

Cedar City Field Office RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



MAY 2011

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to the second newsletter for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cedar City Field Office (CCFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We would like to thank all who participated in the CCFO RMP/EIS scoping process. We received 40,128 comment documents including 40,060 form letters, from which a total of 468 discrete comments were identified. Approximately 139 people attended the scoping meetings held in Cedar City, Beaver, and Salt Lake City in December 2010.

The scoping period began on September 10, 2010, with the publication of the Notice of Intent to prepare the RMP/EIS in the *Federal Register*. Scoping continued for 109 days and ended on December 27, 2010. The back of this newsletter provides more information on the scoping process and the comments received, as well as information on the travel management process.

In addition to the scoping meetings, the BLM hosted socio-economic workshops in Cedar City and Beaver in February 2011. These workshops presented information to the public on demographic and economic conditions and trends in these two communities and requested input from the public regarding their economic issues and concerns.

The BLM has also expanded the website for the CCFO RMP/EIS. The website contains maps and other documents. To access the site, go to: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html. Scroll to the section on the CCFO RMP, and click on the link that says "RMP Updates and Contact Information".

What's Next?

The BLM is currently preparing an Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), which summarizes the current management situation, identifies affected resources, and assesses the condition of resources in the planning area. The AMS, along with the issues identified during scoping, will help the BLM formulate resource management alternatives for the RMP.

The BLM will use your comments, the planning issues, and planning constraints identified to date to formulate a reasonable range of management alternatives for evaluation in the EIS. The CCFO will begin this process in August 2011.

Cooperating agencies have been invited to participate in the planning process because of their jurisdiction by law or special expertise on economic, social or local interest and values. Cooperating agencies involved with alternative development include state and county representatives as well as other federal agencies. These agencies will work with the BLM Interdisciplinary Team to develop EIS alternatives.

Following the development of the alternatives, we will conduct an in-depth effects analysis of each alternative to determine how each alternative could impact the human and natural environment in the planning area. This analysis will be incorporated into a Draft RMP/EIS, which is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2013. A 90-day review and public comment period will follow. The Final RMP/EIS will be published in the fall of 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the Cedar City Field Office RMP/EIS. I invite you to remain involved throughout the planning process.
Sincerely,

Randy Trujillo
Cedar City Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The BLM invites you to submit nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR). The criteria which an ACEC or WSR must meet may be found at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.html>. If you submitted nominations for ACECs or WSRs during scoping, they do not need to be resubmitted. The BLM will be accepting ACEC and WSR nominations until May 31, 2011. Please send your nominations to Gina Ginouves, BLM CCFO RMP, 176 East DL Sargent Drive, Cedar City, UT 84721. Nominations may also be sent by email to utccrmp@blm.gov

For More Information Contact:

RMP Project Manager: Gina Ginouves
Phone: 435-865-3011
Email: utccrmp@blm.gov
Cedar City Field Office Website:
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html
Cedar City Field Office Address:
176 East DL Sargent Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721

How Can I Get Involved?

Although the official scoping period is closed, we invite you to continue to submit comments and provide input. We will continue to consider comments and input during the next step of the process, which is alternative formulation.

The RMP revision website will be frequently updated with information, documents, maps, and announcements.

See the box to the left to submit comments or access the website.



Purpose of the Scoping Process

Public involvement is an integral part of the CCFO RMP/EIS preparation. The public scoping process was designed to collect input from the public, local, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties on issues of concern that should be addressed in the RMP. Issues identified will be used to help formulate management alternatives for the RMP.

Scoping Comments

The 109 day scoping period for the CCFO RMP/EIS began on September 10 and ended on December 27, 2010. The BLM advertised the scoping period and the three public scoping meetings via newspaper ads, radio announcements, and flyers posted in multiple communities. Of the 40,128 comment documents received, including 40,060 form letters, 468 individual comments were identified. Comments were received from individuals, businesses, private organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies.

Planning Issues

The BLM analyzed the scoping comments and categorized the comments into key planning issues. The table to the right illustrates those categories and the number of comments received in each category. An in-depth analysis of the scoping comments and key issues are available in the Final Scoping Report posted on the BLM website.

Clarification of the Travel Management Process

The BLM is preparing a Travel Management Plan (TMP) in conjunction with the RMP/EIS. During the public scoping meetings, input was solicited from the public to help the BLM determine which areas of the CCFO will be open to cross-country travel and which areas should be limited or closed. That decision will be part of the RMP process. Separately, in the TMP, all routes within the field office will be designated as open, limited to certain uses or times of the year, or closed. Preparation of the TMP will continue for up to five years past the completion of the RMP/EIS with additional opportunities for public input and comments on the road network.

Number of Comments by Planning Issue Category

Planning Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments
Air Quality and Climate Change	43
Cultural Resources	17
Wildlife and Special Status Species	28
Visual Resources	5
Vegetation (including forests and woodlands, rangelands, riparian/wetland resources)	19
Watershed Management	25
Wild Horses and Burros	29
Lands and Realty	13
Livestock Grazing	14
Minerals and Energy Management	26
Recreation Demand and Uses	76
Transportation and Access	62
Special Designations and Wilderness	76
Social and Economic Conditions (including Public Safety)	17
Cumulative Effects	11
Alternatives Development	7
Total	468

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If so, please email us at utccrmp@blm.gov.

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