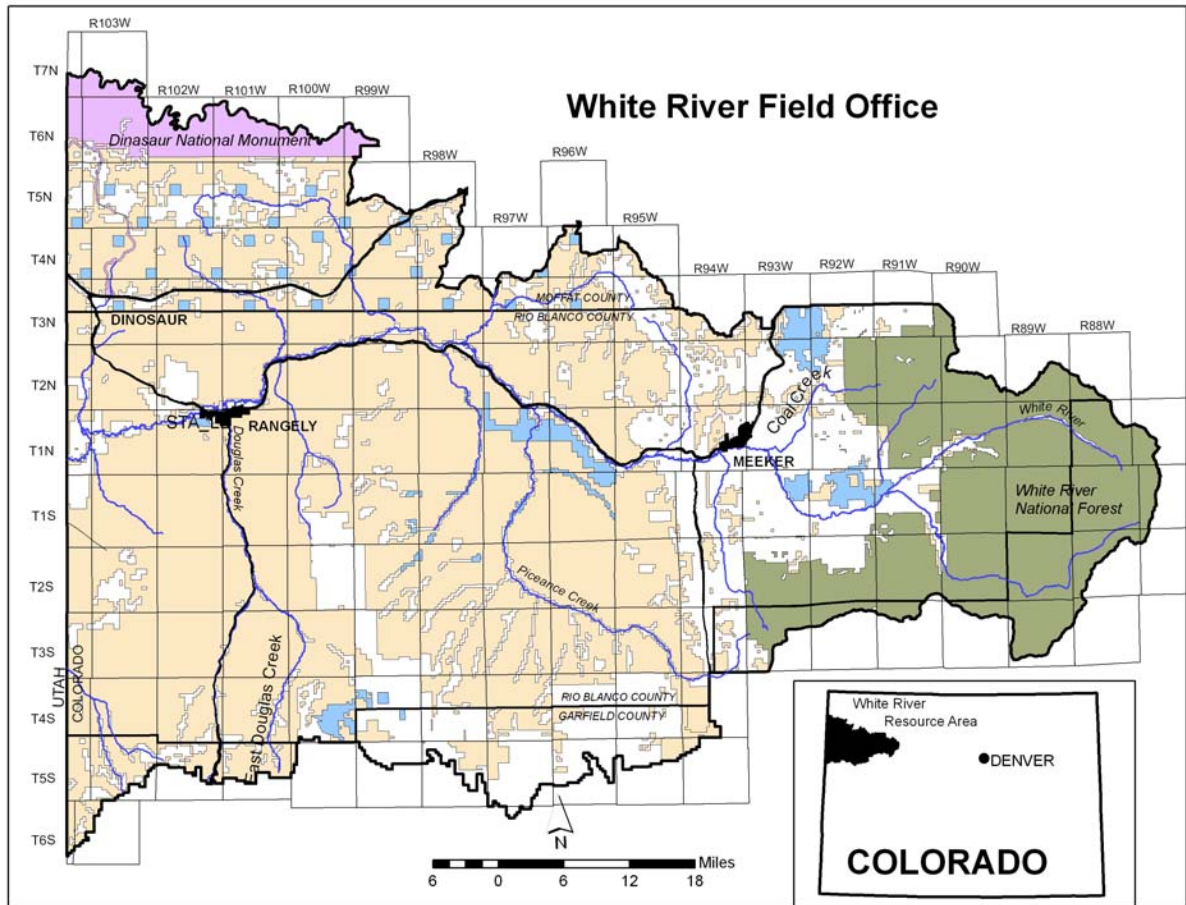


**PREPARATION PLAN ANALYSIS
FOR THE
WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**



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PREPARATION PLAN ANALYSIS
FOR THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED:



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Date : 09/07/06

APPROVED:

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Date:

**FOR THE
WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Planning Area Description

The White River Field Office (WRFO) is located in the town of Meeker in northwestern Colorado. The public lands administered by the WRFO include all but a small portion of Rio Blanco County, with additional small tracts located in Garfield and Moffat Counties, and encompasses 1,455,900 acres of BLM surface estate and 365,515 acres of split mineral estate. The WRFO is experiencing unprecedented growth in the oil and gas energy program. Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Reauthorization of 2000 directed the Department of the Interior to produce a scientific inventory of oil and gas resources and reserves underlying federal lands. The EPCA-generated studies of five oil and gas basins (Montana Thrust Belt, Powder River, Green River, San Juan/Paradox, and Uinta/Piceance), completed and presented to Congress in January, 2003, identified the Piceance Basin of Northwest Colorado, in which the WRFO is located, as one of five sub-basins in the continental United States with large reserves of undeveloped oil and gas energy potential.

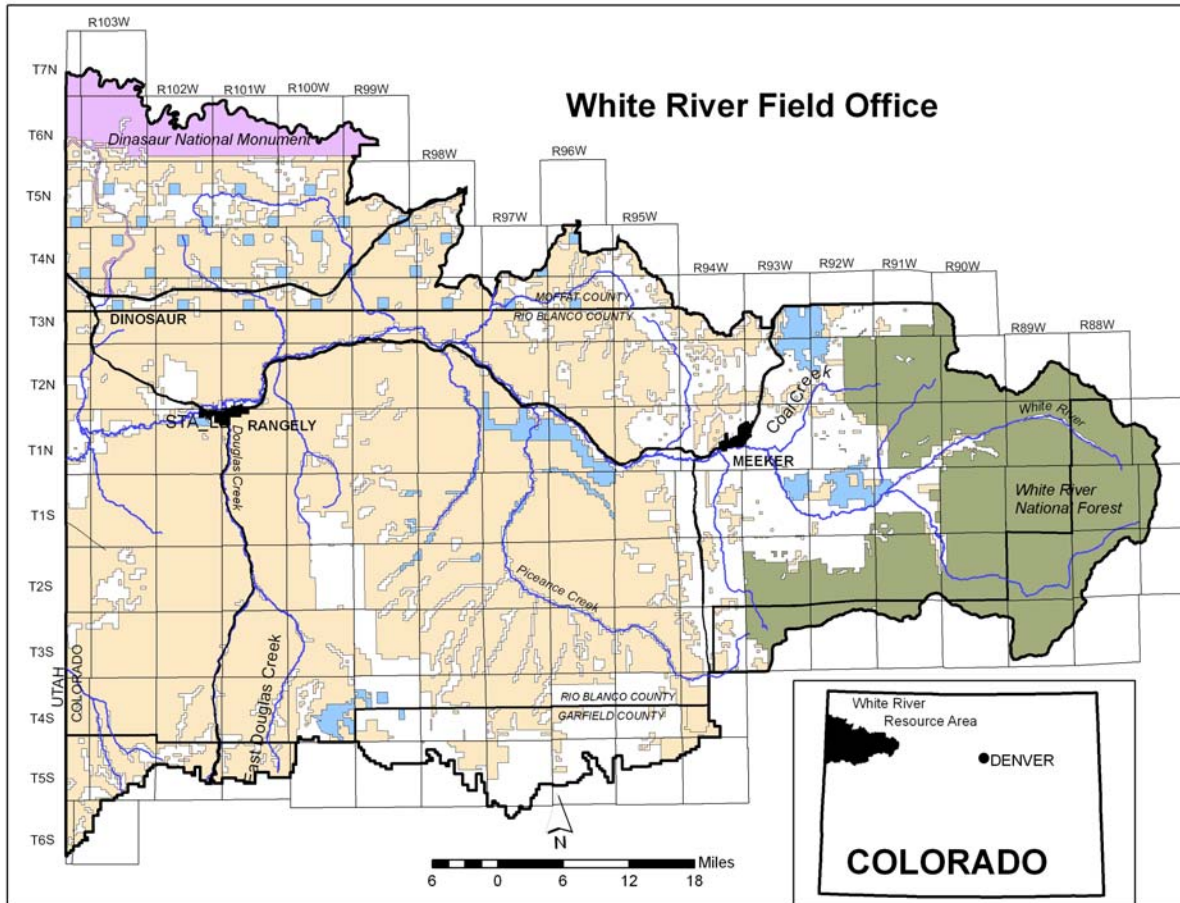
Jurisdictions within the Planning Area

The Planning Area contains most or part of Rio Blanco, Moffat and Garfield counties within the Field Office boundary. Also contained within the WRFO boundary are National Park Service, National Forest Service, State and private lands. The table below shows the BLM subsurface and surface land ownership within the Planning Area.

Table 1. Land Ownership in the WRFO

Ownership	Rio Blanco	Moffat	Garfield	Total Acres
BLM	1,152,524	232,800	70,061	1,455,900 (97 RMP) 1,455,385 (Adjusted for sales and exchanges)
Private surface/ BLM minerals	231,900 232,576	55,100	62,139	349,300 (97 RMP) 349,815 (Adjusted for sales and exchanges)
State surface/ BLM minerals	14,400	1,300		15,700
Nat'l Park Service Dinosaur NM		71,480		71,480
US Forest Service White River NF	246,800		128,800	375,600
Other –Navel Oil Shale Reserve			4,010	4,010
Colorado State DOW, Parks, Land Board	23,600	19,170	320	43,060
Private	253,650	43,740	328,190	360,260
TOTALS - WRFO	1,923,550	423,560	328,190	2,675,300

Map of Joint Planning Area



White River Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP)

The White River Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) was approved in July 1 1997. This RMP provides management direction for what is now the White River Field Office.

Since approval of the RMP the following Major Activity Plans have been completed with some projects implemented:

- The 1991 Colorado Wilderness Study report made wilderness recommendations for the following wilderness study areas (WSA's)
- Allotment Management Plans
- The 2006 Roan Plateau Planning Area, Resource Management Plan Amendment

The plan amendment will incorporate valid existing decisions from the various implementation plans and the RMP. Decisions will also be evaluated and revised as necessary to reflect changing conditions and resource demands or protection needs.

Plan Amendment Effort

The Oil and Gas EIS/RMPA will amend the 1997 WRFO RMP.

