Planning 2.0

Proposed Planning Rule

http://www.blm.gov/plan2
Speakers

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Question & Answer instructions

• Type your question into the “Questions” box at any time during the presentation, and the moderator will read the question on your behalf during the Q&A session.
Why update the planning process?

Because....
Collaboration is the foundation to effective planning.
Resources cross administrative boundaries, and so should resource management.
When change occurs, we need to be able to respond in a timely and meaningful way.
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Planning Policy

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Regulations

Land Use Planning Handbook
Planning Policy

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Regulations

Land Use Planning Handbook
Planning 2.0

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Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Regulations

Land Use Planning Handbook
Planning 2.0

Planning Policy

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Regulations

Land Use Planning Handbook
Rule-making process
Rule-making process

- Initial Outreach
- Proposed Rule
- Public Comment
- Final Rule

Fall 2014

Listening Sessions
Written Comments
Rule-making process

- Initial Outreach (Fall 2014)
- Proposed Rule
- Public Comment
- Final Rule (February 11, 2016)

Listening Sessions
Written Comments
Planning 2.0

Rule-making process

Initial Outreach
- Fall 2014
  - Listening Sessions
  - Written Comments

Proposed Rule
- February 11, 2016
  - Webinar
  - Public Meeting
  - Written Comments

Public Comment
- April 25, 2016
  - Written Comments

Final Rule
What are the proposed changes?
Planning Framework

The planning framework describes the content of a resource management plan (RMP) and supporting documents.
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GOAL = improve the BLM’s ability to apply adaptive management and achieve desired future conditions.
Planning Framework

Plan Components

(i.e., land use plan decisions)

Implementation Strategies

(update to incorporate new information)
Goals

→ Desired characteristics of the planning area, or a portion of the planning area.

Examples:

Landscapes are resilient to disturbance, including drought, fire-related disturbance, and climate-change.

Solar energy development is prioritized in areas with high solar potential and low resource conflicts.
Objectives

→ Specific and measurable resource conditions developed to guide progress toward one or more goals ("SMART" Objectives).

Resource conditions are defined using key attributes and indicators.
Measuring Resource Condition

- A **key attribute** is an aspect of the resource that clearly defines or characterizes the resource.

- An **indicator** is how the key attribute will be measured.
Example

- **Resource** → Pronghorn antelope
- **Key Attribute** → Migration route connectivity
- **Possible Indicators**
  - Amount of disturbance in bottlenecks
  - Physical barriers to movement
  - Vegetation composition in rest-over areas
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Monitoring and Evaluation

Objectives

↓↑

Indicators

↓↑

Monitoring and Evaluation
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Plan Components

Goals

Objectives

Monitoring and evaluation standards

Designations

Resource use determinations

Lands available for disposal
Designations

→ Designations identify a priority value or use.

• *Planning designations* are identified through the BLM’s land use planning process

• *Non-discretionary designations* are designated by the President, Congress, or the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to other legal authorities
Resource use determinations

→ areas of public lands or mineral estate where specific uses are excluded, restricted, or allowed

Examples

• available or unavailable for livestock grazing
• open to mineral leasing with major or moderate constraints
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Planning Framework

Plan Components

(i.e., land use plan decisions)

Implementation Strategies

(update to incorporate new information)
Implementation Strategies

• Strategies developed to assist in carrying out the plan components;

• Decision is made at the implementation stage;

• May be updated at any time to incorporate new information without a plan amendment;

• Updates will be made available for public review at least 30 days prior to their implementation.
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Implementation Strategies

➢ Management Measures
Future actions the BLM may take to achieve the goals and objectives.

➢ Monitoring Procedures
Specific methods used for monitoring.
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Procedural Changes
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Planning Cycle

- Adjust
- Planning Assessment
- Develop RMP
- Implement
- Monitor
- Evaluate
Planning Cycle

- Develop
- Implement
- Monitor
- Evaluate
- Adjust
- Planning Assessment
- Develop RMP

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Developing an RMP

Scoping ➔ Draft RMP ➔ Proposed RMP ➔ Decision
Planning 2.0

Developing an RMP

Planning Assessment

- Scoping → Draft RMP → Proposed RMP → Decision
Developing an RMP

Planning 2.0

Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

Proposed RMP

Decision

Preliminary Alternatives
Planning 2.0

Developing an RMP

GOALS = *Early public involvement
*Increased transparency
*Science-based decision-making
*Landscape approach

Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP → Proposed RMP → Decision

Preliminary Alternatives
Planning Assessment

• Replaces the current “Analysis of the Management Situation” (AMS)

• Steps Include:

  1. Information gathering
  2. Evaluation of information quality
  3. Assessment of baseline conditions
  4. Summary report

• Similar to USFS assessment
Planning Assessment: Information Gathering

• Inventory

• Public data call

• Identify relevant policies, guidance, strategies, or plans

• Identify relevant public views
Planning Assessment: Envisioning Process

- Identify relevant public views in the planning area
  - What’s important?
  - Why is it important?
  - Where is it important?

