

Jan 2008

Planning Nuts & Bolts

Group Exercises

January 2008

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
National Training Center

List of Group Exercises

Unit #	Exercise #	Time Allotted	Topic of Exercise
1.0	A	15 minutes	Planning Cycle – Intro to Course
2.1	B	20 minutes	Preliminary Planning Issues
2.1	C	25 minutes	FLPMA
2.1	D	25 minutes	Planning Regulations
3.4	E	45 minutes	Scoping & Identifying Planning Issues
3.4	F	N/A	<i>Combined with Exercise E</i>
3.5	G	30 minutes	Write a Vision Statement and Goals
3.5	H	50 minutes	Write Objectives and Management Actions
3.6	I	20 minutes	Data-Gathering Process
3.7	J	15 minutes	Type of Impacts
3.8	K	75 minutes	Identify Preferred Alternative w/Collaborators
3.9	L	20 minutes	Evaluate Comments
3.10	M	25 minutes	Write Proposed Plan/Final EIS
4.1	N	20 minutes	Land Use Plan Decisions
5.0	Unit 5	60 minutes	Summary / Wrapping it All Up

Exercise A: Planning Cycle

Purpose of Exercise

Understand the importance of individual perceptions of planning and use these perceptions as a foundation for developing a successful, collaborative, and legally adequate process.

Instructions

Individuals will draw a diagram on 11" x 17" paper that depicts their perception of a planning process (for example planning a vacation).

Reporting/Recording Results

Participants may be asked to show and explain their process.

Post diagrams on the wall.

Time

Draw diagrams—10 minutes

Present results—5 minutes

Exercise B: Preliminary Planning Issues

Purpose of Exercise

Identify/refine issues, circumstances, and events that are unique to your field office, which should be addressed in your land use plan.

Instructions

Each small group develops a list of the 3 most important issues, circumstances, or events facing the BLM in your office that need to be addressed in your upcoming plan.

If your office had the Planning Concepts class:

- Begin with the results of the Issues & Planning Questions exercise,
- Select one of the 4 groups' outcomes,
- Refine the planning question, citizen issues, management concerns, and/or communication/action opportunities based on the knowledge and experience of the people in your group.

Reporting/Recording Results

List your results on a flip chart and be prepared to discuss them with the entire class.

Time

Develop/refine issues—10 minutes

Present results—10 minutes

Exercise C: Federal Land and Policy Management Act

Purpose of Exercise

To read, understand, and explain Section 202 of the BLM's Organic Act, the Federal Land and Policy Management Act. This is the law that requires the BLM to develop land use plans for public lands.

Instructions

Each small group will read a section of FLPMA that is assigned to them and be ready to explain it to the rest of the class. Use your own words, don't just read it to the class.

Table 1: Section 202(a)

Table 2: (c) (1) and (2)

Table 3: (c) (3) and (4)

Table 4: (c) (5) and (6)

Table 5: (c) (7) and (8)

Table 6: (c) (9)

Reporting/Recording Results

Describe to the class what your assigned sections of FLPMA mean.

Time

Read FLPMA – 10 minutes

Report out – 15 minutes

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Exercise D: BLM Planning Regulations

Purpose of Exercise

To read, understand, and explain the BLM's planning regulations (43 CFR 1601 and 1610). These regulations establish a process for developing, modifying, and using resource management plans.

Instructions

Each small group will read the section(s) of the regulations that is assigned to them and be ready to explain it to the rest of the class. Use your own words, don't just read it to the class.

1. 1601.0-1, -2, -4
2. 1601.0-5 (n)
3. 1610.2 (a)-(c)
4. 1610.3-1 (a)-(c)
5. 1610.3-2 (a)-(c)
6. 1610.7-2

Reporting/Recording Results

Describe to the class what your assigned sections of the regulations mean.

Time

Read the regulations – 10 minutes

Report out – 15 minutes

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Exercise E: Scoping & Identifying Planning Issues

Purpose of Exercise

Identify stakeholders. Develop a scoping strategy to include them in the planning process and learn their interests. Frame planning issues in an objective, non-confrontational manner. It is based on your land use plan.

Instructions

Each small group will:

1. Develop a list of key potential stakeholders who might be interested in your plan.
2. List the types of formal and informal interactions you would hold during the scoping period to determine their *interests*. Be creative!
3. Take the *position* statement that is assigned to you and determine the *interest*. Write an objective, non-confrontational, neutral interest-based issue statement or question that could be used for your land use plan. (If you can't relate to the statement given to you, you can create your own interest-based statement.)
 1. "Maximize the amount of acres designated and managed for wilderness with little or no formal access to protect habitat."
 2. "Open up more land in all sectors of the planning area to accommodate the increasing demands for off-road vehicle use."
 3. "Sell back land in designated areas to private interests for local economic development—we need it desperately."
 4. "Riparian corridors are being trampled and impacted—reduce cattle grazing overall and find some way to keep cattle out of the sensitive stream areas."
 5. "You had better have an alternative that accounts for the economic effects. All this public land preservation has depressed our economy."
 6. "Passive recreation such as hiking, bird-watching, cross-country skiing, and photography should take precedence over highly impacting uses, such as motorized recreation."

Recording/Reporting Results

Record on flip charts to report to the class:

1. Collaborators
2. Interactions
3. Issue statement/question.

Talk about how you determined the interest from the position, and how you went from that to your planning issue.

Time: Develop responses—25 minutes

Presentation to class—20 minutes

Exercise G: Writing a Vision Statement and Goals

Purpose of Exercise

Develop/refine a vision and a goal for your planning area.

Instructions

Step 1: Each small group will write a concise vision statement for your planning area and report it out to the class.

Step 2: Each small group will then write a goal statement(s) for one of the topics listed below and report out to the class.

NOTE: You will use your vision and goal for future exercises. If you had the Planning Concepts class recently, you can begin with one of the vision statements and one of the goal statements created during that class and refine them.

In writing the vision and goal, take into account pertinent factors such as: legal sideboards (such as the Endangered Species Act and NEPA), knowledge of your planning area and likely stakeholder interests, and the BLM Mission.

The BLM's Mission: The BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

NEPA: Encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between people and their environment;
Promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of people;
Enrich the understanding of ecological systems & natural resources important to the Nation.

Vision Statement

Your vision statement should answer the question: *What do you want this area to look like and how do you want it to function over the next several decades?*

Thus, your vision should begin with something like this:

"In the future, the xxxx planning area will be a place that..."

Goals

1. Goal for ecosystem health, management and restoration:

2. Goal for recreation management:

3. Goal for economic health and sustainability of local communities:

4. Goal for endangered and threatened species:

5. Goal for integration and consideration of American Indian tribal issues and issues of other special populations (per Environmental Justice):

6. Goal for water quality:

Recording/Reporting Results

Step 1: Write your vision for the planning area on a flip chart. Present it to the class.

Step 2: Write your goal(s) to achieve the vision on a flip chart. Present it to the class.

Time

Write & present vision —15 minutes

Write & present goal(s) — 15 minutes

Exercise H: Writing Management Objectives and Management Actions

Purpose of Exercise

Develop resource-related objectives and management actions to support the vision and goal(s) from the previous exercise.

Instructions

Step 1: Using the vision and goal(s) you wrote for Exercise G, write a SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable/realistic, trackable) objective that would fit under each alternative. (Bonus: As you're writing your objective, try to write it so it will facilitate monitoring when implementing the plan.)

Step 2: Write one or more management actions to achieve each objective. Your management action(s) could include allocations, or activities/uses that would be prohibited, allowed, or limited.

NOTE: You will use the management objective and actions in the next exercise.

Recording/Reporting Results: Write objectives and management actions on the flip chart. Display your vision and goals also.

Time: Writing: 30 minutes. Present results: 20 minutes.

Exercise I: Data-Gathering Process

Purpose of Exercise

Identify the data needed for a plan.

Instructions

Using the management actions or objectives that you developed in the previous exercise, each small group will determine what data would be needed to adequately evaluate/analyze them. This information should also support the manager's decision and could help him/her make a decision (select a Preferred Alternative) using the data.

1. List data needed to conduct the analysis
2. Identify the sources of that data

Recording/Reporting Results

Record responses on flip charts. Present them to the class.

Time

Develop data needs—10 minutes

Present results—10 minutes

Exercise J: Type of Impacts

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to identify potential impacts and the methods to evaluate them.

Assume the population of Elwarps is predicted to double from 20,000 to 40,000 in 7 years. Base the potential impacts on the following proposed management actions and allocations in the Shimmery Mountains planning area:

- Mineral and geothermal exploration on 300,000 acres
- OHV use would increase (few restrictions in the planning area)
- Designation of a redband trout reserve along Rudolph the Red Creek
- Protection of known sacred tribal sites
- 200% increase to 5,000 acres for fuel reduction (thinning, burning, or other methods).

Instructions

Each small group will list what impacts would occur and how they should be evaluated.

1. Impacts to air and/or water and/or soils (depending on the expertise in your group)
2. Impacts to special status species (listed or candidate or sensitive fish, wildlife, plants)
3. Impacts to historical and/or archaeological and/or tribal resources
4. Impacts to vegetation
5. Social and/or economic impacts to the local communities
6. Impacts to recreation (including visual resources)

Identify:

1. Direct/indirect effects
2. Cumulative effects
3. Geographic scale on which the impact should be evaluated

Recording/Reporting Results

Record your conclusions on flip charts and be prepared to present them.

Time

Develop list of impacts—10 minutes.

Present results—5 minutes

The Shimmery Mountains Planning Area

(For Exercise K)

Location

The Shimmery Mountains are located approximately 60 miles southeast of the town of Elwarps. This fault-block range and its surroundings offer a diversity of natural systems that is unique to the Great Basin region. From the valley floor of the Serendipity Desert, at 4,200 feet elevation, to the east rim of the fault block at 9,700 feet elevation, the Shimmery Mountains rise 5,500 feet in less than 3 miles. The mountains are approximately 60 miles in length, extending from Joker Mountain on the north to Serendipity Peak and Empty Hollow on the south. Its width is approximately 40 miles from the Serendipity Desert on the east, across the fault-block to the Rudolph the Red and Dasher Valleys on the west.

The Shimmery Mountains and their surroundings offer exceptional ecologic and geologic diversity—volcanic uplifts, deep glacial carved gorges, stunning scenery, potential wilderness, wild rivers, and a rich diversity of plant and animal species—and a way of life for all who live there. The mountains provide spectacular views of deep, glacial gorges; stunning colorful alpine wildflower meadows; high-desert communities; and the opportunity to see pronghorn antelope, elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and numerous raptors. The 52-mile Shimmery Mountains Backcountry Byway offers access to 4 campgrounds on the mountain and affords remarkable views of Fool's Gold Gorge, the east rim, and Gold overlooks. These views enhance public enjoyment of the area. Fishing, hunting, hiking, and bird watching have long been important activities in the area.

Background

For the past year, there has been a cooperative effort between state's Congressional delegation, the Governor, and the Secretary of the Interior to identify ways of providing long-term protection to the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the Shimmery Mountains area. One idea that has emerged is to formally designate approximately 500,000 acres of federal land in the 900,000-acre planning area as a Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).

The CMPA would be collaboratively managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a newly created Shimmery Mountains Advisory Council with the purpose of conserving, protecting, and managing the long-term ecological integrity of the Shimmery Mountains for future and present generations. Within this area, cooperative and innovative management projects would be maintained and enhanced between the BLM, private landowners, tribes, and other interests. Grazing, timber harvest, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, wilderness, mineral extraction, cultural uses, and other activities will need to be evaluated to determine their consistency with the purpose that would be established for the area.

Wilderness Study Area

The Shimmery Mountains is a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The planning team is recommending 200,000 acres of the area be designated as wilderness (see maps). The WSA includes all the higher elevation areas of the Shimmery Mountains as well as some of the lower elevation areas.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are being proposed for designation in and around the Shimmery Mountains planning area (see map). They are the Pickett Rim ACEC in the northwest, Alvord ACEC in the south, and Steens ACEC in the east. The management emphasis in these areas would be for resource protection.

Livestock Grazing

Since the late 1800s, the entire area has been open to livestock grazing. Cattle brought in during the summer months have grazed many of the high meadows, considered to be very sensitive to disturbance. A land exchange provision being considered could block nearly 100,000 acres of the recommended wilderness from livestock grazing (see maps). This area would include the upper elevations of the Shimmery Mountains, which would be managed to protect the pristine environment.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Rudolph the Red Creek is currently designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Two additional segments—Ankledeep Creek and Waistdeep Creek—have been found to be eligible and suitable for designation, and are being considered as additions to the Rudolph the Red Creek. Three other streams within the planning area are also being considered for designation—Gold Creek, Little Gold Creek, and Fool's Gold Creek.

Cultural Resources and Tribal Traditional Use Lands

The area is rich in archaeological and historical resources and there are numerous cultural resource sites known in the area. Native American Tribes in the region have traditionally used some areas within the planning area to collect materials for use in ceremonies and for other purposes; other areas have traditionally been used as ceremonial sites, and are considered sacred. Many traditional gathering areas, both within the planning area and the surrounding region, have disappeared or are no longer available because of changes in land use, land ownership, or water diversions.

Mineral and Geothermal Extraction

Approximately 600,000 acres (2/3) of the planning area is being considered for withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under mining laws and operation of mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and minerals material laws. However, saleable minerals (sand and

gravel) could be extracted from existing sources in this area for road maintenance only. Mineral and geothermal exploration and extraction would be allowed in the remaining area (up to 300,000 acres), as long as it met stringent standards for environmental protection, including maintaining the visual quality of the area

Sustainable Timber Harvest

A lumber mill is located in the burgeoning community of Elwarps just north of the Shimmery Mountains planning area. Up to 100,000 acres outside the area being considered for wilderness recommendation are being considered for sustainable timber harvest that also meets stringent standards for environmental protection.

Surrounding Communities

Several small communities are located within and near the planning area. The communities on the west and north sides of the planning area have been growing actively over the past several years. Elwarps has more than doubled in size in the past decade, with a current population of around 20,000. Several new golf courses and retirement developments have sprung up in and around Elwarps, Emerald, and La Place. Many more houses are nestled in among the trees, increasing the rural-urban interface issues, especially fire suppression. La Place hosts a national bird festival each spring and has numerous new restaurants and B&Bs.

Nearby communities depend on timber harvest, mineral extraction, and to a lesser extent, livestock grazing, from the region to maintain their economies. The newer people moving in don't seem to rely as much on the extractive resource use to maintain their lifestyle.

OHV Use

Currently, there are few restrictions on OHV use in the planning area. In recent years, OHV use has increased greatly. Many local ranchers and other interest groups have complained about the impacts to lands from the increased use.

Other Recreation

Up until the past decade, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and hiking were the primary recreational activities in the area. In recent years, recreation use has increased greatly in the area coincident with population growth in the region. Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are winter and spring sports that occur mostly in the higher elevation areas. In addition to the increased OHV use, backpacking, mountain biking, nature photography, bird watching, and rock climbing are popular in spring, summer, and fall. Several developed campgrounds and a number of primitive and dispersed campsites are found throughout the area. Some boating occurs on area lakes. Wind sailing on the Serendipity Desert has become a highly popular activity in the past few years with organized competitions each spring.

Biological and Related Considerations

The area is home to a diversity of large animals, including pronghorn antelope, elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain lion. In addition, the area provides seasonal or year-round habitat for many species of raptors, water birds, and songbirds. The neighboring Malthuse National Wildlife Refuge provides some of the most important and diverse habitat within the region and nation. A wild horse herd is actively managed in the planning area.

Redband trout, a sensitive species in the state, are of particular concern. The first ever reserve for Redband Trout is being considered along Rudolph the Red Creek to improve stream health and fish habitat.

Exotic plant species are encroaching in some areas. Western juniper is one of the species of concern. A Wildland Juniper Management Area (approximately 3,000 acres) has been proposed for purposes of experimentation, education, interpretation, and to demonstrate management techniques to restore the historic fire regime and native vegetation communities.

Exercise K: Identify a Preferred Alternative w/Collaborators

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is for participants to collaboratively identify a Preferred Alternative for the Shimmery Mountains Draft Plan while learning to:

- interact in a potentially contentious setting in a way that meets individual interests while still preserving a collaborative exchange;
- experience the complexities of intersecting interests, coalitions and group dynamics in selecting a preferred alternative; and
- consider how different issues can be traded off to reach agreement on a preferred alternative.

Instructions

Assume that over the past weeks or months you have been working together, formally and informally, to develop a Preferred Alternative. Consensus has been reached on most of the alternative. Only four areas of disagreement remain. The instructors will tell you what has been agreed on and what still needs to be discussed.

Each table of six students will represent a coalition of one of the following:

- local elected officials (includes economic development interests, mayor, county commissioner, etc.)
- environmentalists (includes local, regional, and national representatives)
- recreation interests (motorized and/or non-motorized, boaters, OHV users, and hikers)
- tribal representatives (could include tribal members, as well as resource specialists)
- extractive commodity users (mining, grazing, timber, etc)
- adjacent landowners (could include those with hunting, fishing, access issues; and/or those with grazing interests)

The instructors will represent the BLM.

As a member of a small group, your responsibility is to “play your role” as a part of the collaborative planning process, while also working with the larger group to achieve consensus. Remember that you have already been in meetings for many months and know each other’s respective positions and interests. Focus on interests not positions. State *why* you want something, not just *what* you want. Look for ways to make trade-offs to get your highest priority needs met, while helping others to also have their needs met.

Stage 1: Caucus

The first stage of this exercise is a 15-minute “caucus” meeting, where each group of similar (but not identical) interests will:

- Become familiar with your table’s identity and interests.
- Review the alternatives.
- Try to agree on how to fill out the rest of the matrix for the Preferred Alternative. There may not be total agreement within your caucus, but members are encouraged to understand the value/power of a supportive caucus.
- Consider what the other groups will want and formulate strategies on how to address their issues, who could be your ally, what things might be easier to give up than others, what things they are going to hold fast on.
- Identify a spokesperson

Stage 2: Preliminary Meeting

For about 15 minutes, each spokesperson will tell the class where their group stands on the remaining issues. The goal of this meeting is to identify and record the participants’ preferences regarding a preferred alternative. Discussion should be limited to understanding where a group is coming from (that is, why an alternative is preferred for a particular resource).

Stage 3: Negotiation/Caucus

For another 15 minutes, get back into your small groups with the intent of negotiating with the other groups, trying to reach consensus on the remaining elements of the Preferred Alternative. You can send a delegate to another table, pass notes, get your entire group to meet with another entire group, whatever you can think of to come to agreement. Each group’s job is to try to achieve their interests, while also allowing others to achieve their interests.

Stage 4: Final Meeting

The groups will come together for the last time to see if there has been any movement among the issues. The goal of this meeting is to engage in discussion of how to either achieve consensus or to narrow the number of unresolved issues and chart a future course of action. It should take about 30 minutes. The instructors will facilitate and record the final meeting.

Time

Initial coalition building (Stage 1)—15 minutes

Preliminary group meeting to present position (Stage 2)—15 minutes

Collaboration and negotiation (Stage 3)—15 minutes

Final meeting (Stage 4)—30 minutes

The Alternatives

Based on input received throughout the planning process, the BLM has developed four alternatives (including the No-Action Alt). The following table lists key distinctions and differences among the alternatives. The preferred alternative for each issue area is in bold. Four areas still needing resolution are bolded.

Shimmery Mountains Plan				
Issue Area	Alternative # 1	Alternative # 2	Alternative # 3	No-Action Alternative (continuation of 15-year old MFP)
Management Emphasis	Environmental protection with more limited uses	Balance of use and preservation emphasizing water-related resources	Economic uses that also allow for considerable ecosystem restoration and public land acquisition	Continue with existing emphasis of commodity production, with little emphasis on environmental protection
Ecosystem Restoration Potential	Relatively low, minimal funding, restoration work would be inconsistent with the short-term goal of resource protection. Cooperative efforts could provide funding	Moderate opportunities, moderate funding	High because of high funding from many private partners	Limited to an ad-hoc basis, not a priority or an emphasis
Land Acquisition or Exchange Potential	No revenues for acquisition and no exchanges proposed	Moderate priority to exchange forested lands for sensitive high elevation areas	High priority to acquire sensitive lands	No proposals or funding in place
Fire Management	Low level of prescribed burning	Moderate level of prescribed burning	Intensive use of prescribed burns	Low to moderate level, but low priority, of prescribed burning
Wilderness Recommendation	200,000 acres	125,000 acres	100,000 acres	0 acres

Issue Area	Alternative # 1	Alternative # 2	Alternative # 3	No-Action Alternative (continuation of 15-year old MFP)
Grazing Allowed	50,000 acres	200,000 acres	400,000 acres	Unlimited
Timber activities allowed	50,000 acres, 400' riparian buffers	175,000 acres depending on exchanges, 200' riparian buffers	200,000 acres depending on exchanges, 100' riparian buffers	Unlimited, with 100' riparian buffers
OHV usage	Limited to 150 miles of designated roads and trails	Limited to 350 mi of designated roads and trails, 200' riparian buffers closed to OHV use	Limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 500 miles), with a 200-acre open area	Open
Recommendation for Wild and Scenic River Status	All 5 creeks and Rudolph the Red addition (120 miles)	Ankledeep Creek, Waistdeep Creek, and Rudolph the Red addition (90 miles)	Rudolph the Red addition only (30 miles)	Existing Rudolph the Red only
Recreation	20 miles of designated hiking trails	50 miles of designated hiking trails	75 miles of designated hiking trails	Existing facilities (15 miles of designated hiking trails)
Areas open to leasable mineral exploration	50,000 acres	100,000 acres	200,000 acres	Unlimited in unprotected areas

Exercise L: Evaluate Comments

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is for participants to practice writing objective, non-defensive, and legally adequate responses to difficult comments received on the Draft EIS. *It is not necessarily based on the Shimmery Mountains plan area.*

Instructions

The instructor will read each comment listed below. You will be asked to briefly frame/outline a response to the following questions:

- What is the real issue being stated in the comments?
- What type of response is needed, if any?
- How would a response be framed?
- Could this comments/response result in the need for a Supplemental Draft EIS?

Comment 1: “The alternatives contained in the Draft EIS are inadequate. They do not cover a broad range, none of them solve the real resource problems, and all of them result in unacceptable impacts. The alternatives analysis needs to be completely redone”

Response:

Comment 2: “The Draft Plan and EIS do not comply with either the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) or the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to multiple procedural violations. The BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have conflicting mandates for managing fish and wildlife. There are no consistent standards for protecting endangered species habitat. The BLM did not properly consult with USFWS and has ignored their recommendations. “

Response:

Comment 3: “Alternative 3, the agency’s preferred plan, is completely flawed and should be scrapped. First, it will totally destroy the economic fabric of the 5 communities surrounding the area. There is virtually no analysis of this in the Draft EIS. Second, it does not include any specifics on how various uses of the land will be managed, including

grazing, timber, and oil and gas exploration. The BLM needs a whole new alternative that realistically addresses local economic needs and I have attached my version of such an alternative...”

Response:

Comment 4: “This land should never have been set aside as a Cooperative Management Area. The federal government has no business locking up private land in this way. You cannot manage land properly, and this hopelessly flawed Plan/Draft EIS makes that clear. The BLM’s preferred alternative should be to return the land to private owners who can do something productive with it. In summary, the plan is un-American!”

Response:

Comment 5: “The protocol used to evaluate the likelihood of archaeological resources in the area is out-of-date. Various professional associations have developed far more accurate methods of analysis. Additionally, the BLM staff preparing such analysis did not have the appropriate academic training and qualifications to conduct such analysis because they only had B.A. degrees in archaeology and have only worked in the field for a short period of time. Therefore, the analysis is flawed, and you should write a supplemental EIS.”

Response:

Comment 6: “The draft plan and EIS fail to adequately evaluate the impacts on the surrounding community. It should include a detailed evaluation of the fiscal, economic, and social impacts on the city and its citizens. Furthermore, you didn’t adequately evaluate the impacts on the tribal communities in the state.”

Response:

Time: Reading comments and class responses—20 minutes

Exercise M: Write Proposed Plan/Final EIS

Purpose of Exercise

This exercise is designed to give participants the opportunity to turn a management action from a Draft Plan into a management action in a Proposed Plan, taking into consideration the comments of various stakeholders.

Instructions

Using the information below, each small group will:

1. Read the proposed management actions below.
2. Read the public comments on the next page.
3. Modify any of the management actions that you feel are necessary. Write the edits on the flip chart.
4. Report changes to the class

Proposed Management Actions in the Draft Plan/EIS

1. 200 miles of routes would be designated. Off-highway vehicles and mountain bikes would be allowed only on these designated routes.
2. No management activities would be allowed within the 100' riparian buffer along upper Dry Creek
3. 100 miles of the Low-Land Route would cross designated grazing areas.
4. 5 miles of the Blueberry Hill Route would parallel Dry Creek with one in-stream crossing along lower Dry Creek.

Comments

- 1. Environmental organization:** “Eliminate or minimize the Blueberry Hill Route. A 300-foot buffer should be required between the route and the stream. Install a bridge to replace the in-stream crossing.”
- 2. Mountain Bike Association:** “Provide motorized vehicles and bicycles with separate routes of similar length, scenic value, and access to amenities in the planning area.”
- 3. Cattleman’s Association:** “Re-route the Low-Land Route because the OHVs are scaring our cows. Why don’t you locate the road within the riparian area along the stream since it’s proposed to be off-limits to grazing.”
- 4. OHV Association:** “The restrictions for off-route travel are unfair and overly restrictive. Some off-route areas should be allowed.”
- 5. State Department of Fish and Game:** “The vehicle routes identified in the Draft Plan are not consistent with state policies with regard to protecting fish and wildlife. They’re too close to Dry Creek, which is prime elk and redband trout habitat.”

Recording/Reporting Results

Each group will describe what they changed and why.

Time

20 minutes

Exercise N: Land Use Plan Decisions

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to show how to use a land use plan when considering a proposed action.

Instructions

Assume the record of decision for the EIS has been signed and the resource management plan is in effect. Each small group will be asked to evaluate one of the proposed actions and answer the following questions. In doing so, consider the applicable objectives and management actions in the table (from the ROD/adopted plan).

1. Which objectives and management actions would be applicable to your proposed action?
2. Would the proposed action be consistent with the applicable objectives and management activities?
3. Would an amendment be necessary?
4. What level of NEPA compliance would be necessary (CX, DNA, EA, EIS)?

Recording/Reporting Results

Talk about question 1 with your table mates.

Write your responses to questions 2 – 4 on flip charts and be prepared to discuss them with the class.

Time

Evaluation of projects—15 minutes

Presentation of results—10 minutes

Summary of Plan Objectives and Management Actions		
Resource/ Program	Objective	Management Action
Fluid Minerals	Make available for leasing lands that are not closed to oil & gas leasing by statute.	Stipulations would be attached to lease sale parcels requiring seasonal closures to minimize disturbance in crucial wildlife habitats; No Surface Occupancy in wetlands, designated riparian areas, on steep slopes and/or with highly erosive soils.
Rangeland Health	Restore watershed health and minimize pollutant loading into streams within the planning area.	Livestock would be removed early in the year to allow re-growth of vegetation, when feasible.
Realty – Land Tenure Adjustment	Consolidate land ownership and management patterns by acquiring in-holdings and parcels adjacent to BLM-administered lands and areas of high resource importance.	Lands would be acquired, through exchange or purchase, to enhance BLM's management of public lands. Focus primarily on sensitive areas such as wilderness areas, ACECs, and RNAs.
Realty – Rights-of-Way	Support the expansion and development of infrastructure in the planning area.	Encourage the use of utility corridors for ROW projects where feasible. Consider ROW projects in the planning area, using appropriate terms and conditions and best management practices to reduce impacts.
Recreation	Balance and equitably allocate areas for high-intensity and low-intensity recreational uses.	Only low-intensity recreational uses would be allowed in primitive areas. High-intensity recreational uses would be allowed only in VRM Class III and IV areas.
Visual Resources	Protect scenic viewsheds and values.	Management activities could not drop VRM Class I and II lands to the next lower class. If scenic quality in these areas were adversely affected in the short term, then mitigation would be required to improve the scenic quality in the long term.
Water Quality/ Wetlands	Protect water quality and wetlands from erosion and siltation.	Intensive management activities would be prohibited in or near wetlands, or on slopes with high erosion potential.
Wildlife	Minimize disturbance of elk herds by limiting OHV use to certain areas.	Strategies for reducing OHV use in sensitive breeding areas and migration routes during appropriate seasons would be developed through consultation w/state wildlife officials.

VRM = Visual Resource Management
OHV = Off-Highway Vehicle

ROW = right-of-way
ACEC = area of critical environmental concern

Proposed action # 1: Fiber-optic cable projectA private applicant applies for approval to cross BLM-administered land for a fiber-optic cable project. The project would involve 50 miles of trenching on BLM-administered land and would include several stream crossings. The applicant proposes to follow established roadways for most of the construction, but some cable routes would go across open range.

Proposed action # 2: OHV event

An OHV user group notified the BLM that it is proposing to organize a large rally on BLM-administered land. More than 5,000 vehicles are expected. Once they gather, the participants would engage in a 200-mile ride using established dirt and gravel roads, when feasible.

Proposed action # 3: Grazing allotments

The Bovine Cattle Company has applied to change its season of use from the current March 1 – May 15 to February 15 – June 15. They are also asking to decrease their AUMs (animal unit months) from 500 to 400 on the same allotment.

Proposed action # 4: Access to proposed wilderness area

BLM recreation staff proposed to construct an access road, parking lot, picnic area and designated trailhead next to a newly designated wilderness area. This project requires construction activities in and adjacent to wetlands.

Proposed action # 5: Land exchange

A private land development company has proposed a land exchange under which it would deed to BLM a 500-acre sensitive wetland site in exchange for 500 acres of BLM-administered land adjacent to an urbanizing area. The development company has expressed interest in putting a shopping center and townhouses on the site. The BLM is interested in the wetlands area to expand an already designated ACEC.

Proposed action # 6: Oil & gas lease

The XYZ Production Company has nominated a 640-acre parcel of federal minerals for leasing. The BLM state office sent the field office the quarterly oil and gas draft sale parcel list for review. The NW half of the nominated section is within an area mapped as elk winter range. The draft sale parcel also contains 60 acres of wet lands in the SE quarter of the section. A population of endangered plants occurs within two miles of the draft parcel.

Unit 5 Exercise: Summary / Wrapping it All Up

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to review what you've learned for the week. Rather than hearing the summary from the instructors, you will hear it from each other.

Instructions

Each person will select a card from the envelope. On the card you will see the name and number of one of the units from this week's training. Take 5 minutes to review that unit and identify what you feel are its most important / relevant points. Be ready to report them out to the rest of the class.

Recording/Reporting Results

Starting with Unit 2.1, and continuing in order, each person will report their critical points from the unit.

NOTE: Most units will be reviewed by 2 people. If you are the 2nd person to report out, then only include points that have not already been mentioned.

Time

Reviewing your unit and determining the most important points —5 minutes

Presentation of results—30-60 minutes