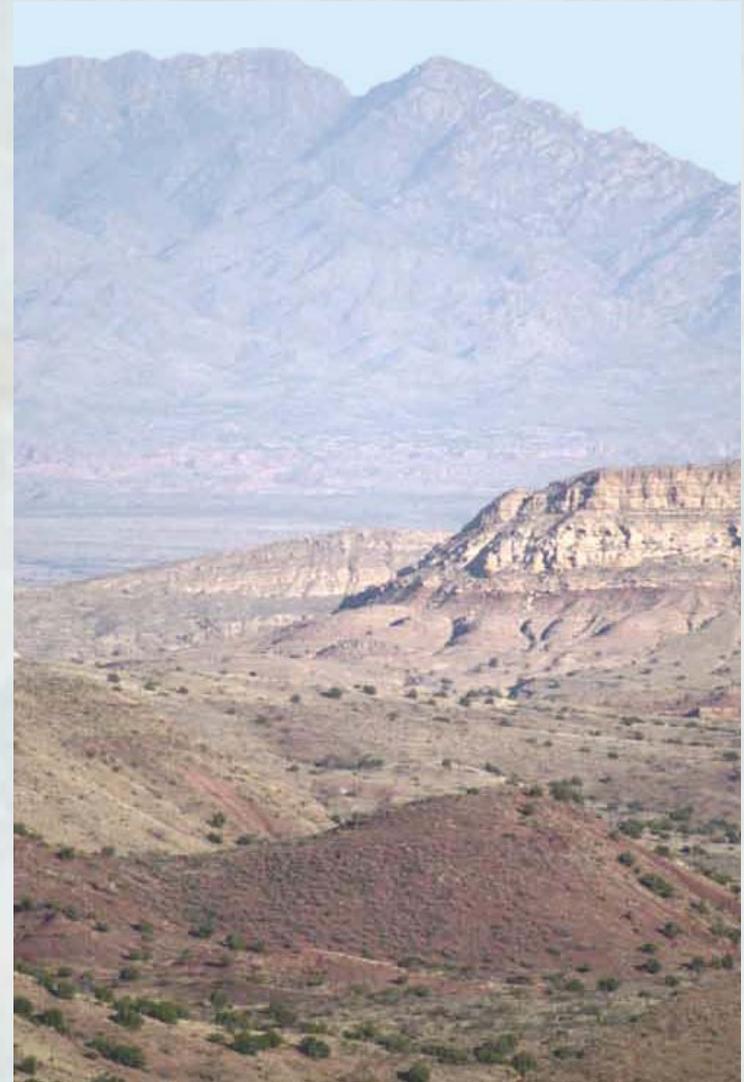


Socorro RMPR/EIS

Scoping Meetings

August 27, 28, and
29, 2002



Agenda...

- Introduction
- Background
- Roles and responsibilities
- Planning and EIS process
- Schedule
- Opportunities for public participation
- Comments

