

# Proposed Planning Criteria

The following planning criteria have been proposed to guide development of the plan, avoid unnecessary data collection and analyses, and to ensure the plan is tailored to the issues. They also help to identify the legal, policy, or regulatory constraints that direct or limit BLM's ability to resolve issues. The criteria listed here are general in nature. Other criteria may be identified during the public scoping process. Additional criteria may be developed for particular issues once the major issues are finalized. After gathering comments on the proposed planning criteria, BLM will review the criteria and provide feedback to the public prior to approval by the State Director.

## PROPOSED PLANNING CRITERIA

- \$ The RMP will comply with applicable federal laws and regulations.
- \$ The RMP will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- \$ The RMP will cover only those lands under jurisdiction of the Dillon Field Office. This includes split estate, where the surface is private but subsurface minerals are federal. The planning area does not include BLM lands under jurisdiction of the Butte Field Office (along the south side of the Big Hole River in Beaverhead County).
- \$ The RMP will conduct wilderness review only for those public lands in the planning area not yet inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The BLM will not change boundaries of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) as presently delineated or the recommendations awaiting Congressional action.
- \$ The RMP will consider existing recovery plans for threatened and endangered species that use the planning area, including whooping crane, bald eagle, grizzly bear, wolf, and lynx.. The RMP will incorporate by reference decisions resulting from the Programmatic Lynx Amendment/Environmental Assessment being prepared by the BLM Montana State Office.
- \$ The RMP will consider the management strategies developed for westslope cutthroat trout, fluvial Arctic grayling, and sage grouse when developing the plan.
- \$ The BLM will incorporate, by reference, decisions resulting from the Montana/Dakotas Statewide Fire Management Plan and associated Dillon Fire Management Plan update in the RMP.

- \$ The RMP will incorporate the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing as set out by the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC).
- \$ The RMP will adopt the provisions of The Montana Weed Management Plan approved in January 2001.
- \$ The RMP will incorporate, by reference, decisions approved in January 2001 regarding travel management in the southern portion of the Centennial Valley.
- \$ The RMP will recognize the State of Montana's responsibility to manage wildlife populations, including hunting and fishing uses.
- \$ RMP decisions will be compatible to the extent possible with the plans and mandates of other agencies and governments that share jurisdiction in the region.
- \$ The RMP will consider and integrate local, statewide, and national interests.
- \$ Actions proposed by the RMP must be achievable given technological, budgetary, and staffing limits.