BLM planning policy: The primary laws that guide planning on BLM lands are the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Because these laws are very broad, BLM has formulated regulations (published in the Code of Federal Regulations) and guidance to complement FLPMA and NEPA and provide additional direction to field offices. BLM developed the Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) in order to consolidate FLPMA and NEPA requirements into one document.

The planning policies require each agency to produce certain documents over the course of the planning effort. Table 2 compares planning steps as well as documents required by each agency and describes actions to be taken to meet both agencies requirements in a joint planning effort. Decisions will be consistent across the landscape with a few exceptions where agency specific decisions are required.

<i>Planning Step</i>	<i>BLM Planning Requirements 43 CFR 1601 & 1610</i>
1. Documenting planning process	<i>Preparation plan</i>
2. Notice of Intent published, Start Scoping [this will announce the start of the EIS preparation and start scoping, and must be published prior to public involvement]	40 CFR § 1501.7 Scoping
3. Issue Identification/ Public involvement	§ 1610.4–1 Identification of issues.
4. Planning Criteria	§ 1610.4–2 Development of planning criteria. <i>30 day public review and comment period</i>
5. Data Collection	§ 1610.4–3 Inventory data and information collection.
6. Analysis of Management Situation	§ 1610.4–4 Analysis of the management situation.
7. Alternative Development	§ 1610.4–5 Formulation of alternatives.
8. Estimation of Effects	§ 1610.4–6 Estimation of effects of alternatives.
9. Selecting Preferred Alternative	§ 1610.4–7 Selection of preferred alternative.

<i>Planning Step</i>	<i>BLM Planning Requirements 43 CFR 1601 & 1610</i>
10. Draft RMP/Draft EIS-	90 days public comment period § 1610.4–8 Selection of resource management Plan.
11. Notice of Availability (NOA) and Public review and commenting periods on Draft Plan/Draft EIS	90+ days public comment period
11. Proposed Plan/Final EIS	§ 1610.5–1 Resource management plan Approval and administrative review.
12. Notice of Availability and Reviews, Protests, Appeals-Governors Consistency Review Legal review.	30 day protest period and 60 days Governor's Consistency Review concurrent with public protest period (shorter time period may be negotiated with Governor) § 1610.3–2 Consistency requirements. § 1610.3–1 Coordination of planning efforts.
13. Protest Resolution/Record of Decision	§ 1610.5–2 Protest procedures.
14. Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation.	§ 1610.4–9 Monitoring and evaluation.

Abbreviations: EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). RMP (Resource Management Plan). ROD (Record of Decision).

Upon approval of RMPA all subsequent activities, including budgets, permits, land transfers and development must be in compliance with the plans.

Purpose of the Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA)

The purpose of the plan amendment will be to establish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for lands and resources under the jurisdiction of the WRFO.

A RMP is the collection of land use planning level decisions (goals, objectives, actions, and allowable uses) for a particular geographic area, in this case the White River Field Office resource area. An RMP establishes goals and objectives for resource management (i.e., desired outcomes) and measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives. It also identifies lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses. All activities in an area must be consistent with the guiding RMP.

A RMP amendment modifies one or more sections of an existing RMP. This RMP amendment will address oil and gas exploration and development that is expected to exceed levels projected in the 1997 WRFO RMP. This EIS and RMP amendment will look at revised projections for oil and gas development in the WRFO will determine a reasonable range of alternatives for development and will analyze the potential impacts of all identified alternatives, including the no-action alternative.

This RMPA/EIS will be a collaborative effort with a wide-range of potentially affected interests and should carefully consider the local and regional factors unique to the planning area, while being fully consistent with national laws, regulations and policies. Local and regional factors include knowledge of local customs and culture, community values and traditions, and the social and economic make-up of the planning area.

BLM's goal is to consider these factors in a manner that is inclusive rather than exclusive, wherein all stakeholders are provided opportunities to participate in the planning process and are kept informed of the status and direction of the project. BLM must also ensure that participants understand their role in the planning and decision-making process. Consensus among the participants is desirable wherever possible; where no consensus can be reached, the plan must explore reasonable alternatives which have been discussed with the participants.

An RMPA/EIS properly based in science uses the best available data and information - properly referenced, summarized or otherwise documented - to respond to issues, describe current conditions and trends, and predicts impacts. It includes a full range of alternatives, mitigation, and an analysis of environmental effects that reflects use of this data and information to logically and defensibly support any conclusions drawn. An RMPA/EIS:

- updates the existing management decisions, current uses and resource allocations affecting the planning area where necessary;
- addresses new data where available (e.g., BLM Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado, socio-economic data);
- addresses changing/changed resource conditions;
- integrates or modifies uses of public land that have occurred since the 1997 WRFO RMP and other associated management/activity plans were completed; and

This EIS/RMPA will be prepared for all the federal surface and mineral estate managed by the WRFO within the Field Office boundary in three counties in northwest Colorado. While this EIS/RMPA will not include land use planning decisions guiding the future management for resource areas outside the scope of oil and gas exploration and development, the impacts of projected increases in oil and gas development on other resource areas within the planning area will be fully analyzed.

A list of preliminary issues and management concerns that could be addressed during development of the RMP includes, but is not limited to, those listed in the *Anticipated Issues and Management Concerns* section of this document.

The BLM expects that various partners, cooperating agencies, stakeholders, and the Northwest Resource Advisory Council (NWRAC) will become involved in this process and will assist in providing a wide variety of data in support of this effort. The primary objective is to prepare the RMP amendment to comply with those determinations required in the Bureau of Land Management H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook, for all affected resource management programs and H-1624-1 Handbook, Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources for oil and gas development. All decisions made and subsequent implementation decisions will be subject to valid existing rights with decisions documented through a Record of Decision. In addition to the purposes described above, the plans will also fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM Land Use Plan policies.

Need for the Amendment of the Management Plans

The White River Field Office (WRFO), located in Meeker, Colorado, is experiencing unprecedented growth in the oil and gas energy program. The Energy Conservation and Policy Act (EPCA) identified the Piceance Basin of Northwest Colorado as one of five sub-basins in the continental United States with large reserves of undeveloped oil and gas energy potential (estimated at over 300 Trillion Cubic Feet). As a result of EPCA, higher oil and gas prices, development of interstate transportation pipelines (approved FY05 (ENTEKA) and to be approved FY06 (WIC)), and other economic factors, the WRFO is experiencing an oil and gas boom. The WRFO Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in 1997, projected and analyzed a Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenario of 1,100 oil and gas wells, with 10 acres of disturbance per well (including roads and pipelines), over a 20-year period (approximately 55 wells per year). The RFD projected that nearly 2/3 of the oil and gas development activity (or 800 wells) would take place south of Rangely, Colorado with the remaining activity dispersed throughout the remaining field office area. While this projection has been fairly accurate for the activity south of Rangely, the current and projected oil and gas activity in the Piceance Basin will soon far exceed the RFD/EIS impact analysis.

The oil and gas industry has indicated that the potential exists to develop over 10,000 oil and gas wells in the Piceance Basin over the next 20 years. Our current White River RMP/EIS does not adequately address this level of oil and gas development.

Purpose of this Preparation Plan Analysis

The purpose of this Preparation Plan is to:

- a. Identify anticipated planning issues and management concerns;
- b. Identify preliminary planning criteria and outstanding questions that must be addressed to support management decisions;
- c. Identify a standard document format (documents, maps, tables, figures, photographs, etc.) for the internal and external presentation of the process, information, and decisions, including presentation on the internet;
- d. Identify information or data needed to resolve or address identified issues, management concerns, and planning criteria or to perform the requisite analysis; identify available data and data collection/format standards employed, and provide an explanation of how the data supports the plan itself, and how the data addresses the planning requirements and addresses anticipated issues or management concerns; identify any known or anticipated data gaps and provide an explanation of why the data is needed to support the plan itself, how the data supports the planning requirements and how the data address anticipated issues or management concerns;
- e. Establish a data inventory and collection activity plan (where necessary), that is coordinated with other agencies, which include FGDC data standards, work-month costs, staffing and skill requirements, and estimated time-frames needed to establish an integrated, automated geospatial database for filling in data gaps;
- f. Establish a communication process for direct communication with the public and to ensure greater public involvement in the planning process and to ensure wide distribution of relevant information;
- g. Establish a work plan which identifies the staffing and technology needs to support public involvement and communication through use of the internet; and
- h. Identify budget and funding needs.

Anticipated Issues and Management Concerns

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been internally identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, at meetings, and/or brought up by individuals and user groups by way of phone calls, e-mails, letters, and past meetings concerning proposed management of public lands. They represent BLM expectations to date as to what challenges exist with current management. Planning issues and management concerns are defined as:

A **Planning issue** is a matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose. This definition suggests that one entity or more is interested in a resource on federal land, that each entity may have different values for the resource, and that there are different ways (alternatives) in which to resolve the competition or demand.

Management concerns are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is generally more important to an individual or a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue which has a more widespread point of conflict. Addressing management concerns in the RMPA/EIS helps ensure a comprehensive examination of federal land use management. Management concerns will be modified as the planning process continues. They will usually not be addressed as thoroughly as an issue.

The WRFO will refine the issues and concerns through the following steps:

1. The WRFO will publish the draft issues and concerns in a Federal Register Notice.
2. Scoping of issues will offer opportunities for comment, public identification of other issues and refinement of draft issues at meetings hosted by the WRFO.
3. After gathering public comments the WRFO will document each of the issues in a scoping report and will place each in one of three categories: **1) Topics To Be Resolved in The Plan, 2) Topics Resolved Through Policy or Administrative Action, or 3) Topics Beyond The Scope of This Plan.** The scoping report will provide rationale for each topic placed in category 2 or 3.
4. The WRFO will incorporate all issues in category 1 into the land use plan(s).
5. The scoping report will group issues and concerns to be addressed by topical themes based on natural, cultural or socio-economic relationship.

Because of the limited nature of this effort to amend the WRFO RMP to accommodate projected increases in oil and gas exploration, the main issues to be addressed are:

- 1) Issues surrounding the potential increase in oil and gas development in the WRFO and,
- 2) Potential physical, social, administrative and cumulative impacts resulting from that increased oil and gas development, to a range of resources.

A list of the major issues which may be addressed in the EIS/RMPA is found below. This list is not comprehensive, but names the major issues currently facing the WRFO. The issues will be addressed in some manner in the RMP amendment. Some may be addressed through prescribing management actions, while others may be addressed as conditions or outcomes to be achieved through the adaptive management framework at the landscape level.

Potential impacts from the proposed action can be identified by segmenting under major themes listed below. Each theme, in turn, has a number of different sub-topics, questions to be addressed, and management concerns which address more specific uses and resources related to the theme. Various ways of protecting resources include enforcing existing laws and regulations, educating visitors, restricting access, setting management and research priorities, restoring degraded ecological conditions, or some combination of these approaches.

Some of the major issues in the planning area for which decisions regarding management must be made include energy development, Wilderness Area management, wilderness study areas, wildlife habitat, vegetation, biodiversity, timber, riparian habitat, wetlands, aquatic habitat and water use.

How can energy development in general and oil and gas development specifically be managed in order to ensure biological diversity, long-term productivity, and ecosystem health? Humans and human activity are integral parts of ecosystems and will be considered in the analysis of this topic.

Issue 1. Oil and Gas Development

The public lands administered by the WRFO include all of Rio Blanco County, with additional small tracts located in Garfield and Moffat Counties and encompasses 1,455,900 acres of BLM surface estate and 365,000 acres of split mineral estate. The oil and gas industry has indicated that the potential exists to develop over 10,000 oil and gas wells in the Piceance Basin over the next 20 years.

Questions to Address:

- What impacts do fluctuating hydrocarbon prices have directly on future exploration & development, and indirectly on other connected/related issues?
- What are the long-term impacts to sub-surface geology from continuous water production with no downhole re-injection?
- How can industry be encouraged to collaborate/pool resources to address mutual long-term development issues, such as produced water handling and disposal (for example, partnering on costs to build infrastructure such as pipelines)?
- How is increased well density & downspacing accounted for as it relates directly to oil & gas development, & indirectly on connected/related issues?
- How will topography, land access issues, sensitive wildlife & plant habitats, etc., influence patterns of oil & gas development?
- What lease stipulations and Conditions of Approval are appropriate on oil and gas exploration and development to protect the natural resources?
- What new policy, guidance and/or regulations have been placed since the 1997 WRFO RMP that may affect oil and gas development in the planning area?
- Are there areas where oil and gas development should be recognized as being the highest and best use?
- How will oil and gas development, including pipelines and other infrastructure, be managed to minimize resource conflicts? Are there public lands that should be withdrawn from mineral entry because of conflicts with other public land uses? What types of activities or practices are suitable?
- How should the cumulative impacts of oil and gas development be addressed?
- Are there areas where some types of oil and gas development should be restricted or prohibited?
- What are the impacts and other pertinent issues surrounding access to oil and gas sites?
- How will the Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration Program and potential; future commercial leasing for oil shale and development fit into the EIS/RMPA?
- What are the potential conflicts between oil and gas development, oil shale development and other energy-related development?
- What are the pertinent issues surrounding split-estate lands and impacts to surface owners? What can be done to resolve these issues?
- What should the BLM do to protect fragile soils in the face of increased oil and gas development?
- What are the monetary impacts to the oil and gas and industry from lease stipulations and conditions of approvals for APDs? Will the increased cost stifle exploration and development of the resource within the WRFO area?
- How much of the oil and gas resources will be left in the ground as a result of severe mitigation measures or to lands being withdrawn from oil and gas leasing?
- What are the visual considerations relating to management of energy resources, and how will the BLM's VRM play a role?
- What should the BLM do to protect sub-surface water quality?
- What reclamation practices will be implemented following oil and gas development activities? During oil and gas development activities?
- How will changes in oil and gas development and management practices affect the economic stability of small rural communities in Northwest Colorado?
- How will changes oil and gas development affect the social stability of small rural communities in Northwest Colorado?

- Are cultural resources being adequately considered during the leasing process? How will WRFO implement the APD process improvements identified for cultural resources (See WO IM No 2003-147)
- How will interim reclamation be factored into surface disturbance/habitat alteration calculations?
- How will exploration disturbance vs. development disturbance be factored into surface disturbance calculations?
- Will changes in oil and gas development and management practices affect hunting?
- Will changes in oil and gas development and management practices affect grazing?
- How will changes in oil and gas development and management practices impact roads, road density, and travel management?
- How will changes in oil and gas development and management practices impact housing?
- How will emergency services be impacted?
- How much change in traffic can be anticipated?
- What are the oil and gas development companies' drug policies?

Issue 2. Impacts of Oil and Gas Development on Other Resources

Topic 1. Natural Resource Considerations

How can energy development in general and oil and gas development specifically be managed in order to ensure biological diversity, long-term productivity, and ecosystem health? Humans and human activity are integral parts of ecosystems and will be considered in the analysis of this topic.

Air Quality

Air quality is a region-wide concern and increased oil and gas development has the potential to directly and indirectly impact air quality as a result of construction, production and maintenance activities. Legal requirements including federal and/or state ambient air quality standards, federal and/or state new source performance standards and Tribal or State Implementation Plans must be considered and are an integral element of this EIS. Existing ambient air quality and trends including the locations of any non-attainment areas and the location of PSD Class I and II areas will be identified and analyzed. Ongoing coordination and consultations with EPA Region 8 and state and local air pollution control authorities will be continued throughout the RMPA/EIS process. A dispersion modeling analysis will be conducted as part of preparing the RMPA/EIS to measure the air quality impacts of all identified alternatives.

Questions to Address:

- How will increased surface disturbance (roads and well pads) resulting from oil and gas development effect air quality? What additional mitigation measures will be applied to insure proper functioning conditions will persist during and after development?
- What impacts are anticipated from existing and proposed public land uses and/or management practices on air quality and visibility.
- As oil and gas development escalates, will existing controlled surface use (CSU) stipulations adequately protect air quality? Will additional CSU designated areas and additional stipulations be necessary to protect these resources?
- Will air modeling adequately address local, regional, national and global air quality issues?

Water Quality

Maintaining high quality water is essential to any ecosystem. Water quality is also important for human health and safety. Impacts to water quality may come from increased oil & gas development, use of vehicles on poorly constructed routes, and increased incursions in sensitive riparian areas. Water quality problems coming from natural sources such as high sediment content from inflowing streams and oxidation of exposed mineral formations may also pose threats to the aquatic and riparian resources.

Questions to Address:

- How will riparian vegetation communities be managed to improve or maintain water quality in the face of increased oil and gas development?
- How will water quality be maintained and restored over time to protect downstream beneficial uses of water and riparian habitat in the face of increased oil and gas development?
- How will upland watersheds react to increased surface disturbance (roads and well pads) resulting from oil and gas development? What additional mitigation measures will be applied to insure proper functioning conditions will persist during and after development?
- As oil and gas development escalates, will existing controlled surface use (CSU) stipulations adequately protect resources such as riparian communities, water quality, and stream channel morphology? Will additional CSU designated areas, additional stipulations, and increased buffer zones to flowing water be necessary to protect these resources?
- To what extent would industry be willing to conduct paired watershed assessments evaluating oil and gas impacts on surface and ground water quality in the Piceance Basin? Would industry be committed to continue monitoring these study areas following initial development?
- Does the opportunity exist to utilize modeling programs such as Water Erosion Prediction Project (**WEPP**) and Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System (**HEC- RAS**) to assess potential impacts of elevated oil and gas development on downstream water quality (e.g. sediment, salinity) and stream channel stability.
- How will the footprint of increased energy development (specifically roads) impact hill slope soil erosion and sediment/salt load production to surface waters in the Colorado River system. If adverse impacts to the Colorado River system are expected, at what threshold of development will it be appropriate to apply offsite mitigation such as seasonal road restrictions to motorized vehicles, road closures, and road decommissioning? What additional onsite mitigation measures can be applied to further protect water quality in the Colorado River system?
- How will increased oil and gas development impact salinity in the Colorado River Basin? How will the Colorado River Salinity Control Program's concerns be incorporated into the RMPA/EIS?
- How will operators deal with the issue of produced water? Does the opportunity exist for operators to work together to accommodate produced water storage/disposal issues? If so what possibilities currently exist? If not, what efforts are currently being made to explore alternate means for produced water storage/disposal?
- How will alterations in natural flow regimes due to changes in water rights allocations associated with anticipated oil and gas development impact natural channel morphologic development and associated riparian communities?

Vegetation

Vegetation communities within the White River Field Office consist of a broad network of ecological types. These plant communities serve a vital role in the Standards for Public Land Health in providing a diversity of plant species that are in balance with habitat and/or landscape potential. An increase in oil and gas development has the potential to impair these natural and self-sustaining vegetation communities, which includes T&E listed plant species.

Questions to Address:

- In what way will increased oil and gas development impact resources referenced in Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines?
- Will fragmentation and isolation of ecological sites and associated plant communities result from increased oil and gas development?
- To what extent, if any, are long-term and/or short-term forage vegetation disturbances expected?
- How will T&E plant impacts from increased oil and gas development be mitigated?
- How will requirements for re-vegetation of disturbed sites, standardized re-vegetation work and monitoring of success rates be incorporated into mitigation or conditions of approval?
- How will the increased potential for noxious, invasive, and/or non-native plant species be addressed?
- What will be the impacts of fugitive dust on native plant communities?
- What will be the impacts from excessive erosion and sediment loss?
- What will be the impacts on climatic variability's (drought) in relation to successful re-vegetation in the face of increased oil and gas development?
- What will be the cumulative impacts to vegetation communities?