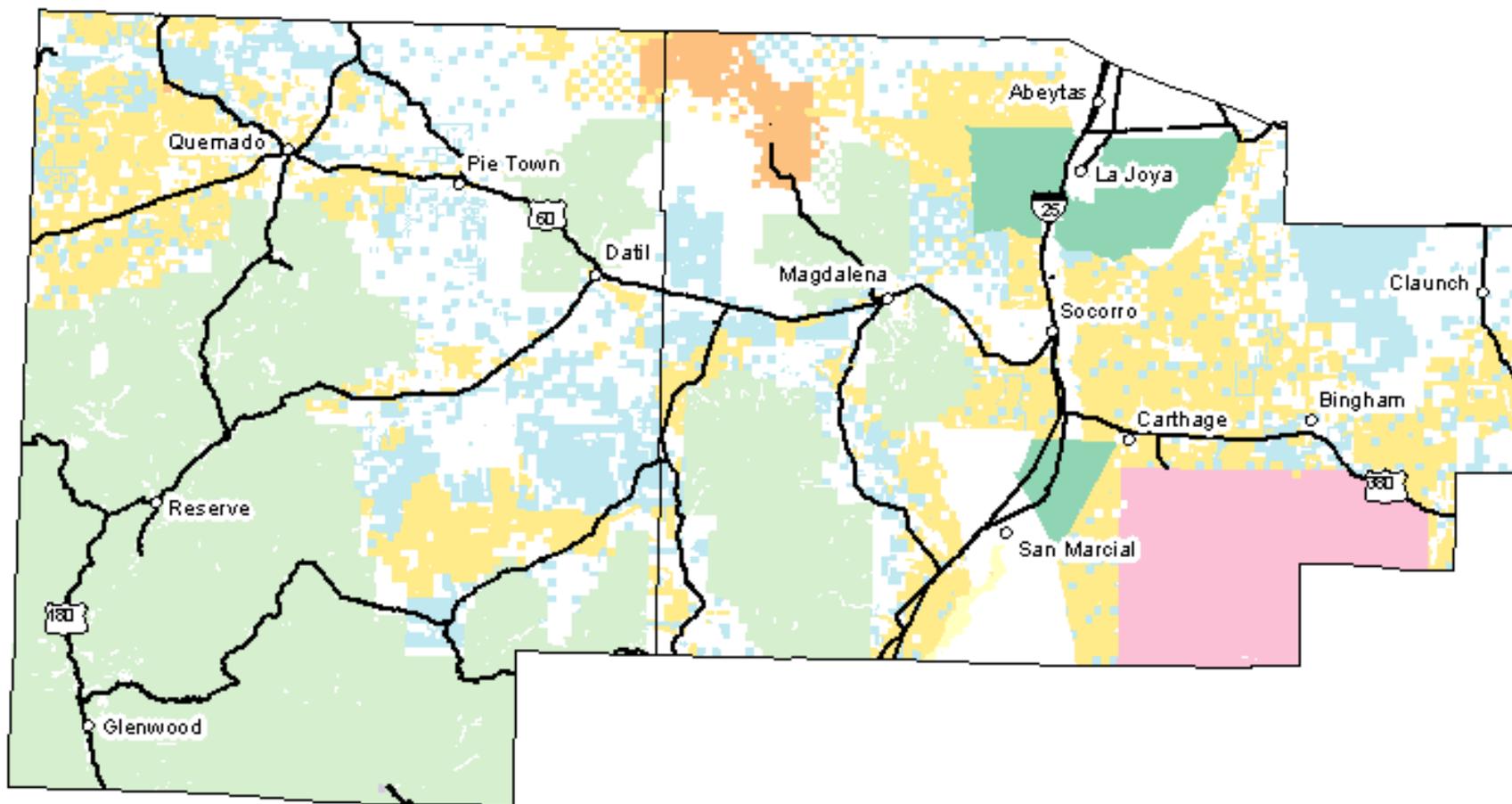


Scoping...

- to inform the public that BLM intends to
 - revise the 1989 Resource Management Plan (RMP)
 - prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- to solicit public comments
- announcements
 - *Federal Register* Notice of Intent, May 8, 2002
 - Scoping Notice mailed ~1,600 recipients
 - Paid ads in two local papers and Albuquerque Journal
 - news releases to local and regional media
- public meetings
 - Socorro - August 27
 - Quemado - August 28
 - Zuni - August 29
- comments needed by September 13, 2002 to be included in the Scoping Report



Socorro Field Office RMPR/EIS



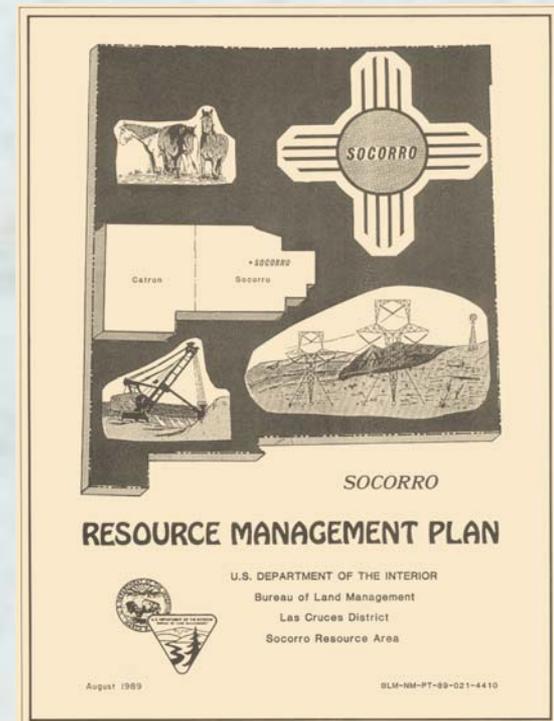
Purpose of the RMP...

