

BLM-Idaho



Planning Process/Timeline for Sage-grouse RMP/LUP Amendments

March 20, 2012 Idaho Sage-grouse Task Force



Schedule: Sage-grouse EIS and RMP/LUP Amendments



- March-May Develop Action Alternatives
- June 12-25 Cooperating Agency Review of Alts.
- June 26-July 25 Finalize Alt's and Chapter 2
- August-Sept. Analyze Effects of Alternatives
- October-Nov. Internal Draft of DEIS
- Dec- Feb (2013) WO and SOL Review
- March 2013 Finalize DEIS
- April 2013 Publish NOA for DEIS (Release)

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- *Dec. 2013* *FEIS development*
 - *April 2014* *FEIS Release, Protest period, etc.*
 - *Aug. 2014* *Publish Decision for FEIS*



Planning Requirements

- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)**
 - **Sections 201 and 202**
- **BLM Land Use Planning Regulations**
 - **43 CFR §1600**
 - **RMP Planning Process (§1610.4)**



Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Multiple Use

- Management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people

Sustained Yield

- The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use



What We Plan For:

- Natural, Biological, and Cultural Resources
 - Air
 - *Soil and Water*
 - *Vegetation*
 - *Special Status Species*
 - *Fish and Wildlife*
 - *Wild Horses and Burros*
 - Cultural Resources
 - Paleontology
 - Visual Resources
 - *Wildland Fire Management*
 - Wilderness Characteristics
 - Cave and Karst Resources



What We Plan For:

- **Resource Uses**
 - *Forestry*
 - *Livestock Grazing*
 - *Recreation and Visitor Services*
 - *Travel Management*
 - *Lands and Realty*
 - *Fluid Minerals: Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, and Geothermal Resources*
 - *Locatable Minerals*
 - *Mineral Materials*
 - *Non-energy Leasable Minerals*



Land Use Plan Decisions

- Broad-scale decisions that guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions

Categories of LUP decisions

- **Desired Outcomes**
 - Goals
 - Objectives
- **Allowable Uses**
- **Management Actions**



Land Use Plans – Goals

- **Goals**: Broad statements of desired outcomes (usually are not quantifiable)
- **Example**:
 - *Maintain and/or increase sage-grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners.*



Land Use Plans - Objectives

- **Objectives**: Specific desired outcomes for resources (usually quantifiable and measurable)
- **Examples include**:
 - *Manage or restore priority areas so that at least 70% of the land cover provides adequate sagebrush habitat to meet sage-grouse needs*
 - *Manage priority sage-grouse habitats so that discrete anthropogenic disturbances cover less than 3% of the total sage-grouse habitat regardless of ownership.*



Land Use Plans – Allowable Uses

- **Allowable Uses:** Uses or allocations that are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on the public lands and mineral estate
- **Examples include:**
 - *Limit motorized travel to designated roads, primitive roads, and trails (w/in priority habitat)*
 - *Make priority sage-grouse habitat areas exclusion areas for new ROW permits.*
 - *Close priority sage-grouse habitat areas to fluid mineral leasing.*



Land Use Plans – Mgmt. Actions

- **Management Actions**: Actions anticipated to achieve desired outcomes, including actions to maintain, restore, or improve land health
- **Examples include**:
 - *Prioritize completion of land health assessments and processing grazing permits within priority sage grouse habitat areas*
 - *Identify areas where acquisitions (including subsurface mineral rights) or conservation easements may benefit sage-grouse habitat*

