

Planning Nuts and Bolts: Analysis of the Management Situation

Now we're going to talk about the Analysis of the Management Situation, also known as the AMS. Our objectives, we're going to talk about the purpose and the role of the AMS and its key contents.

We're going to talk about identifying resource and programs that are going to be addressed. We're going to talk about and describe the legal regulatory framework and context. We're going to conduct resource demand analysis, we're going to identify and describe current practices and identifying the future and current results of the existing management practices.

We also want to identify public issues and management concerns. We're going to conduct consistency review with existing federal, state, and local tribal concerns and identify critical thresholds that we're going to use in alternative formulations.

The role of the AMS, the AMS is important because it establishes the context in which the plan is going to be developed. It actually can become the baseline for the affected environment. It's going to identify specific actions and policies that aren't leading to desired conditions. It's going to aid and helps us in identifying conditions resulting from the no-action alternative and it's also going to serve as a source of information for developing the preparation plan.

The AMS itself is broken down into chapters. The chapters are chapter one, introduction; it includes purpose of the AMS. It describes the plan area and the planning programs and resources that are going to be addressed in the plan and it's also going to summarize the key findings of the AMS itself.

Chapter two, the area profile. The area profile is broken down into resources and resource uses. The resources are going to have a description of the regional context and also of resource specific components. Those include things like indicators, current conditions of the resources, trends, a degree of change, forecasts of predicted change and those agents that are causing the change.

The resource uses are going to describe the current and forecasted uses in the areas of high potential use. So, those are things that the field office are predicting that may come up in the life of the plan but aren't currently seen. Those include things like changes in trends for geo-caching, for HOV, for recreational shooting. The chapter two also includes the special area designations and also includes the discussion of social and economic features of the plan area and the specific interests; there is a discussion of tribal interests, tribal interests specifically with the area and the plan area resources. And it's also going to include a discussion and description of the abandoned mine lands, debris flows, hazardous materials; things that make up a component of public safety, public health and safety. And you're going to want to identify if there are these resources if you have a bid in mine lands, debris flows or hazardous materials in the field office and where they are. And what types of concerns that you have with public safety and these resources.

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Chapter three, chapter three is the current management direction that includes all the relevant plans, all the plan amendments, the existing land use by program that are influencing the existing management; management decisions and the current management direction. The current management decision and the current management direction are going to become the basis of your no-action alternative.

Chapter four, management opportunities, broken down into two components. The first component is the analysis of the ability of the current management to achieve desired conditions and resource demands. Basically an assessment of the adequacy of the current management to achieve desired conditions and if there is any opportunity for changing the current management if the current management isn't responding to the current issues.

The second component of chapter four, identifying areas of relative ecological importance. It includes identifying areas that are large, unfragmented areas of habitat, important soil or wetland resources or values, special status species habitat. Highlight the importance of an area in the context of the larger eco-regions so how do those important ecological areas factor into the larger eco-region, and understanding their importance. Should help you to develop your land use allocations and your management approaches.

Chapter five, the consistency with other plans. You're going to identify other plans; state, local, federal plans, that may have implication to the BLM plan. That includes other adjacent federal land management agencies, state, county, local, city governments. And this should also be a section which you identify significant opportunities for enhanced coordination with these cooperating agencies.

Chapter six, chapter six is a description of the federal, state, local regulations and policies by resource. So each resource or resource program or use should identify those federal, state, local laws and regulations that apply to them.

Chapter seven, chapter seven includes the scoping report or a summary of the scoping comments.

Chapter 8, the list of repairs, chapter nine, a glossary and chapter 10, the references.