

Appendix D: Social Science Considerations in Land Use Planning Decisions

I. Using Social Science in Land Use Planning

Appendix D provides guidance on integrating social science information into the planning process. Any information gathered in support of a planning effort must be considered in the context of BLM's legal mandates.

The BLM is required to manage the public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield and to meet the needs of present and future generations. As the human population continues to increase and social values evolve, resource conflicts are likely to increase. More importantly, the American public is increasingly aware of the importance of the public lands to its well-being and is demanding a larger voice in resource management decisions. Given these realities, the planning process can represent a constant balancing of competing needs, interests, and values. The effective use of social science can be critical to understanding and reconciling these differing perspectives.

Social science information in land use planning can include the economic, political, cultural, and social structure of communities, regions, and the Nation as a whole; social values, beliefs, and attitudes; how people interact with the landscape; and sense-of-place issues. The social sciences integrate a wide variety of disciplines, generally including economics, sociology, demography, anthropology, archaeology, political science, geography, history, and landscape architecture. Though the information appropriate to a given analysis depends upon the specific issues being assessed, the social science information usually important for resource planning decisions can be grouped in the following categories:

- Demography and Social Indicators
- Social Organization and Institutions
- Attitudes and Values
- Human Geography
- Economic Value
- Employment, Income, and Subsistence
- Public Finance and Government Services
- Environmental Justice

By statute, regulation, and Executive order the BLM must utilize social science in the preparation of informed, sustainable land use planning decisions. Section 202(c)(2) of FLPMA requires BLM to integrate physical, biological, economic, and other sciences in developing land-use plans (43 USC 1712(c)(2)). FLPMA regulations 43 CFR 1610.4-3 and 1610.4-6 also require BLM to analyze social, economic, and institutional information. Section 102(2)(A) of NEPA requires Federal agencies to “insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences . . . in planning and decision making” (42 USC 4332(2)(A)). Federal agencies are also required to “identify and address . . . disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its

programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States” in accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.

II. Incorporating Socio-economic Information

A. The Planning Process

To be effective, social scientific data and methods should be integrated into the entire planning process, from preparing the pre-plan to implementation and monitoring. The main social science activities for the various planning steps are outlined in Table D-1.

Table D-1.—Social science activities in land use planning

Planning steps	Social science activities
Steps 1 & 2—Identify Issues and Develop Planning Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify publics and strategies to reach them ▪ Identify social and economic issues ▪ Identify social and economic planning criteria
Step 3—Inventory Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify inventory methods ▪ Collect necessary social and economic data
Steps 4—Analyze Management Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct social and economic assessment, including existing conditions and trends and the impacts of continuing current management ▪ Document assessment methods in an appendix or technical supplement
Step 5—Formulate Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify social and economic opportunities and constraints to help formulate alternatives
Step 6—Estimate Effects of Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify analysis methods ▪ Analyze the social and economic effects of the alternatives ▪ Document impact analysis methods in an appendix or technical supplement ▪ Assess mitigation opportunities to enhance alternatives’ positive effects and minimize their negative effects
Steps 7 & 8—Identify Preferred Alternative and Finalize Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify potential social and economic factors to help select the preferred alternative
Step 9—Monitor and Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track social and economic indicators

B. Objectives of the Analysis

Beyond contributing to the public involvement strategy (see Appendix D, Section III), socio-economic input to BLM’s resource management planning has three main elements: baseline assessment, impact analysis, and mitigation.

1. Baseline assessment

Characterize existing conditions and trends in local communities and the wider region that may affect and be affected by land use planning decisions. This baseline assessment should be included or summarized and referenced in the Affected Environment section of the EIS. In particular, the baseline assessment should:

- a) Review and summarize the relevant published and unpublished literature on the history, economy, and social system(s) of the study area;
- b) characterize the economic structure and activity of communities and groups within the study area that are affected by the management of BLM lands; and
- c) characterize the social structure, activities, and values of such communities and groups.

When preparing RMP amendments for activity- or implementation-level projects, the social science and economic portions of the Affected Environment chapter may be referenced to the original RMP or reduced in complexity, based on the actual issues associated with the proposed actions.

