

Where We've Been...And Where We're Going

The Resource Management Planning Process officially started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on November 18, 2004. The NOI announced the Little Snake Field Office's intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) as well as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required under NEPA.

The scoping period will last until January 31, 2005. The objective of scoping is to involve the public in the planning process and comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The public scoping process will identify planning issues, further develop planning criteria, and evaluate the existing land use plan in the context of the needs and interests of the public. Scoping provides the public an opportunity to suggest issues, concerns, needs, and resource use, development and protection opportunities for consideration in preparation of the plan.

There are many ways for you to provide comments during scoping. We encourage you to come to one of the scoping meetings, ask questions, and give us your input. In addition to the scoping meetings, BLM will be accepting comments and issues through the following methods:

**Mailed to: Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
Attn: Little Snake RMP
455 Emerson St
Craig, CO 81625**

Emailed to: colsrmp@blm.gov

The process for soliciting public input and any comments that are submitted during the scoping period will be summarized in a Scoping Report and made available to the public on the project website.

There will be many opportunities to get involved in the planning process. Another series of public meetings and a formal 90-day public review and comment period will occur during the Draft RMP/EIS phase.

Planning for the Future...

A number of decisions related to various resource values and programs will be made as a result of this planning effort. The major issues identified to date include:

(1) Management of upland vegetation; (2) management of riparian areas and water quality concerns; (3) energy and mineral development; (4) special management areas; (5) recreation management; (6) travel management; (7) cultural resources and paleontology and Native American concerns; (8) management of wildlife, including conservation and recovery of special status species; (9) socio-economic values; and (10) land and realty issues.

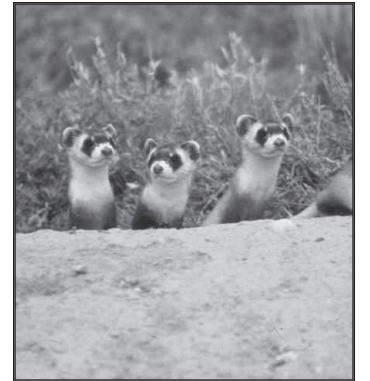
In addition to the major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. These issues will be addressed in some manner in the RMP development. These issues are preliminary and may be modified, deleted, and/or new ones added through the scoping process.

An integral component of the Little Snake RMP development process is community involvement. Throughout the plan development, BLM expects that various partners, cooperating agencies, stakeholders, and the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will become involved in the process and will assist in providing a wide variety of data in support of this effort. The BLM will work cooperatively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national interests.

A local citizen-based stewardship group, the Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS), will engage with the BLM in the RMP revision. NWCOS is an independent community-centered stewardship group that will focus its efforts on a community assessment, developing a community vision for the landscape, and a community alternative.



The NOI, Preplan, and other documents developed throughout the planning process are available on the project website at www.co.blm.gov/lstra/rmp



The RMP Process

The RMP process starts with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register, and follows through with Scoping, Environmental Analysis and **Alternatives Development**. Following Alternatives Development, the BLM will evaluate the potential impacts on various resources from each of the alternatives, select a **Preferred Alternative**, Issue the Draft RMP/EIS, Issue the **Proposed RMP/Final EIS**, initiate the **Governor's Consistency Review**, resolve any Protests, and finally sign a Record of Decision.

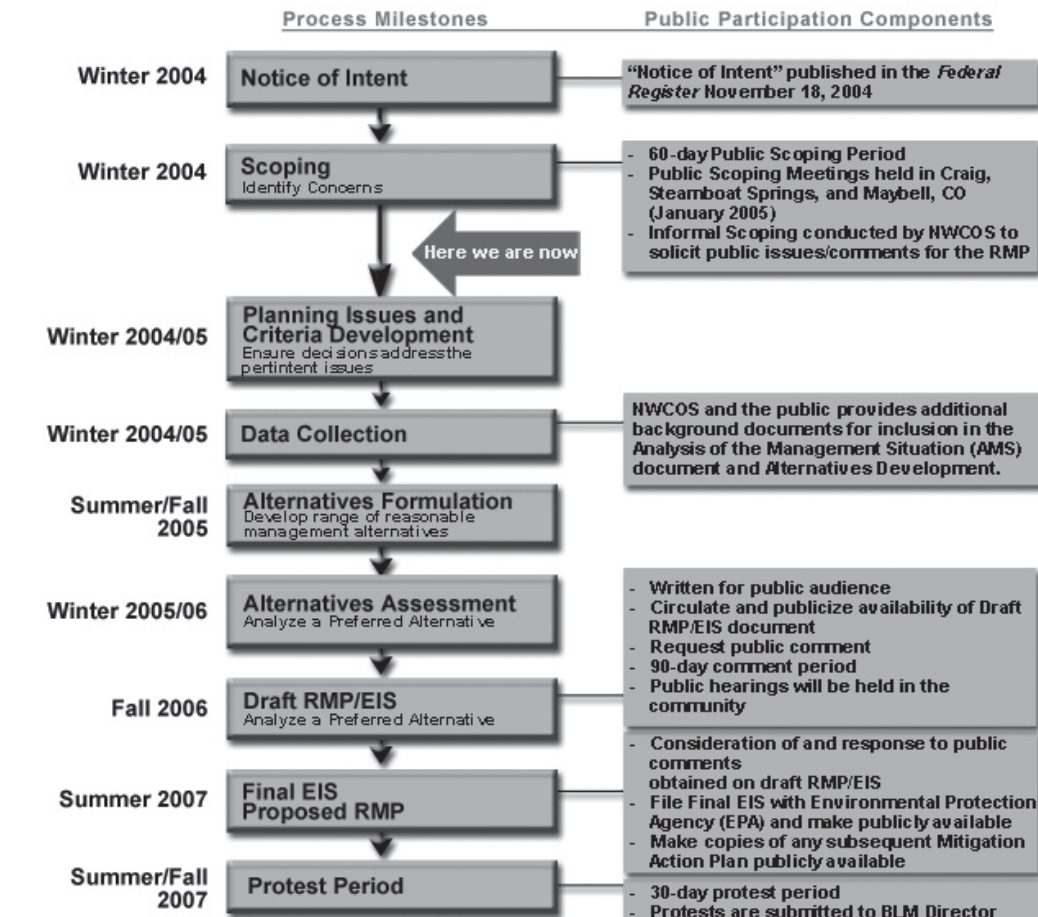
The BLM recommends a **preferred alternative** that best resolves planning issues and promotes balanced multiple use objectives.

