

Public Participation in the BLM Resource Management Planning Process

This summer, the Dillon Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management will begin a four-year process to develop a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the 902,000 acres of public land and 1.3 million acres of mineral rights under the agency's jurisdiction in southwestern Montana. The new RMP will allocate lands for appropriate uses and establish goals and objectives for resource conditions on those lands.

To ensure that the RMP meets the needs and interests of the public, the BLM has asked the Montana Consensus Council to involve citizens and public officials in designing a public participation process for the RMP effort. The Consensus Council is a small state agency that promotes fair and effective processes to help people build agreement on natural resource and other public policy issues. The Consensus Council is impartial and nonpartisan; it is not an advocate for any particular interest or outcome.

If you would like to be involved in designing a public participation process for the RMP effort, take a moment to answer the following questions. Then, **mail your completed survey to the Montana Consensus Council in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope by April 6, 2001.**

If you have comments or questions, please call Matthew McKinney, Executive Director, Montana Consensus Council at 406-444-2075.

Your Name _____
Affiliation _____
Address _____
Telephone Number _____

1. What are your primary interests in BLM lands? Please rank the following interests according to their importance to you (1 = most important, 2 = less important, or 3 = least important).

___ Outdoor recreation
___ Livestock grazing
___ Timber
___ Oil, gas, and minerals
___ Watershed
___ Wildlife and fish
___ Wilderness
___ Cultural and historical resources
___ Other. Please explain. _____

2. What is the most effective way for you to provide input to the BLM for this planning and decision-making process? Please rank the following possibilities as 1 = most effective, 2 = somewhat effective, or 3 = least effective.

- Respond to surveys and questionnaires.
- Participate in public meetings or hearings.
- Attend open houses.
- Participate in focus groups or citizen panels.
- Rely on advisory committees or task forces (e.g., the existing Resource Advisory Council).
- Engage in a collaborative problem solving process.
- Submit our own alternative for consideration.
- Use Web pages and the Internet.
- Other. Please explain.

3. Would you like to further help design the public participation process for the Resource Management Plan? If no, please explain below. If yes, how would you like to provide input? (1 = most preferred, 2 = somewhat preferred, 3 = least preferred).

- One-on-one interview.
- Small group interview with like-minded people.
- Interview with an existing public forum (e.g., county commission, Beaverhead County Community Forum, Big Hole Watershed Committee, Interagency Task Force).
- Through one or more people who can speak on my behalf (please list these people and their telephone numbers below).
- Other. Please explain.