2. Impact analysis

In the Environmental Consequences section of the EIS, characterize impacts to existing conditions and trends from each of the alternatives under consideration, including the no action alternative, relative to the baseline assessment. Impacts include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects for all resources that make up the human environment. In particular, impact analyses should:

- a) Analyze the positive and negative economic effects of each alternative developed within the RMP on those communities and groups;
- b) analyze the positive and negative social effects of each alternative developed within the RMP on those communities and groups; and
- c) in fulfillment of Environmental Justice requirements, identify any disproportionate negative effect on low-income or minority populations associated with one or more proposed alternatives (see Appendix D, Section IV).

3. Mitigation measures

As appropriate, identify measures that may reduce or avoid potential adverse economic or social effects of the alternatives, and maximize their positive effects. Determination of the preferred alternative as expressed in the RMP ROD should reflect this analysis. Note that the preferred alternative is not required to be the alternative with the least cumulative adverse impacts or that provides full mitigation to all social and economic impacts.

C. The Scope of Analysis

There is no standard scope of work for socio-economic analysis because the key topics and methods are shaped in part by the social context and potential resource allocation decisions of a given resource management plan. The social and economic assessment (affected environment) and impact analysis (environmental consequences) should assist the reader to understand the human context of the planning effort, and in particular to identify the potential effects, constraints, and opportunities associated with planning alternatives. Table D-2 presents 27 topics of socio-economic information. We suggest ranking topics as follows:

- 1 ~ Basic:** topic should be addressed (example: population trends)
- 2 ~ Optional:** address if warranted by context and issues
- 3 ~ Not currently indicated:** address if indicated by new information

In Table D-2 some topics considered basic to all socio-economic analyses are assigned a priority of **1**. Field office staff responsible for directing the socio-economic aspect of a resource management plan can use the list of topics to define an appropriate scope of work, identifying which topics should be included in the analysis by ranking as **1** (basic), **2** (optional), or **3** (not currently indicated).

These topics are available as a stand alone Checklist for Socio-Economic Analysis, available on the BLM social science website (see Appendix D, Section VII). For each topic the checklist also includes a field for “plan-specific guidance” to provide BLM staff or contractors with more precise direction as to which groups, issues, and activities should receive particular attention. Note also that the required Economic Strategies Workshop (see Appendix D, Section III[B]) provides an excellent opportunity to discuss with interested government leaders and the public what topics should be emphasized in the socio-economic analysis.

Table D–2.—Topics for socio-economic analysis

	Topic	Planning relevance	Examples	Priority
Demography and Social Indicators	<i>Population</i>	Potential demand on BLM lands and resources	Population trends; migration, distribution by age and gender	1
	<i>Inequality</i>	Differences in visibility and influence; identify vulnerable populations (Environmental Justice)	Income distribution; percent of households in poverty	1
	<i>Social difference</i>	Barriers to public involvement; different user needs and values; identify distinctive populations (Environmental Justice)	Ethnicity; languages spoken in household; Tribal affiliation	
	<i>Social indicators</i>	Can indicate community strengths and weaknesses that may have implications for planning issues	Crime rates, divorce rates, unemployment, education, length of residence	
Social Organization and Institutions	<i>Government</i>	Potential cooperating agencies; contacts for plan coordination (identified in pre-plan)	Municipal and county governments in/near planning area; special districts; Tribal governments	1
	<i>Non-governmental institutions</i>	Potential partners for plan implementation; sources of economic and social resilience	Chamber of Commerce; church groups; ethnic advocacy organizations	
	<i>Communities of place</i>	Local and regional population centers relative to planning area effects may differ by community	Gateway communities; natural resource-dependent communities	1
	<i>Social groups and networks</i>	Opportunities for informal contacts in seeking public comment and communicating plans and proposals	Networks linking ranchers or retirees	
	<i>Occupational and interest groups</i>	Provide range of perspectives on potential land use decisions, effects may differ by distinct group	Wilderness advocates; oil and gas producers, Cattleman’s Association	1
Attitudes and Meanings	<i>Attitudes and beliefs regarding local environment and its use</i>	Local understandings may shape acceptability of proposed land use decisions [formal techniques: surveys, interviews, focus groups] ¹	Survey to clarify local understanding of effects of coal bed methane technology on ground-water conditions	

	Topic	Planning relevance	Examples	Priority
	<i>Significance of proposed land management actions for various publics</i>	While public attitudes are elicited in scoping, formal data collection can identify important differences between groups, providing further information to help identify impacts and mitigation strategies [formal techniques: surveys, interviews, focus groups] ¹	Interviews to assess social impacts of prescribed burning	
	<i>Quality of life</i>	Can indicate community perceptions that may have implications for planning issues	Perceived access to community resources; satisfaction with community conditions, such as opportunities for employment	
Human Geography	<i>Distribution of communities, roads, and resources</i>	Clarify geo-spatial context; can predict potential conflicts and impacts over proposed land use allocations	Wildland-urban interface, recreational demand from nearby cities	1
	<i>Land ownership and access</i>	Can predict potential conflicts and impacts over proposed land use allocations	Split estate ownership of sub-surface minerals	
	<i>Culturally and socially significant places and areas</i>	Identify constraints on site-specific activities, help to identify mitigation (may be developed in cultural resource analysis) [formal techniques: surveys, interviews, focus groups] ¹	Locally valued buildings, sites, and landscapes; sense of place; traditional religious/cultural use areas	
Economic Value	<i>Interrelationships among producing sectors</i>	Regional economic sectors and their interrelation as a context for BLM management decisions (when allocation decisions are of sufficient scale to have macroeconomic effects, consider national-level economic interrelationships)	Annual purchase and sales by economic sector (transaction matrix)	1
	<i>Non-market values of resources and activities</i>	Consider the significance of the non-market values associated with resources managed or impacts by BLM when formulating the management alternatives	Estimate the value of open space, improved riparian areas, improved wildlife habitat	

	Topic	Planning relevance	Examples	Priority
	<i>Dependence on BLM lands and resources</i>	Understand and quantify the potential local and regional impacts of land use decisions	Value of BLM timber sales, visitor-day expenditures, grazing and mining to the local economy	
Employment, Income, and Subsistence	<i>Employment</i>	Quantify the anticipated employment impacts by sector to determine the population changes and the associated demand on the infrastructure in the study area	Temporary jobs from oil and gas development versus service jobs created by increased recreational opportunities	1
	<i>Personal income</i>	Forecasting the anticipated change in income, occurring as a result of the BLM alternatives	Non-labor income (dividends, transfer payments)	1
	<i>Economic diversity and resilience</i>	Ability of stakeholder communities to respond to external change	Level of dependence on single economic sector	
	<i>Regional economic organization</i>	Identify amount and geographic distribution of new indirect and induced employment resulting from additional local investment	New local jobs resulting from proposed increase in oil and gas production on public lands	
	<i>Subsistence activities</i>	Non-market production from BLM lands for local use	Amount and value of subsistence hunting by local residents	
Public Finance and Government Services	<i>Government revenues and expenditures</i>	Fiscal capacity and resilience under change	Change in tax revenues and county PILT receipts	
	<i>Public infrastructure and services</i>	Community services may be impacted by resource or recreational development of public lands	Expenditures on schools, roads, social services	
Environmental Justice	<i>Characterize Environmental Justice populations in planning area</i>	See Demography and Social Indicators: inequality, social difference	Much of the commercial harvesting of non-timber forest products in Pacific Northwest is organized through ethnic networks	1
	<i>Assess potential for disproportionate impacts to Environmental Justice populations</i>	Identify whether Environmental Justice issues require further modification of alternatives, or further mitigation of impacts	Oil and gas development in areas where American Indian populations collect medicinal plants	1
¹ Primary (new) data collection methods may be subject to requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. See Planning Handbook, Appendix D, Section V(C). Secondary data may also be available.				

D. Deliverables in Contracting

It is recommended the field offices contracting for socio-economic analyses in resource management plans require the following deliverables.

1. Baseline social and economic assessments, for inclusion in the AMS document.
2. Abbreviated baseline social and economic assessments, for inclusion in the Affected Environment chapter of the plan/EIS.
3. Proposed impact analysis strategy, describing the social and economic variables, the key data sources, and the analytic methods proposed. These should be based on requirements provided by the contracting officer's representative, issues identified in the pre-plan, information obtained through scoping and other public involvement, guidance from cooperating agencies, and the social and economic baseline assessments.
4. Social and economic impact analyses, for inclusion in the Environmental Consequences chapter of the plan/EIS.
5. Analysis of Environmental Justice compliance.
6. A brief methodological statement, presented as an appendix to the plan/EIS, summarizing the significant analytic assumptions and methods utilized in preparing the statement of social and economic impacts.

E. Analytic Guidelines

Social science information provided for resource management plans should be consistent with the following guidelines.

1. *Scale and level of effort.* The scope of analysis and level of effort should be commensurate with the importance of the particular resource issues. In other words, focus data collection and analysis on those issues and sectors that are important for the agency's decision-making or important for the public, as identified through scoping and other formal and informal forms of public involvement.

For example, a regional programmatic plan would likely provide a broad characterization of communities within and near the planning region as well as an examination of national-scale public land priorities. A single RMP would likely focus on a much smaller area and include a more detailed analysis for each community. At the implementation plan level, the analysis would focus on more site-specific information, such as the groups, networks, or individuals affected by the decision under consideration.

2. *Assessment area.* The assessment (study) area for economic and social analysis may be larger than the designated planning area (for example, because of a major retail center outside but near the planning area). Depending on the issues, the boundaries of the social and economic study areas may not be identical. The analysis may also require describing populations that do not reside primarily in the assessment area, such as recreational users coming from metropolitan areas.

3. *Schedule.* Information should be gathered early enough to be included throughout the discussion and decision-making phases of the planning effort.

Note that the economic analysis (and indirectly, the social analysis) is dependent on sound output projections for each significant resource, over each alternative to be evaluated. For example, the economic analysis of recreation-related impacts (changes in assessment area payroll and employment) cannot be done until the recreation specialists have determined the changes in visitor days, by alternative. The economic analysis of mineral development cannot be done until the geologists have developed an analysis of the changes in mineral availability and production, by alternative.

4. *Dimensions of impact analysis.* Impact analyses must make clear how the social and economic effects of each management alternative—both positive and negative—are distributed among the communities and groups in the assessment area, and among other relevant populations (for example, recreational users who live outside the study area). Potential impacts have multiple aspects relevant to decision-making; a well-crafted impact analysis should describe the aspects listed in Table D-3.

Table D-3.—Dimensions of impact analysis relevant to decision-making

Aspect	Describe
Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts across multiple geographic scales: individual, household, community, region, and where appropriate, national society.
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts across multiples time scales: short-term versus long-term.
Social identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who would be affected, and in what ways. If different groups or publics (for example, distinguished by income, ethnicity, gender, or occupation) will be unequally affected, describe and explain why. Where low income, minority, or Tribal populations would be disproportionately affected, ensure that this is documented in the Environmental Justice assessment (see Section IV).
Magnitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The magnitude and significance of projected impacts.
Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likelihood of a projected impact occurring.
Causation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The direct, indirect, and cumulative projected impacts.
Acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The anticipated desirability or acceptability of projected impacts.

5. *Analysis of no-action alternative.* For the Environmental Consequences section of the EIS, characterize impacts to existing economic conditions and trends from each of the alternatives under consideration, relative to the no action alternative. While the no action alternative assumes no new actions within the RMP's scope of decisions, it should include other changes reasonably anticipated to affect the study area within the planning timeframe.

6. *Non-market value.* The analysis of economic impacts for each plan alternative should consider not merely anticipated expenditures (market transactions), but where feasible, the anticipated consumer surplus generated by the proposed activity, as determined by estimates of willingness-to-pay (non-market values). To estimate non-market values for activities proposed under a plan alternative, it is often more practical to utilize *benefit transfer* methods than to undertake new research within the study area, by applying soundly derived non-market values established for comparable sites and activities.

III. Public Involvement

A. Integrating Social Science Into Public Involvement

Development of the social and economic analysis should take place as part of a larger collaborative dialogue between BLM and the public. Staff or contractors responsible for social science contributions to the RMP should integrate information from public involvement processes with technical data collection and analysis. Moreover, social and economic analysis can provide information about affected groups that can improve plans for public involvement.

To the extent feasible, BLM's public involvement process should seek not only attitudes and values relevant to planning issues and alternatives, but also suggestions regarding sources of data and methods of analysis. Involving local publics in discussions of appropriate data and methods early in a planning process increases the likelihood that the resulting analysis of effects will be considered credible and useful. State and field offices are encouraged to engage potential and existing partners in the collection, preparation, and analysis of social and economic data leading to the formulation of alternatives, their anticipated impacts, and potential mitigation.

