

# Questions to Ask When Deciding Whether to Pursue a BLM Contract for a Planning/NEPA document

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## WHY should I consider pursuing a contract?

- Contractors can provide assistance with the NEPA process and project management
- Contractors manage several EISs simultaneously, so may provide economies of scale (e.g., existing access to Admin Record management software; public comment content analysis tools; pre-developed meeting materials or supplies)
- Contractors can augment BLM staff resources/availability
- Contractors can provide scarce skills (e.g. air quality analysis, socioeconomics, tribal consultation, public involvement process, comment analysis)

## What questions should I consider regarding staffing?

- Do you have all the resource specialists needed to address the anticipated issues?
- Do you have staff to independently review and evaluate contractor-developed products within the schedule (specifically, defining the purpose and need and alternatives, determining the scope of analysis, and fine-tuning the document)?
- Do you have other workloads that could affect your staff's ability to meet deadlines, prepare analysis, and participate in projects?
- Will doing the work in-house compromise your ability to advance other current or anticipated projects?
- Do you have other major projects or efforts that are likely to come online during the lifespan of this project?

## What questions should I consider regarding budget?

- Do you have the budget available to hire a contractor?
- How can you best spread existing budget (and human resources) to accomplish program objectives?
- If you are only able to contract pieces of a document or analysis, which analysis is dependent on scarce skills or high-demand specialists? Which process elements are logistically demanding?