

Unit 3.2 Preparation Plan Phase



Unit Objectives

- Describe the role & importance of a preparation plan
- Describe the key contents of a preparation plan
- Identify and discuss key processes in its preparation
- Identify important information sources when developing a preparation plan



3.2 - 1

Role of the Preparation Plan

- Assess present situation as a function of past actions
- Focus planning resources on achieving desired future conditions

See Appendix F-1 and Page 18, Prep Plan in BLM Planning Handbook

3.2 - 2

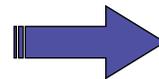
Importance of the Preparation Plan

- The starting point for present planning effort
- Clarifies direction of planning effort
- Must be dynamic and flexible to allow modification to planning strategy
- Establishes framework for management of planning process
- Start of collaborative cycle for the upcoming planning effort

3.2 - 3

Key Contents of the Preparation Plan

- Identifies scope of planning effort (identifies boundaries)
- Identifies anticipated issues and management concerns
- Defines work priorities
- Identifies planning team responsibilities
- Establishes internal and external coordination for involved agencies



3.2 - 4

Key Contents of the Preparation Plan (Cont.)

- Results of Data Gap Analysis
- Identifies need for contracting
- Identifies public participation process
- Identifies timelines for public involvement and EIS comment process
- Identifies schedule of planning effort
- Estimates of costs

3.2 - 5

Preparation Plan Information Sources

- BLM Interdisciplinary team knowledge and experience
- Collaborative groups
- Data Gap Analysis
- Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)
- Plan Decision Evaluation report
- Existing pertinent laws, regulations and planning documents (Planning Criteria)

3.2 - 6

Data Gap Analysis

- What do we have?
- What do we need?
- What do we want?
- Who will gather it?
- How much will it cost?
- When do we need it?
- When will we get it?



See BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix G

3.2 - 7

Purpose of an Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)

- Identify/describe resource or program addressed
- Describe legal/regulatory context
- Conduct resource demand analysis
- Identify and describe current management practices
- Identify current, and future, results of current management practices

See BLM Planning Handbook, H-1601-1, Appendix F-3

3.2 - 8

Purpose of an AMS (Cont.)

- Identify public issues and management concerns
- Conduct consistency evaluation regarding federal, state, local and/or tribal concerns
- Identify critical thresholds: factors to be used in alternatives formulation
- See Appendix F-3 of Planning Handbook for annotated outline of AMS

3.2 - 9

Use of an AMS in the Planning Process

- Establishes the context in which the plan will be developed (affected environment)
- Identify specific actions/policies that are not leading to desired conditions
- Can aid in identifying conditions resulting from the “No Action” alternative
- A basis for preparation plan development

3.2 - 10

Plan Decision Evaluation

- Purpose is to assess role of existing plan decisions in achieving presently desirable conditions
- Assessment of validity of decisions relative to NEPA requirements
- Follow guidelines on page 33, Section V, of Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)
- Identifies which plan decisions can be carried forward into new plan

3.2 - 11

Planning Criteria

- Functional sideboards to which all new planning decisions must conform
- Compilation of portions of existing law, regulations, program guidance, existing studies which are pertinent
- Tailors plan decisions to pertinent issues
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix F-1, section C.

3.2 - 12

Basic Sources of Planning Criteria

- FLPMA requirements
- BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2)
- Other federal environmental and resource management laws
- Cooperating agencies planning criteria
- Collaborating groups' planning criteria

3.2 - 13

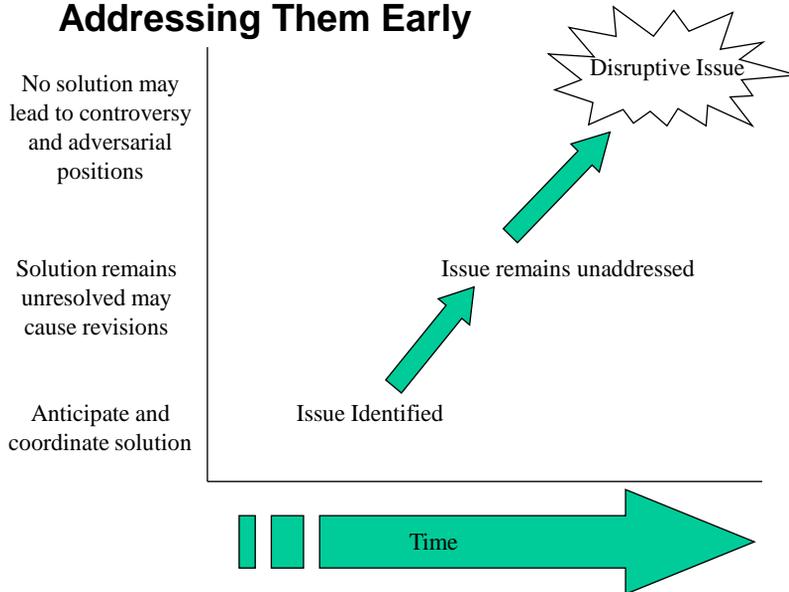
Preliminary Issue Identification Begins during Preparation Plan Phase



- Based on input from other agencies, the public, and BLM staff
- Best accomplished through collaborative process
- Does not begin or end during preparation plan, is an ongoing process of clarification and resolution

3.2 - 14

Issue Identification: Advantages of Addressing Them Early

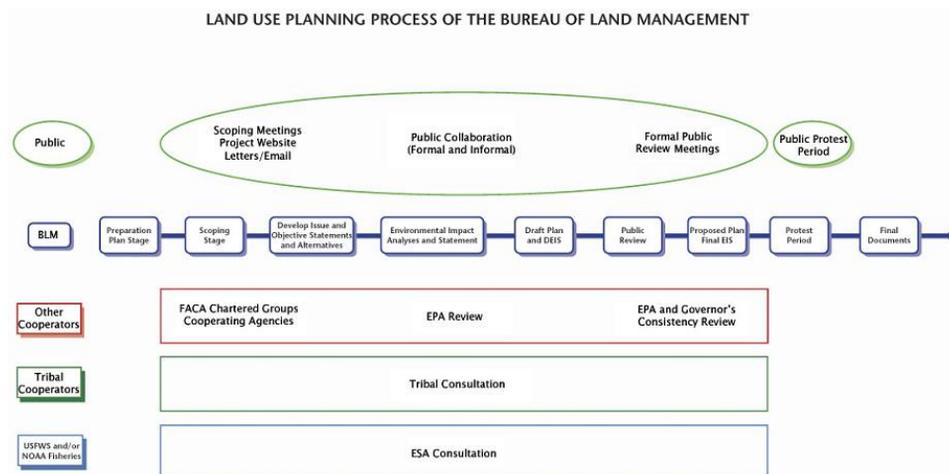


3.2 - 15

Preparation Plan Assessment: Resources to Prepare RMP and EIS

- Availability of BLM staff: planning or technical
- Availability of Cooperators to assist
- Availability of funds for outsourcing:
 - ◆ Planning
 - ◆ Technical
 - ◆ Public outreach
 - ◆ Procedural
- Contractor selection process

3.2 - 16



3.2 - 17

Notes

- What I have learned so far....

Notes

- What I am going to do differently when I get back to my office...