Partners include other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, county, and municipal governments. Information-sharing with partners is crucial to the formulation of cumulative social and economic impacts from alternatives that span jurisdictional/regional boundaries. Consider cooperating agency status where appropriate and look for opportunities to combine analysis with partners' planning processes. Other participants, such as universities, communities, religious institutions, industry representatives, and non-governmental organizations may also share vital information not obtainable through standard data sources.

B. Economic Strategies Workshop

The public involvement effort on all new RMPs, RMP revisions, and RMP amendments accompanied by EISs must include at least one economic strategies workshop. Such workshops provide an opportunity for local government officials, community leaders, and other citizens to discuss regional economic conditions, trends, and strategies with BLM managers and staff. Such workshops must meet three objectives:

1. Imparting skills on analyzing local and regional economic and social conditions and trends;
2. assisting community members to identify desired economic and social conditions; and
3. collaborating with BLM staff to identify opportunities to advance local economic and social goals through planning and policy decisions within the authority of BLM, its cooperating agencies, or other partners.

Field Managers are welcome to select appropriate workshops from qualified vendors, or to work with State Office or Washington Office social science staff to design a workshop appropriate to their situations. The cost of such workshops should be included in the RMP planning budget and indicated in the pre-plan. For sources of further information on such workshops, see Section VI, Further Guidance.

IV. Environmental Justice Requirements

Environmental Justice involves the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, and Tribal programs and policies.

Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, requires that “. . . each Federal agency shall make achieving Environmental Justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.”

A. BLM’s Environmental Justice Principles

1. The BLM will determine if its proposed actions will adversely and disproportionately impact minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes (reference Executive Order No. 12898, Environmental Justice) and

consider aggregate, cumulative, and synergistic effects, including results of actions taken by other parties. While Environmental Justice analysis is specifically concerned with disproportionate effects on the three populations, the social and economic analysis produced in accord with NEPA considers all potential social and economic effects, positive and negative, on any distinct group.

2. The BLM will promote and provide opportunities for full involvement of minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes in BLM decisions that affect their lives, livelihoods, and health.
3. The BLM will incorporate Environmental Justice considerations in land use planning alternatives to adequately respond to Environmental Justice issues and problems facing minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes living near public lands, working with, and/or using public land resources.
4. Where disproportionately high adverse impacts are anticipated, the BLM will work with local community groups/associations, governments, and Tribal leaders to determine if land disposition and/or acquisition policies affect real estate values and real income of minority and low income communities, and Tribes.
5. The BLM State and Field Offices will continue to make Environmental Justice a mandatory critical element for consideration in all land use planning and NEPA documents.

B. Incorporating Environmental Justice Efforts in the RMP/EIS Process

1. Consult with other Federal agencies, Tribal leaders, states and local governments, community groups/associations, churches, etc., to identify minority and low-income communities, and reservations, including migrant and/or seasonal workers. Work with the above groups to determine any potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts posed by the proposed action. With the cooperation of the partners, affected minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes, adopt and implement creative measures to eliminate, minimize, and/or correct identified Environmental Justice impacts.
2. Through collaboration, identify potential planning areas where proposed action(s) could have disproportionately high and adverse impacts on the health of minority populations, low-income communities and Tribes or their surrounding environment, and document findings and recommended solutions.
3. Share appropriate information about potential high and adverse impacts with minority populations, and/or low-income communities, and/or Tribes through workshops, informal meetings, or other forums and solicit feedback and recommendations.

4. Publish NOIs and NOAs announcing scoping/issue identification meetings in the local media (newspaper, radio, or television) of identified minority and low-income communities and Tribes informing them of such meetings.
5. Develop mailing lists of identified minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes. Become knowledgeable of the geographic areas of proposed actions and the people that live there (minority and low-income including those in transitory status).
6. When appropriate, schedule scoping/issue identification meetings in minority and low-income communities or on Tribal reservations; and
7. Consider the need to translate to other languages planning and NEPA documents mailed/circulated to identified minority populations, low-income communities, and Tribes. Consider also the need to have an interpreter present at all scheduled meetings if there are potential language problems.

