



# PRELIMINARY ISSUES IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION

North Central Montana District Office  
Lewistown, Malta, & Glasgow Field Offices and Upper Missouri River Breaks  
National Monument  
April 2018

## **Cultural Resources**

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact cultural resources and Native American interests in the project area?

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails within the project allotments?

## **Fish and Wildlife/Special Status Species**

How would the proposed action and alternative elements such as livestock vegetation utilization and fence location impact big game migration and winter range?

How would the proposed action and alternative elements effect greater sage-grouse habitat?

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact other special status species?

## **Paleontological Resources**

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact paleontological resources?

## **Recreation and Public Safety**

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact recreational use; in particular, within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument?

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact public safety on roads and recreation sites?

## **Socioeconomics**

How would the proposed action and alternative elements, such as the change in type of livestock and fence additions and maintenance, impact the economy of the local area?

## **Soil Resources**

How would the proposed action and alternatives (e.g., change in season of use and kind of livestock; fence construction and maintenance) impact soil health and stability within the allotments?

## **Special Designation Lands**

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, and areas of critical environmental concern?

## **Vegetation**

How would the proposed action impact the ability of rangeland and upland vegetation to meet standards outlined in BLM Montana Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management?

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact invasive/non-native species?

## **Visual Resources**

How would the proposed action and alternatives impact the characteristic landscape?

## **Water Resources**

How would the proposed action and the alternatives impact water, wetland, and riparian resources?

How would the proposed action and alternative elements such as alterations in fencing impact wetland areas, particularly those with a functional-at risk classification?

## **Other Laws and Management Plans**

Would the proposed action and alternatives be consistent with other approved or adopted resource-related plans of other federal, state, local, and tribal governments?

How would the proposed action impact livestock grazing management and livestock administration?



# HOW TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

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## Why Public Comments are Important

Public comment periods offer the opportunity for you, the public, to be involved in the BLM's decision-making process and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways for the agency to accomplish what it is being proposed. This is also an opportunity for the public to offer data that the agency can use in its analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action, as well as possible mitigation of potential harmful effects of such actions.

NEPA "... is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences..." [40 CFR 1501(e)]. To achieve this, the analysis considers the effects of the BLM's actions on natural, cultural, and economic resources within the general project area. Citizens such as yourself 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 reviews all comments and identifies topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information used in the analysis
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the analysis
- Present new information relevant to the analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those that will be analyzed in the analysis
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives
- Suggest changes within the scope of BLM'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 policy
- Comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions