



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management – Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Regional Office

Submitting Your Comments

A 90-day public comment period is open from February 28, 2020 to May 28, 2020. The draft resource management plan amendment and environmental impact statement (Draft RMPA/EIS) is available on the project website, www.blm.gov/nm/farmington.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

- Verbally (in English and Navajo) via an automated voicemail line 720-213-5786;
- By fax to 505-564-7608, Attn.: Ms. Sarah Scott, Project Manager;
- Through the project website; or
- By US mail to:

Sarah Scott, BLM Project Manager
6251 College Blvd, Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

or

Mr. Robert Begay, BIA Project Manager
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, NM 87301

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are seeking public input on this draft document. A comment card with instructions on how to submit comments is provided on the back page of this handout.

Why Public Comments Are Important

Public comment periods offer the opportunity for you to provide information to be considered in the decision-making process and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways to accomplish the proposal. This is an opportunity for you to offer data that the agencies can use in their analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives, as well as possible mitigation of potential harmful effects of such actions.

The National Environmental Policy Act "... is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences..." (40 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 1501[e]). To achieve this, the Draft RMPA/EIS considers the effects of the alternatives on economic, cultural, and natural resources in the project area. Citizens such as you often have valuable information about places and resources they consider important and the potential effects proposed federal actions may have on those places and resources.

Providing Effective Comments

Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are the most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. The BLM and BIA review all comments and identify topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.



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Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the Draft RMPA/EIS
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis
- Present new information relevant to the analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the Draft RMPA/EIS
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives
- Suggest changes within the scope of the BLM's or BIA's authority

Comments that are not substantive include:

- Comments in favor of or against an action without any reasoning (such as "I do/don't like ____" without providing any rationale)
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BLM or BIA policy
- Comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions