

## What is a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement?

A resource management plan (RMP) is a land use plan which describes broad, multiple-use guidance for managing public lands and mineral estates administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs the BLM to develop, maintain, and when necessary, revise land use plans to provide for the appropriate use of public lands. The plan highlights goals and objectives for resource management and establishes measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives. The plan also identifies what public and commercial uses are appropriate, where they are appropriate, and under what conditions. In 1987, the North and South Dakota offices reviewed their management policies in this same formal process. Now it is time to review the management decisions once again.

The public, through participation in local meetings, provides information to the BLM on what to include or address in these documents. Public and private groups may also participate as cooperating agencies and provide public input. The key attributes of the process are:

- The public plays a key role in the development of an RMP.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guides the public land planning effort.
- Each planning document builds on the prior planning effort or document.
- The public provides insight and advises the process through informal and formal meetings and through cooperating agencies.
- The NEPA process ensures that the RMP integrates planning efforts from state and local entities as well as other federal agencies.
- The NEPA process makes sure that impacts to land, air, water, and wildlife are considered in the land management decisions.



The plan is developed as shown below. *(The steps are shown in ascending order.)*



The BLM is presently in the process of developing the Analysis of the Management Situation document (AMS). In this document, the BLM analyzes how it is currently managing the public lands. As an example, the BLM will analyze both how it manages energy development in the state and the current impacts from those management policies.

After the AMS, the BLM develops alternatives and prepares a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This document outlines several management alternatives, evaluates the impacts of those management alternatives, and proposes a preferred alternative.

### ***How does the BLM develop the RMP?***

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) will develop each RMP. The interdisciplinary team follows a public process set out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLPMA).

There will be several occasions for public involvement during the plan development. The BLM will notify the public of these opportunities through news releases, newsletters, and the website.

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