Riparian Areas

Riparian areas, along stream and river corridors, are among the most productive and ecologically valuable resources. Riparian areas attract and concentrate populations of area mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, provide habitat for diverse vegetation communities not found elsewhere in the area, and help protect water quality by filtering sediments and protecting banks from erosion. Riparian areas, however, are affected by surface disturbances which can cause bank disturbance, destabilization of stream channels, increased erosion and siltation, disruption to riparian-dependent plants and wildlife, and degradation of water quality.

Maintaining high quality water is essential to any ecosystem. Water quality is also important for human health and safety. Impacts to water quality may come from oil & gas development, use of vehicles on poorly constructed routes, and incursions into sensitive riparian areas. Water quality problems coming from natural sources such as high sediment content from inflowing streams and oxidation of exposed mineral formations may also pose threats to the aquatic and riparian resources.

Questions to Address:

- How do various activities occurring in the planning area directly and indirectly affect water quality and quantity, soil resources, and riparian areas?
- What are the appropriate specifications and constraints (standards and guidelines) for activities that disturb the ground? What kinds of mitigation measures are needed for these activities? What kinds of restoration practices should occur after ground-disturbing activities?
- How will riparian vegetation communities be managed to improve or maintain ecological condition, species diversity, bank stability, and the timing of watershed discharge while providing for resource uses such as oil and gas exploration and development?

Fish, Wildlife and Special Status Species

Public lands in the planning area provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Special management attention may be needed to restore, maintain, or enhance priority species and their habitats. Increased oil and gas development throughout the planning area has the potential for significantly impacting wildlife populations and their habitat if not properly managed. Integrating habitat management with other resource programs requires careful planning to minimize impacts to wildlife species and their habitats, while still

providing for other uses on the public lands. Special attention has and will be paid to many species, including, but not limited to the following: big game, white-tailed prairie dog, black-footed ferret, greater sage-grouse, blue grouse, bald eagle, woodland and cliff-nesting raptors, migratory birds, special status small mammals and herptiles, endangered Colorado River fishes, Colorado River cutthroat trout, and native non-game fish.

Questions to Address:

- Which management practices should be in place to avoid conflicts between wildlife and all elements of increased oil and gas development? What are the cumulative impacts of increased oil and gas development on wildlife?
- What is the expected increase in human population in northwest Colorado attributable to energy mineral development and what further demands and influences will this place on wildlife populations and habitat resources?
- Which traditional (or currently approved) wildlife management practices and technologies remain viable and which need to be modified, dismissed, or newly developed in order to effectively reduce or offset impacts attributable to current oil and gas development processes or techniques?
- Are there opportunities to realistically incorporate phased development or pad density objectives in a wildlife mitigation repertoire?
- What opportunities exist to apply wildlife-oriented interim reclamation techniques to previously developed well pads, pipelines, and roads in established fields (e.g., White River Dome, Douglas Arch) and on wildcat wells as a means of helping to offset regional influences from newly emerging developments? What opportunities exist for off-site mitigation?
- How will the inability to attach additional lease stipulations on oil and gas leases held by production affect the BLM's ability to manage oil and gas-related influences on wildlife populations and habitats (i.e., relative resource involvement)? What voluntary mitigation commitments will industry be willing to make to compensate for the inability to attach additional or revised lease stipulations?
- How will cumulative water use associated with oil and gas and oil shale development influence the condition, extent, distribution, and continuity of riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats and associated organisms?
- How will increased oil and gas development and associated infrastructure affect the abundance, distribution, and productive capabilities of special status or priority-management species populations?
- What areas and seasonal ranges are most important for big-game? How will oil and gas development and associated infrastructure affect the utility, relative availability, and condition of these habitats by DAU and GMU?
- What management techniques are available and appropriate to reduce adverse behavioral effects and maintain habitat sufficient to maintain State-adopted big game population objectives?
- How would anticipated levels of oil and gas development affect the utility, distribution, relative extent, and continuity of sagebrush steppe habitat currently suitable and occupied by greater sage-grouse at smaller and larger (i.e., Piceance-Roan Plateau population) landscape scales? What habitat enhancement or restoration opportunities are available on a spatial and temporal scale to offset reductions in habitat utility attributable to various phases of oil and gas development?
- What are the anticipated behavioral effects of oil and gas development on sage-grouse reproductive and winter-use functions and how would those influences affect short and long term population viability?
- What land use provisions or land use allocations are necessary to protect T&E and Special Status species at levels that comply with applicable instruments of the Endangered Species Act (e.g., Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion for RMPs, Nonessential Experimental Rule for Black-footed Ferrets in Northwest Colorado) and remain consistent with BLM policy?
- Do current special area designations and surface use stipulations provide effective levels of protection for Colorado River cutthroat trout (East Douglas ACEC) and Colorado pike-minnow and bald eagle (White River ACEC)? Are other stream systems in the Resource Area appropriate for management that would aid in Colorado River cutthroat trout recovery?

- How will increased oil and gas development affect the relative extent, distribution, and patch size of representative vegetation communities in the Resource Area, particularly Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, deciduous mountain shrub, pinyon-juniper, aspen, and coniferous forest, as migratory bird, special status small mammal and herptile, and raptor habitat?

Wild Horse Management

Wild horses in the Piceance-East Douglas wild horse Herd Management Area (HMA) roam 190,000 acres of public lands managed by the White River Field office. The HMA is divided geographically and by fencing into six regions: Rocky Ridge; Greasewood; Barcus/Pinto; Box Elder, Pasture C Square S; and East Douglas.

The Piceance-East Douglas herd is managed in a range of between 135-235 horses over a 4 year time period. The herd increases with minimal human disturbance to a level of 235 horses before being lowered to 135 horses through a BLM gather action. During a gather activity, horses are age selectively removed with younger horses targeted for removal and mid-age and older animals often returned to the range to live out their normal lifespan.

Elevations in the Herd Management Area range between 4,200 and 8,000 feet with precipitation averaging 16 inches a year. The HMA primarily consists of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush plant communities. The highest elevations, associated with Cathedral Bluffs, comprise the horses' summer range and consist of pockets of mountain shrub and aspen interspersed with native grass plant species.

Challenges associated with management of this herd include increased human development that threatens the horses' access to their entire habitat; internal fencing in the HMA that constricts free drift of the horses throughout their habitat, and livestock management that limits free access of water sources to wild horses.

Questions to Address:

- What management practices need implemented to decrease conflicts between wild horses and all elements of increased oil and gas development?
- What are the cumulative impacts of increased oil and gas development on wild horse herd health?
- What effects does increased oil and gas activity have on the year-long distribution and seasonal migration patterns of wild horse sub-groups in the HMA?
- What is the immediate and cumulative impact of increased oil and gas activity on the ability of sub-groups to seasonally mix with one another -a factor considered critical to continued herd genetic diversity?
- Are all critical summer and winter ranges of the wild horses as a herd and critical ranges of each of the sub-groups in the herd identified?
- To what extent does internal fencing in the HMA, when coupled with increased oil and gas activity, hinder wild horse sub-groups in the herd's, ability to fully utilize their critical habitat?

Fire Management

The fire management program in the resource area consists of wildland fire suppression, wildland fire use and fuels management to achieve resource objectives and to mitigate and protect various economic and socially important human developments in lieu of wildfire or WFU. The fire management program also has a key role in restoring, maintaining and enhancing priority species and their habitats. Increased oil and gas development throughout the planning area has the potential to significantly impact wildland fire use to achieve fire and resource management goals and reduce the ecological role of fire to maintain or move

toward historical variability and age diversity within the vegetation type's common throughout the planning area.

Questions to Address:

- What impact does intense development have on current fire management plan and fire management practices?
- Will anticipated future development require changes in the fire management plan?
- What effects does allowing wildland fire use have on the ecosystem? Conversely, what do we lose by not allowing fire use because of development?
- What mitigation is needed to address activity fuels associated with: pads, stations, electric transmission lines, and road corridors to address public and firefighter safety as well as unnatural fuel loading?
- What effect does improper or delayed re-vegetation have on fire regime and condition class (both site specific and landscape scale)?
- What effects will the anticipated increased number of people and facilities have on the protection of life and property in the event of wildfire?

Wilderness Study Areas and Wilderness Characteristics

Land use plan decisions may include establishing goals and objectives that describe the desired future condition of the land and resources, desired outcome of the recreation experience, and allowable uses. Plan amendments may also identify the management actions necessary to achieve the intended goals and objectives, including the conditions of use that would be attached to future permits, leases, and other authorizations to avoid or minimize impacts to the affected natural, biological, and cultural resources and other land uses.

Questions to Address:

- How should impacts to WSA's be mitigated or managed if Congress releases them from WSA status?
- How will impacts to areas with wilderness characteristics be managed or mitigated?

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- Within the potential areas for new Oil and Gas leasing, how will resource values that could qualify for ACEC's designations be protected?
- How should resources be managed to protect the botanical, paleontological and cultural values for which the 15 existing ACEC's were designated?

Topic 2. Cultural/Historical/Paleontological Resources Management

Cultural Resources

The complex landscape and remarkable cultural resources of the WRFO have been a focal point for archaeological interest. Cultural resources provide a major source of public education, recreation, and cultural identity in this country. Concentrations of very unique and significant archaeological remains exist among numerous cultural resources located throughout the planning area. The WRFO will engage in consultation with Native American groups throughout the planning process.

Besides the inventory and planning requirements in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which apply to all resource management programs, the BLM is required to consider the short- and long-term management of cultural resources under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 14 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the BLM's National Programmatic Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (PA).

Manual Handbook H-1601-1 and Manual Section 8110 require that every new, revised, and amended RMP incorporate:

- Sufficient information to identify the nature and importance of all cultural resources known or expected to be present in the RMP area;
- Goals for their management;
- Land use allocation decisions in support of the goals; and
- Management actions and prescriptions that will contribute to achieving the decisions.

Questions to Address:

- What is the appropriate balance between oil and gas extraction and providing for cultural resource site preservation or conservation and recreational enjoyment?
- What kinds of cooperation are needed between the BLM, the tribes, other agencies, and private individuals to protect these areas?
- Have new historic properties (i.e. National Register sites) including places of traditional cultural importance been identified since the last RMP that require special designation or site-specific use restrictions?

Native American Concerns

- Have appropriate Native American tribes been consulted for the plan?
- What are the new issues and concerns related to (a) protection of sacred sites or needs for access to them and (b) needs for protection or use of areas for gathering plants for traditional purposes?

Paleontology

The complex landscape and remarkable paleontological resources of the WRFO have been a focal point for paleontological interest. Fossil resources provide a major source of public education, recreation, and scientific research in this country. Concentrations of very unique and significant fossil remains exist among numerous geologic formations located throughout the planning area.

Manual 8270 and the H-8270-1 handbook require that fossil resources be given equal treatment with other resources on public lands, be protected from undue adverse impacts or have impacts mitigated as necessary and made available for appropriate public education and scientific research.

Questions to address:

- What is the appropriate balance between oil and gas extraction and providing for paleontological resource site preservation or conservation and recreational enjoyment?
- What changes in condition assignment for formations should be made based on most current data obtained since the last RMP?
- Which areas containing holotype fossil localities for invertebrates and/ or plants should be limited to collecting by permit only?

Topic 3. Management of Human Activities and Uses

Recreation Management

On-site recreational activities include big and small game hunting, horseback riding, and associated off-highway vehicle motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), and full size four-wheel drive travel.

Questions to Address:

- How will increased oil and gas development affect the BLM's custodial management of public recreation within the Extensive Recreation Management Area?
- How will increased oil and gas development affect commercial recreation-tourism outfitters, economically and administratively?
- How will the BLM apply I.M. No. 2006-060 in addressing the affects of increased oil and gas development on potential Special Recreation Management Areas that did not yet exist when the old RMP was completed (e.g., Canyon Pintado, Bull Gulch-Willow Creek)?
- Should recreation opportunities (including activities, experiences, and benefits) be developed, and where will they be needed (i.e., on public lands and/or within adjoining communities, etc.) due to increase oil and gas development and representative decrease in opportunities for managed recreation areas?

Other Energy and Minerals

The planning area contains known deposits of coal, oil and gas, sodium resources, and mineral materials. Based on known occurrences and/or known favorable geologic relationships, the area has the potential for other significant deposits of these commodities, as well as other mineral resources, including oil shale and associated commodities.

Questions to Address:

- What are the potential conflicts between oil and gas development and other energy and mineral development?
- Are there areas where some types of energy and mineral development should be restricted or prohibited?
- How will increased oil and gas development affect the ability to effectively develop existing leases for sodium resources in the WRFO?
- How will increased oil and gas development affect the ability to effectively develop sodium resources in the future?

Forestry

The forest management program in the resource area consists of Timberland Management and Woodland Management. Approximately 50,150 acres are covered by timberlands with the predominate tree species consisting of Douglas-fir, spruce/fir, lodgepole pine and aspen. Approximately 622,590 acres are woodland with the predominate species consisting of pinyon, Utah juniper and gambel oak.

Past planning identified that harvest of timberlands were severely limited by lack of access, severe slopes and lack of markets. Overall harvest of timberlands would focus on forest health concerns as described by the Healthy Forest Initiative. Commercial harvest of woodlands on 27,600 acres is possible and available at a rate of 45 acres/year clearcut and 136 acres by selective cut. Large scale fires occurring over the past two decades have significantly decreased the acreage available for woodland harvest. Additionally, the Forest Health Initiative provides emphasis on developing healthy forests and maintenance of old growth forests. This Resource Area has limited but excellent intact stands of old growth pinyon/juniper woodlands.

Questions to Address:

- How can we stay within the commercial harvest limit for commercial woodlands?
- What would be the mechanism for designation of old growth stands and maintaining the integrity of these stands?
- What are the opportunities for using woodland material removed as a result of oil and gas development for local biomass consumption?

Rangeland Management

The White River Field Office manages approximately 144 livestock grazing allotments as outlined in the 1981 White River Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact State (Grazing EIS) and the 1997 White River Resource Management Plan (RMP). Nearly the entire field office is permitted for various livestock grazing activities which provide a fundamental component for the viability of the ranching community.

- What would be the effects of increased oil and gas development on existing rangeland improvements (i.e. fencing, stock ponds, etc.)?
- What would be the effects of increased oil and gas development on livestock distribution, fragmentation and loss of available forage?
- Would increased oil and gas development affect a grazing permit's authorized Animal Unit Month (AUM).
- To what extent, if any, are long-term and/or short-term forage losses expected?
- What impacts will livestock and/or wildlife grazing on re-vegetation of disturbed sites and how will those impacts affect the success of re-vegetation efforts?
- What cumulative impacts to rangeland management in relation to livestock grazing and forage influences can be expected as a result of increased oil and gas development?

Land and Realty, Utility Corridors, Rights-Of-Ways, and Withdrawals

Questions to Address:

- How much access to the public lands is needed, and what types? How should the agencies deal with increased pressure to access private in-holdings?
- How can the increasing demands for infrastructure corridors be best addressed?
- What areas within the planning area should be identified as unsuitable for right-of-way routes for major utilities and roads?
- Are public access easements needed in some areas?
- How can the BLM better address trespass situations?
- What areas within the planning area should be identified as unsuitable for right-of-way routes for major utilities and roads?
- What mitigation measures would be appropriate for lands that are suitable for right-of-way routes?

Topic 4. Transportation and Access Management

Roads and Travel Management:

A network of unimproved dirt roads, gravel roads, paved roads, and trails currently provide access to many areas of the planning area. County roads are generally routinely graded and maintained by the various counties while BLM-managed routes receive various levels of maintenance based on agency maintenance schedules.

Oil and gas exploration and development activities increasingly impact travel management. Roads are one of the biggest contributors to resource impacts and user conflicts.

Questions to Address:

- How will increased oil and gas development affect travel management?
- Does the level of increased development and the associated traffic warrant the need to develop a Comprehensive Travel Management Plan for the WRFO?
- Do we need to ensure consistency in road construction/maintenance associated with oil and gas development with BLM travel management strategies? What other jurisdictional issues, including those of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), local counties, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies need to be addressed?
- Are there resources or areas that are significantly impacted negatively by either motorized or travel associated with oil and gas development?
- How is the current transportation system impacting other resources and uses? How will future increased use impact resources?
- What are current road densities by category? How will future oil and gas development alter area-specific road densities by category?
- How should the road and right-of-way system be managed to provide access while protecting resources (closures, limited access, designated routes, maintenance, upgrades, reclamation, new roads, etc)?
- What roads and trails should be maintained, upgraded, abandoned, or constructed as a result of increased oil and gas development?

Topic 5. Management for Aesthetic and Social Values

Social and Economic Values

People value Northwest Colorado for a variety of reasons, including as a scenic backdrop, a place to recreate and to find spiritual renewal, and as a source of livelihood. The social and economic impacts of developing oil and gas at the projected level potentially have very significant social and economic implications for both the planning area and region. It is essential that the analysis of impacts goes well beyond a simple look at potential employment and revenues to describe the complex trade-offs involved.

Questions to Address:

- What is the appropriate balance between increased oil and gas development in the planning area and sustaining local values?
- How responsive should the BLM be to the social, political, and economic environment of this region? How much relative weight should the BLM give to local, regional, state, and national interests in management decisions?
- How should the BLM work with state and local governments in addressing public land issues?
- What revenues do the public lands provide to the local and regional economies (cities, counties, and state)? How much weight should economic values carry in resource decisions?
- What role do the public lands play in the local economies?
- What role does oil and gas development play in the local economies?
- Will changes in oil and gas development and management practices affect hunting and other recreation that adds to the local economy?
- Will changes in oil and gas development and management practices affect grazing and other range management issues that are tied to the local economy?
- How will changes in oil and gas development and management practices impact roads?
- How will changes in oil and gas development and management practices impact housing?
- How will emergency services be impacted by increased oil and gas development?

- How much change in traffic can be anticipated due to increased oil and gas development?
- What are the oil and gas development companies' drug policies?
- How will increased oil and gas development impact employment? Personal income? Economic diversity and resilience? Regional economic organization? Government revenues and expenditures? Public infrastructure and services?

Visual Resource Management

Questions to Address:

- How will increased oil and gas development affect visual resources that are important to recreation management?
- How will increased oil and gas development affect community viewsheds and other scenically sensitive areas?

Topic 6. Integration of Management with Other Agency and Community Plans

The BLM have a strong commitment to work with other agencies and communities in managing public land resources. Coordination with federal and state agencies, which have jurisdiction over resources within or related to the public lands, like the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Departments of Parks and Recreation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health and Environment, Division of Water Resources and Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission is essential for the effective management of public land resources.

1. County Land Use Plans

Questions to Address:

- What management actions are in conflict with county ordinances, or are needed to make actions consistent across boundaries?
- How will county road designations and increased levels of use be dealt with in the plan?

2. Emergency Services

Emergency services in the planning area are conducted by the various county sheriff departments in coordination with the Federal law enforcement and fire officers. Initial attack for wildland fire activity has been initiated through an Annual Fire Operating Plan agreement with the counties. The following questions will need to be answered in the plan to arrive at a single, coordinated and effective approach to handle these activities.

Questions to Address:

- What criteria will best determine when an emergency situation warrants the possible impacting of values in order to properly deal with emergencies such as fires, emergency evacuations, life-saving injury or medical evacuations, law enforcement activities, deceased persons, or aircraft accidents/investigation?
- What is the simplest process for considering and approving or rejecting requests for these activities anywhere in the planning area, assuming by their nature that the activities require a quick response from someone in authority?
- What will be required, if anything, to establish or maintain cooperative relations with County Sheriff's departments relative to these activities?
- Are there restrictions needed to the Annual Fire Operating Plan to protect resource values?

3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Programmatic Consultations and Coordination will be conducted

pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement dated August 30, 2000. This agreement between the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service provides for a streamlined process for implementing the requirements of the Endangered Species Act during plan development. Major provisions of the agreement include:

Questions to Address:

- Early interagency communication, coordination, consultation and conferencing on candidate, proposed, and listed species to take place prior to and during plan development.
- Consultations/conferencing on land management plan adoption, revision, and amendment.
- Provides for the development of a consultation agreement that outlines the scope, scale of analysis, information needs, staff and responsibilities, appropriate level of signature, time frames, dispute resolution and staff coordination.
- Builds into the plan conservation actions for candidate, proposed and listed species. Includes candidate species in Biological Assessments/Biological Opinions.

4. Colorado State Government Agencies

Communication with state agencies including the Colorado Departments of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, State Lands and Department of Wildlife, and Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission is essential for the effective management of public land resources. The Division of Wildlife has responsibility for management of wildlife populations within the State of Colorado. State Land Board Lands are intermingled with federal lands. The State Parks manages ATV and Snowmobile registration and trail funding programs as well as administration of State Parks influenced by federal land management activities. Coordination with the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is necessary for proper development of leasable minerals on mixed estate lands. The Department of Public Health and Environment sets water quality standards for streams within the state. The Division of Water Resources regulates beneficial uses of water. The Division of Minerals and Geology regulates mine safety programs and mineral development and site rehabilitation of mined lands.

Questions to Address:

- What affect do federal land decisions have on state programs?
- What affect do state agency decisions have on federal land programs?
- Are additional agreements needed to facilitate interagency cooperation and streamlined permitting operations that involve both federal and state decisions?

5. Other Federal Agencies

The United States Forest Service manages extensive public lands in the White River National Forest abutting the planning area. The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for administering the Colorado River Salinity Control program that may have an influence on federal land management both in resource development and water release actions. The National Park Service management programs for Dinosaur National Monument influence federal lands through resource programs that affect adjacent public lands and attract visitors to southwest Colorado.

Questions to Address:

- What are the affects of reservoir water releases on federal land resources within the planning area? Are there ways water releases can be better managed to meet resource needs?
- Are there programs that need better coordination between federal agencies? If so, how can federal programs be managed to better serve the communities of southwest Colorado?

Planning Criteria

Planning regulations covering public land managed by the BLM (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require preparation of planning criteria to guide development of all resource management plans or amendments. Planning

criteria are the constraints or ground rules that will guide and direct the development of this plan amendment and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and ultimately, selection of a Preferred Alternative. They ensure that this plan amendment is tailored to the identified issues and ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the result of consultation and coordination with the public, other Federal, state and local agencies and governmental entities, and North American Indian tribes, analysis of information pertinent to the planning area, and professional judgment.

General Planning Criteria

- ❖ The plans will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), Pertaining to BLM lands.
- ❖ The plans will establish the guidance upon which the White River Field Office will rely in managing the lands and resources under its jurisdiction.
- ❖ The planning process will include an Environmental Impact Statement that will comply with National Environmental Policy Act standards.
- ❖ Focus the planning process on the need to change the plan. Focus collaborative participation on the elements of the plan that merit change. Assume that the current plan is adequate and appropriate unless demonstrated otherwise.
- ❖ Complete the planning work on time and on budget. Focus the collaborative effort so that the collaborators can see that they make a difference, within a timeframe that is reasonable and achievable.
- ❖ Provide a strategy for reaching desired conditions and meeting objectives that includes a framework relevant to forest managers in planning site-specific activities. This strategy contains only appropriate programmatic direction needed to achieve the desired conditions and objectives of the plan.
- ❖ Recognize the specific niche that federal lands provide both to the nation and to the surrounding community. A successful plan will be one that is responsive to both national needs and community needs.

Preliminary criteria for WRFO Oil and Gas EIS/RMPA:

- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).
- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will include an Environmental Impact Statement that will comply with National Environmental Policy Act standards.
- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will be completed on time and on budget.
- ❖ The process will provide a strategy for reaching desired conditions and outcomes, and meeting objectives.
- ❖ A successful RMPA/EIS will be one that is responsive to both national needs and community needs.
- ❖ Public participation will be encouraged throughout the process. The planning process will build relationships with tribes, state and local governments, federal agencies, local stakeholders and others in the community of interest of the plan as normal business. Collaborators and cooperating agencies will be regularly informed and offered timely and meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process.
- ❖ Decisions in the RMPA/EIS will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State and Federal agencies as long as the decisions are in conformance with Federal laws and regulations that direct resource management on the public lands
- ❖ The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) inventory results will be integrated into land use planning and energy use authorizations.
- ❖ Environmental protection and energy production are both desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and are not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities;

- ❖ If any stipulations are developed in the RMPA/EIS, and to further improve consistency and understanding of lease stipulations, State and Field offices will use the Uniform Format for Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations prepared by the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee in March 1989. Lease stipulations will be reviewed for consistency with neighboring field offices and States, and where there are discrepancies, efforts will be undertaken to obtain consistency.
- ❖ The lifestyles and concerns of area residents, including the activities of grazing and hunting, will be recognized in the RMPA/EIS.
- ❖ A capable organization or individual will prepare a socio-economic assessment of the planning area that will identify, analyze and review the social and economic considerations of the RMPA/EIS. They will also facilitate community discussions on resolving community issues generated by agency land use plans.
- ❖ A capable organization or individual will prepare an EPA-approved Air Quality Model for the planning area and surrounding region.
- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will incorporate the Colorado Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines into the impact analysis of the RMPA/EIS.
- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will have realistic desired conditions and achievable objectives consistent with likely budgets and the design criteria.
- ❖ The RMPA/EIS will identify existing and potential corridors (potential corridors include existing ROW routes that can be considered for additional facilities and thus be considered a corridor if not already so designated);
- ❖ Identify existing and potential ROW development sites such as energy development areas.
- ❖ Describe likely development of potential corridors and other ROW sites as a basis for impact assessment

Travel Management and Access Criteria for the Plan

- ❖ The plan will address transportation and access, and will identify where better access is warranted, where access should remain as is, and where decreased access is appropriate to meet the legal and resource requirements.

Energy and Mineral Planning Criteria

- ❖ The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) inventory results will be integrated into land use planning and energy use authorizations.
- ❖ Environmental protection and energy production are both desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and are not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities.
- ❖ The BLM must ensure the appropriate amount of accessibility to the energy resources necessary for the nation's security while recognizing that special and unique non-energy resources can be preserved.
- ❖ Sound planning will weigh the relative resources values consistent with The Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- ❖ For any stipulations developed and to further improve consistency and understanding of lease stipulations, state and field offices will use the Uniform Format for Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations prepared by the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee in March 1989. Lease stipulations will be reviewed for consistency with neighboring field offices and States, and where there are discrepancies, efforts will be undertaken to try and get consistency.
- ❖ A Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario will be developed to predict management activities and actions, including development, that are likely to occur in the planning area over the life of the plan assuming continuation of existing management. The Energy Policy

and Conservation Act (EPCA) oil and gas resource data will be included in the information used to develop RFDs for this plan amendment. These data will be of use in the delineation of exploration and development potential for the planning area. EPCA data will be used in the development of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), specifically to characterize the Resource Area Profile (which provides the basis for the Affected Environment), portray the existing management situation (which provides the basis for the No Action/Present Management Alternative), and identify management opportunities (which provide the basis for the action alternatives). The EPCA data can be used alone for display purposes or in combination with other resource data for analysis purposes (such as overlaying high potential oil and gas areas with important wildlife habitats to identify areas of conflict and/or potential opportunities for resolving specific issues).

Social and Economic Planning Criteria

- ❖ The lifestyles and concerns of area residents, including the activities of grazing and hunting, will be recognized in the plan.

Public Land Health Criteria

- ❖ The plan will incorporate the Colorado Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines. It will lay out a strategy for ensuring that proper grazing practices are followed within the jurisdiction of the White River Field Office. Grazing will be managed to maintain or improve the health of the public lands by incorporating conditions to enhance resource conditions into permitted operations.
- ❖ Consider science appropriately in the planning process with acknowledgement of risk and uncertainty.
- ❖ Analyze problems at the appropriate scale. Decisions are generally made at the management level but with knowledge and understanding of the multi-scale context of those decisions.
- ❖ Monitor conditions and trends on a continuous basis at the appropriate scale, with published evaluations at regular intervals. Evaluations examine the adequacy of the current plan direction and may lead to adjustments of implementation or changes in the plan direction.
- ❖ Contain an adaptive framework that incorporates regular monitoring and evaluation to adjust forest management within the direction of the existing plan; or when that is not possible, with a focused plan amendment process.
- ❖ Have realistic desired conditions and achievable objectives consistent with likely budgets and the design criteria.

Wilderness & Special Area Management Criteria

- ❖ To provide for the long term protection and preservation of the wilderness character found in the WRFO Wilderness Study Areas under a principle of non-degradation. The WSAs' natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value present will be managed so that they will remain unimpaired.
- ❖ To manage the Area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the Area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resources will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of the wilderness character and visitor use.
- ❖ The BLM also has authority to designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) where

special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important cultural, historic, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. To qualify for consideration of the ACEC designation, such values must have substantial significance and value, with qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. Where ACEC values and wilderness characteristics coincide, the special management associated with an ACEC, if designated, may also protect wilderness characteristics.