C. Documentation and Analysis

1. Pre-plans should identify known low-income, minority, and Tribal populations within the assessment area, and should indicate what measures will be taken to encourage their participation in the planning process.
2. Data and analyses needed to ensure Environmental Justice compliance should be incorporated in work plans for social and economic impact analyses.
3. Environmental Justice considerations should be documented by the RMP/EIS social and economic analyses in (a) the Analysis of the Management Situation, (b) the Affected Environment chapter, and (c) the Impact Analysis (Environmental Consequences) chapter. An explanation of how any Environmental Justice issues have been considered and, where possible, mitigated should be included in the description and rationale for the preferred alternative.

V. Data Management

A. Types of Data

The type of data to be collected and analyzed should be appropriate to the planning scale and the issues identified through the scoping process.

There are numerous sources of data available at the national, state, and local levels from government, university, and private sources. Utilize BLM sources as well as other governmental agencies that routinely collect and report economic and social data. Much of the government data is easily available online. Locally and regionally produced reports on social and economic conditions that are produced on a one-time basis (such as

county or community planning documents and university extension studies) may also be useful.

Use existing data to the extent possible: planning documents and environmental impact statements do not routinely require primary data collection. Nonetheless, collecting primary data may be necessary, particularly for social impact assessment, using techniques such as surveys, focus groups, or key informant interviews. Any plan to include primary data collection should be justified in terms of gaps in available data or special circumstances.

B. Data Quality and Analytic Soundness

Social and economic analyses should be performed in a manner consistent with professionally recognized approaches, methods, and techniques. In addition, the Information Quality Act (Public Law 106-554, §515) requires Federal agencies to ensure that influential information, such as that used in the preparation of resource management plans, be characterized by reproducibility and transparency.

BLM recognizes that influential information should be subject to a high degree of transparency about data and methods to facilitate the reproducibility of such information by qualified third parties, to an acceptable degree of precision. It is important that analytic results have a high degree of transparency regarding (1) the source of the data used, (2) the various assumptions employed, (3) the analytic methods applied, and (4) the statistical procedures employed. It is also important that the degree of rigor with which each of these factors is presented and discussed be scaled as appropriate, and that all factors be presented and discussed. (See BLM's "Information Quality Guidelines," available at: http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/data_quality/.)

Data sources and methods of analysis must be clearly and briefly described in the text of the RMP/EIS and described in more detail in a technical supplement or RMP appendix.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements for New Data Collection

RMP/EIS teams must ensure that any new (primary) data collection complies with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13).

If answers to identical questions are to be collected from 10 or more members of the public—for example, through a survey questionnaire—the Paperwork Reduction Act requires Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the study. Note that for purposes of the Act, “public” also applies to state, local, and Tribal government employees, though not to employees of the Federal government. OMB review is normally a lengthy process, which must be initiated through the BLM Washington Office. Unless the proposed data collection can be processed by expedited review under the terms of an existing generic OMB authorization (such as that for Customer Satisfaction Surveys), approval is likely to be time consuming.

VI. Data Sources

A. Use of the Economic Profile System

Developed by the Sonoran Institute under an agreement with the BLM, the Economic Profile System (EPS) and its companion, EPSC (for Community), produce standardized economic and demographic profiles for a selected region, county, or community in any of the 50 states. EPS and EPSC simplify the socio-economic research required for land use planning by gathering and presenting, in a variety of useful formats, data from multiple Federal databases. These information tools were created to improve planning and more efficiently accomplish the time-consuming task of gathering important social and economic data. EPSC uses the Decennial Census to provide in-depth community-level profiles. EPS draws upon a variety of governmental databases to produce thorough and multi-faceted profiles of economic and demographic changes over the past 30 years.

Field offices are encouraged to use EPS and EPSC as tools for characterizing economic and social baseline conditions. EPS and EPSC profiles can be provided in an appendix to the AMS or RMP/EIS, while selected figures and tables can easily be incorporated in the main RMP/EIS text. Where a plan or NEPA analysis will be prepared by contractors, planning leads are encouraged to have contractors utilize EPS in plan preparation, and to seek commensurate cost savings in contracted work. Note that EPS and EPSC are not impact models: they cannot be used to quantify the economic impacts of a proposed activity or planning alternative.

For further information on EPS and EPSC, see Section VI, Further Guidance.

B. References

The following references are provided as potential sources for social and economic information. Data and information from these and other sources must be used within the context of the laws governing BLM's management of the public lands.