- Informs the scoping process

- Builds relationships
Planning Assessment: Envisioning Process

• Identify relevant public views in the planning area
  — What’s important?
  — Why is it important?
  — Where is it important?

• Informs the scoping process

• Builds relationships
Planning Assessment: High Quality Information

• Any representation of knowledge that is accurate, reliable, unbiased, not compromised through corruption or falsification, and relevant to the planning process.

• Includes:
  – Best available scientific information
  – Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
  – Other types of information
Planning Assessment: Assessment of Conditions

• Baseline conditions in the planning area
  – Resource
  – Environmental
  – Ecological
  – Social
  – Economic
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Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

⇒ Proposed RMP

⇒ Decision

Preliminary Alternatives
Scoping

Planning issues
Disputes, controversies, or opportunities related to resource management
Scoping

Planning issues

Disputes, controversies, or opportunities related to resource management

Issues
Preliminary Alternatives

• Develop plan components for each alternative

• Develop rationale for alternatives
  – how each alternative addresses the planning issues
  – management direction that is common to all alternatives
  – how management direction varies across alternatives to address the planning issues
Basis for Analysis

- Procedures, assumptions, and indicators
- Guides the effects analysis
- Completed with preliminary alternatives

→ Rationale for alternatives and basis for analysis replace existing “planning criteria”
Preliminary Alternatives Outreach

• Is the range of alternatives complete?
• Is any relevant information missing?
• Is the rationale sound?
• Is the basis for analysis sound?
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Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

Proposed RMP

Decision

Preliminary Alternatives
Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

60 day public comment period

Proposed RMP

Decision

Preliminary Alternatives
Planning 2.0

Planning Assessment

Scoping

Draft RMP

Proposed RMP

60 day public comment period

Decision

Preliminary Alternatives

Protest Period
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Protest

• Improved guidelines on what constitutes a valid protest

• Protests identify plan components believed to be inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy and explain why

• Option to submit protests electronically

• Protests made available to the public
Coordination & Cooperating Agencies

• BLM will continue to coordinate with government entities, consistent with FLPMA

• Government entities may also participate as cooperating agencies (CAs)

• Additional new opportunities for CAs:
  – Preparation of the planning assessment
  – Formulation of preliminary alternatives
  – Revision of preliminary alternatives based on public input
  – Development of implementation strategies
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Planning Cycle

Plan
Develop RMP

Monitor
Implement

Evaluate

Adjust
Planning Assessment
Planning Cycle

1. Planning Assessment
2. Develop RMP
3. Implement
4. Monitor
5. Evaluate
6. Adjust

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Planning 2.0

Planning Cycle

GOALS =
- Science-based decision-making;
- Adaptive management

1. Develop RMP
2. Implement
3. Monitor
4. Evaluate
5. Adjust
6. Planning Assessment
Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitor based on “indicators”
- Evaluate to see if plan objectives are being met
  - Summary report made available to public
  - Adjust implementation strategies, or...
  - Initiate a RMP amendment or revision
Amendment

Question in the proposed rule:

Should EIS-level amendments follow the same procedures as preparing an RMP?

Or...

Should EIS-level amendments follow the NEPA procedures, and additional steps be applied on a case-by-case basis (e.g., planning assessment, preliminary alternatives)?
ACECs

• Revised language to avoid confusion
• Potential ACECs identified through inventory and during the planning assessment
• Potential ACECs considered for designation during the preparation or amendment of an RMP.
• Procedural changes
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Responsibilities

- BLM Director
- Deciding Official (*State Director*)
- Responsible Official (*Field Manager*)
Responsibilities

• BLM Director
  – determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for RMPs
  – determines the Deciding Official and the planning area for amendments that cross State boundaries
Responsibilities

• Deciding Official
  – determines the planning area for all other amendments
  – provides supervisory review, including plan approval

• Responsible Official
  – prepares the RMP
Transition Provisions

• If NOI published before the final rule, BLM may complete the RMP or amendment using the existing regulations or the revised regulations.

• Pre-draft RMPs will be encouraged to incorporate concepts to the extent practical.
How can I learn more?

• Public meeting in Denver - Mar 25th
  (*livestream and post-event recording available*)

• Public webinar and public meeting recordings will be posted to the project web site:
  www.blm.gov/plan2
How to provide comments

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Mail

Personal or messenger delivery

Federal eRulemaking Portal
http://www.regulations.gov
How to provide comments

Federal eRulemaking Portal
http://www.regulations.gov

FRN: “2016-03232”
Title: “Resource Management Planning”

https://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=BLM-2016-0002-0001
Recommendations for submitting comments:

• Be specific

• Reference the section number
  (e.g., proposed section 1610.1-2)

• Provide a concise explanation of why you are in favor or not in favor of a proposed change
Questions?