



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

Keys to Making Effective Comments

Fact Sheet—Royal Gorge Field Office, Colorado

The BLM is making the *Preliminary Alternatives Report* and the *Draft Basis for Analysis* available for public review. This will enable the public to raise any concerns before the BLM begins analyzing the effects of the alternatives and preparing the Draft RMP/EIS. This review is intended to improve the effectiveness of the RMP and reduce the need for supplemental analyses and data gathering, as concerns and potential conflicts will be more likely to surface earlier in the planning process.

Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. The BLM will review all comments and identify those that are substantive for consideration in revising the *Preliminary Alternatives Report* and *Draft Basis for Analysis*. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Present information that can be used when developing alternatives
- Present reasonable alternatives
- Present information that can be used when the BLM considers impacts of alternatives
- Raise concerns, with reasoning, regarding public land resources within the planning area
- Raise concerns, with reasoning, regarding uses of BLM -administered lands within the planning area
- Recommend specific changes to the landscape or management actions
- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in an existing report

Comments that are not substantive include:

- Comments in favor of or against an action without any reasoning (such as “I don’t like ____” without providing any rationale)
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy
- Comments without justification or supporting data (such as “allow more grazing”)
- Comments that do not pertain to the planning area (such as “the government should eliminate all dams throughout the west”)
- Comments that take the form of vague, open -ended questions

Comments can be submitted:

- Online at the ECRMP project website: <http://on.doi.gov/1HVULcA>
- By email: ECRMP.comments@blm.gov
- By mail or in person: John Smeins, Bureau of Land Management, 3028 East Main Street, Cañon City, CO 81212
- By fax: 719-269-8599

PLEASE NOTE: Before including address, phone number, email address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, please be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.