

# Uncompahgre RMP Newsletter

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<https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD>

## Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement Available

Dear Interested Party/Stakeholder/Partner,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office. I am pleased to announce our release of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and wanted to share some of the major decisions and next steps, as well as remind you to use the BLM RMP ePlanning website as a source of information.

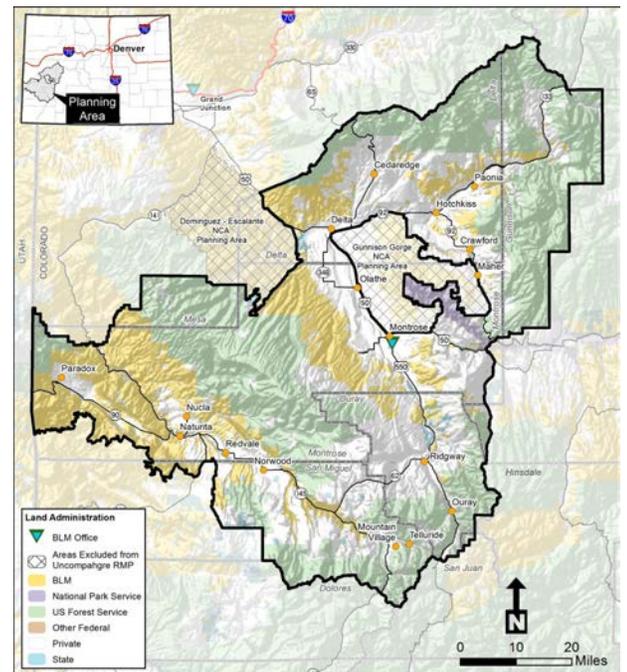
The BLM appreciates the considerable time and effort you invested in reviewing the analysis and submitting comments throughout the planning process. We will officially announce the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the Federal Register on June 28, 2019. The RMP will guide public land use in the Planning Area over the next 20 years, contributing approximately \$2.5 billion in regional economic output and supporting approximately 950 jobs. We expect to release a final decision later this year and want to thank everyone who participated in the planning process.

Sincerely,  
Greg Larson, Uncompahgre Field Manager

### Proposed RMP

The Proposed RMP blends elements from the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS. In developing the Proposed RMP, the BLM made modifications based on public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS, input from cooperating agencies, consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ongoing coordination with stakeholders, new information and best available science, the need for clarification, and extensive internal BLM reviews. The BLM received 2,566 unique, substantive public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS from over 52,000 submissions. The BLM considered this input in formulating the Proposed RMP, which responds to local community needs, while aligning with Administration priorities like public lands access, sustainable energy development, economic growth, and conservation stewardship. Notable decisions contained in the Proposed RMP include:

- Allocating 616,640 acres as available and 59,160 acres as unavailable for livestock grazing
- Retaining 44,220 acres as closed and 871,810 acres as open to fluid mineral leasing, with stipulations on some open areas
- Managing 122,130 acres in eight Special Recreation Management Areas
- Retaining 3,950 acres currently designated as Open to cross-country motorized travel
- Designating 30,190 acres as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Managing over 18,000 acres to minimize impacts on wilderness characteristics, while managing for other appropriate uses
- Recommending 104 miles on 16 river segments as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



The Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area is the Uncompahgre Field Office, but excludes the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Dominguez-Escalante NCA, which are managed under separate RMPs. The Planning Area includes 675,800 acres of BLM-administered lands. The RMP also makes decisions on 971,220 acres of federal mineral estate. Management direction and actions outlined in the RMP apply only to BLM-administered lands and to federal mineral estate under BLM jurisdiction.

## How to Review the Proposed RMP and Final EIS

To learn more about the Uncompahgre Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS or to view a copy of the plan, please visit the RMP ePlanning project website at <https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD> or contact Matt Loscalzo, RMP Project Manager, at (970) 240-5305 or [mloscalzo@blm.gov](mailto:mloscalzo@blm.gov). Hard copies are available for review at the BLM Colorado State Office in Lakewood (2850 Youngfield Street), the Montrose Public Lands Center (2505 South Townsend Avenue), and public libraries in Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Ouray, Paonia, Ridgway, and Telluride, Colorado. A limited number of CDs are also be available by request.

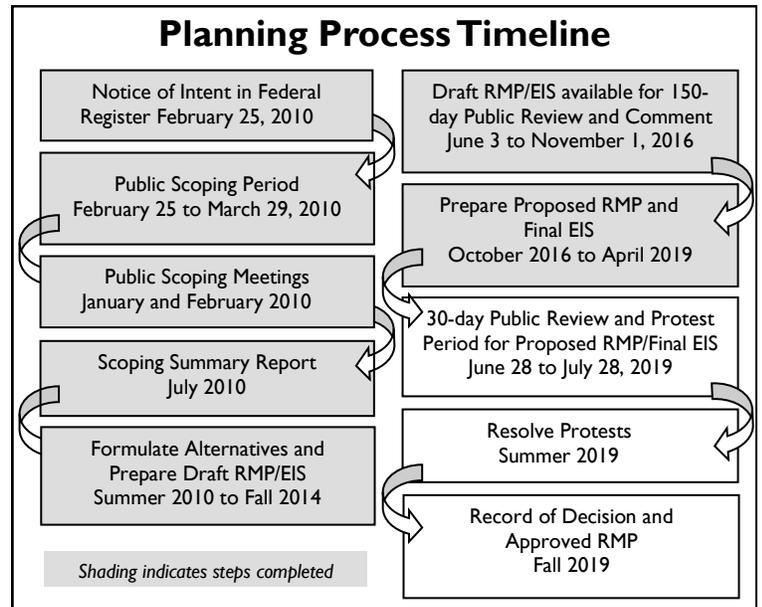
## Next Steps

The BLM Director will issue a decision on protests received for the Proposed RMP. After protests are resolved, the BLM will issue an Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD), which will be publicly available on the RMP ePlanning project website. The BLM expects to issue the Approved RMP and ROD in fall 2019.

## How to Protest

The BLM encourages you to review the Uncompahgre Field Office Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Instructions for filing a protest with the BLM Director are online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-plan-protest>. All protests must be in writing to the BLM Director, either by regular or overnight mail, or electronically via the RMP ePlanning project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD>. To submit a protest electronically, go to the project website and follow the

protest instructions highlighted at the top of the Homepage. Protests submitted electronically by any means other than the project website protest section will be invalid unless a hard copy is also submitted. Protests submitted by fax will also be invalid unless submitted either through the project website protest section or by hard copy.



## Navigating the Proposed RMP/Final EIS

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains five chapters and 20 appendices, and generally follows the same outline in the Draft RMP/EIS. New or modified text since the Draft RMP/EIS has been shaded in gray. The list below includes key sections of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS:

### Acronyms and Abbreviations

Lists the acronyms and abbreviations used in the RMP/EIS

### Chapter 1, Introduction

Summarizes the proposed action, purpose and need, and decisions to be made in this RMP/EIS

### Chapter 2, Alternatives

Summarizes Alternatives A through D (from the Draft RMP/EIS) and the Proposed RMP. A detailed description of the alternatives (including goals, objectives, actions, and allowable uses) is provided in a new appendix, Appendix T.

### Chapter 3, Affected Environment

Describes the existing biological, physical, and socioeconomic characteristics of the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area, including human uses that could be affected by implementing the alternatives described in Chapter 2

### Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences

Evaluates potential environmental, social, and economic consequences to the human and natural environment from implementing the alternatives

### Glossary

Provides definitions for important terms used in the RMP/EIS

### Appendix A, Maps

### Appendix R, Public Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS

The printed version contains public comment summaries and responses to those summaries. Individual public comment excerpts are available online.