

## **Moab Field Office Planning Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

**Type of Action:** Administrative

**Jurisdiction:** All of Grand and the northern one-third of San Juan Counties, Utah.

**Abstract:** This Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Moab Field Office. The Moab planning area is located in southeastern Utah and includes approximately 2.5-million acres of land in Grand and San Juan Counties. Within the Moab planning area, the BLM manages approximately 1.8-million acres of BLM-administered public land surface as well as about 29,000 acres of federal mineral estate.

The BLM is revising this RMP to address the availability of new data and policies, emerging issues, and changing circumstances that have occurred during the 22 years since the Record of Decision for the existing plan was signed. As part of the RMP revision process, the BLM conducted a scoping period to solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the Draft EIS. Planning issues identified for this RMP revision focus on recreation and travel, minerals, special designations, and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

To assist the authorized officer in making decisions, cooperating agencies and the public in focusing on appropriate solutions to planning issues, four alternatives for the RMP are considered in the Draft EIS. **Alternative A** is a continuation of existing management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of public lands and resources continue to be managed under the 1985 Grand RMP, as amended. **Alternative B** emphasizes management actions to conserve ecosystem health and protect landscapes as well as encourage non-motorized recreation. **Alternative C** (Preferred Alternative) provides a balanced approach to management that addresses issues identified during public scoping. This alternative emphasizes protection of important natural resources as well as commodity production and a full range of recreation opportunities. **Alternative D** emphasizes commodity production and motorized recreation. The preferred alternative is not a final agency decision; it is an indication of the agency's preliminary preference because it reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, addresses the key planning issues, and considers the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists.

When completed, the RMP revision will provide a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions for: (1) managing resources throughout the planning area and (2) identifying allowable uses on the public land surface and federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Comments are accepted for 90 days following the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability for this Draft RMP/DEIS in the *Federal Register*. Comments should be submitted via the RMP web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html>. Alternatively, comments can be mailed to:

Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office  
Attn: RMP Comments  
82 E. Dogwood  
Moab, UT 84532

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