

Now, we have an email from Helen Hankins our director in Colorado.

Pay attention.

This is important, guys.

She has two questions.

Is there a requirement that prefers alternatives in draft RMPs must include recommendations for the protection of wilderness character in one or more of those alternatives?

I can repeat it --

>> S. Gaugush: To answer that question, the -- what I said earlier was that the -- there should be a full range of alternatives for -- for -- that explores the BLM's options for managing this resource and as I said before, that would, in most cases include an alternative that protects all or nearly all of the LWCs and it has another alternative that protects few or none of the LWCs but it would include some alternatives that would provide for other various combinations in between.

It's the -- it's the -- the field's determination on what the preferred will be in consultation with cooperating agencies, et cetera, but what this needs to be is reasonable range of alternatives.

>> D. Charpio: Okay.

Thank you.

We do have a second question from Helen, and it's a little long, so I will try to read it slowly.

FLPMA does not require that BLM go out and update all inventories prior to initiating a land use plan.

Is the bureau policy relative to wilderness character different?

And then there's a second part.

>> D. Harmon: No, it's not different than the other resources, but what -- what we have -- we know is that in many cases, probably most cases on the public lands, that inventory for wilderness characteristics was conducted over 30 years ago.

And that's not the case everywhere, of course.

We have some good recent inventories that have been conducted in the past five or ten years, but quite often we are going to find that that baseline inventory is -- is in need of updating.

>> S. Gaugush: Yeah, I would like to just add on what Dave said.

The policy only requires that the inventory is up to date.

It doesn't have to be reinventoried at the initiation of a land use plan.

If an inventory is 30 years old, it's probably not up to date and should be updated and maintained.

This is the same for other resources, the BLM would not initiate a resource management plan with mineral potential data that's 30 years old.

We typically provide or prepare a new mineral potential report at the start of an RMP.

It's the same with habitat, riparian data.

>> D. Charpio: There's a second part to this.

The second part is, is the completeness of the current or up-to-date inventory dependent upon capacity and funding as is the case in other resources?

So is the completeness of the current or up-to-date inventory dependent upon capacity and funding as is the case in the other resources?

>> D. Harmon: Well, it's no different than other resources, but, you know, capacity and funding may only allow a certain amount of inventory to be conducted.

That doesn't mean that it's a complete inventory.

There are more needs that we have that we will, you know, complete the inventory when we have the means and the funding available.

So the fact that you don't have a lot of money doesn't mean that you have a completed inventory.

>> S. Gaugush: Sure, and that's why I mentioned that it's important to think about this when you are -- in the early stages of the land use planning process.

You know, I realize that presents a different case for planning efforts that are somewhere midstream but for those that are just getting started, it's important to think about this and what -- what data needs and

costs might be associated with updating your inventory if it's necessary.

>> D. Charpio: Since we are on the cost thing, before I go to Paul, I had a second question from Barry, an email we got from Barry in Oregon, and this is one you are you are probably expecting will there be funding to do this updated inventory work, separate and not tied to an RMP or a project?

So thanks for the policy being send us the money.

>> D. Harmon: Yeah, right.

There's not a big separate block of wilderness inventory money that's coming your way.

What you will need to do is look at your 1210 sub activity and other sub activities that could support wilderness inventory activity.

You spend all of the offices with 1210 spend a lot of money on M.D. monitoring and some of that may need to be shifted into B.E., wilderness inventory when you have an inventory need and there may be -- in the case of projects, you know, funding that can be provided by -- by other -- by the proponent and there may be other sub activities that could support a need.

>> D. Charpio: Thanks, Dave.

We do have another call.

Paul, go ahead with your question.

>> Participant: Thanks for taking my call.

We have updated our inventory of all of our LWCs and we are analyzing those LWCs in our RMP and we are in that awkward stage between the draft and the final, is there interim management that we apply to the LWCs in that -- like, that sublime stage.

I know, for example when we have the lease list comes through that those leases within the LWCs are deferred.

Do we still do stuff like that and do we do that to other projects as well until we have a signed record of decision?

