

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Dillon Field Office Resource Management Plan
Public Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination Plan**

August 20, 2001

Introduction

This document serves as the public participation plan for revising and updating the Resource Management Plan for the Dillon Field Office. By design, it is flexible and can be adapted to meet the emerging needs and interests of the citizens and officials.

This public participation plan was developed by the Montana Consensus Council after consulting with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, county commissioners and other public officials, and individuals and groups representing various interests in the land and resources on BLM land in southwest Montana. It is based on the premise that the public is in the best position to determine how they want to participate in the planning process.

This plan builds on two other reports prepared by the Montana Consensus Council after consulting with citizens and officials. Copies of the following reports are available by calling the Montana Consensus Council at 406-444-2075.

Public Participation in the BLM Resource Management Planning Process: Survey Results
(Montana Consensus Council, May 2001).

Public Participation in Resource Management Planning: Asking the Public to Help Design a Public Participation Process for the U.S. BLM Dillon Field Office RMP (Montana Consensus Council, June 27, 2001).

Coordinating Committee

To help design and convene public participation activities throughout the development of the Resource Management Plan, eleven people representing different resource interests have agreed to serve on a Coordinating Committee.

The Coordinating Committee will help develop and refine public participation activities, perhaps starting with a review of the BLM's planning criteria. Each member of the committee has also agreed to communicate with other people that have similar interests about opportunities for public participation and the status of the planning process.

Coordinating Committee members and the interests they represent are:

Sue Marxer, representing the Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

Garth Haugland, representing Beaverhead County.

Ted Coffman, representing Madison County.

Gail Abercrombie, representing oil, gas, and minerals.
Dwight Crawford, representing timber.
Linda Ellison, representing off highway vehicle users.
Glenn Hockett, representing fish and wildlife.
Rebecca Wood, representing ranchers.
John Grove, representing wilderness.
Robin Cunningham, representing outfitters and guides.
Elaine Spicer, representing the media.

Principles of Public Participation

The following principles, adapted from the International Association of Public Participation, will guide the public participation process for the Resource Management Plan.

1. The public should have a say in decisions about actions that affect their lives.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. The public participation process communicates the interests and meets the process needs of all participants.
4. The public participation process seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected.
5. The public participation process involves participants in defining how they participate.
6. The public participation process communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.
7. The public participation process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

Strategies for Public Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination

The following strategies emerged from the survey and interviews conducted by the Montana Consensus Council. They provide some general ideas on how citizens and other officials would like to be involved in the planning process.

- **Rely on the RAC, county commissioners, and existing interagency working groups** in both Beaverhead and Madison counties to foster understanding and consistency across management jurisdictions.

- Invite people to **submit any information** they can contribute.
- Invite **local people to share their knowledge** and experience.
- **Respond to the requests for information** identified during the interviews (and recorded in the report, *Public Participation in Resource Management Planning: Asking the Public to Help Design a Public Participation Process for the U.S. BLM Dillon Field Office RMP* (Montana Consensus Council, June 27, 2001)).
- Provide **maps, GIS data, photographs, graphs of resource and use trends, and other visual information** to build understanding of the resources, landscape, and issues.
- Conduct **field trips** to build a deeper understanding of the resources, landscape, and specific problems.
- **Create electronic opportunities** to participate, including adding planning documents and searchable text on the Resource Management Plan to the BLM web site; creating an email list to distribute information and updates to interested people; providing an email address to which people can post comments; and setting up a toll-free telephone line to provide recorded updates and information on the planning process.
- **Invite a reporter** experienced in covering public participation and natural resource issues to attend meetings and other planning activities and **prepare feature articles for the newspaper** about the process, emerging issues and proposed solutions, and opportunities for public participation.
- Provide regular **public service announcements** to radio and television stations in the region to announce upcoming meetings and events.
- **Schedule meetings and other events** for times (probably evenings) and days that are convenient for most people. Provide ample notice well in advance of meetings, and allow plenty of time during meetings to exchange information and take public comment.
- **Use plain, everyday language** in all written and verbal communication. Be concise, and avoid jargon and generalities.

Preliminary Public Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination Activities

The attached table outlines a preliminary set of public participation and intergovernmental coordination activities. The specific activities will be refined and further developed by the Montana Consensus Council in consultation with the Coordinating Committee and the BLM.