- Provides comprehensive framework for
 - managing public land
 - allocating resources
- Sets forth land use decisions
- Prescribes development of activity plans



Previous BLM planning decisions include...

- *Socorro Resource Management Plan, 1989*



Previous BLM planning decisions include...

- *Socorro Resource Management Plan, 1989*
- *RMPA for Continental Divide Trail*
- *RMPA for Devil's Backbone Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area*
- *RMPA for Camino Real International Heritage Center*
- *New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management*



What guides BLM?

- Laws
- Regulations
- Policy (manuals)
- Instruction Memoranda



1989 RMP Achievements...

- Interagency watershed program
- Ladron Mountain Habitat Management Plan
- Land tenure adjustment



1989 RMP Achievements...

- Recreation opportunities
- 303,000 acres of Wilderness Study Areas
- Bordo Atravesado Wild Horse Herd



1989 RMP Achievements...

- Participant - Socorro County's Strategic Plan for managing noxious weeds
- El Camino Real International Heritage Center (with State)



1989 RMP Achievements...

- Cultural Resources Program



Current and ongoing activities...

- Save Our Bosque Task Force
- Interagency Watershed Program
- Archaeological Field School
- Public Lands Day
- Fort Craig
- El Camino Real International Heritage Center



Why revise the RMP?

- Population growth has increased uses
 - Urban/Rural interface
 - Increased recreational uses
- Changes in land status (e.g., acquisitions, disposals)
- New discoveries (e.g., CO₂)
- Changing emphasis
 - National Fire Policy
 - Energy Policy
 - Noxious weeds
 - New subdivision development



Public comments to date...

- Initial comments in response to May 8th *Federal Register* Notice of Intent to conduct planning.
- Comments received from first bulletin mailing.



BLM management questions...

- How can fire and fuels management, range management, wildlife habitat management and other disciplines of multiple-use be best combined for improvements at the watershed level?
- How should off-highway vehicle (OHV) use be managed?
- What are the effects of urban interface on public land resources and management practices?



BLM management questions...

- Do existing retention and disposal areas for land tenure adjustments reflect current knowledge of resource values?
- Should Special Management Areas (SMAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) be added, dropped, or management plans revised?
- What resource values are located on recently acquired public land, and what multiple use decisions are needed for effective management?



BLM management questions...

- How will fluid and solid minerals development be managed given changes since the 1989 RMP?
- How can the public best benefit from the BLM's cultural and recreational initiatives?



The EIS studies will...

- identify potential impacts that implementation of the RMPR could have on the environment including the human environment
- identify appropriate measures to mitigate those potential impacts
- be prepared in compliance with
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations
 - Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
 - Other associated regulations



Preliminary planning criteria...

- Recognize valid existing rights
- Follow existing law, executive orders, regulations, and BLM policy and program guidance
- Collaborate with agencies and the public
- Consider adjoining nonpublic land to minimize land use conflicts



Preliminary planning criteria...

- Develop alternatives that are reasonable and avoid analysis based on *maximum* and *minimum* output, uses, and activities
- Use current scientific information, research, new technologies; and the results of inventory, monitoring and coordination
- Address social and economic conditions



Preliminary planning criteria...

- Determine which decisions in the existing RMP are valid and should be carried forward in the revision
- Provide for public safety and welfare
- Address natural, human, and cultural effects



Resources to be addressed...

- **Human environment**
 - lands and real estate
 - recreation
 - visual characteristics
 - local and regional social and economic conditions
 - Native American issues and concerns
 - livestock grazing
 - fire management
 - hazardous substances management



Resources to be addressed...

- **Natural environment**

- geology and minerals
- soils
- water resources
- air quality
- vegetation
- wildlife
- special-status species
- noxious weeds
- wild horses
- wilderness



Resources to be addressed...