>> S. Gaugush: So answer your question, I would direct you to the land use planning handbook, towards the back, there's a section on implementation decisions, while the plan is being developed, but it's not the exact title, but that should point you in the right direction.

The gist of it is as we are doing plan, we -- we want to think carefully about decisions we would make that would undermine or limit our options moving forward in the planning process.

There's no hard and fast rule, but I -- I -- if you check out the planning handbook, there's guidance in there.

>> D. Charpio: Thanks, Sam.

We will move on.

We have a couple more and then we will have to call it quits.

Chris in Wyoming state office.

Go ahead with your question.

>> Participant: Thank you.

A quick question about postplanning decision NEPA analysis.

Where this has been a planning decision to allow other resource uses and to not manage to retain wilderness characteristics, what is the extent of NEPA required to approve or consider projects that will impair those characteristics?

Is it acceptable to Tier 2 or reference the NEPA in the planning decision or does there need to be a supplemental NEPA analysis specifically addressing the wilderness characteristics?

Thanks.

>> S. Gaugush: Well, Chris, if the -- in the land use plan is considered -- the lands with wilderness characteristics and made a decision for a particular LWC that it won't be managed to protect those, it's entirely appropriate for a sub project to have adverse impacts to those wilderness impacts.

You would want to be sure that you analyze them in the NEPA process, and as well as you would want to consider different design features or mitigation measures that could limit those impacts to prevent

unnecessary or undue degradation, the same with any other resource that we manage.

>> D. Charpio: Thanks, Sam.

And thanks, Chris, for your question and Paul, I forgot to thank you also.

We do appreciate you both calling in.

I have one last question, guys before we have to call it quits.

And this is a text message we received, and it asks, is it ever appropriate to designate an LWC as an ACEC?

So an area critical -- land with wilderness characteristics as an ACEC.

>> S. Gaugush: There are circumstances where it could be appropriate to do so.

It's important to think about the different purposes that an ACEC serves as compared with deciding to manage an area for its wilderness characteristics.

The wild lands was a designation.

There's not really a formal designation under this new guidance, rather it's just a management decision to protect those characteristics.

When it comes to ACECs, would you want to follow the policy associated with that namely the consideration of relevant important values to see if those criteria are met and if special management attention is required.

>> D. Harmon: I want to just emphasize that finding that an area is an LWC, lands with wilderness characteristics is not a designation.

That's just a finding for the inventory.

>> D. Charpio: Okay.

Thank you, guys.

Very nicely done.

Thanks for all of those great questions.

So in closing, thanks to everyone in Washington, D.C., for your time and the participation in helping us understand the features and benefits of the new wilderness inventory management policy.

Thanks again to our viewers.

Your questions were great.

We appreciate your comments.

Don't forget to call the Washington office and follow-up with an email if you need some additional clarification.

We also sincerely appreciate BLM's director Bob alley and assistant director, Carl Rountree from taking time from their very busy schedules to kick off this program with their opening remarks.

Here are a couple of quick reminders before we sign off.

Remember upcoming broadcasts can be found on the national conservation -- excuse me, the National Training Center's home page.

We have a special button there if you want to look and see what our broadcast schedule is.

And then for this M Street Live series, these forums that we are conducting, they also are going to be on our home page as a series of video vignettes that you would be able to go to and replay and see them.

So these broadcasts are all going to be up there and for your viewing later on after the broadcast.

So with that, if you in the future want to ask any questions prior to a telecast or send in any comments relative to the topic, you can send them to [BLM\\_TC\\_telecast@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_TC_telecast@blm.gov).

So you don't have to wait until the broadcast.

Once you see it on our web page, then feel free to send us any questions or comments you might have.

Now, at this point, I would also like to mention that NTC will be rehosting all of these telecasts on our knowledge resource center or what's commonly called KRC and you can access it on our home page.

So look for those, the rehosting of those broadcasts on our web site.

Well, that's it for this edition of M Street Live.

Thanks for joining us.

Thanks for your questions, and so long from the National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona.  
>> Announcer: This broadcast has been a production of the BLM National Training Center.