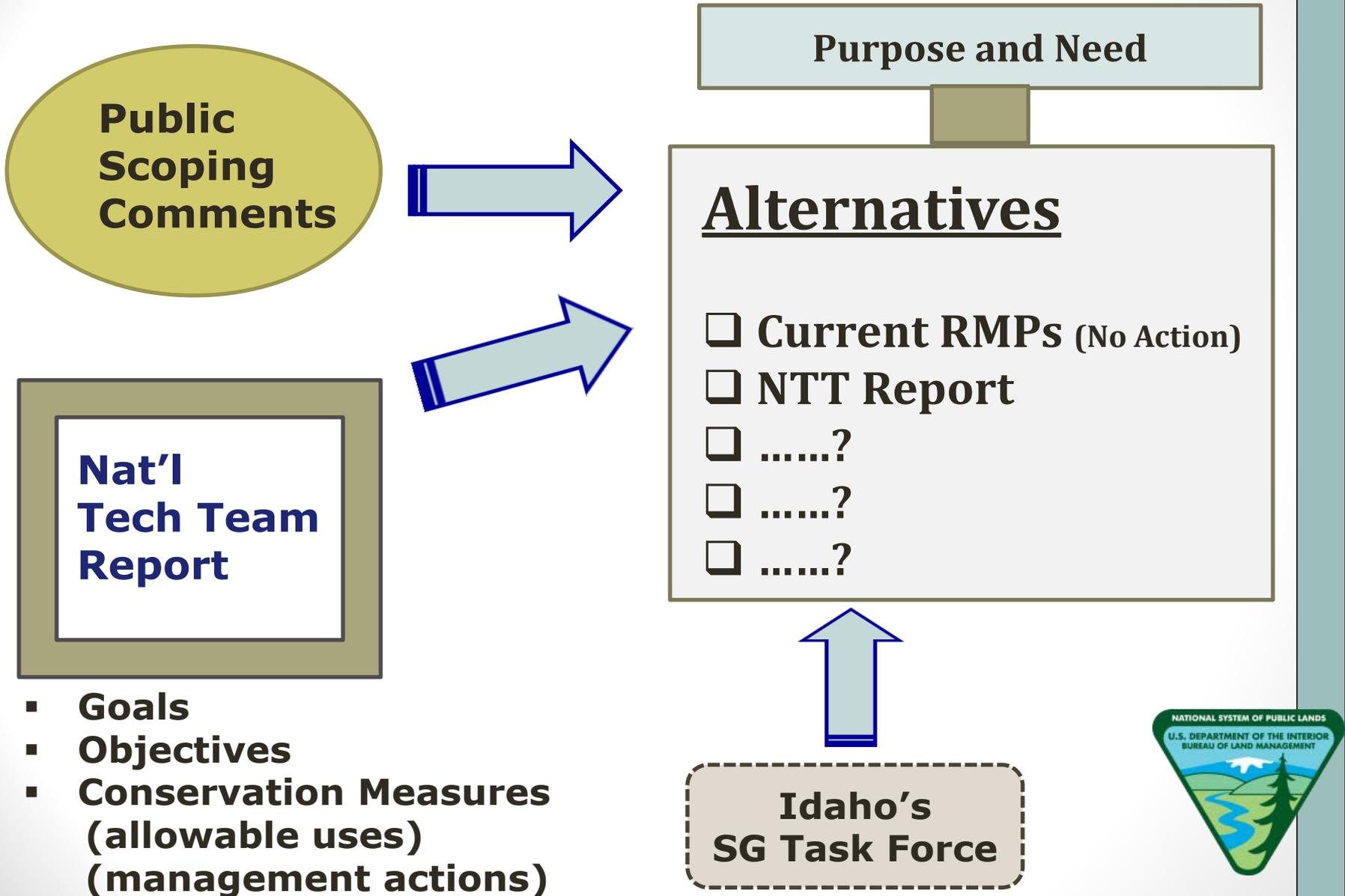


Implementation Decisions

- **Generally constitute BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed.**
- **Require site-specific planning and NEPA analysis**
- **RMPs should clearly distinguish between land use planning decisions and implementation decisions**