- **Cultural environment**
 - historic and archaeological resources
 - paleontological resources
 - living traditional cultures

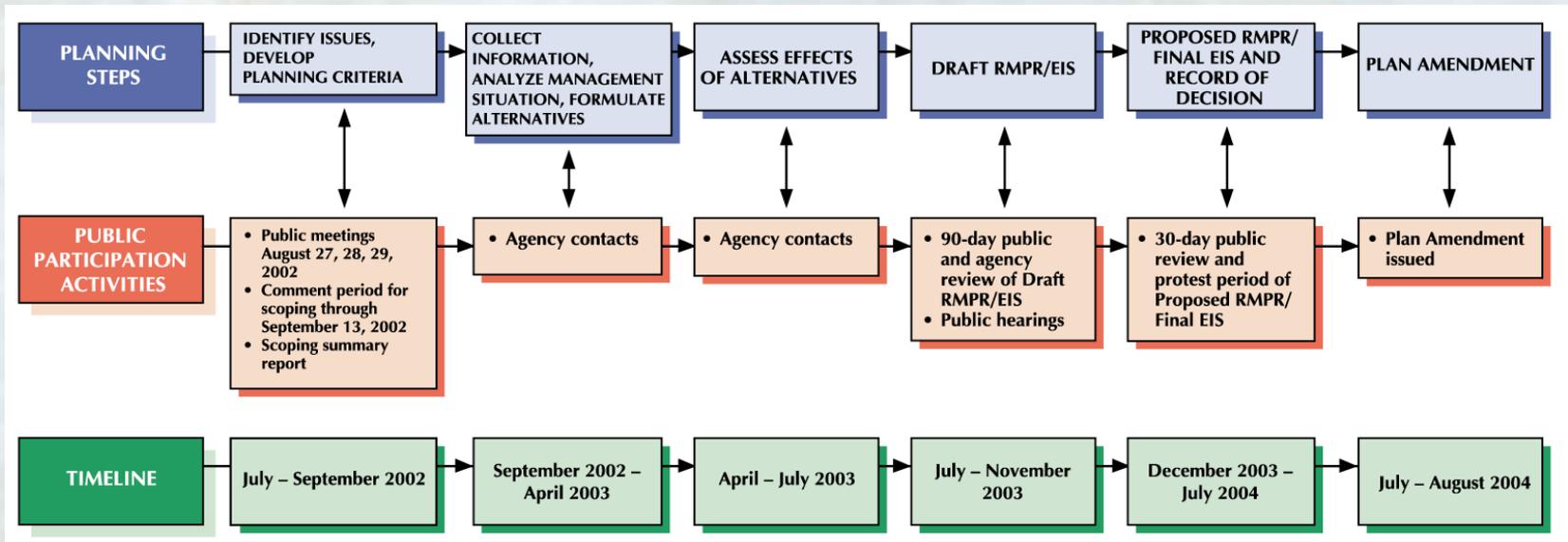


Roles and responsibilities for the RMPR/EIS...

- **Bureau of Land Management**
 - Socorro Field Office (SFO)
Responsible for conducting planning and EIS process
 - New Mexico State Office
Responsible for review and approval
- **Cooperating agencies**
 - Socorro and Catron Counties
 - Zuni Tribe
 - Others invited and others may arise
- **Public and other agencies**
 - Provide comments
- **URS Corporation**
 - Consultant to assist the BLM in preparing the RMPR/EIS



Sequence of Planning Activities



Step 1

PLANNING STEPS

- Identify issues
- Develop planning criteria

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

- Public meetings
August 27, 28, and 29, 2002
- Comment period for
scoping through
September 13, 2002
- Scoping summary report

