

PURPOSE & NEED

This planning effort will establish an integrated framework for future site specific analyses and decisions that meet the mandates of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and other laws and regulations applicable to public lands within the planning area.

Passed by Congress in 1997, Public Law 105-85 directed the transfer of the former Naval Oil Shale Reserve 1 and 3 from the Department of Energy to the Bureau of Land Management. BLM will make resource management decisions including objectives for management and constraints on particular activities. Decisions will include what activities will be allowed and under what circumstances. BLM decisions about the compatibility of human activities with existing conditions will reflect reasonably foreseeable economic, ecological, and social benefits and dis-benefits associated with significant activities and possible management designations, gas leasing, recreation activities, wilderness proposals, or tourism.



PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria identify the important considerations guiding the overall planning process and the development of alternatives. They help set the scope of inventory and data collection, and identify the range of reasonable alternatives. These planning criteria are being made available for your information, and to help you understand the planning process.

Roan Plateau area planning criteria were derived from a variety of sources including:

1. Applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and agency policy;
2. GSFO RMP and supplemental documents;
3. Coordination of plans and programs of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and American Indian tribes;
4. The results of public participation;

The planning criteria contain both previous decisions that will be carried forward through the planning process and new decisions that need to be made. The planning criteria may be updated and changed as planning proceeds based on public suggestions and the findings of various studies and assessments.

The planning criteria are as follows:

Area of analysis:

1. The planning process will address the newly transferred public lands (formerly the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3) and other BLM administered public lands within the planning area (generally located between Parachute Creek, Highway 13 and the Colorado River, totaling approximately 73,600 acres;

Decisions to be made:

2. Review the validity of the Reasonable Forseeable Development scenario for the Production Area (NOSR 3) made in the Oil and Gas Leasing and Development FSEIS of Jan. 1999 and develop a new RFD as necessary;
3. Establish a new Reasonable Forseeable Development scenario for the planning area that includes; the un-leased transferred lands (NOSR 1), the Production Area (NOSR 3), and the remaining public lands within the planning area;
4. Establish travel designations that replace interim travel designations on transferred lands and affirm or change travel designations on lands in the rest of the planning area;
5. Establish conservation measures for all species listed as Sensitive, Candidate, Proposed, Threatened, and Endangered in order to prevent the listing of Sensitive, Candidate, and Proposed Species and to conserve species currently listed as Threatened and Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (see Aug. 30, 2000, Interagency MOA for Programmatic Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation);
6. Consider if additional measures (see GSFO Oil and Gas Leasing and Development FSEIS of 1999) may be necessary to reduce undesirable effects of surface disturbing activities to acceptable levels;
7. Decide on the designation of special management areas including; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Special Recreation Management Areas SRMAs;
8. Evaluate Wilderness Study Area designation for lands the BLM's administrative wilderness inventory process determined to contain wilderness values (as per Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. 1131(c)).
9. Consider maintaining current character and naturalness on lands within the *Conservationists' Wilderness Proposal for BLM* (see IM-CO-97-044 and IM-CO-96-01).
10. Use recommendations and information from land health assessments (H-4180-1 - Land Health Standards) to develop direction that enhances or restores physical function and biological health and achieves Land Health Standards at the watershed scale.

Process Criteria of Note (from federal law or regulation):

11. Provide for a balance and diversity of resource uses while realizing that some uses may not be compatible and may not be offered within the Roan Plateau area (Federal Land Policy And Management Act of 1976);
12. Address options about managing the land and its resources with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of

uses that will give the greatest dollar return (Federal Land Policy And Management Act of 1976);

13. Recognize valid existing rights (Federal Land Policy And Management Act of 1976);
14. Use multiple geographic scales, that may differ from the planning area for analysis, appropriate to specific resources and to address complex issues;
15. Consider budget when analyzing the feasibility of implementation.