The BLM will evaluate comments on the **Draft RMP/EIS** and make any modifications needed. They will then file a copy of the Proposed RMP/EIS Proposed Decision with the EPA. This begins the 30-day protest period.

The 60-day **Governor's consistency review** identifies inconsistencies with State or local plans.

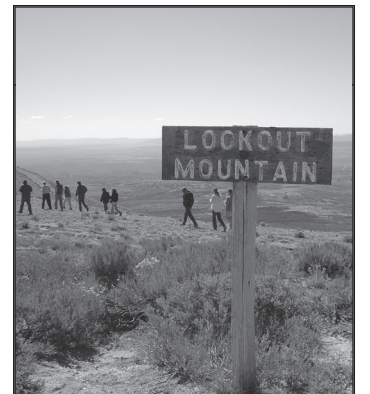
In close cooperation with cooperating agencies and stakeholders, the BLM will identify a range of reasonable combinations of resource uses and management practices, and develop reasonable **alternatives**. These alternatives address issues identified during scoping and offer a distinct choice among potential management strategies. "No Action" alternative is always included, which is the continuation of current management practices.

Little Snake RMP/EIS Process and Public Participation Components



Watch for planning bulletins, like this one, to announce public involvement opportunities, provide an update on plan development, and keep you informed during the process.

The BLM is committed to maximizing community involvement in the RMP development effort in order to achieve agreement from diverse interests on goals, purposes, and needs of the plan.





BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Little Snake Field Office
 455 Emerson St
 Craig, CO 81625

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS...We Want Your Input

The BLM invites you to attend public scoping meetings throughout the area to provide comments and issues during the scoping period.

Location	Date	Address	Time
Steamboat Springs	January 4, 2005	Olympian Hall (Howelson Hill) 845 Howelson Parkway	3:00-8:00 pm
Craig	January 5, 2005	Shadow Mountain Clubhouse 1055 County Road 7	3:00-8:00 pm
Maybell	January 6, 2005	Maybell School Gym 30 Haynes Ave.	6:00-9:00 pm

BLM staff will be available at the scoping meetings to explain the process for developing the Resource Management Plan, including public involvement opportunities, and answer any questions. Several methods will be available for you to submit your comments. The meeting will begin with a short overview presentation on the RMP planning process, and the remainder of the meeting will be conducted in an open house format. People may enter and leave at their convenience at any time during the scheduled hours.

Visit our Website at <http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp>



Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

December 2004

The Development of a Plan

The Little Snake Field Office, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for all the federal surface and mineral estate managed by BLM within the Little Snake Field Office boundary in three counties in northwest Colorado – Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco Counties.

The Little Snake Planning Area encompasses approximately 1.3 million acres of BLM-administered public lands and 1.1 million acres of federally-owned mineral estate. Land ownership in the Field Office ranges from large tracts of BLM land to patches of public land surrounded by private and state lands.



The overall objective of the LSFO RMP planning effort is to produce a set of management decisions that will guide resource management activities on public lands for the next 15-20 years. The plan will be developed employing a collaborative, community-based planning approach and will incorporate adaptive management decision-making where appropriate.

The plan will specify actions, constraints, and general management practices necessary to achieve desired conditions.

Adaptive Management is a system of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes; monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting outcomes; and if not, facilitating management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or to reevaluate the outcomes.

Contact Information:

Jeremy Casterson
 Planning Coordinator
 Bureau of Land Management
 Little Snake Field Office
 455 Emerson St
 Craig, CO 81625
 (970) 826-5000



What is a Resource Management Plan?

An RMP is a set of comprehensive long-range decisions concerning the use and management of resources administered by the BLM.

The BLM land use (or RMP) planning process, explained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600, BLM 1601 Manual, and BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), falls within the framework of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis and decision making process described in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations of 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Department of the Interior NEPA Manual (516 DM 1-7), and BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1.

As part of the plan preparation, a supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be prepared. Both the RMP and EIS will be developed concurrently with public participation.

To learn more about the Resource Management Planning Process, visit our website at www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp

