

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Revised July 2015 – Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office is developing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) in southeastern Arizona.

What is a Resource Management Plan?

An RMP is a comprehensive set of goals, objectives and decisions that provide guidance for management of a designated area such as the SRPNCA for a 15 to 20 year period. As the guiding document for all management activities, the RMP is a crucial component of BLM's land stewardship program.

What have we done so far?

The BLM has completed a number of steps in the process to complete an RMP. These include:

- Filed a public notice in April 2013 – called a **Notice of Intent**- that announced the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and RMP.
- Held a series of **public scoping and informational meetings** throughout 2013 and published a summary of the input we received in the Final Public Scoping Report, which was released in January 2014.
- Held two **public workshops** in the spring of 2014 related to the range of management alternatives. Starting in March and going through May 2014 the BLM hosted field trips on different resource areas that the public could attend to learn more about the issues.
- Gathered **data and completed inventories** to help inform planning.
- Held a public educational forum in July 2014 related to **adaptive management**.
- Completed a round of public and stakeholder outreach to **share the draft management alternatives** in spring 2015, reaching dozens of organizations and nearly 200 individuals.

- Conducted **an inventory of roads and trails** within the SPRNCA, and held a public meeting in July 2015 to share the results and gather feedback.

What is the role of public involvement?

Public and stakeholder involvement is a critical element of the RMP planning process. At different stages throughout the planning process, public involvement will help to identify key issues for consideration, develop a series of management alternatives, and provide feedback and evaluation of those alternatives. The final RMP will be selected based on a number of factors, including but not solely public input.

The BLM also has formal cooperating agencies in the planning process. These organizations – which include Cochise County, the city of Sierra Vista, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department and Fort Huachuca – provide expertise and input to BLM through a formal process.

Where are we now?

The BLM is currently working to develop a Draft EIS that will evaluate the impacts of several different management alternatives.

What's next?

The release of the Draft RMP/EIS is expected in early 2016. The public will have 90 days to submit comments on the Draft RMP/EIS and then BLM will begin preparing the Proposed RMP/EIS and the Draft TMP which should come out late in 2016. The Record of Decision for both the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and Final TMP should be released in Mid 2017.

How can I get involved or find out more?

- **Join the mailing list** for this process to receive meeting announcements and periodic updates. Please indicate your interest on the meeting sign-in sheet, or send an email with your contact details to Amy Markstein (amarkstein@blm.gov).
- **Visit the website:** <http://on.doi.gov/11YKfGO>
- **Contact** David McIntyre, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area RMP Planning Leader, email: dmcintyre@blm.gov, Phone: (520) 258-7259