The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy. Fedstats Website: <http://www.fedstats.gov/>. This website provides access to a wide variety of data produced by over 70 Federal agencies for public use. It provides access to statistics for demographics, economics, natural resources, the environment, energy, health, education, and many other areas. Much of this data is available at the county, state, and/or regional level.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The USDA Forest Service's course 1900-03, *Social Impact Analysis: Principles and Procedures*, includes a helpful student manual. This source is available through Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC), USDA Forest Service, but is not available online. [Yates Bldg. 3CEN, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington DC 20250; 202-205-0895]

The Human Dimensions website contains much useful information about human dimensions analysis and includes sites from which economic and demographic data

can be downloaded. Source: <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nris/hd/> or <http://fsweb.nris.fs.fed.us/hd/software/hdmodule/index.shtml>

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Census data includes the economic characteristics of cities, towns, counties, and states, as well as a wide variety of social and demographic information such as population, age, and migration rates. The Census Bureau also presents information on county governments including financial characteristics [Website: <http://www.census.gov/>].

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Includes data for states, counties, and economic regions for such factors as personal income and employment by industry, gross state product, and more [Website: <http://www.bea.doc.gov/>].

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This Federal agency collects and reports data on the labor market, including labor trends, detailed information on employment by industry, and unemployment rates. It also reports price indices such as the consumer price index and the producer price index [Website: <http://www.stats.bls.gov/>].

U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM. The BLM collects data on a wide variety of commercial uses of public lands. This data is useful for putting public land uses in the context of overall use in a planning area. Examples of the data collected include grazing use, mining, timber product sales, coal, oil and gas leases, recreation, rights of way, and payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT). To obtain this data, contact resource specialists for those uses or refer to BLM's annual Public Land Statistics publication [Website: <http://www.blm.gov/publications/>].

The Interorganizational Committee on Principles and Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment. Principles and guidelines for social impact assessment in the USA. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* 21(3), September 2003. This document provides a clear model, as well as principles and steps for social impact assessment. [http://www.iaia.org/Members/Publications/Guidelines_Principles/US%20principles%20final%20IAPA%20version.pdf]

Local sources of data. There are many local government agencies and organizations that collect data that can be useful in land use planning. Such sources of data include state and local employment departments, city and county governments (e.g., building departments, departments of motor vehicles, or county tax assessors), local and state Chambers of Commerce, local and state economic development commissions, etc.

Resource-specific sources of data. There are many state and Federal agencies that collect and report data on specific industries, such as agriculture (farming and ranching), mining, forestry, and recreation. For agricultural data, the *USDA Economic Research Service* (Website: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/> <http://www.econ.ag.gov/>) and the *National Agricultural Statistics Service* (Website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>)

are two good sources of information. The *Economic Research Service* also conducts studies on rural conditions and trends.

The following text citations are provided as examples of possible sources for field offices:

Branch, K., et al. 1984. *Guide to Social Assessment: A Framework for Assessing Social Change*. Westview Press, Boulder, CO.

Rabel J. Burge, R.J., et al. 2004. *The Concepts, Process and Methods of Social Impact Assessment*. Social Ecology Press, Middleton, 2004.

Goldman, L.R., ed. 2000. *Social Impact Analysis: An Applied Anthropology Manual*. Berg Publishing, New York, NY.

Rosenberger, R.S., Loomis, J.B. 2000. Benefit Transfer of Outdoor Recreation Use Values: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service Strategic Plan. USDA-Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-72, Fort Collins, CO.

C. Environmental Justice References

Table D-4.—Web-based Environmental Justice sources

The CEQ has prepared detailed guidance on complying with Environmental Justice objectives in the NEPA process:	“Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act, 1997,” available at: http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ej/justice.pdf
The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, organized by EPA, has useful guidance and other resources:	http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html .
For assistance in identifying Tribal, minority, and low-income populations within a planning area:	“Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool,” available at: http://www.epa.gov/enviro/ej/
The Department of the Interior’s Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance has information on Environmental Justice policy and projects:	http://www.doi.gov/oepe/justice.html

VII. Further Guidance

For further information on the topics in Appendix D, contact your state office social science staff, or social science staff at the Planning, Assessment, and Community Support Group, Washington Office (WO-210). Effective use of other agencies' plans and reports, including, but not limited to local government, state agencies, and community development organizations is strongly encouraged.

A website to provide social science guidance, tools, and information resources is under development.