Right of Way (ROW) and Utility Corridor Criteria

- ❖ Identify existing and potential corridors (potential corridors include existing ROW routes that can be considered for additional facilities and thus be considered a corridor if not already so designated);
- ❖ Identify existing and potential ROW development sites such as energy development areas (e.g., wind energy sites) and communication sites;
- ❖ Describe likely development of potential corridors and other ROW sites as a basis for impact assessment and development of stipulations or conditions of use;
- ❖ Describe limitations on other uses in the potential corridors or at potential ROW development sites which would be necessary to maintain the ROW and corridor values;
- ❖ Describe corridor and ROW development area selection criteria, including goals and objectives for the areas identified (to help establish reclamation standards, manage other multiple uses, establish sideboards for approval process for future compatible uses, etc.);
- ❖ Describe any adverse effects on the distribution or production of energy supplies if the decision is inconsistent with authorizing energy related facilities;
- ❖ Describe reasonable alternatives to a proposed action having adverse energy effects and the anticipated effects of such alternatives on the production/distribution of energy.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS

Cooperative Relations and Public Participation

- ❖ Public participation will be encouraged throughout the process. BLM will collaborate and build relationships with tribes, state and local governments, federal agencies, local stakeholders and others in the community of interest of the plan as normal business. Collaborators are regularly informed and offered timely and meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process. WRFO will manage the collaborative process to find a common vision and strategy for the plan.
- ❖ The planning process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses.
- ❖ Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State and Federal agencies as long as the decisions are in conformance with Federal laws and regulations that direct resource management on the public lands
- ❖ The plan will recognize the State of Colorado's responsibility to manage wildlife. The White River Field Office will consult with the Colorado Division of Wildlife before considering no-hunting zones or periods for the purposes of protecting public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.
- ❖ Be understandable to the public that participated in its creation. The plan must be organized and use language that is accessible to the general public, so they can understand how their public lands are being managed.

- ❖ The WRFO will involve the public in the planning process to determine the best mix of resource use and protection consistent with the multiple-use and other criteria established in the FLPMA and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITIES

A. Management Team

- ❖ **Project Manager:** Manages daily operations of RMPA/EIS preparation. Provides overall leadership to staff, sets priorities for completing plan, and general oversight of plan preparation details. Serves as point person in the plan public participation process. Keeps Field Manager and State Office Planning staff up to date on progress and recommends solutions to keeping progress on track; provides overall direction and management guidance to the core and interdisciplinary team; responsible for the preparation of the pre-plan analysis; recommends draft and final products to Field Manager.
- ❖ **White River Field Office Manager:** Sets Project Manager and Planning Team priorities;; ensures final product is responsive to the issues and is implementable; ensures that management of lands and resources along agency administrative boundaries is arrived at in a collaborative manner to avoid different approaches and confusing direction in these areas; helps develop issues and questions. Keeps State Director up to date on progress and recommends solutions to keeping progress on track; approves the pre-plan analysis; recommends draft and final products to State Director.
- ❖ **BLM State Director:** Approves Draft plan and signs EIS, Records of Decision and final planning documents; provides staff coordination and review; assists in protests and appeals; provides scarce skill specialists for the interdisciplinary team as needed (economics, air quality).

B. Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

Attend all I.D. Team meetings; submit input for various components of the plan and EIS that will, within the scope and detail of the plan, resolve the identified issues in an interdisciplinary and coordinated manner; submit typed, accurate, and properly formatted input (and backup maps as needed) to contractor and/or project manager on time; coordinate and communicate with employees in appropriate offices or other agencies to insure that the plan contains interdisciplinary, complete, and accurate information; consult with Core Team in advance of deadlines, in the event delays are anticipated or input questions arise; assure an interdisciplinary approach is used during writing periods by consulting with allied resource specialists and support personnel; and provide maps at the appropriate scale for publication and for use during the analysis period.

C. Core Team

- ❖ **Project Manager:** See plan-related duties listed above. Acts as the planning Project Manager during the plan preparation period. Responsible for the completion of day-to-day tasks that result in progress being made towards getting the plan completed; directs involvement of the I.D. Team. Ensures public involvement, coordinates with contractors and cooperators, and tracks critical tasks to insure completion of the plans in a timely manner.

- ❖ **White River Field Office Recreation, Range, Noxious Weeds, Fire & Wildlife Specialists, GIS Specialist, Minerals and Lands Staffs:** Receive direction and leadership from Project Manager: provide recreation, minerals, lands and biological resource management input into the plan; provide review of and edit I.D. Team and other input to ensure issues are resolved in an interdisciplinary approach; coordinate with and provide feedback to I.D. Team members, and assist and guide them as needed during, before, and after submissions; assist in conducting public meetings and responses to inquiries; and assist Project Manager in team or management briefings as needed.

D. Ad Hoc and Support

- ❖ **Colorado State Office:** Provides Fluid Mineral Support, Social Science and Economic support, NEPA management, planning and environmental coordination for interagency planning, resource management guidance and review, policy interpretation, and general assistance; procurement and publication assistance (printing and camera-ready graphics); Information Technology help and assistance.

E. GIS & Internet Coordinators

- ❖ **White River Field Office:** Provides digitizing services; assistance in determining contents of themes; training for I.D. Team members in preparing maps for digitizing; graphic and tabular information for I.D. Team from stored information while analysis and writing occurs; coordination with Core Team on potential problems and solutions in advance of critical periods; communications with State Office GIS staff in implementing GIS system.
- ❖ **Regional and State Offices:** Provides trouble-shooting for GIS system; administers agency Internet web sites for public information sharing.

F. Planning/Environmental Staff

White River Field Office and BLM State Office: Provides guidance and interpretation of NEPA policy and regulations for plan during writing and NEPA preparation. Assists in preparing written responses to comments from the public, public input processes, budget and financial planning help and guidance, technical review of document(s); communication with State and Regional Office peers in seeking clarity and interpretation of policy and direction for interagency planning.

G. Team Lists

Management Team

Sally Wisely, State Director, Colorado State Office, Denver, CO.
 Kent E. Walter, White River Field Office Manager, Meeker, CO.
 Traute Parrie, Associate Field Manager, Meeker, CO.
 Vern Rholl, Jr., Non-Renewable Resource Staff Supervisor
 Jane Peterson, Project Manager, Meeker and Grand Junction, CO

Core Team

Sally Wisely, State Director, Colorado State Office, Denver, CO.
 Kent E. Walter, White River Field Office Manager, Meeker, CO.
 Traute Parrie, Associate Field Manager, White River Field Office]

Jane Peterson, Project Manager, White River Field Office
 Vern Rholl, Jr., Non-Renewable Resource Staff Supervisor, White River Field Office
 Carol Hollowed, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, White River Field Office M
 Marvin Hendricks, Petroleum Engineer, White River Field Office

Interdisciplinary and Support Teams

BLM INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM as of September 1, 2006			
NAME	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Jane Peterson	Project Management	jane_h_peterson@blm.gov	(970) 244-3027 (970) 878-3802
Carol Hollowed	Soils/Water/(Air)/NEPA/GIS	caroline_hollowed@blm.gov	(970) 878- 3836
Chris Ham	Recreation, Wilderness Transportation & Access		
Tamara Meagley	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species/ACEC	tamara_meagley@blm.gov	(970) 878-3826
Marvin Hendricks	RFD	marvin_hendricks@blm.gov	(970) 878-3833
Ed Hollowed	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species/Migratory Birds/Gunnison Sage Grouse	ed_hollowed@blm.gov	(970) 878-3834
Jed Carling	Range/Weeds/Vegetation/Riparian		
Bob Fowler	Forestry	bob_fowler@blm.gov	(970) 878-3840
Gabrielle Elliot	Cultural and Paleontological Resources/ACEC	gabrielle_elliot@blm.gov	(970) 878-3823
Penny Brown	Lands/Realty/ROW	penny_brown@blm.gov	(970) 878-3810
Ken Holsinger	Fuels/Fire Management	ken_holsinger@blm.gov	(970) 878-3838
Paul Daggett	Geology and Minerals	paul_daggett@blm.gov	(970) 878-3819
Melissa Kindall	Wild Horses	melissa_kindall@blm.gov	(970) 878-3842
COSO			
Chuck Romaniello	Socioeconomics/Social Science	chuck_romaniello@blm.gov	(303) 239-3776
Brian St. George	NEPA Coordination	brain_st_george@blm.gov	(303) 239-3709
National Science and Technology Center			
Scott Archer	Air Issues	scott_archer@blm.gov	(303) 236-6400

NOTE: Other BLM/BLM or other agency specialists or employees may be utilized during the plan preparation.

URS Team Members as of September1, 2006			
Team Member	Responsibility	Telephone #	E-mail
Project Management Team			
David Jones	Project Manager	303-740-3938	david_jones@urscorp.com
Leslie Watson	Assistant Project Manager	520-407-2856	leslie_watson@urscorp.com
Scott Moorhouse	Principal-in-Charge	303-740-2624	scott_moorhouse@urscorp.com
Cindy Smith	Senior Technical Advisor	602-861-7448	cindy_smith@urscorp.com
Rich Chamberlain	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst	303-740-2613	rich_chamberlain@urscorp.com
Carol Anderson	Public Involvement	303-740-3874	carol_Anderson@urscorp.com
Debra Duerr	Public Involvement	602-648-2421	debra_duerr@urscorp.com
Rachel Wieland	Project Coordinator	303-740-2778	rachel_wieland@urscorp.com
Project Staff			
Peter Martinez	IT/Website Specialist/Admin Record	602-248-7483	peter_martinez@urscorp.com
Jeff Dawson	Fish and Wildlife	303-740-2793	jeffrey_dawson@urscorp.com
Jeff Dawson	Special Status Species	303-740-2793	jeffrey_dawson@urscorp.com
Andy Herb	Vegetation/Wetlands/Riparian	303-740-2699	andy_herb@urscorp.com
Jerry Fiore	Air Quality	303-796-4663	jerry_fiore@urscorp.com
Bob Clark	Geology, Energy and Minerals	303-740-3995	bob_clark@urscorp.com
Kavi Koleini	Fire Management/Livestock Grazing	208-344-6140	kavi_koleini@urscorp.com
Jennifer Frownfelter	Lands and Realty	602-861-7406	jennifer_frownfelter@urscorp.com
Kavi Koleini	Visual Resources	602-861-7428	kavi_koleini@urscorp.com
Jennifer Pyne	Recreation	602-648-2335	jennifer_pyne@urscorp.com
Dave Hilliard	Transportation and Access	303-740-3835	dave_hilliard@urscorp.com
David Palmer	Soil Resources	602-861-7460	david_palmer@urscorp.com
Mark Levorsen	Water Resources	303-796-4767	mark_levorsen@urscorp.com
Bob Mutaw	Cultural/Paleontology	303-796-4617	robert_mutaw@urscorp.com
Katherine Bush (Sunny)	Hazardous Materials/Public Safety	602-861-7440	katherine_bush@urscorp.com
Subcontractors			
Lloyd Levy	Social and Economic Conditions	303-458-5363	lloydlevy@aol.com
Steve Moore	Social and Economic Conditions	970-245-4924	smoore35@bresnan.net
WestWater/Mike Klish	Biology	970-241-7076	mwk@westwaterco.com

FORMAT AND PROCESS FOR THE PLAN

A. General Steps And Format

The format and outline for the plan will come from agency planning and management guidance and manuals. All legal and policy requirements will be met in the plans and in the process regarding public notices, required elements, distribution of draft and final documents, and specific laws. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality guidelines (CEQ) will be met through the completion and publication of an EIS/ROD. The draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published with the Draft and final versions of the plans.