Public Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination Plan

For the BLM Dillon Field Office Resource Management Planning Process

Key Project Steps Under NEPA & FLPMA ¹	Dates	Public Participation and Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies ¹	Expected Outcomes
Develop Planning Criteria (or sideboards)	BLM prepares initial set of planning criteria in May 2001. Complete by September 30, 2001.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> MCC seeks input and advice from citizens and public officials during interviews. <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute final criteria via web site, listserv, and press release or feature story. 	A common understanding and/or agreement among all stakeholders, including the BLM, on the planning criteria.
Identify Issues	Start in May 2001. Complete by the end of public scoping (see next step).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify issues during MCC interviews. <input type="checkbox"/> Use the public scoping process to identify additional issues and concerns. <input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups. 	Build on issues and concerns identified during MCC interviews. Incorporate issues identified by BLM staff.
Issue Notice of Intent and Start Public Scoping	Issue NOI by August 15, 2001. Complete scoping by October 15, 2001 (60 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Publish issues and concerns identified during MCC interviews on the BLM web site. <input type="checkbox"/> Seek public input and advice via the web site, listserv, and toll-free telephone line. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinating Committee and BLM convene two public meetings (Dillon and Butte) <input type="checkbox"/> Use impartial facilitator to manage the public meetings. <input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups. 	A common understanding and/or agreement on the issues and concerns to be addressed in the RMP.

Collect Inventory Data	Complete by December 31, 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Invite people and organizations to submit any information they can contribute. ❑ Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups. ❑ Use maps, GIS data, and other visual information to build a common understanding. ❑ Allow the public to review and provide feedback on scientific and technical information. 	<p>Review and synthesize information from stakeholders, including the BLM and other government agencies.</p> <p>Integrate local knowledge and peer review into the description of the management situation.</p>
Analyze the Management Situation	Complete by February 15, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups. ❑ Conduct one or more field trips. ❑ Publish a short, readable document on the BLM web site. 	<p>A common understanding and/or agreement on the facts of the situation.</p>
Formulate Alternatives	Complete by April 15, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups. ❑ Consult stakeholders one-on-one or in like-minded groups. ❑ Encourage citizens and other stakeholders to develop their own alternatives. ❑ Seek public input and advice via the web site and listserv. 	<p>A set of alternatives that is based on the best available scientific and technical information, and that accommodates and addresses as many of the issues and interests as possible.</p>
Estimate Effects of Alternatives	Complete by September 15, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Distribute a summary of the estimated effects via web site, listserv, and press release or feature story. ❑ Seek public input and advice via the web site and listserv. ❑ Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups ❑ Convene a panel of experts, including representatives from the BLM and other 	<p>A common understanding and/or agreement on the likely social, economic, and environmental effects of the alternatives.</p>

		government agencies, to review the scientific and technical implications of the alternatives.	
<p>Select the Preferred Alternative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Before announcing, consult citizens and officials to explain decision and rationale.</p>	Complete by November 1, 2002	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Distribute an explanation of the preferred alternative via the web site, listserv, and a press release or feature story.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seek public input and advice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups.</p>	A proposed Resource Management Plan that accommodates and addresses as many issues and interests as possible; is scientifically and technically defensible and feasible; and satisfies the planning criteria.
Issue Draft RMP/EIS and Conduct Public Participation	Complete by May 15, 2003	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare and distribute a short (30-page) executive summary in plain language.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Convene one or more formal public meetings to seek public input and advice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seek additional public input and advice via the web site, listserv, and a press release or feature story.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consult with the RAC, Beaverhead and Madison County Commissioners, and Interagency Groups.</p>	
Issue Proposed RMP/Final EIS and Initiate Governor's Review	Complete by June 15, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Use the existing Coordinating Committee, the RAC, or a feedback panel to review public comments, clarify dominant themes, validate or revise NEPA issues, and identify criteria for the selected alternative.	Broad support for a well informed, balanced, adaptive, long-range plan.
If No Protest, Sign RMP			

<p>If Protest...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Seek to resolve outstanding issues through informal, non-adversarial processes of negotiation and mediation. 			
<p>If Litigation...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Consult Department of Justice and Office of the General Counsel. ❑ Seek opportunities for settlement negotiations, mediation, and/or arbitration. 			
<p>Implement Decisions; Monitor and Evaluate RMP</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Create a stakeholder working group (perhaps the existing Coordinating Committee or the RAC) to monitor and evaluate implementation. ❑ Document lessons learned; incorporate new management objectives and strategies as appropriate. 	

^{1.} These formal steps will be completed by the BLM. The BLM will not abdicate its decision-making responsibility or management authority under this public participation plan.

^{1.} The strategies presented in this column should be conducted by the BLM, with guidance from the Coordinating Committee, unless indicated otherwise.