

Submitting Public Comments on ePlanning Documents (1610-41): Finding a Document

The BLM provides an opportunity for members of the public to comment on planning and NEPA documents. Before we begin, let us mention three helpful notes to assist you with viewing documents.

First, be aware that there are several pages to click through to get to the NEPA register from the national BLM website. However, don't worry, we will help to guide you through that process.

Second, the registers and commenting process for NEPA and land use planning are the same. If you find yourself viewing the NEPA register instead of the planning register, you can easily switch between the two using a small hyperlink located at the bottom of the register.

Third and last, if you have difficulty finding a specific document that you wish to view, please contact your local BLM office for a direct link to that document.

Okay, here's how you would access a document. Go to the national BLM website at www.blm.gov. Once that page is loaded up, click on What We Do on the left side of that screen. Notice the Planning subcategory. Click on that link.

On this page on the right side of the screen you should notice a planning box. Near the bottom of that box there is a link for E-gov and for planning and NEPA.

On this screen, again on the right side, click on Find NEPA Planning Documents.

Finally, midway through this new page, there is a link for BLM NEPA Register or NEPA Register. Click on one of these.

On the Register page for NEPA documents, you can utilize filters that are displayed on the middle of the screen to specify specific criteria for your documents (for example, state, year, or program) that can help you find a specific item that you might be looking for.

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For this demonstration however, let's look at all existing projects in the NEPA database with an open comment period. We will only check the box for open comment period and click Search. In this example, the search for documents with open comment periods gives us five results.

Clicking on the link for one of these results on the left side will open up that project site. In the left-hand column, you will see many useful links for this project. For the moment, let's click on Documents on the left.

On this screen, you will notice specifically that there are PDFs that are available to you to download and view the documents at your leisure. Along with this, there's also an interactive document feature displayed by this globe and HTML icon, which is used for commenting on documents.