and enthralled in managing small things we forget to or don't look at the bigger issue. If they were staffed another person the research value would have a varied opinion*
- *Advertise so the public knows when scheduled meetings are. If an issue effects some people they attend meetings but people not affected don't bother to come to the meetings*
- *Not sure, except to be very transparent as to when meetings will take place and what is on the agenda*
- *On line, but lots of people are involved or should be involved with the BLM are not computer literate & people don't read newspapers so we need to think out of the box. (This takes money the BLM does not have). Feed information to ranching groups, granges, Farm Bureau—school meetings*
- *I don't know. They don't have a lot of socio-economic information to be made available, but if they have it, it probably is available through a website. They may do it , if they have it, they ought to make the public aware of how to find it. Internet is probably the way to do it*
- *Simply by having data to access, there just isn't the data or studies. Information on a web site would be good*
- *I am very big on Scoping meetings and lots of them. News releases in different publications. Be very forthright with outreach to the community—a good reputation goes a long way—Meet with different associations, such as Cattleman's associations*
- *I think one of the best ways is to start at the grass roots level, such as high school programs, to let them know what is going on. Sometimes [in the communities] it degenerates into us and them confrontations*
- *I don't think the BLM's roll is to provide information*
- *I think they need to do a good job of putting the issues before the community, as well as any changes. You have to give a reasonable opportunity for comment. I don't think the general public reviews websites that much, but publicizing the meetings w/ agendas, and the local newspaper, esp. in the smaller communities. Maybe even local radio stations, talk shows, or morning shows of smaller radio stations. I don't think that printed materials would be good for much other than the key stakeholders. The basics need to be well publicized by media. Even major papers sometimes, like the Oregonian. They've*

published a few articles, and people do comment, either written or via a website, or a phone or meeting

- *They don't need to give it to me. They just need to make it accessible. Everyone knows how to run the BLM. They're up against every little problem so they're not able to look at the greater good*
- *Over the six years, it has improved in that they have become more sophisticated in the use of web sites. User friendly websites are very helpful. In the RFP's, they've released six of them, and have gone above the call of duty in letting those websites be user friendly. RFPs are on the websites, and you can get DVDs or CDs, and they are fairly easy to navigate. An improvement and some pressure from DC to do this. People are using the internet to acquire information*
- *I'd like to see more watershed research*
- *Sharing information and knowledge through face to face communicate, this is where they connect & discussion happens. Network on where to go to get information, people don't want to get bombarded with information. I am on a list serve the information is filtered but if I am interested I can look at the whole paper*
- *Do a better job of letting the public know when meetings will be*
- *I don't know, this is not my area of expertise*
- *I don't know; this is not really my field. They do this in the NEPA documents, I know, but I think the problem is that the needs are much wider than just whether this is covered in the NEPA documents*
- *At the Field Office level, this is not their priority. We're there because otherwise they just give the boilerplate language and they'll diminish cumulative / significant economic impacts. They are starting to look at housing, employment, and infrastructure*
- *The web! If BLM could provide reliable and unbiased data sets related to sociological assessments and decisions*
- *Make the information available to the local people—on web sites now that people are computer literate and we are saving trees*
- *I'm not an expert on outreach other than running my own political campaigns. I think they do as good as they can. I don't know if they could do better*
- *Making socio-economic information available, I don't think it is*
- *I don't think it's up to the BLM to do that. People who are coming in have a stake at the meetings*
- *I don't know, web site! Or in the papers. I don't know that it isn't adequate*
- *The BLM does a good job with NEPA and other projects. Web sites—the more they can do this the better. On the web site they could post information on what is being considered before the document comes out – interim information*
- *Improve the freedom of information act. The communication needs to continually let the public know what is going on. Have a web page with updates on it right now there is just general information on the web page; include more of the issues and what is going on*

- *Maybe links on their website, making CD's available to the public*

LARGE-SCALE GENERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

8. In making resource decisions do you feel that the BLM has:

a. Adequately addressed the economic effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No (3)*
- *I feel that the BLM does better than most agencies*
- *I do they have meetings & discuss the economic effects*
- *Yes, their approach to the Uranium mining industry—looking at all aspects*
- *No, I have been on both sides of the oil field controversy. The rules and regulations have changed and are tighter & tighter and the time it takes to get anything done is longer & longer—it takes 2-3 years to get decision hashed out and the BLM has 30 days to respond. There is simply not enough time to adequately address economic effects*
- *No. In general, they don't have the information*
- *Not at all, they don't have the money to look into it adequately*
- *In the past they have but no in the recent times. Yes in [State]. They need to take local people's suggestions*
- *They take into account the economic impact whether it's positive or negative and the environmental impacts*
- *Yeah*
- *Yes, I don't really see a great effort. I think they have considered it—they don't really have a choice. Through their practices and procedures, they do a fairly good job, but perhaps could do more publicizing. People have had an adequate amount of time to comment*
- *There's a strong possibility that with individual points you can affect how a decision is made. The BLM throws away the handbooks*
- *They really haven't. In large part they are behind the eight ball. It's difficult to acquire that information. Some of the stuff is just too small scare to warrant hiring someone to collect that information. For the RFP, [State] got on their case. The locals had to prod to get that information. You can acquire a bunch of statistics, but that doesn't necessarily lead to a better decision. Very little socio-economic data. The OHV thing is catching everyone off guard, tough to get that data*
- *Not always. They spend a lot of time on science*
- *I am new to the RAC but my gut feeling—I don't think so. BLM is a huge bureaucracy-budgets-regulation and decisions are made 2-3 years in advance & you need to be aware of this as you work with the BLM, so what were addressed and decided a few years ago are not the correct decision for today*
- *The BLM is doing a better job at looking at the big picture*

