

BLM Streamlining Planning & NEPA - Input Form

Contact Information

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Check this box if you would like your name, organization, and email address to be retained by the BLM so that we may contact you in the future regarding this specific effort.



Add to mailing list for this effort

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A. Focused Analysis: How can the BLM reduce duplicative and disproportionate analyses?

The BLM is working to identify discrete actions that can be taken to improve the NEPA and planning processes. To be most helpful, please submit succinct and unique ideas using the fields below. Please use one field for each discrete idea.

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Solution #1

Establish an assessment process in the early stages of your planning timeline. This assessment stage should be used to gather information about fish and wildlife habitat, areas important for public access, and areas important for public recreation. This stage should also be used to identify highly functioning habitats that deserve conservation attention, as well as impaired habitats that would benefit from active habitat restoration and enhancement.

Solution #2

Included in that assessment, consider the planning efforts of the state, municipalities, counties and other federal agencies in proximity to the area under review, where appropriate and applicable.

Solution #3

Your answer

Solution #4

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B. User-friendly Planning: How can the BLM help state and local governments, tribal partners, and other stakeholders understand and participate in the planning process?

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Solution #1

First and foremost, provide the public and stakeholders greater notice on comment periods and length of comment periods! We learned about this analysis on July 3rd and were given three weeks to assess and comment.

Solution #2

Provide adequate time to review what is being considered and give us 60 to 90 days to comment. Oftentimes the complexity of what is being considered requires much more than 14 to 21 days.

Solution #3

Develop some consistency in notifying the public as to what is under consideration. Use the Federal Register and local media in addition to email lists to get the word out as to what is under consideration.

Use a master email list from the BLM Regional office for dissemination of information. We have had to seek out the District offices and request to be added to planning notices, resulting in notification from some, and no idea what is transpiring with others.

Solution #4



Finally, allow us to submit comment in the process with the ability to upload documents, such as letters, versus having to undertake the exercise involved with this input "opportunity"!

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C. Transparency: How can the BLM foster greater transparency in the NEPA process?

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Solution #1

The BLM should add a step between scoping and the issuance of a draft resource management plan (RMP) where the agency would propose "preliminary alternatives". Then solicit feedback from the public before formally proposing a range of alternatives in the draft plan. This extra step should help the public be more constructively engaged in the development of an RMP revision or amendment.

Solution #2

Coordinate with the state wildlife agency early in the process to identify and address areas of mutual interest, statutory or management authority and state trust responsibility.

Solution #3

Use the Federal Register, local media and email lists for public notices or involvement, in addition to the BLM website.



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D. Being Good Neighbors: How can the BLM build trust and better integrate the needs of state and local governments, tribal partners, and other stakeholders?

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Solution #1

Consistency – the BLM land use plans should not only be consistent across the Region, but should also strive for consistency with adjacent Forest Service lands and State lands respectively.

This goes directly to matters such as travel management, signage, access, recreational shooting, hunting, angling, dispersed camping, OHV use, game retrieval and wildlife management.

Solution #2

Consideration – the BLM should ensure that the State's management authorities and jurisdiction are not adversely impacted by their planning directives.

When evaluating special designations on BLM lands, establish a purpose and need,

but also consult with partners like the AZ Game & Fish Department (AZGFD) to make sure statutory directives and responsibilities are not impeded. Special designations drive up the costs of the conservation and management of Arizona's wildlife resources from project delays, elevated costs, increased man hours and legal challenges.

Solution #3

Cooperation– the BLM should work collaboratively with AZGFD to manage and conserve game and wildlife. Any planning rules should also include an assessment and impact on hunting, angling and recreational shooting to ensure there is no net loss to these pursuits.

The assessment of wildlife migration corridors across the landscape would be a critical step in supporting responsible management of all wildlife.

The restoration and enhancement of habitat is extremely important to sportsmen. Too many BLM managed habitats are threatened or negatively impacted by noxious weeds and destruction from feral burros.

Solution #4

The BLM should prioritize and accommodate active management on the landscape to improve, restore and enhance key habitats, by identifying habitat in need of restoration and enhancement during the assessment stage, with clear objectives for desired conditions throughout the process.

Burro numbers are out of control! We would implore you to manage these feral animals as previously outlined in your management plans. Our native wildlife is suffering at the mouths and feet of these animals, including some of our endangered species. Burro mitigation and control efforts should be included for any planning areas where they are found.

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E. Reducing Litigation: How can the BLM create legally defensible documents and avoid the delays associated with legal challenges?

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Solution #1

The BLM should not develop procedures, rules and guidelines for planning in a vacuum. Coordinate the efforts with the state, AZGFD and municipalities to minimize negative impacts on their respective state trust responsibilities and jurisdictions.

The BLM should provide direction outlining designated timelines for collaboration, cooperation, and conflict resolution prior to the release of any final planning documents that might negatively impact state jurisdictional authorities for the management of wildlife on public lands, including any that might involve special designations.

Solution #2

Provide the public with adequate notice of the impending plan, as well as a fair amount of time to comment on the matter, at least 60 to 90 days.

A potential planning rule should fully analyze the impact of any potential loss of public lands to multiple-use and wildlife related recreation.

Wildlife, wildlife resources and AZGFD's authority and need to proactively manage wildlife should be a key component considered in any special land use designation under review.

Solution #3

We support tracts of intact and undeveloped habitats commonly referred to as "backcountry" because they are important for fish, wildlife and public lands hunting and angling. These intact habitats should be conserved, restored and enhanced, but at the same time, sportsmen and women need to be able to access these lands and the BLM should ensure access is not negatively impacted. While we support the identification and conservation of backcountry areas, we do not believe those efforts necessarily need a special designation in order to achieve those results.

Solution #4

Most sportsmen support habitat conservation along with balanced energy development. Proper planning can ensure both are possible, but that planning should not be limited to just oil and gas leases, it should also include wind and solar energy developments too. There are wildlife and habitat issues that emanate from wind and solar developments. These plans should be specifically identified in the BLM planning regulations to ensure the responsible and balanced development of our public lands with a conservation eye towards both the landscape and the wildlife.

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F: "Right-sized" Environmental Analysis: How can the BLM more closely match the level of NEPA analysis to the scale of the action being analyzed?

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Solution #1

One such action that is in dire need of attention is a comprehensive analysis of the impact feral burros are having on our Arizona landscape. As stated previously, wildlife habitat in our state is being destroyed by burros and populations of native wildlife are suffering because of them.

A comprehensive analysis of the feral burro on Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat might be just the impetus needed for some overdue revisions to the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

Solution #2

Your answer

Solution #3

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Additional Information

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Please include any additional information you would like to provide below

On behalf of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC), and our 21 member organizations listed below representing thousands of sportsmen and women, we're pleased you are seeking input, but please don't use this format again

to do so!

While you're able to focus answers to your questions, it's a cumbersome process for the user and limiting when it comes to word count and input. Thank you.

Jim Unmacht, AZSFWC Executive Director

AZ Bass Nation

AZ Antelope Foundation

AZ Big Game Super Raffle

AZ Chapter of NWTF

AZ Chapter of SCI

AZ Deer Association

AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

AZ Elk Society

AZ Houndsmen

AZ Outdoor Sports

AZ Shooting Sports Educational Foundation

AZ State Council of Trout Unlimited

Coconino Sportsmen

Mohave Sportsman Club

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Southwest Wildlife Foundation

SRT Outdoors

The Bass Federation

Xtreme Predator Callers

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