

GRAND STAIRCASE
ESCALANTE



NATIONAL MONUMENT

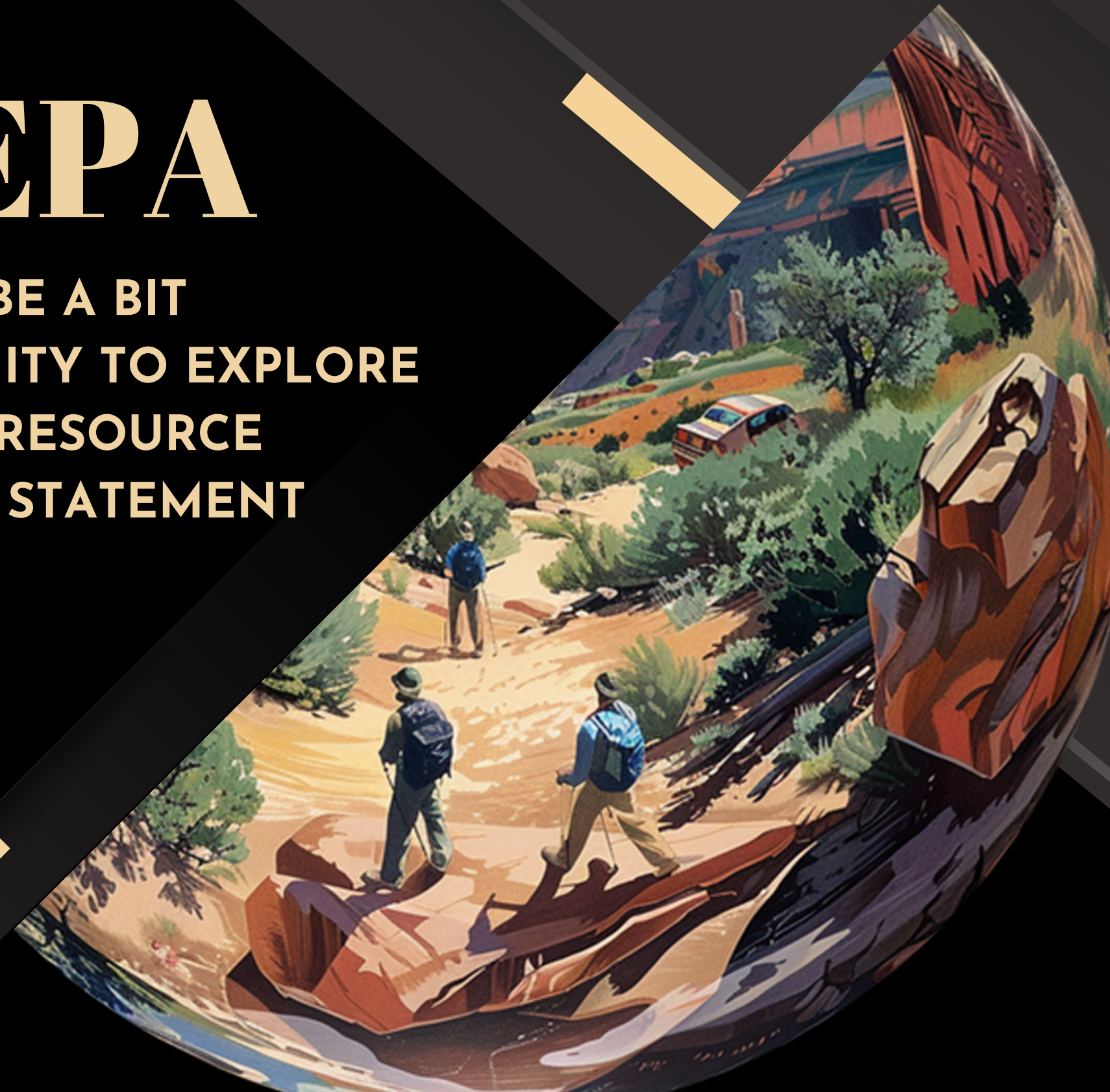


NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS

UNWRAPPING NEPA

WE REALIZE NEPA TERMINOLOGY CAN SOMETIMES BE A BIT CONFUSING. SO, WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE SOME KEY TERMS AS RELATED TO THIS MONUMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.

1. Public Scoping
2. Public Comment Period
3. Protest Period
4. Governor's Consistency Review



What is Scoping?

Purpose: Scoping is the beginning of the planning process. Scoping provides citizens the opportunity to provide their input on the range of issues to be addressed in the planning process.

If an agency determines that an EIS is required, a Notice of Intent (NOI) is published in the Federal Register.

The NOI provides a description of the proposed action and a description of the scoping process, including any scheduled meetings and how the public can get involved.



What is a Public Comment Period?

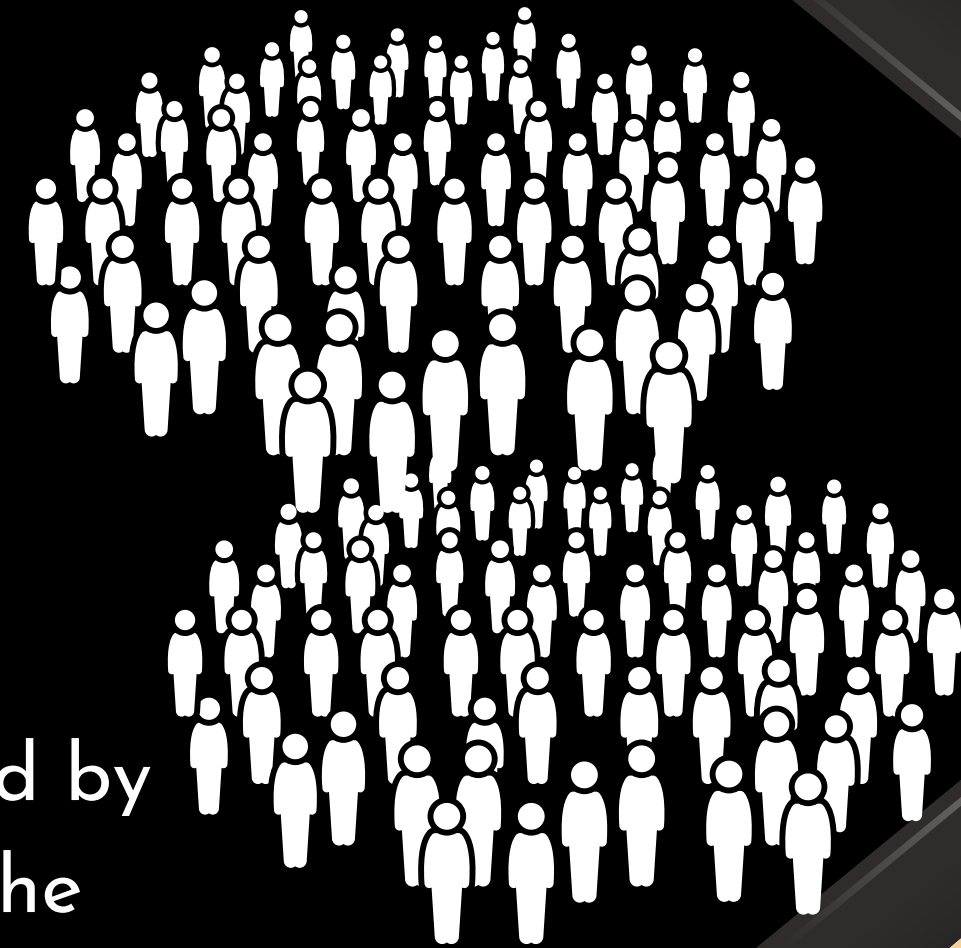
- After public scoping, the next major milestone in the planning process is to write the Draft RMP/EIS, which is followed by the Public Comment Period. Here the intent is to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation to identify if there is any “new and substantive” information the agency did not consider.

- Participants can include any citizen.
- The Public Comment Period begins with the publication of Draft RMP/EIS. Upon closing of the Public Comment Period, the agency considers all substantive comments and conducts further analyses if necessary.
- Upon resolution of comments from the Draft RMP/EIS a Proposed RMP and Final EIS may be published, initiating a 30-day Protest Period and 60-day Governor’s Consistency Review.



What is a Protest Period?

- This Protest Period begins with the release of the proposed Resource Management Plan and final Environmental Impact Statement.
- It is a 30-day window affording anyone who has formally participated in the planning process and has an interest that is (or may be) adversely affected by the proposed plan to file a protest.
 - The Protest Period allows interested parties to formally object to a proposed federal action or project undergoing environmental review.
 - Participants may include individuals, organizations, or agencies affected by the proposed action and have formally and previously participated in the planning process.
 - It is important to note that a protest period is not a public comment period; although both are important mechanisms within various periods of the planning process, each serves a different purpose within that process.



What is a Governor's Consistency Review?

- The Governor's Consistency Review is a 60-day window affording the governor with the opportunity to identify inconsistencies between state laws, policies and the BLM proposed plan.
- Upon which, the governor's recommendations are submitted in writing to the BLM-Utah State Director.
- Upon protest resolution and the governor's consistency review response, a Record of Decision may be issued, which the BLM plans to issue in December 2024.