- *No, they can do a much better job of it, but they are shorthanded and need more $, and we shouldn't blame the field-level personnel because they are already pulled in too many directions. There were lots of BLM folks within the oil and gas sector that were brought back out of the field and into offices just to try to deal with the load of permit reviews coming in, and this hurts the field operations critical to the social and economic aspects*
- *They're addressing the biggest issues, but probably not ALL the things that are especially important to local governments*
- *My sense is that is the primary basis on what decisions are made*
- *Yes, economics effects have been part of the RAC & area land management study as I watch this they are very thorough; more credit should be given to them*
- *I think they made a crucial mistake by leasing a piece of land which locked out 20,000 acres of public land. That's going to come back to haunt them*
- *No, I don't think done on special issues, the special interests start in on the project then they lose sight of the whole issue*
- *Probably not*
- *Yes I think they have*
- *I think so*
- *Yes, I am involved in the process and I know decisions need to be balanced. The BLM does a good job gathering & assessing potential impacts*
- *Somewhat – on average some are address adequately--- there is no long term data to back up anything & the data they have is not updated*
- *Yes and no. Sometimes they make decisions too much to benefit a particular economic group, such as permittees. Their desires count for too much. The BLM doesn't make decisions based on the best interest to the tribes. There is a conflict there. Recreational use is really heavily emphasized—the tribes' perception is that federal land managers almost cater to groups such as ORV by making trails. Some say they go out and legitimize illegal trails*

b. Adequately addressed the social effects of its decisions? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *I think so*
- *Social effects addressed more than economic*
- *No*
- *Yes, Local goes out of their way to address the social issues. But not in Washington D.C.!*
- *Social effects have suffered since they are tied to the economic & environmental effects*
- *No, again. There are seven RMPs for Utah, and there is not adequate addressing of the social impact even in the format. Could be a statement of ignorance on my part*
- *Yes, on the horse issues there is data on the social effects, but none on OHV- our main concern*

- *Social effects the BLM takes them into consideration, BLM needs to make the best decision for the land*
- *On the few issues we've discussed, it comes to areas where they've designated open-space, so people use those areas for outings, which is kind of a social effect*
- *Yeah*
- *The social effects are a little different. People who are going to be affected economically pick up on things fast. People that are going to be affected socially, through recreation, especially people who might come from a city or only come to a piece of land a couple times of year, may not be aware of what is going on and they may be upset when the restrictions change. That's another argument for publicizing changes regionally or statewide rather than just locally. There is a growing concern by the public about public lands. They want to know what's going on*
- *Narrow-minded people always get their way and make small things an issue. The agency is manipulated and the focus should be more balanced. I think they are arrested by legislation and administrative rules. They're forced to do things whether the social effects are addressed or not*
- *Only when it comes to county government and how it will affect the officials, which may not adequately affect general populations*
- *I think so*
- *I think so, just having the RAC helps with the social effects. An effort is being taken by all parties so all know about the RAC meetings where they can come and state a concern. We do have a lot of input from interest groups. The social interaction is pretty high*
- *From a tribal point of you they are doing a good job in this region.*
- *Essentially, you get what you pay for*
- *This problem is even worse*
- *No, because not data to make good decisions. More seat of pants*
- *Think so. Can't separate the social & economic they need to be looked at together—they go hand in hand*
- *In everything that I've seen the answer would be yes. I was really surprised to see the makeup of the RAC. I saw a bunch of really reflective people*
- *BLM decisions; should BLM have the obligation to get involved in social engineering? Do not feel that their decisions are based on social and economic factors! Nor do I feel they should be*
- *Yes they do*
- *I think in this area yeah*
- *Yes, it is difficult to quantify & one decision does not please all the parts involved. The BLM does let the community know the impacts & how they can be minimized*
- *No, sometimes maybe. I think it is a problem with our office our staff we don't have leaders in leadership positions. For instance when fire season is high most everyone goes to fire repression or fire rehab*

- *They do for certain groups. Compared to recreationalist versus tribes, the tribes have the perspective that it is very difficult to accommodate tribal use. It doesn't appear that there is a balanced or equitable solution. Horse rider clubs are becoming more common*

