



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Preliminary Alternatives—Themes

## Fact Sheet—Royal Gorge Field Office, Colorado

The *Preliminary Alternatives Report* identifies and describes four alternatives: the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives. The overall theme of each alternative is described below.

### **Preliminary Alternative A: The No Action Alternative**

This alternative represents the continuation of current management of BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate in the planning area. The BLM would continue to implement management direction in the two existing resource management plans. Alternative A serves an important purpose by allowing the BLM to compare the environmental impacts of the action alternatives (B, C, and D) to the impacts of retaining current management.

### **Preliminary Alternative B: Emphasis on Natural Processes**

This alternative prioritizes maximization of proper ecosystem function according to ecoregional assessments or other metrics. Management will focus on proactive preservation and restoration of ecoregion components to meet desired future conditions as well as the Colorado Public Land Health Standards. Resource use will be managed adaptively as required to make long-term progress toward meeting the desired future conditions and improving resource resiliency.

### **Preliminary Alternative C: Emphasis on Responding to Demand for Resource Use**

In this alternative, public demand for use will be the basis for resource management, and management will rely mostly on existing laws and regulations to protect the long-term sustainability of resources. Adaptive management will be used as a tool to respond to demand. The BLM will keep resources open for greater commercial use as demand dictates.

The BLM will maximize accessibility to resource use to facilitate development for commercial and public use for things such as mineral extraction, grazing, rights-of-way, renewable energy projects, and recreation.

### **Preliminary Alternative D: The Human Ecoregion**

This alternative adaptively manages resources to allow for local community use and interest based on people's desires, on the interactions the BLM has with the public and cooperating agencies, and on feedback during envisioning, scoping, and other forums. It recognizes the value of public lands to the public and emphasizes managing for the ways in which local people and communities want to interact with public lands and resources. The following four landscapes that characterize Alternative D were identified during scoping; each is focused on a different set of goals:

- Eastern Plains
- Upper Arkansas River Valley
- Rural Foothills
- Front Range