



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (COS050)

JUN 17 2019

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO). The BLM prepared the Proposed RMP/FEIS in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. The Proposed RMP provides a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of BLM-administered lands in Montrose, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, San Miguel and Mesa counties, Colorado. The document contains both land-use planning decisions and implementation decisions to guide the BLM's management of these public lands.

The BLM developed the Proposed RMP/FEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The Proposed RMP is a reasonable combination of objectives and actions from the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS, released on June 3, 2016. The Proposed RMP/FEIS contains the Agency Proposed Alternative, a summary of changes made between the Draft RMP/EIS and Proposed RMP/FEIS, impacts of the Agency-Proposed Alternative, a summary of written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS and BLM's responses to the comments.

Pursuant to the BLM's planning regulations at 43 C.F.R. 1610.5-2, any person who participated in the planning process for the Proposed RMP/FEIS and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the planning decisions, may protest approval of the planning decisions within 30 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

The regulations specify the required elements of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents or available planning records (e.g. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.).

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed RMP and Final EIS may be found online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-plan-protest> and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth below, or submitted electronically through the BLM e-Planning project website at <https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD>. Protests submitted electronically by any means other than the e-Planning project website protest section will be invalid unless a protest is also submitted in hard copy. Protests submitted by fax will also be invalid unless also submitted either through the e-Planning project website protest section or in hard copy. All protests submitted in writing must be mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail:
Director (210)
Attn: Protest Coordinator
P.O. Box 71383
Washington, D.C. 20024-1383

Overnight Delivery:
Director (210)
Attn: Protest Coordinator
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM
Washington, D.C. 20003

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, please be advised that your entire protest, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on each protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, with return receipt requested. The BLM Director's decision shall be the Department of the Interior's final decision on each protest. Responses to protest issues will be compiled and formalized in a Director's Protest Resolution Report made available following issuance of the decisions.

Upon resolution of all land-use plan protests, the BLM will issue an Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). The Approved RMP and ROD will be mailed or made available electronically to all who participated in the planning process and will be available on the BLM Uncompahgre RMP revision eplanning website: <https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD>.

Unlike land-use planning decisions, implementation decisions in this Proposed RMP/FEIS are not subject to protest under the BLM planning regulations, but are subject to an administrative review process, through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to 43 C.F.R., Part 4 Subpart E. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval, allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land-use planning process, they are still subject to the appeal process or other administrative review as prescribed by specific resource program regulations once the BLM resolves the protests to land-use planning decisions, and issues an Approved RMP and ROD. The Approved RMP and ROD will therefore identify the implementation decisions made in the plan that may be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Sincerely,



Jamie E. Connell
State Director

Attachment: 1 - Protest Regulations (1 p)