c. Adequately addressed the environmental effects of its decisions on minorities and low income residents including tribal impacts? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *I think so*
- *I think they look at the environmental impacts the most*
- *No to the degree should, we have very small tribal constituency in low income as well as elderly*
- *Nor should it*
- *Only in one instance - when the timber industry program for men & women went to collect native seeds & then trained tribe members to monitor in transects in the canyon area*
- *If the decision provides jobs that are positive everyone is happy and you see the effect quickly, if the dirt smells that is negative, but over time these social effects can be worked on.—the people want it right now and the proper fixes take time. Again the BLM falls short addressing them adequately*
- *The BLM does the best they can with environmental effects. They also go out of their way with the tribal impacts*
- *No, and [State] has 12 or 13 tribal elements. About 1/3 of [County] is tribal, BLM doesn't address these*
- *OHV is low income recreation so they are covered pretty well. Tribal groups are addressed very well – it is a hot button if they are not – this is a group that is overly included in the effects*
- *The BLM does the best they can with environment effects. They also go out of there way with the tribal impacts*
- *They seem to communicate with the Native American tribes; they seem to bring them in all the time because lots of BLM land adjoins tribal lands. But they don't always agree*
- *For this region that would be a yes. Native Americans have a lot of communication with the BLM*
- *Well, I think that the tribes, especially they way they are organized here in this region, coordinate very well with the BLM. So I don't see a lot of improvement. But for lower income or minorities, I don't know if there is a great need to do more outreach in that area. I don't see those groups having BLM activities as a high priority*
- *I don't know*
- *No, never dealt with*
- *Not always*
- *No, not intentionally it is a lack of awareness & education of tribal information does just not know the broader community. This needs to be brought fore front. There is willingness, a want to cooperate and address impacts not answered*

- *Not sure how this applies*
- *Yes, there's usually a good faith attempt at this. I know they do some outreach*
- *The environmental justice component is similar – they just use the boilerplate language*
- *A factor but not a driving factor. Most recent RAC in [town]where there are [tribe] Native Americans there was no representative no evidence from the tribal view*
- *I don't know how the environmental effects can isolate this portion of the population*
- *All concerns are addressed the same as anyone else's*
- *I don't think that's really been an issue*
- *Environmental effects get over looked. Disabled or handicapped public I don't believe are addressed at all the minorities-low income & tribal issues are addressed*
- *Yes. We don't have any tribes! We don't have a lot of diversity! The hunters and fisherman are the low income groups. But I don't think we really target that*
- *Yes*
- *Yes, addressing the environmental effects is something we consider—looking at impacts to all people & communities*
- *They have not addressed them enough—on minorities it is a sensitive issue in our area. Some decisions are over looked & some decisions are not taken seriously, it depends on who you are & where you are. Our range con has moved to another area & now there is no one who knows the past knowledge & the data is not anywhere. This effects minorities & low income residents when decisions are made there are not input from them. The low income & minorities assume that the BLM know what they are doing & that the BLM decision is final*
- *No, but they are improving. Compared to what it was five years ago, when they had no consideration, but they are making efforts to understand these issues. There is some progress.*

d. The social and economic effects on these groups? (*Explain why or why not?*)

- *No. For example, the [tribe] have traditionally lived by use of wood. Use a lot of herbs and other things from the earth. When the BLM creates a wilderness study area, it makes it impossible for them to go in on vehicles to gather wood. National director doesn't know to solve it. Can't exclude every group but the natives. It's a function on the law, they have to work within the law as it is with regard to wilderness*
- *About the only area where they've really been in contact was with tribes, not so much the lower income folks; I've never heard any complaints from low income residents*
- *I don't think they really look at low income people. They have other things to think about*
- *Probably. I'm not sure what more you could do. I don't know what else to say. I don't see a big need to do more*
- *Here the minorities are Native Americans, low income people, and young people who don't care to get a job or older people on a fixed income*

- *Same, but wouldn't really expect it based on scope—we're talking rural public lands in [State], hard to get good data*
- *We don't have demographics*
- *They are doing a pretty good job*
- *No, they haven't done this. For example, the air quality in [region] is really problematic. They have addressed in some areas to make improvements (like in the [region], but not in [town])*
- *No, they haven't done this. The environmental justice part is not more than just lip service*
- *Yeah*
- *No, but again there is some progress, but a lot more needs to be made*

LOCAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

9. In your view, how does BLM take into consideration their impacts on local communities in making management decisions?

- *By working with interested parties*
- *That is what is lacking in all of cases*
- *2 to 3*
- *They do a good job. They hold lengthy & detailed hearings where issues of management decisions are made. A serious effort is made to bring people to the table & explain the issues to them. They interface with the community.*
- *I don't know*
- *If the BLM males a decisions but not enforce them the walls that were built fall down & all the effort of discussing the issues is for nothing and you then lose credibility*
- *If the decision provides jobs that are positive everyone is happy and you see the effect quickly, if the dirt smells that is negative, but over time these social effects can be worked on.—the people want it right now and the proper fixes take time. Again the BLM falls short addressing them adequately*
- *Example: A community says that they want an area designated as a wilderness area, -ORV people say the wilderness areas are a waste of resources- with no roads to access the wilderness areas the beetle come in and takes over because equipment can assess the area to spray. The wilderness area is lost*
- *In [State], they practice very conscientiously about allowing elected officials to be integral to planning and discussion long before they make a decision. They are able to extract from local government the impact of what they are planning to do. I think to some degree the public comment aspect of their planning in the final draft form may also be effective in that category*
- *The BLM does not take into consideration their impacts on local communities—they are forced into a position of not being able to do anything. Example Wild horses. They do good job of listening*