BLM Sage grouse Planning Framework



RMP's as a Regulatory Mechanism

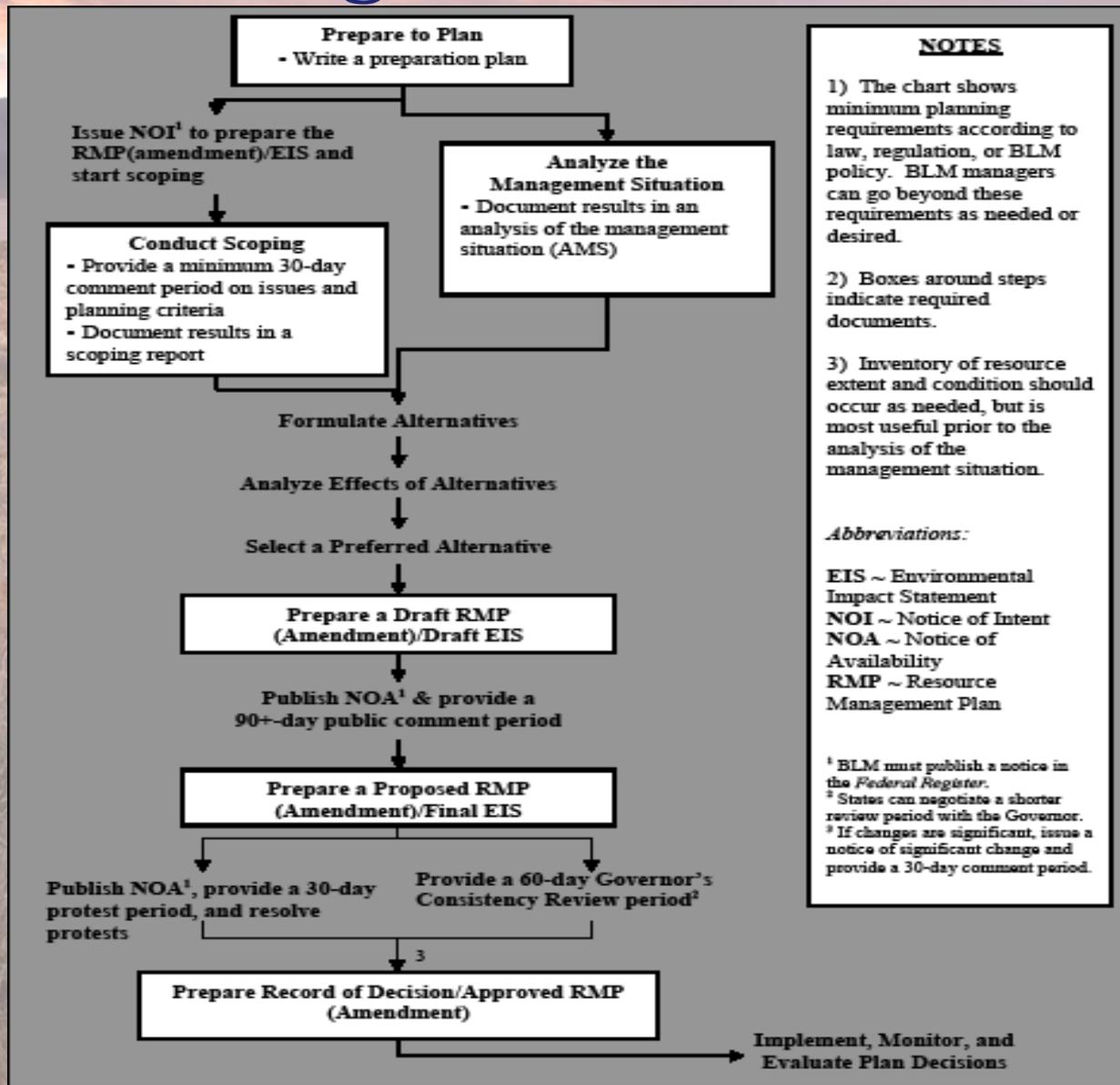
1. Are the threats adequately addressed?
2. How effective are the measures at reducing threats? (Avoid? Minimize? Mitigate?) (Restore habitat?)
3. Are the measures mandatory or discretionary?
4. Are the measures clear? (*shall, should, may, consider,.....?*)
5. How certain ("enforceable") are the measures to occur?
6. Does the direction account for changed conditions over time (e.g. Large scale wildfire in priority habitat?)
7. Does the mgmt. direction meet the conservation needs of the species?



Questions?



