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## READER'S GUIDE

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Preparation of this document was guided by United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning regulations issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and federal environmental policy under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) primarily focuses on five planning issues and the decisions needed to resolve them. The issues were identified through public scoping, concerns raised to BLM staff in interactions with public land users, and resource management concerns of the BLM and cooperating agencies. The issues are:

- vegetation communities;
- wildlife, wildlife habitat, special status and priority plant and animal species;
- travel management and access;
- recreation including national trails, visual resources, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness; and
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Other management concerns were addressed in the RMP, but do not drive the formulation of the alternatives. To assist agency decision-makers and the general public in choosing appropriate solutions to the planning issues, four alternatives were proposed and their impacts evaluated. The alternatives were limited to those that span a reasonable way of managing public lands and federal minerals, while offering a broad range of options.

### DOCUMENT SECTIONS

The format of the EIS follows the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA (40 CFR 1500). The major sections of the EIS include:

#### Executive Summary

The Executive Summary provides an overview of information detailed in the full document and serves as a synopsis of the planning issues, alternatives and potential environmental consequences.

#### Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need)

This chapter contains background information on the planning process and sets the stage for the information that is presented in the rest of the document. The main sections in Chapter 1 include the Overview, Purpose and Need for Revising the Plan, Decisions from this Plan, Description of the Planning Area, Scoping and Planning Issues, Planning Criteria and Regulatory Requirements, Planning Process, Related Plans, Policy, Collaboration and Overall Vision and Desired Future Conditions.

#### Chapter 2 (Alternatives)

This chapter provides the description of management scenarios proposed for lands managed by the BLM within the Butte Field Office Planning Area. This chapter explains how alternatives were developed and, provides an overview of the four alternatives considered in detail, states the goals for management of resources, and describes the management actions by planning issue and management concern for each alternative, those common to all the alternatives and those common to the action alternatives. Alternatives that were considered but not analyzed in detail are discussed along with rationale for why they were not considered in detail. Finally, there is a table that shows the management actions in each alternative for easy comparison, followed by a table comparing the effects of each alternative.

#### Chapter 3 (Affected Environment)

This chapter describes the current condition of the Planning Area. This chapter is organized by resource, resource use, special designation, and social and economic conditions.

#### Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences)

This chapter describes the projected impacts and changes that would result with implementation of each of the alternatives. There are two fundamental parts of this chapter. The first part of this chapter (in Volume I) discusses environmental consequences of RMP alternatives. The RMP alternatives section starts with an explanation of the types of effect discussed, followed by assumptions that were made in the analysis for each resource. The effects are organized by resource. Each resource section describes direct and indirect effects common to all alternatives, effects of Alternative A (No Action), effects common to the action alternatives, then effects of Alternative B, Alternative C and Alternative D. The cumulative effects section follows, with an introduction and listing of activities considered in the analysis and the cumulative effects. The RMP alternatives section closes out with the analysis of irreversible and irretrievable commitment and unavoidable adverse impacts. While details of the impacts are provided in this chapter, the summary table of impacts is found at the end of Chapter 2.

The second part of this chapter (in Volume II) discusses environmental consequences of the alternatives for the five site-specific travel plans, organized by travel planning area. Direct/indirect and cumulative effects on each resource or resource use are discussed at the scale of each travel planning area. The chapter concludes with a discussion of cumulative effects of the travel plan alternatives for all five travel planning areas in aggregate at the Decision Area/Planning Area scales.

## **Chapter 5 (Consultation and Coordination)**

This chapter describes public involvement efforts and collaborative processes, lists of agencies, and organizations receiving the document, and identifies the preparers of the RMP/EIS.

### **References**

Scientific publications and other references used as supporting information are listed in alphabetical order here.

### **Glossary**

Technical terms and phrases with specific policy meaning or definition are explained in more detail.

### **Index**

Terms frequently referenced are listed along with the page numbers where they occur.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Tables** and **Figures** have been included throughout the document to display and summarize pertinent information. While several **Maps** are nested within Volume I,

most of the maps are oversized and are provided in a packet with an envelope. Acreages displayed in this document should be considered approximations even when displayed to the nearest acre. Most acreages were calculated from GIS coverages and as a result may not match acres provided in prior published documents that contained calculations from master title plats or other base data. In other instances, acres have been rounded as analysis was completed. These rounded figures should also be considered approximations. The data used throughout this document is for land use planning purposes and not necessarily for actual on-the-ground implementation. The precision afforded by GIS calculation does not reflect project level accuracy. Acreage figures provided in this document for land use plan analysis purposes will be refined as subsequent site specific analysis is conducted. Data used in development of the RMP is dynamic. Updating data is considered a plan maintenance action and will be incorporated over time as the RMP is implemented.

**Appendices** provide more detail on some subjects. Some appendices may contain several pieces of information related to the appendix topic.