



BLM LAND USE PLANNING & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT:

A Guide for Resource Advisory Committee Members



THE BLM MISSION

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS

Objective: *To maximize resource values for the public through a rational, consistently applied set of regulations and procedures which promote the concept of multiple use management and ensure participation by the public, state and local governments, Indian tribes and appropriate Federal agencies*

Steps:

- **Early Engagement:** Identify key issues and stakeholders
- **Data & Inventory Collection:** Assess resource conditions, trends, and needs
- **Scoping:** Collect feedback on potential issues
- **Alternatives Development:** Explore different management approaches
- **Issue Analysis:** Assess the impacts to resources and the human environment from the alternatives developed
- **Public Review:** Gather feedback on draft plans
- **Final Plan:** Incorporate feedback and finalize decisions



KEY AREAS FOR RAC ENGAGEMENT

- **Early Engagement**: Provide input on issues and opportunities early in the process
- **Review Draft Plans**: Offer feedback on proposed management alternatives and their potential impacts
- **Ongoing Communication**: Stay informed and engaged throughout the planning process to represent diverse interests



TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Objective: *To provide a balanced approach to motorized and non-motorized travel while protecting natural resources*

Steps:

- **Pre-Scoping**: Identify existing travel routes within an area utilizing both BLM and public knowledge
- **Scoping**: Identify key issues and stakeholders
- **Alternatives Development**: Explore different management approaches
- **Analysis**: Assess resource conditions, trends, and needs
- **Public Review**: Gather feedback on draft plans
- **Final Plan**: Incorporate feedback and finalize decisions

A woman wearing a blue hoodie and glasses is gently petting a grey horse. The horse has a dark tag with the number '2067' hanging from its green lead rope. The background shows a wooden fence and some trees, suggesting an outdoor equestrian setting.

KEY AREAS FOR RAC ENGAGEMENT

- **Existing Route Identification:** provide local knowledge as to where existing roads and trails are located and their condition
- **Route Designation:** Contribute to discussions on which routes should be open or closed
- **Impact Assessment:** Provide local knowledge to assess the impacts of travel routes on resources
- **Monitoring:** Engage in the evaluation of travel management effectiveness and suggest improvements

A group of people are in a blue inflatable raft on a river. The raft is moving through white water rapids. In the background, there are large, grey, craggy rocks. The people in the raft are wearing helmets and life jackets. One person in the front is wearing a blue helmet and a yellow life jacket. Another person in the back is wearing a blue helmet and a red life jacket. The text "COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING" is overlaid in white, bold, uppercase letters on the left side of the image.

COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING

Definition: *A process where stakeholders, including RAC members, work together to advise BLM on decisions that aim to balance diverse interests and resource needs*

Process Includes:

- **Open Dialogue**: Sharing information and concerns openly
- **Consensus Building**: Striving for agreements that consider all viewpoints
- **Adaptive Management**: Adjusting decisions based on new information and feedback



BLM'S DECISION SPACE

- **Scope of Authority**: BLM has the flexibility to make decisions within the framework of federal laws, regulations, and policies
- **Decision Constraints**: Must align with legal mandates, existing plans, and budgetary constraints
- **RAC Input Role**: Provides valuable local perspectives and expertise that can shape and refine BLM decisions



HOW RAC INPUT IS USED

- **Informed Decision-Making:** RAC feedback helps BLM understand local impacts and preferences
- **Enhanced Credibility:** Engaging RAC members builds trust and legitimacy in BLM processes
- **Improving Outcomes:** Input from RACs helps identify innovative solutions and mitigate potential resource conflicts



**ONGOING AND
FUTURE PLANNING
EFFORTS**

Thirty-one Mile Mountain/Southern South Park Travel Mgmt. Plan: currently in the pre-scoping phase.

ePlanning: DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2024-0032-EA

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2033075/510>

San Luis Valley Field Office Travel Mgmt. Plan Refinements (FY25)

San Luis Valley Field Office Resource Mgmt. Plan Revision (FY25 or FY26 if funded)