TIMELINE

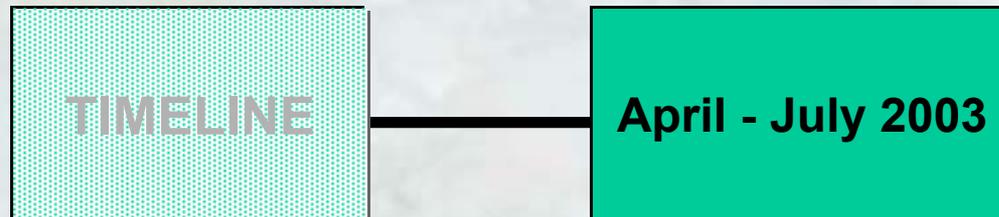
July -
September 2002



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

PLANNING STEPS

- Proposed RMPR/
Final EIS
- Record of decision

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

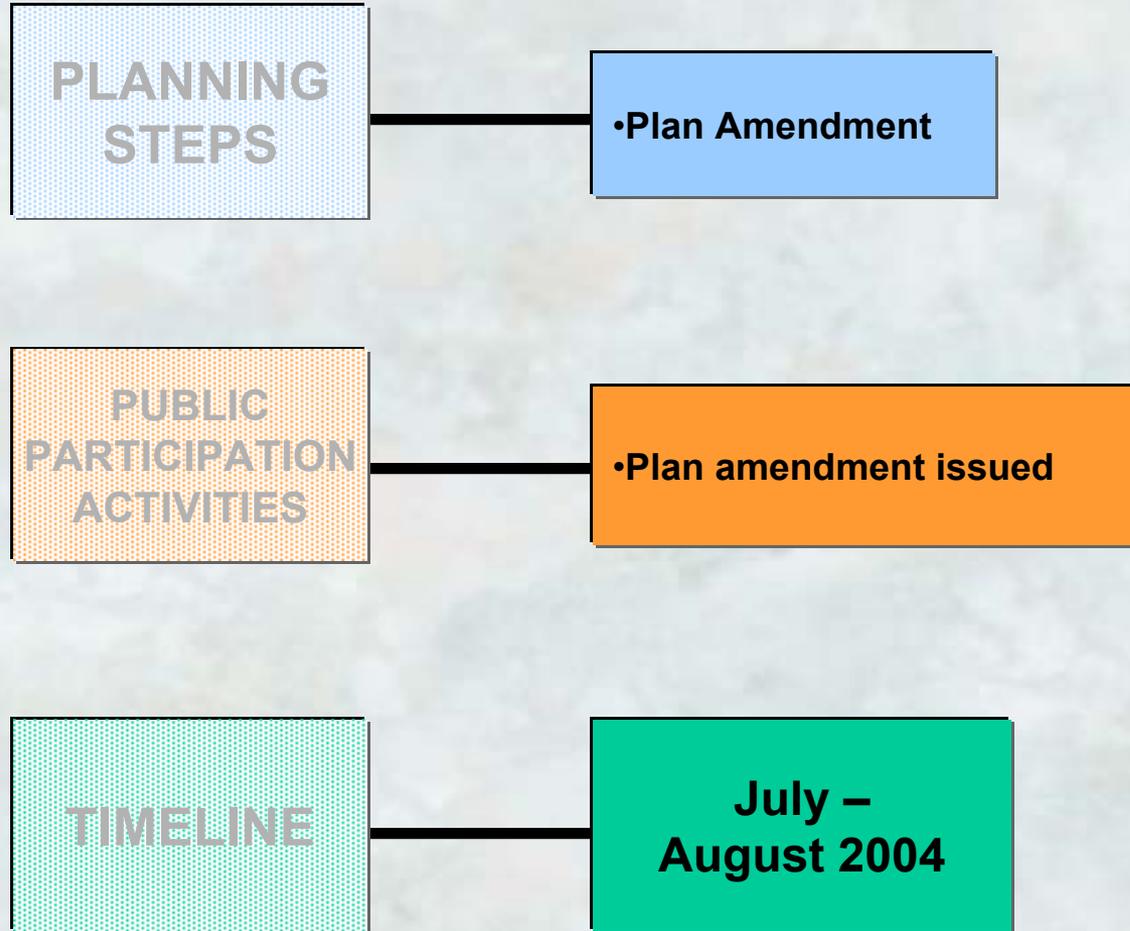
- 30-day public review and
protest period of
Proposed RMPR/Final EIS

TIMELINE

**December 2003 –
July 2004**



Step 6



How to make your comments count...

One well-considered comment can make a difference.

Comments most useful are those that:

- Identify a new or changing area of management that we may have overlooked.
- Identify an area of the existing RMP that should be considered for revision.
- Offer a specific idea of how to address an old or new element of management.
- Provide specific information about how a particular element of the old plan or new ideas would affect you.



How can the public participate?

- Comment during scoping
- Comment on the draft RMPR/EIS
- Information line **(866) 702-3318**
- Website **<http://www.nm.blm.gov>**
- BLM point of contact:

Charles Carroll, Team Leader

(505) 838-1278



- Comments
- Concerns
- Ideas

