

RICHFIELD RMP PLANNING POST

Richfield Field Office, Bureau of Land Management



New Manager Leads Richfield BLM Office

Aden Seidlitz, former associate field manager of the Bureau of Land Management's Miles City (Montana) Field Office, is the new manager of the BLM's Richfield Field Office.

Seidlitz assumed his duties in Richfield in mid June. "I am excited to start my assignment at the beginning of the Richfield land use planning process," said Seidlitz upon assuming his new job. "I look forward to working with the staff specialists and the public in developing our management direction for the next decade."

Seidlitz is a Montana native with a long career of public service. He was born in Chester, MT in 1961 and earned a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology in 1983. He also began his BLM career in 1983 and has worked for the Bureau in petroleum engineering and leadership positions in Wyoming, Alaska, Washington, DC and Montana. Aden and his wife, C.J., have two sons.

As manager of the Richfield Field Office, Seidlitz is in charge of 2.2 million acres of public lands in Garfield, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties in south-central Utah.

Scoping Completed

Between November 2001 and April 2002, the BLM's Richfield Field Office conducted public scoping as the initial phase of developing its new Resource Management Plan (RMP). During this period BLM representatives met with individual citizens, county commissioners and community and interest groups, conducted five public meetings and received written comments. The scoping process identifies issues that will be addressed in developing the new RMP (see p. 2).



Richfield Field Office

182 people attended public meetings in Richfield, Loa, Junction, Manti and Salt Lake City. Additionally, more than 1,100 written comments were submitted in letters, petitions, faxes, and emails. Comments were received from throughout Utah, across the United States and a few from overseas.

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www.RichfieldRMP.com

NOW ON INTERNET

Information about the planning process is now on the Internet at:

www.RichfieldRMP.com

150 East 900 North
Richfield, UT 84701
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SCOPING RESULTS

Comments were compiled according to topic, with comments falling into roughly 12 topic areas. These include:

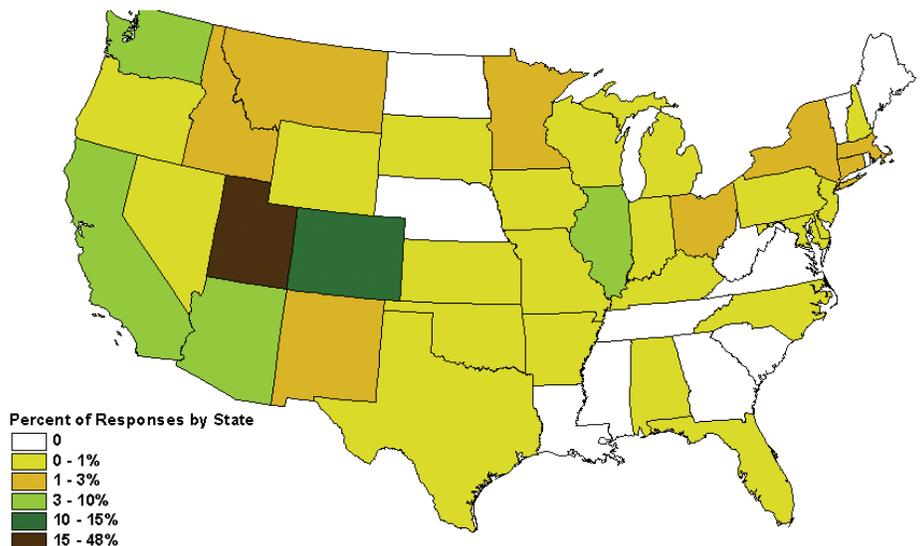
- TRANSPORTATION ACCESS
- ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES
- REALTY
- AIR & WATER QUALITY
- WILDLIFE/HUNTING
- FORESTRY
- LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS
- RANGELAND HEALTH/LIVE-STOCK GRAZING
- RECREATION/OHV
- MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
- CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES
- SPECIAL LAND DESIGNATIONS (Wilderness Study Areas)

Issues Identified in Scoping

Through the five meetings, 182 people registered their attendance. The meeting format allowed each person attending to share his or her issues and concerns for the BLM Richfield management area. Additional comments were received through letter, email and fax. Approximately 1,780 unique comments from nearly 450 letters/faxes/emails and two petitions signed by more than 600 individuals were received.

Comments From Across the Country

Written comments were received via fax, email, standard letters, and a written petition. Including petition signatories, about 1,100 people submitted written comments. The map below shows the states from which comments were received.



What You Said...

"There is plenty of room for everyone. There should not be exclusive use by any one particular use or special interest group. Wilderness areas exclude many more than they include. I am opposed to making anymore wilderness designated areas or even wilderness study areas."

Lyman, Utah

Comments from Scoping

Nearly 1,300 people submitted comments at meetings or through mail, email petition or fax. Below are excerpts from some of the comments received.

For more of "What You Said" log onto www.RichfieldRMP.com

"There are areas of BLM land around Grover and Teasdale. I would like to see some of those lands become private to help our economy."

Torrey, Utah

"I've visited Utah several times and I've never seen any place like it."

Lexington, KY

"In revising the RMP, I urge you to protect the areas as much as possible. It is better to err on the side of preservation."

West Jordan, Utah

"The vast majority of people... will never experience most of Utah's backcountry unless they have some motorized access."

*Pleasant Grove,
Utah*

"Frankly, I think you guys are doing a good job."

Gunnison, Utah

"We do not need additional Wilderness Study Areas! How long are we supposed to 'study' an area for wilderness suitability?"

Fort Collins, CO

"Your task is great, the master harsh, yet the goal worthwhile. Be sure the grandeur of God's or nature's work remains unique as it is now. Good luck..."

New York, NY

"I urge you to write Resource Management Plans that designate as Wilderness Study Areas all wilderness quality lands."

Hurricane, Utah

"Get the cows out. With very few exceptions grazing is now a hobby... Please reduce the number of cows per acre and the number of acres grazed."

Torrey, Utah

"The wild lands in Utah are some of the last great wild lands that remain in our country. They are a national treasure to be appreciated and protected. May we all be thoughtful in that deed."

Washington, DC

"BLM should... fully analyze the socioeconomic costs associated with the boom-bust economies associated with energy development."

Denver, CO

"I propose BLM lands in the Fremont River Valley Between Loa and Capitol Reef National Park be managed as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) because of their significant scenic, recreational, cultural, geologic and plant and wildlife values."

Teasdale, Utah

"To take away the grazing of livestock is the same as taking away a person's livelihood, meager as it may be. It is all they have."

Marysville, Utah

"Please remember that as Federal lands, they are owned by all Americans and not just those who happen to live closest to them."

Champlin, MN

"I would like to see the BLM communicate better and more completely and publicly with everyone... I think the fact that you have advertised the public hearings was helpful and I appreciate your effort to hear from everyone."

Torrey, Utah

"ATVs are not just recreational. They are also very necessary for ranch operations. Do not make it so these vehicles cannot be used where necessary."

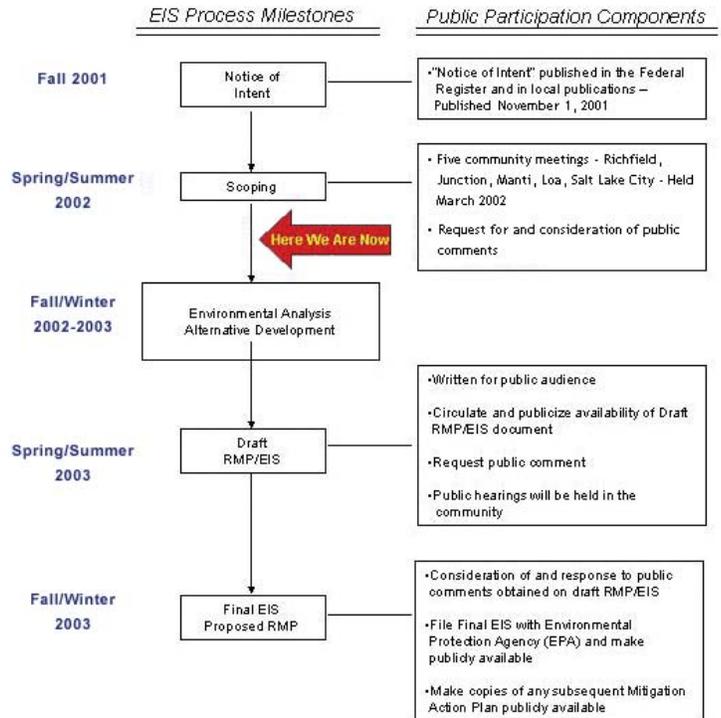
Hanksville, Utah

What is BLM doing?

The Bureau of Land Management is developing a new resource management plan (RMP) for the Richfield Field Office to provide future direction for managing 2.2 million acres of public land in Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne and eastern Garfield counties, and the mineral estate under the adjoining National Forests.



Richfield RMP/EIS Process and Public Participation Components



What's next?

The issues identified in scoping will be used to develop alternatives for managing these lands in the future. These alternatives – including a preferred alternative – will be analyzed and documented in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is scheduled for completion and release to the public in 2003. Upon release, the DEIS will be available for public comment for 90 calendar days. Comments received will be considered and addressed in the final EIS, which will be completed in conjunction with the new Resource Management Plan in 2004.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Richfield Resource Management Plan

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