



Bears Ears National Monument



Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

How to Comment Effectively

Developing Your Comments¹

Public comment opportunities allow you to be involved in the decision-making process and to ensure your voice is heard. People often have valuable information about places and resources they consider important and information that the BLM and USDA Forest Service may not be aware of or have readily available.

The most effective comments will relate directly to BLM's and USDA Forest Service's draft resource management plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS). Comments that provide relevant and/or new information with sufficient detail are most useful and are referred to as substantive comments, which are used to prepare and revise the RMP/EIS.

Substantive comments will:

- Provide information that the BLM and USDA Forest Service should consider, such as:
 - Identifying factual errors
 - Presenting new information relevant to the analysis
 - Questioning, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information
- Identify different ways to meet the Purpose and Need for Action, such as:
 - Providing solution-oriented or specific examples
 - Describing new alternatives
 - Describing methods to mitigate or reduce potentially harmful effects
- Present information relevant to the analysis of environmental effects, such as:
 - Suggesting methodologies for analyzing environmental impacts
 - Questioning, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of methodology for or assumptions used in the analysis (i.e., describe an alternate methodology commenter prefers and why)
 - Identifying credible sources of information that will aid in analyzing environmental effects
- Describe reasons you agree or disagree with the draft RMP/EIS
- Describe changes you would like to see and why you believe the changes are important

Comments that will not be considered as substantive include:

- Votes for or against an alternative
- Agreements or disagreements with the draft RMP/EIS without reasons
- Agreements or disagreements with laws, regulations, or BLM and USDA Forest Service policies
- Discussions other projects or other areas
- Discussion that include vague, open-ended questions

Examples of Substantive Comments	Example of Non-substantive Comments
I disagree with closing Road 245. I need this road to access my private land.	Stop closing our roads!
Grazing should not be allowed along Dry Creek because they are removing all the vegetation and making the stream muddy.	No grazing should be allowed.
Please move the Blue Trailhead to the 1717 Road junction because it would be closer to the overlook and it would be easier to turn around.	The Blue Trailhead is in a stupid location.

¹ This handout is adapted from the BLM's *How to Comment Effectively* handout, available at: [https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69026/89841/107422/131031_-_How_to_Comment_updated_\(logo\).pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/69026/89841/107422/131031_-_How_to_Comment_updated_(logo).pdf).

Examples of Substantive Comments	Example of Non-substantive Comments
I would like to express my concern regarding the potential impacts on wildlife habitats within the proposed right-of-way (ROW) corridor. Specifically, I urge the BLM and USDA Forest Service to consider alternative routing options that minimize disturbances to critical wildlife habitats located in the ROW corridor .	More should be done to address wildlife habitat.
Cows should not be allowed to graze along the Bird Trail. This area used to be one of my favorite hiking trails and is an outstanding natural area. Cows eat all the plants and leave manure. This area does not look very natural after the cows leave.	Cows should be excluded from hiking areas.

Several websites contain information on commenting and involvement in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. You may find these websites helpful.

Council on Environmental Quality

- CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) (amended September 14, 2020): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-V/subchapter-A>
- CEQ A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: Having Your Voice Heard (revised 2021): <http://energy.gov/nepa/downloads/citizens-guide-nepa-having-your-voice-heard>

Bureau of Land Management

- BLM Headquarters NEPA Program: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa>
- BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1, 01/2008, see Chapters 6 and 9): https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/Media_Library_BLM_Policy_Handbook_h1790-1.pdf
- Planning Manual: https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/mediacenter_blmmanual1601.pdf
- BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1600): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-1600>

How to Comment

- By providing written comments in the comment forms that are available at the comment station. The comment station has comment boxes in which you can place your completed comment form. You may also give your completed form to any BLM or USDA Forest Service employee.
- By providing verbal comments to the court reporter located at the comment station
- Online: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2020347/510>
- By mail (hard copy): 365 North Main Street, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535

The comment period closes on June 11, 2024. All comments received during the public comment period will be considered in the development of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Although 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 or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Thank you for your interest in the Bears Ears National Monument Resource Management Plan
and Environmental Impact Statement and
for attending this meeting!**