- *Through scoping meetings for all to attend. Example: National Indian ruins one side was not fenced in properly & cows were coming in to the enclosure—ranchers cut the other side of the fence to let the cows out. After discussion that if the National park does not fence this area they have nothing to complain about. The fences were fixed and the problem disappeared*
- *I'm not really qualified to answer that, because most of the things I dealt with didn't impact communities*
- *I think that from what I've seen the district manager has gone out into the public and private sectors*
- *They are forced to listen because of the process and the communities and people are listened to, but the laws of the land don't count for much*
- *They meet with county commissioners, and that's it. The OHV group I was on, that ruled the day*
- *They do a good job. They have representatives from lots of communities*
- *From a tribal point of view they are doing a pretty good job putting their arms around this & finding some middle ground*
- *Not very well. I don't mean this as a critique*
- *The NEPA process, public meetings, and meetings with local officials*
- *They don't. In fact, [County] is inviting the BLM manager to develop protocols and MOUs. We initiate this process because sometimes they don't give us a heads up*
- *Public hearings give voice to views which help guide the decisions*
- *Very well*
- *Don't know. You will have to ask some o the community leaders—the BLM does not do near enough*
- *Yes, they re-management plans go out of way to seek public input*
- *Through the RAC to some degree*
- *I feel we are advanced in this area. The field managers are public oriented. But there may only be 4-5 people attending meetings, so they don't always get the public's opinions*

a. Any examples?

- *He's dealt with environmental groups and companies*
- *I think that the BLM, and through the RACs particularly, consider the impacts on local communities. Even this one issue in front of us now, in terms of limiting ATV use has been pretty well publicized, and they've considered what kind of impact that would have on communities who derive economic benefits from having OHV users show up. Between the meetings, RACs, and their openness in the community, the economic impact is pretty well considered*
- *The BLM is stifled every step of the way. The special interest group wins*
- *The RAC is full of knowledgeable people. BLM holds small, public town meetings*
- *I have been on the RAC only a year so I can't provide examples*

- *RMPs modify travel management routes and I don't think they've looked that closely at how they affect local people*
- *We see this intensify within the development (energy) areas*
- *We need more of a heads up with the oil and gas EISs*
- *[Valley], more important to the people to have off-road recreation than protect archaeology and other important areas*
- *All of the local communities are asked to be at the table & their input is taken into account & rolled into the process*
- *I think in doing fire mitigation work in [town] and [town] they've really been looking at the community*
- *The issues of grazing bison on BLM ground I don't think the BLM went into the community enough*
- *Yes, the BLM looks at negative impacts and balances them with positives through education. Example: need for additional house-they look at ways to get more housing that is needed*
- *I think they do make an effort to speak with local communities. The problem is that their efforts to meet with the community can be poorly attended. I know I've heard them talk about phone calls people make into the BLM. I'm not sure they consider that to be valid input or not. For example, I know the [BLM]District is undergoing their RMP, and they met with us in an organized, logical manner using an outside facilitator. But they met with us after they had done rounds with all the other communities. It was interested to hear their feedback after our feedback. We are interested in keeping lands in the control of the federal government, but it was the opposite desire of the BLM. It will be interesting to see how this is processed. In other RMPs the tribes' issues have usually emerged as one of the very lowest priorities, which is discouraging. BLM actively solicits information from the tribes, but when it falls out at the end, they implement very little of our ideas. This is frustrating*

10. Has the BLM been supportive of state, local, and tribal governments' community development objectives? (*Why or why not?*)

- *Yes (5)*
- *They have to some degree. We work w/ them to, they take into consideration there comments. A lot of people have feeling the public meetings do absolutely no good. Most people feel BLM and Forest Service answer to no one. No oversight for their decisions. If bad decision no repercussions whatsoever!*
- *Access opportunities been*
- *Yes, someone in the BLM should be very sensitive & I mean not just what is good for business that chews up a lot of time. Meeting brings up more questions than resolving them. If the locals bring questions to the table then find solutions. An exchange of data is not great*
- *Somewhat supportive more so with tribal governments*

- *Yes, [Tribes] have been involved in decision making with the RAC & they are always included in special meetings. The tribal communities are a wealth of information example we often need to know where to bury bones that are found*
- *I guess I'd have to say yes. Some of that is the reason they get sued*
- *I believe so and am working with a landfill with the state, local & tribal governments. They try. With all these entities the process takes longer to get through*
- *Yes, but often you have conflicting issues between community entities—where to put the landfill. The government wanted it in the community but the community did not, the BLM came into mitigate the problem and an answer was decided upon. The BLM is great with research but the community does not reach back*
- *Yes. Wilderness transfer of lands was a big deal, and it worked out very well. Everyone was on the same page*
- *I don't know*
- *From both sides, BLM's primary job is to protect our public lands. Community development objectives generally require use of public lands, and the more they can use the better. So I think they have been supportive, perhaps more than they should have been. Maybe should should have leaned more towards preserving and protecting*
- *Yeah. They call on city council and tribal government*
- *State and local, yes, tribal, I don't think so*
- *Supportive in a general sense but sometimes the BLM does not know how to be supportive for lack of education. This is different region to region & person. BLM does reach out to the community*
- *I'm not really aware of it if they have, but I haven't thought about this before. They probably are doing things that I'm not involved in. I think they do this more as a land management action. But, I'm not sure they're really active in this. They try to lessen the impacts and make the benefits as great as they can*
- *They are hyper-sensitive on tribal issues. The tribes can send one letter to oppose or question a project and it stops everything*
- *BLM more as a land steward rather than contributor to development interest*
- *Yes. Always political winds & the BLM gets been trapped in having to reverse mid stream when Washington, D.C. does a switch in government*
- *By and large they do*
- *I don't know*
- *Well there again state and local governments don't always agree so I feel they do the best that they can. You can't take everyone into consideration*
- *As far as I know*
- *I believe so from a states' perspective, through the process that the BLM goes through*
- *I think they have. Our RAC is supportive of the tribe expanding their land base. Although, on artifacts stuff we lack integrity - maybe insensitivity- and the spiritual side is not taken in to account while making decisions. At least not for mine expansions*

