



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov>



Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Richfield Field Office. This document was prepared by the BLM in consultation with cooperating agencies, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), implementing regulations, BLM's land use planning handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable law.

The planning area consists of about 5.4 million acres of land in Sanpete, Sevier, Piute and Wayne counties and portions of Garfield County. There are also 21,500 acres of Kane County within the planning area. However, these acres lie entirely within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area so no decisions within this Draft RMP/EIS will govern those lands. Within the planning area about 2.1 million acres of public lands are managed by the Richfield Field Office. When approved, this RMP will replace the 1977 Forest Management Framework Plan (MFP), 1982 Mountain Valley MFP, 1982 Henry Mountain MFP, 1982 Parker Mountain MFP, 1986 Cedar-Beaver-Garfield-Antimony RMP, and the 1991 San Rafael RMP. The overall intent of the revised RMP is to develop a land use plan that will guide the management of public lands administered by the Richfield Field Office into the future. The Richfield DRMP/DEIS and supporting information is available on the project web site at:

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/richfield/planning.html>

The BLM encourages you to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Richfield DRMP/DEIS. Of particular importance is feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the five proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions and any new information that would help the BLM produce a Proposed Plan. In developing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the DRMP/DEIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the multiple use and sustained yield mandate. Your timely comments will help formulate the Proposed RMP/Final EIS

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be held subsequent to the release of the draft. These meetings will be announced by local media and public mailings. Public meetings will be held in Richfield, Loa, Junction, Manti, Panguitch, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: UT_Richfield_Comments@blm.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Richfield Field Office RMP Comments,

Bureau of Land Management, Richfield Field Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comment on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the DRMP/DEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number. Comments containing only opinions or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

It is the BLM's practice to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

The BLM would like to thank our cooperating agency partners that have worked so hard to help us complete this document. They have provided support and expertise to facilitate focusing the issues and developing alternatives to help resolve the many compelling resource concerns that face the Richfield Field Office. We would like to particularly recognize Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne and Garfield Counties, the State of Utah and its agencies, as cooperating agencies on this DRMP/DEIS. Their experience and dedication has made this a better process and the BLM looks forward to continuing to work with them. We also extend thanks to those individuals and organizations that have provided extensive information and many excellent ideas that have been considered during this process.

Copies of the DRMP/DEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies. Copies of the DRMP/DEIS are available for public inspection at the Richfield, Panguitch and Manti public libraries. Copies are also available for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

Richfield Field Office
150 East 900 North
Richfield, UT 84701

Henry Mountains Field Station
380 South 100 West
Hanksville, UT 84734

Utah State Office, BLM
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Thank you for your continued interest in the Richfield Field Office Resource Management Plan. We appreciate the information and suggestions you have contributed to the planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Selma Sierra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Selma Sierra
State Director, Utah