

Exercise 8 – Land Health Standards

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to become familiar with the Land Health Standards and Guidelines for your state. These standards must be expressed as goals in the RMP.

In most states, the BLM developed land health standards with its Resource Advisory Council. The standards address watershed function, ecological processes, water quality, and threatened and endangered species habitat; they apply to all ecosystems and actions.

Resource management plans have two types of decisions: (1) desired outcomes (goals and objectives) and (2) allowable/restricted/prohibited uses and actions anticipated to achieve the desired outcomes. Goals, which are common to all alternatives, can come from the land health standards, from the DOI Strategic Plan, or from other sources. Indicators associated with the land health standards can be used to make the objectives quantifiable.

At the end of this exercise, you should be familiar with the two types of plan decisions and should have posted the appropriate land health standards and guidelines on the shared drive for your office.

Instructions:

Individually...

1. After you've watched the video segment on Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Alternatives, review Section II.B. Types of Land Use Plan Decisions in the BLM Planning Handbook (H-1601-1).

Individually or as an ID Team ...

1. Find the land health standards and guidelines for your state.
2. Review them, paying particular attention to the sections that affect your resource.
3. Compare them to the vision statement that your team developed to be sure they're consistent.
4. Post them to the shared drive for your office so they're readily available when you're ready to begin writing goals.

Extra Credit*

1. Repeat the previous 4 steps with the DOI Strategic Plan and any other document you feel is appropriate to help you develop the goals and objectives for your RMP.

Approximate Time:

1 hour

* you don't really get extra credit, but it sounds good!