- *Generally, yes, I think some of the issues is that the BLM just doesn't understand tribal issues. As they become more educated, then it becomes what are they going to do with that knowledge? It remains to be seen how they use that information*

11. Have you been involved in the RMP (resource management plan) process? (*If no, is your RAC involved in that process?*)

- *Yes (12)*
- *No (2)*
- *I have been involved in a couple of them*
- *No. I am new to the RAC*
- *Yes – five in 5-6 years*
- *We have a major role now. We're involved in 4 other energy-related EISs. We have participated in 3 others*
- *Only as an observer*
- *As much as I can be. I do a lot of reading*
- *Not deeply, I get updates through the RCM and they are very compressive*
- *Somewhat, I have attended RAC meetings when the field office gives reports/updates. We are asked to participate when the RMPs are out for review. The RMP process is so strung out things have changed so much the RMP needs to be revised*

a. How involved? What was your role?

- *A vice chair of RAC sub group*
- *With the county through different ones, looking at different permits*
- *Cooperating agency through own actions or individual constituents*
- *I researched OHV trails & how it is best to manage them. (not pro or con)*
- *I have made public comments, attended public hearings, I have written & voiced my concerns*
- *I chaired meetings that wrote an RMP, made presentations to the BLM & boards*
- *Yes, very involved. As a cooperating agent, for three years as a [State], and as a county elected official. At the state level, I was involved in all six, at the county level just two*
- *I got involved in the beginning of my tenure with the RAC. I did a power point presentation to the group, mapping for the plan*
- *I am working on a RMP right now in my area. I worked with the BLM I have looked up information, attended meetings*
- *No, I was notified about a couple meetings, but my schedule didn't allow me to attend*
- *Yes, I was kind of a stake holder in the [RMP] process. Public member and stakeholder. Reviewed and made comments on the RMP. Participated extensively and attended meetings, wrote letters*

- *Through the RAC, yes, not horribly involved, because they decided in [State] to do so many RMPs all at once, we'd get updates every time we met. We discussed things, but we're just one aspect of us, there isn't a true role for the RAC. I helped on some of the scoping*
- *I went to public meetings. I wasn't a major reviewer. It was midlevel involvement*
- *We are just getting a RMP started it has been held up for lack of funding*
- *We provide input as a cooperating agency and we're members of an interdisciplinary team tasked with developing and writing plans with other stakeholders*
- *I served on an interdisciplinary team in the cooperators group*
- *I am involved in two RMPs right now – the [RMP] and [RMP]*
- *Just reviewing it*
- *Yes, on the cooperation agency representative status, I attended meetings*
- *Role was to provide input*
- *RAC discussed a lot of things. Travel Management Plans all brought before RAC and made comments and discussed them. Our comments were in the final plan. BLM very good about keeping RAC in the loop*
- *As a rep of the County, And that is a long drawn out process*
- *Numerous times, as a part of my job, I've been a member of the interdisciplinary team representing tribes. But most of the time we're just a tribal representative*

b. Did the BLM give the community (at large) adequate opportunity to participate in the RMP process? (*For some, all, none …*)

- *Yes (8)*
- *I think they do. But everything is inadequacy to work with the public. They don't set up schedule so people are unable to attend… Not figure out a time everyone can go*
- *Yes, excellent and they were effective*
- *Absolutely—All five that I have attended involving land in RMP*
- *Yes all of the meetings were open and advertized. Invitations were sent out and at the meetings people were called on for their input*
- *I believe so.*
- *Yes, they always have advance notice in the papers and by word of mouth. They take every effort to let the public know, for example with the scoping meetings*
- *Definitely. I thought they did a good job. It was well publicized. They moved the meetings around in the local communities. It was pretty hard for anyone in the community to either not know about it or not be able to attend*
- *You have to break it into parts, and as to the scoping meetings and preliminary inputs, you'd have to say yes. They met the letter of the law in that regard. The issued the plans one right after the other, six plans, with a tight timeline for providing public comment. Then they shut it off quickly, and that wasn't good. A significant membership in the RAC thought that was a bad idea. Horribly inadequate about issuing the RMP and giving*

enough time for comments. The BLM will probably be successfully litigated and told to open comment period again

- *Yes. Comments were in the local newspaper. The BLM contacted local officials*
- *All the meetings are required by law, but sometimes they don't really listen, but they're not really breaking the law*
- *Yes – through NEPA, there's a public meeting process. There are local groups as cooperating agencies if they're authorized and have the expertise*
- *The ones I've seen in the past have done this. With one other project – which was a tribal project – they didn't want the participation, so no is the answer on that one. I'm an advocate of public and openness, hearings, etc. They changed their format to "listening sessions" w/ maps, specialists, etc. who are just standing around. So, they have the appearance of a public hearing, but it's more of a dog & pony show to NOT hear the public. It is inadequate for the average public citizen. And the environmental groups just make a preliminary strategy anyway*
- *We form subgroups under the RAC and had people who had expertise in an area that we are weak in*
- *I think they do a fair job with the money they have for this*
- *Yes because of public hearings*
- *Yes I think so, for the duration of the project! Anyone can comment at any time*
- *Yes, the community can be as involved as they want to be, there are plenty of opportunities to participate in the RMP process*
- *I never see or hear anything about this part of the RMP process. The at large members deal with this*

c. Were community concerns addressed by the BLM?