Public comments will be analyzed after a 90 day public review period for the Draft plans and EIS. All comments will be considered by the agencies before the final plans and EIS, and Records of Decision are published. See the plan and EIS preparation schedule for general content of the plan and the process to be used. Detail of maps in the plan will depend on the information being presented and will be made available on an official planning web site.

B. Alternative Formulation

A range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, will be developed to respond to the issues identified at the outset of the process. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns brought out. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistic, implement able solutions that represent a completed plan. Sub-alternatives may be identified where only portions of an alternative require variations in resource management potential. The BLM will analyze the proposed action and no action alternatives, as well as other possible alternatives that could include alternative approaches to mitigation measures and/or conditions of approval for future oil and gas development in the planning area. Alternatives will be further defined as part of the planning process.

C. Internal Review of The Plan

Four weeks will be permitted for the internal review of the draft and final plans, and EIS by the BLM, including time required sending comments to the core team, State, Regional and Washington offices. Forms will be supplied electronically to all reviewers to facilitate receipt of comments and to facilitate the analysis of the comments and needed corrections.

D. Form Of Input From Idt And Reviewers

Team input will be electronic, in Microsoft Word software; input will also be provided verbally, on flipcharts, via e-mail, or other medium at group and one-on-one meetings and contacts. The State Office, White River Field Office and Washington Office coordinators will assist in obtaining timely input from reviewers.

E. Accountability

Individuals working on this plan are accountable for completing their specific tasks on time. Plan accomplishments will be made a critical element in team member's performance evaluations. A smooth progression to each step requires this. Management and supervisors will be kept informed of progress at key milestones. The Project Manager will keep team members and reviewers aware of the schedule and elapsed time. Any situations that occur in which a delay seems imminent will be resolved immediately by collaboration between the Project Manager, steering committee and individuals involved. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, insure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get the schedule and products on track again.

F. Third Party Contracting

The use of third party contracts to facilitate processing of proposals and applications through BLM NEPA processes is provided for in 40 CFR 1506.5, with clarification by the Council on Environmental Quality found in the "40 Questions." Agency policy and direction are found in BLM Handbook 1790-1, Appendix 7, with additional guidance available in the 1999 desk reference "Overview of BLM's NEPA Process."

The third-party contracting process provides an effective means to prepare an independent, comprehensive environmental analysis that meets the requirements of NEPA and related environmental laws. The contractors function as an extension of the BLM's staff. They work under the BLM's direction to collect and verify environmental information from industry, consulting agencies, other interested parties, and the general public; conduct unbiased environmental analysis; develop appropriate environmental criteria and methodologies for analyzing particular environmental issue areas; and prepare environmental documentation and mitigation options.

Seven oil and gas companies (Companies) currently operating within the boundaries of the WRFO agreed to funding a third party contract to complete the RMP Amendment/EIS. The BLM and the Companies have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define roles and responsibilities. URS Corporation (URS) was the consulting firm chosen by the BLM to develop the RMPA/EIS. In accordance with BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-011 *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Third Party Contracting Procedure*.

An MOU was executed between the BLM and the Companies on May 16, 2006. Under the MOU:

- the proponent's primary responsibility is to pay for the contractor's services;
- the contractor's primary responsibility is to assist the BLM in preparing the environmental document as the BLM directs;
- The BLM's primary responsibility is to supervise and direct the contractor's work.

The BLM holds final decision authority regarding data used, alternatives studied in detail, analyses conducted, and document content and quality.

All documents and records used or developed by the contractor to support the NEPA process will be part of the administrative record. These documents and records will be given to the BLM when the contractor's involvement in the process is completed.

The final contract award to URS was completed August 18, 2006.

PLAN PREPARATION SCHEDULE

A proposed preparation schedule for the Planning Process is provided in Appendix C. The schedule gives estimated time frames for the completion of the required plan components. Major milestones include:

Milestone	Estimated Completion Date
Work Plan and Preparation Plan	September 30, 2006
Notice of Intent	June 14, 2006
Scoping Period	June 14 – September 30, 2006
Assessments, Analysis of Management Situation	December 22, 2006
Alternative Development	March 7, 2007
Impact Analysis	June 1, 2007

DEIS Publication	October 1, 2007
Comment Review	January 21, 2008
FEIS/ROD/ Proposed Plans	June 2, 2008

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS & STAKEHOLDERS LIST

The public participation opportunities for the major stages of the planning process are listed below. The schedule for these events will be published later. Every effort will be made to assure meaningful public involvement continuously throughout the process. This includes using World Wide Web Internet technology. Plans are for an interactive website that provides information and solicits comments from users and interested public.

Listed below are the ways in which the White River Field Office will involve the public in each step of the planning process. The BLM may expand upon or modify these methods as needed throughout the planning process.

Identify Issues, Planning Criteria, and Management Concern

1. Federal Register Notice of Intent, media articles, website information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, and an announce schedule of upcoming scoping meeting will be sent to people on White River Field Office mailing list by e-mail and letters.
2. Informal public open house scoping meetings will be organized and facilitated by a Plan contractor to gather public input on the issues, management concerns to be resolved in the plan, and on the planning criteria and process. Written and electronic web comments on issues/scope of the Plan will be requested with a 30 day comment period.

Issue the Draft Plan/EIS

3. Notice of the Availability of the draft plans/EIS. Federal Register Notices regarding the availability of the draft plans/EIS and a 90-day period for public comments to be submitted will be published; newspaper articles will be published in local/regional papers advertising the availability of the draft plan/EIS; the 90-day comment period, and the schedule of the public meetings to be held during the comment period.
4. Public meetings will be held locally during the 90-day public comment period to gather verbal or written input on the draft plan/EIS.
5. Public will be encouraged to use web planning site for submission of comments.
6. All comments will be entered into a web based database for storage and analysis.

Publish the Proposed Final Plan/EIS

7. The final plans/EIS will be sent to those on the mailing list as well as to all those that participate in the planning process during the preparation of the plan. The availability of the plans will be advertised in regional newspapers and other media. A notice explaining the protest period of 30 days will be included.
8. A Governor's consistency review (60 days) will be solicited.
9. Informal public input, written, verbal, and through the web comment tool will be welcomed any time in the process, will be documented and routed to the Project Manager and then to the White River Field Office.
10. A summary of comments will be produced for web publication.

Respond to Protests

11. Written responses will be sent to the public as needed.
12. Federal Register Notice requesting comments on significant changes will be published as result of a protest.
13. Protests and appeals will follow BLM protocols as appropriate.

Publish Approved Plans

14. Public will be notified via news articles, website, and transmittal letters of the availability of the approved Plan.

Stakeholders List

Major groups of stakeholders that have been identified are listed below. Additional stakeholders will be identified throughout the process. A mailing list identifying key people in these organizations, agencies, and interest groups will be compiled with the assistance of the Office of Community Services who will facilitate the public participation process.

National, state, and local agencies

- ❖ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ❖ County Commissioners – Rio Blanco, Garfield and Moffat
- ❖ Cities of Meeker, Rangely, Rifle, Dinosaur and Craig
- ❖ Other State, county, and municipal elected officials
- ❖ Dinosaur National Monument
- ❖ Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- ❖ United States Forest Service
- ❖ Corps of Engineers
- ❖ Bureau of Reclamation
- ❖ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- ❖ USGS Water Resources Division

National interest groups/nonprofits

- ❖ The Nature Conservancy
- ❖ National Trust for Historical Preservation

Local interest groups/nonprofits

- ❖ Colorado Environmental Coalition
- ❖ Center for Native Ecosystems
- ❖ The Wilderness Society
- ❖ Northwest Resource Advisory Council

Commercial Interests

- ❖ Commercial public land outfitters
- ❖ Energy Companies holding federal leases
- ❖ Grazing Permittees
- ❖ Interested businesses and consultants

Native American Tribal Governments

- ❖ Uinta and Ouray Reservation of the Ute Indian Tribe

Media

- ❖ Local radio & TV stations
- ❖ Local newspapers (Durango Herald, Cortez Journal)
- ❖ Regional newspapers (Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News)
- ❖ Grazing Permittees
- ❖ Interested businesses and consultants

Other

- ❖ Adjacent private landowners and in holders
- ❖ Private hunters

Summary of Proposed Budget					
RMPA COMPONENT	Total Work Months	FY - 2006	FY - 2007	FY - 2008	Total Dollars
Cost Category					
Labor Costs	0				
WRFO Manager	3-years	24	24	24	72,000
Project Manager	9 -12	80	100	80	260,000
Core/ID Team Review	2	25	75	50	150,000
GIS (Support of Third Party Contractor)	1	5	5	5	15,000
Comments Review			1	1	
Draft Printing and Distribution	1		50		50,000
ROD Printing and Distribution	1			50	50,000
Overhead & Support Costs					
Office Overhead	30	10	10	10	30,000
Travel/Support	65	25	15	25	65,000
Public Meetings	1	1			
Protest Response	1			1	
GRAND TOTAL					692,000