BLM Planning Process - Overview



What We Plan For

- Special Designations
 - Congressional and Presidential Designations
 - Designated Wilderness
 - National Historic and Scenic Trails
 - National Monuments
 - National Conservation Areas
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - Administrative Designations
 - *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*
 - Wilderness Study Areas



NEPA Requirements

- **New plans and plan revisions require an EIS**
 - **Major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment**
- **Some smaller-scale plan amendments may only require an EA**



Notice of Intent/Scoping

- **Notice of Intent**
 - **Formally initiates plan development process**
 - **Begins scoping process**
- **Scoping**
 - **Minimum of 30 days**
 - **Collaborative public involvement process to identify planning issues to be addressed**
 - **Involves introduction of preliminary issues and planning criteria to the public for comment**
 - **Scoping Report**



Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) (§1610.4-4)

- **Can be developed concurrently with scoping process**
- **Analysis of available inventory data**
- **Characterization of resource area profile**
- **Portrayal of existing management**
- **Identification of management opportunities to respond to identified issues**



Alternatives

- **Formulate Alternatives (§1610.4-5)**
 - **Developed by an interdisciplinary team with cooperating agencies.**
- **Estimate Effects of Alternatives (§1610.4-6)**
 - **Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.**
- **Select a Preferred Alternative (§1610.4-7)**
 - **Combination of potential decisions that best meets the agency mandates.**



Draft RMP/Draft EIS

- **Describes purpose and need for plan**
- **Describes alternatives for managing public lands within the planning area**
- **Outlines affected environment**
- **Measures the environmental impacts of alternatives**
- **Describes consultation and coordination processes**



Notice of Availability/Public Comment

- **Notice of Availability – Draft RMP/EIS**
 - Provides information about the plan, comment period, contact information, and other supplemental information
 - Must include list of proposed ACECs specifying resource use limitations that would occur if designated
- **Public Comment Period**
 - At least 90 days
 - BLM is required to respond to substantive comments in the PRMP/FEIS



Proposed RMP/Final EIS

- **Includes appropriate responses to public comments received on the Draft RMP**
- **Corrects errors in the Draft RMP identified during the public comment process and internal BLM review**
- **May contain modifications to alternatives and impact analyses**
 - **As long as these modifications do not rise to a level of significance**



Notice of Availability/Protest Process

- **Notice of Availability – Proposed RMP/Final EIS**
 - Contains information about the RMP, protest period and filing instructions, contact information, and other supplemental information
- **Protest Process (§1610.5-2)**
 - 30 days (no extensions)
 - Did land use plan:
 - Follow established procedure?
 - Consider relevant information?
 - Ensure consistency with BLM policy, regulation, and statute?



Governor's Consistency Review

- **Governor's Consistency Review**
 - 60 days
 - Concurrent with Protest Period
 - Ensures consistency with state and local plans, policies, and programs



Record of Decision/Approved RMP

- **More concise than Final EIS**
- **Describes goals, objectives, and management actions for fulfilling management direction**
- **Provides the rationale for the decision**
- **Includes modifications/edits as a result of protest resolution or Governor's consistency review**
 - **As long as these modifications do not rise to a level of significance**



Monitoring and Evaluation (§1610.4-9)

- **Plan shall establish intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluation based on:**
 - **Sensitivity of the resource**
 - **Decisions involved**
 - **Whether mitigation measures are satisfactory**
 - **Significant changes/new data**



Cooperating Agencies

- **FLPMA §202(c)(9)**
 - Requires that BLM involve other Federal agencies and state and local government officials in developing land use plans
 - Requires that BLM consider and maximize consistency with State, local, and tribal land use plans
- **BLM Land Use Planning Regulations**
 - Provide a role for CAs at most steps of the planning process



Cooperating Agencies

- **Limited to government entities: Federal, State, local, tribal**
- **There is no formal designation as a “coordinating agency”**
- **Cooperating Agency MOU**
 - **Describes respective roles of agencies**
 - **Assigns issues, schedules, and staff commitments**
 - **DOI Policy (43 CFR 46.225(d))**
 - **MOUs *should* be adopted with all agencies**
 - **MOUs *must* be adopted with non-federal agencies**