- *No (2)*
- *Yes by having RAC sub group*
- *Somewhat*
- *Yes*
- *Yes & no, concerns were brought up but not discussed they just became a part of the RMP*
- *I have not seen the whole RMP as a finished product*
- *The BLM comes to the communities & talks to people in grocery stores on the street as well as scoping meeting, informal association meetings. The BLM sponsors sight watches*
- *I may not be privy to everything because I wasn't at those meetings, but I've heard that some things were resolved and some were not; there was some give and take*
- *As expressed by county commissions, yes, otherwise no*
- *There are so many problems, the answer is 'yes' to some, but not to all*
- *They were addressed as part of the mix of the whole thing*

- *Communities were addressed - selecting alternatives & mitigation by the BLM*
- *Not sure*
- *Yes in many cases. RAC dealt with a lot of the issues that they public had brought up*
- *Yes the BLM identifies the concerns & how they will impact the area*
- *I think they was a lot of public participation on some issues like ORV*
- *I think this goes to what I stated before. They can see some of the issues that we identify, but have not been very effective at actually implemented. There are jurisdictional and conflicts in laws. FLPMA provides for multiple users, and tribes don't agree with. BLM is constrained to use this law, which is in conflict with needs of the tribe*

i. If so, how so?

- *Yes, feedback from regional offices—meaningful response. When you are close to the area in question you have more for a feel*
- *As far as I could tell. I didn't go to any meetings*
- *Public meetings*
- *Yes, through public discussion and revision of what they had originally planned. They certainly held an adequate number of hearings*
- *Definitely. I think that all concerns presented in the process were definitely taken into consideration. A lot of adjustments were made, if something significant came out that had been overlooked previously. I was pretty impressed*
- *Yes. I believe so. Some local officials were concerned about closing off access to the birds of prey area. They gave people an opportunity to oppose the management of this area for recreation. When they develop fire management plans they give the local people a hand in how to prepare and respond*
- *I'm not sure it was adequate*
- *Workshops, community meetings*

ii. If not, why not, in your opinion?

- *In this state, counties through Washington, D.C. delegates control the politics and the political appointees in the agency*

iii. Do you feel that the BLM made a diligent effort to address community concerns? (*Explain, why or why not? Provide some examples.*)

- *Yes (4)*
- *We will know when the RMP draft comes out*
- *I think they try to a lot of times but they can find a law to get out of doing and addressing anything so they always do what they want anyway. They have to meet so many regulations they can't do their job we have too many regulations on them they are afraid to do their job, because they will get sued*

- *No, example: access local input not appropriately heard*
- *They go a great job. BLM is very good at public process*
- *Absolutely, they go out of their way to get information to the public & gather information from the public. (community meetings—stakeholder meetings)*
- *Yes, I do. Making a diligent effort has a couple of connotations. They are clearly resource limited in staffing and budget, but made an effort within their ability*
- *Yes NEPA is in favor of what the BLM is doing but outcomes become tied up in red tape & communities don't understand that the BLMs hands are tied.*
- *They've bent over backwards in many instances*
- *With respect to as far as they went, i.e. listening to county commissions, yes. They gave the counties what the counties asked for. Whether those reflected the broad views, I don't know, we never heard. And on some decisions, it probably does not reflect the broader view*
- *No*
- *Do feel they made a diligent effort—but don't know whether it did any good, the special interest come in and things change*
- *Yes, sometimes the BLM's goals and objectives are different than that of the communities*
- *Yes, hunting access is a big thing and they purchased a big ranch that will be open to hunting I felt that they did that to solve some problems and open some more land to hunters. I think they did a great job of solving some problems*
- *Yes I do. They work very hard to get the community participation*
- *The BLM does what is required but don't this is a diligent effort to get the public involved*
- *Generally yes*

SUMMARY QUESTIONS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

12. Can you provide examples of how the BLM supports effective strategies of public participation to overcome barriers based on ethnicity and other factors?

- *Special mailings sent to tribes, they had a tribal representative on RAC who was a part of the RAC Sub group*
- *The tribal participation is there. Those individuals are not strong vocal participants. Because we have very small variation of ethnicity in the county I'm not sure how much priority is given to different backgrounds by the BLM. Senior citizen group not heard even though interested not set up*
- *No, we are not focused on ethnicity; this may be an outcome, but should not be the basis for design of cultural issues. The BLM is up front in all areas: low income, rural – we bring these all to the table*
- *Not aware of any of these. Tribes in the area have always been involved*
- *I have to think about this*

- *I think that probably it's a little bit hard to do that, because in [State], most of the tribal concerns are circumscribed within reservation boundaries, I don't know if the BLM is even allowed to manage public lands within reservation boundaries. Bureau of Public Affairs has that right. So if they restrict some land to timber, oil, gas, mining, they might restrict employment opportunities for the tribes, although that probably applies to all groups, not just tribes*
- *In my area I don't see this, there are no barriers based on ethnicity we work together*
- *They have made every effort to reach out to the communities when they have scoping meetings coming up, and I think they've gotten the word out*
- *I'm on the RAC in eastern [State]. We are active. Everyone is included. There's a wide range of ethnicity. We try to get the public to participate*
- *Well I think that the best thing they do is to provide information directly, and hold local meetings, invite AND seek participation. I know they've done that both with tribes and local communities*
- *They try and try and only six people attend a meeting. They do a good job having meetings*
- *In a context of what we were doing, ethnicity and stuff like that doesn't really come up. They go to great lengths to provide some opportunity for people to participate on some level, and through the web site.*
- *I can't think of any*
- *[Committee], in this area there are two tribes they have stewardship. We are working out how to include them*
- *To come to a consensus we could all agree on and make a subcommittee to work through some points. All was solved and done in a positive manner*
- *[Recreation site]—the RAC went with the BLM on two occasions here to address access, we were working with local people who did not want to let OHV access on their property to get to the dunes. The [project] was the same and access needs to be made for ORV access to some BLM land*
- *They are trying to make the benefits adequate and well-distributed. That's about all they can do*
- *As elected representatives, we have the ability to affect the process. But the average citizen just gets newsletters and more email. The BLM needs to empower local governments in the process and they need to make a contact with the stakeholder groups PRIOR to starting projects*
- *Haven't seen it except in terms of Native American issues*
- *I don't think I can give specifics; the BLM tries to keep the planning management process & invites and ask for Input from all. No barriers from anymore participating*
- *Don't have that broad of perspective. I don't know! I think they try to recruit certain members of society*
- *Just public hearings and are open to everyone! And open to public comment*
- *That's hard! They advertise meetings but if those people don't come you can't make them be there. They are given adequate notice*

- *Workshops bring in community people who are respected and are low income, from a tribe or live in a small community*
- *I encourage the BLM to visit with the tribes, talk about the sensitive issues & get them to open up to discussion*
- *I think a good example is bringing in facilitators. Objective, neutral facilitators. I've worked with that type of planning approach on two different occasions, and I thought that was very effective. Another suggestion is to use a tribal member who is knowledgeable and educated, and works with that agency, kind of like a tribal liaison. But is a tribal member of that specific tribe who works with the BLM who works on that tribe's issues (e.g. a [tribal member] working on [tribal] issues, not a [other tribal] member). Sometimes if that tribal member has been an employee with that federal agency, it helps because they understand how things work at both places*

13. What do you consider the BLM's primary strength in its social and economic analysis for resource management decisions? (*Explain.*)

- *Clear laws for multiple use for public use*
- *Try to meet obligation of the leases and try to get process to work but they are getting drug down by regulations. It's almost impossible for them to do their job*
- *They either are not profiled as high as some other agencies so a little more adequately able to accomplish their goals. BLM doesn't have people looking over their shoulder as much as other agencies like the Forest Service*
- *Primary strength the BLM takes issues – the hard issues & deals with them*
- *Strength: The listening ear that the BLM has is very good & they listen to what the RMP say from the public comments. Staff very willing to have public input meetings*
- *The BLM use the advisors and committees they have*
- *They don't have any because they don't have any budget or staff*
- *The personnel are top notch! They are lacking funds to get the job done*
- *Information gathering*
- *They approach everything from a very pragmatic angle, and say what they may have done right or wrong in the past, and try not making the same mistakes.*
- *I don't know*
- *Primary strength is probably the public information program they have. If they keep a strong public information program and keep information up front, and let people know what the BLM can and can't do, that's the best thing they can do*
- *This is still a touchy-feely thing. You need meat and potatoes to discuss these issues*
- *I don't know. You have to hire a consultant or an outfit to gather that type of data, which requires money, and the BLM in [our State], is horribly underfunded. That's a function of county politics. They don't wan the BLM to have money or power, so they keep it underfunded. So I don't see a strength*
- *The BLM has a public service attitude and are very open and willing to work with the public*

- *In the [State] region the BLM employees are willing to listen and are open*
- *Not equipped to answer*
- *The NEPA process. It is open and comprehensive*
- *Opportunity to consolidate data and to provide forum for multiple stakeholder inputs*
- *The overall view of the importance of their management plans, & how the land is used; how federal land's used*
- *The RACs themselves and the open process. You can do everything in the world right, but the only time you get any feedback is when somebody's really mad*
- *Contact with the public at large, in our area*
- *I think that compared to other land managing the BLM listens to the public more and takes views into consideration*
- *I think part of it is how they use the RAC. They have a large spectrum of people on the RAC! They use that very well*
- *I think through the RAC they reach different set of people as well as publicity*
- *The ability to collect information from anyone who wants to give it & there are lots of places to express your concerns*
- *The BLM listens to public interest groups who have been using the public land—cattlemen's association, addresses concerns with these groups very supportive & made another people realize we all need to be stewards of the land*
- *I don't know. One of their strengths is them acknowledging they don't have enough information*

Primary weakness?

- *Is susceptibility to management stall, paralysis by analysis*
- *Don't listen to what the people have to say*
- *I don't think there is a weakness if they keep doing the thing they do and in order. It works. Don't need to get political*
- *Weakness: Direction from Washington, D.C., attribute weakening & attempt to weaken air quality (coal, Uranium) & endangered species with & gas drilling. The difference pressures put on local districts*
- *There are too many people in the BLM likeminded in the leadership—there needs to be a variety. Also how to approach the community/people*
- *Inadequately resourced with money and manpower*
- *Lacking funds to be able to get the whole job done*
- *Red tape*
- *Probably could use more staff personnel*
- *I've never thought about this in this way*
- *I think they've done a good job, and in some cases they've allowed perhaps a little more social and economic uses of public lands that it infringes on their ability to protect lands.*

Sometimes they give too much weight to social and economic information and not enough to environmental data

- *They need to make people aware of the issues*
- *Lack of money, and in fairness to the people at the BLM, they try to get the money, but the Dept of Interior, those higher up, they don't give it to them*
- *Sometimes they go a little too far before they get the public involved or share information*
- *Bureaucracy. A good decision may have been made but you can't do anything because of the layers of red tape*
- *Not equipped to answer*
- *They try to be balanced with all the multiple-use, and it's tempered by politics of the key drivers of the public lands and this kind of thing gets in their way*
- *Subject to political influences derived from local, state, and national*
- *Man power*
- *That lends itself back to not realizing weaknesses until the complaints start rolling in*
- *To many special interests with in the agency*
- *Go way overboard at times on resource protection on sensitive plants and I'm not sure that's necessary*
- *Part of it is lack of funding and they don't have enough law enforcement to enforce decisions. They don't have enough funding to adequately keep up on the decisions that they make. Not enough law enforcement*
- *The length of time it takes to do something. To comply with all of the time requirements*
- *The process takes too long, over time things change & the public does not understand why decisions take so long*
- *Employment turn over in offices, doing in office promotions to fill a spot right away or hiring new graduates that are not familiar with the land around them only know what's in the books*
- *The weakness would be acting like they have enough information*

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the level of social and economic analysis in BLM's resource management decisions?

a. Very dissatisfied (2)

b. Dissatisfied (5)

c. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied (5)

d. Satisfied (13)

e. Very Satisfied (4)

Why?

- *Because they are not the primary focus & should not be—these issues need to be brought to the table, inputs are always welcome*
- *They were serious, they wanted to be able to focus on it, but they can't*
- *Dissatisfaction at national not state level. Had 10 hours of discussion with national officer, they just aren't prepared to handle that problem*
- *In [State], the state funded somewhat for some social and economic data, again that scope is somewhat narrow. The universities never get quite enough money, they are also*
- *The plan has not come out yet so I can't tell*
- *I do want to say that the BLM needs to push volunteerism on a regular bases-on TV state wide to educate the people on the issues & why decisions are being made the way they are*
- *They work hard but the length of time it takes to do anything is too long. The lack of funds has hampered the way the BLM can address all issues*
- *The effort is there & the BLM has good people. The process takes too long for the community to understand—education is key*
- *The public feels well; who do you think you are! The BLM needs the people understanding the process*
- *I do feel the BLM has been instrumental in dealing with issues for communities to grow*
- *State & National forget about all the conservation efforts & set aside those regulations*
- *I haven't had much contact, but with the process I would be satisfied*
- *I just want to express my appreciation for doing this*
- *I haven't thought about this before. I don't know who does this. Do they do it because they want to or because they have to*
- *I think they do a good job w/ socio economic information. I can't see where there is a major need to do more*
- *BLM has so many needs in order to protect the resources. I would hate to see them spend more effort to conduct social and economic issues, as opposed to issues such as weed management or other issues that impact the public lands. I wouldn't prioritize that over environmental activities*
- *The BLM at the state level are doing the best they can but are stifled. You can't fault the BLM*
- *I don't think they do a good job*
- *The resources are the major issue. By answering these questions I am wondering if we look at all the correct things*
- *The BLM makes a good attempt but the budget & pre-existing regulations*
- *The BLM has made attempts to meet with the [Tribe] & include them in land use discussion*
- *The problem is not just specific to BLM. It's the whole process re: development in this country. This process has become so adversarial; BLM can't do a good job even if they wanted to. Stakeholders show up to argue, not solve problems. The process the BLM uses doesn't get things where they need to go in terms of public input. There has to be*

balance, and no one can just have their way, as we all need to make sacrifices. The preservationists are going to bring the economy to a halt. They're going to bring energy production and power generation to a halt

- *The level at which they address things*
- *The biggest need is for analysis related to alternatives. There are such generic statements in these RODs, like "put salt 2 miles away," but the true impacts aren't always known, like when they told us to pump water uphill*
- *I think the BLM has made every effort to address social - economic decisions. There is always room for improvement*
- *Except they need to cancel that one lease. I think the staff is excellent*
- *Social & economic issues aren't addressed enough*
- *There is room for improvement*
- *The BLM goes to great lengths to listen and allows a lot of discussion as well as making sure issues are not ignored*
- *I think there is room for improvement & some issues are not being addressed. They do make a lot of inquires before a decision is made*
- *It kind of goes along with what I've already said*
- *This is the second type of survey that I've taken in the past year in regards to their management activities, and I think it's great that they are trying to evaluation themselves, and so that I hope they actually take these results seriously. I don't get these calls from the Forest Service, so it's a good first step that the BLM is taking*

Thank-you very much for your time & input.