

Clear Creek Management Area

Resource Management Plan

PUBLIC SCOPING ISSUES

CCMA RMP Purpose & Need

- The Hollister Field Office RMP was updated in 2006 to establish goals, objectives, and management actions for BLM public lands.
- CCMA was not addressed in that document because of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerns about technical deficiencies of a 1992 health risk assessment for CCMA visitors.
- Therefore, current management direction for CCMA is contained in the 1984 Hollister Resource Management Plan and subsequent amendments (1986, 1995, 2006).
- These plan amendments do not address present program guidance, laws, regulations and policies developed since their conception.
- Other social, political, and environmental changes, coupled with significant population growth have also presented some complex management issues, which will benefit from a new “stand alone” RMP for CCMA.
- Development of a new CCMA RMP would address planning needs discussed in the Hollister RMP (2007); as well as concerns about the health risk from exposure to naturally occurring asbestos.

Anticipated Planning Issues

- A Planning Issue is identified as a matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose.
- Management concerns are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is generally more important to an individual or a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue, which has more widespread point of conflict.
- The issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary and based on the best information known to date.

Issue 1: What measures are necessary to address impacts to public safety and human health from naturally occurring asbestos?

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- Does the EPA Human Health Study (2007) present significantly different health risk data (i.e., exposure rates) from the 1992 Human Health Risk Assessment?
- How do the results of the EPA study influence BLM goals, objectives, and alternative development?

Issue 2: What measures are necessary to address impacts to resources and human health from past mining activities?

- What types of monitoring are necessary to assess impacts from abandoned mining land activities?
- How will restoration and mitigation contribute to improving watershed conditions and reducing human health risks and hazards?

Issue 3: What areas, if any, should be designated and managed as special management areas?

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- Which areas should be identified or designated to receive special management?
- Which designations are most appropriate?
- Is management of existing ACECs effective and appropriate?
- Should boundaries or management of existing special designations be changed?

Issue 4: How should upland ecosystems be managed to achieve desired conditions?

- What is the current health, ecologic status and trend of the various ecosystems and plant communities, including those lands subject to invasive species and noxious weeds?
- How will healthy native plant communities be restored and/or maintained?
- What is the appropriate mix of consumptive and non-consumptive uses while maintaining healthy, functioning ecosystems?
- How will public lands be managed to improve and maintain water quality, watershed functions, and promote hydrologic recovery?
- How will public lands be managed to maintain or improve soil productivity, and site stability?
- What is the current status and condition of habitat needed to support suites of species, including threatened and endangered and sensitive species, migratory birds, and species disjunct from their population center or at the edge of their range?

Issue 5: How should riparian areas and wetlands be managed to achieve the desired conditions?

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- What is the current health and trend of riparian/wetland plant communities?
- What is the current status of riparian systems relative to habitat quality for fish, wildlife, plants and invertebrates? What is the population status of these dependent species?
- How are Best Management Practice's contributing to achieving desired water quality and proper functioning conditions?
- What is the current condition of water quality and quantity and what is needed to meet BLM standards and to promote hydrologic recovery.

Issue 6: How will wildland and prescribed fire be managed to achieve the goals of the Federal Wildland Fire Policy?

- What is the fire history in the area, and its effect on anticipated fire trends?
- What is the role of fire in upland and riparian ecosystems and how should fire planning, including urban interface considerations, and the National Fire Plan be incorporated into the RMP?

Issue 7: How should recreational access (motorized and non-motorized) be managed on public lands?

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- Are there areas where visitor use or season of use is in conflict with public health standards? If so, should these areas (or specific routes) be closed or their use limited for motorized and/or non-motorized recreation? Where are the existing roads and ways or other travel routes? What is their condition?
- Where is acquisition of legal access necessary to promote resource management and public use?
- Are there needs to reroute or construct routes to facilitate resource management and public use?

Issue 8: How should the public lands be managed to sustain the traditional practices of Native American cultures?

- Native American groups with traditional homelands in the planning area want continued access for social, spiritual and traditional uses.
- How should public lands be managed to meet the needs of tribal-sufficiency and traditions?

Issue 9: How should the public lands be managed to meet the needs of local and regional communities?

- The BLM-administered lands in the area are located within San Benito and western Fresno counties. The communities which are associated with public lands in this area depend heavily on these public land resources for the economic and social benefits they provide.
- What economic and social benefits to local and regional communities are derived from the public lands managed by the BLM?
- How important are these benefits to local and regional economies?
- How can community planning groups contribute to regional management strategies?

Issue 10: What lands are available for disposal or are of interest for acquisition by the BLM?

Possible questions relating to this issue:

- What public lands are not central to the BLM's mission to maintain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for use and enjoyment of present and future generations and could therefore be available for disposal?
- If the opportunity should arise, which lands could be available for disposal to increase benefits to the public, enhance public enjoyment and facilitate future resource management?
- What criteria will guide land disposal and acquisition?

Issue 11: What lands and resources have potential for energy development and how will those be managed?

- What criteria will guide development of energy resources to ensure this development is compatible with other resources and resource uses?
- Is management related to existing utility corridors compatible with resource objectives?
- Will additional utility corridors be established and if so, what will be the criteria for locating and managing those corridors?
- What lands will be available for energy-related rights-of-way such as communication and utility facility sites? What criteria or parameters will guide approval or denial of such right-of-way proposals?

Issue 12: How will recreation opportunities be managed?

Possible planning questions related to this issue are:

- What is the current extent and nature of demand for recreational opportunities in the CCMA?
- What recreation opportunities are currently provided over the planning area, and what resource or use conflicts may exist?
- What management decisions are necessary to meet the changing demands for recreation on public lands, or to prevent resource damage from uncontrolled recreation activity?

RMP Schedule

- **Conduct Public Scoping Meetings Briefings, Public Comment** 08/2007-12/2007
- **Analyze Scoping Comments, Prepare Draft RMP & Draft EIS** 12/2007- 07/2008
- **Issue Draft RMP and EIS** 08/2008
- **Public comment period, briefings, meetings** 08/2008- 11/2008
- **Analyze Public Comments, Prepare Proposed RMP & Final EIS** 12/2008-03/2009
- **Issue Proposed RMP/Final EIS** 04/2009
- **Protest Period and Governors Consistency Review** 04/2009- 05/2009
- **Resolve Protest and Prepare Record of Decision** 05/2009-08/2009
- **Issue Record of Decision/Approved RMP** 09/2009