

BLM/ES/PT-04/000+1610

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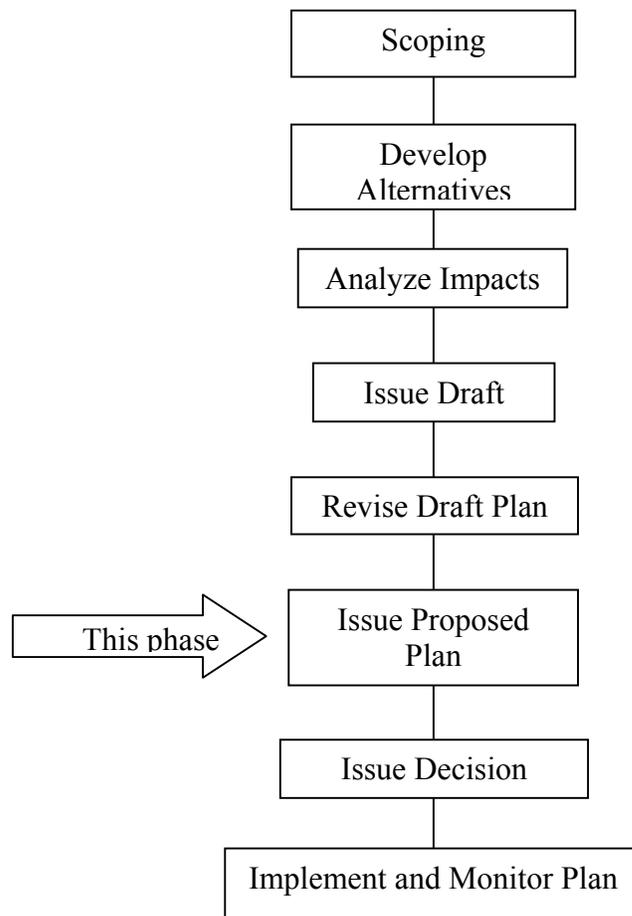
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The Planning Process

This plan has been developed using the Federal planning process outlined in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610 et seq. and 40 CFR 1500 et seq. These regulations follow the process set out in Sec. 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and Sec. 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, respectively. Together, these mandates provide for informed decisions based on scientific analysis and substantial public involvement. At the conclusion of the planning process, participants have the opportunity to protest the plan to the Director of the BLM.

The plan makes decisions on Federal lands as well as provides direction for State-owned lands within the planning area. It does not affect private lands, nor does it change local zoning ordinances.



User's guide

This document is made up of five chapters and several appendices. **Chapter One (Purpose and Need)** is the introduction, which explains the goals and objectives for the plan. It also describes the planning criteria and issues to be addressed by the plan. **Chapter Two (Alternatives)** describes the Proposed Plan and other alternatives that have been analyzed in detail. It explains the “no action” alternative, which would be the continuation of current management for the Douglas Point tract only. **Chapter Three (Affected Environment)** describes the existing environment conditions found in the planning area, including the natural, historic resources and social-economic conditions of the region. Only those aspects of the environment that are affected by the plan’s alternatives are described in the chapter. **Chapter Four (Environmental Impacts)** contains the analysis of the potential impacts that may occur under each alternative **Chapter Five (Consultation and Coordination)** describes the consultation and coordination efforts that went into making this plan unique in terms of the level of collaboration. All of the resource maps have been moved to a separate appendix (Appendix 16).

Also included are 16 Appendices, and a Glossary.

State of Maryland
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building E-4
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Potomac Field Station
10406 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to present you with a copy of the Lower Potomac River Proposed Coordinated Management Plan. This Proposed Plan is the result of over two years of hard work by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the dedication of dozens of citizens and staff from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. While the plan has been prepared under BLM's planning regulations, it is designed to make decisions for both DNR and BLM. Most important of these decisions will be those that help DNR achieve its statewide conservation goals under the Green Infrastructure initiative.

Under our partnership, the DNR and BLM have acquired 1800 acres of land for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Maryland and the United States. BLM's role has been, and will continue to be one of facilitator to help the State meet its Green Infrastructure objectives. The proposed plan strikes a balance between protection and development of the land's many valuable natural and cultural resource assets. The Bureau will continue to promote on-the-ground partnerships to help implement the plan's proposals.

While the Proposed CMP is an important point in the planning process, it is not the final word. Under BLM's planning process, the public has the opportunity to protest the plan to the BLM Director in Washington, D.C. See page ii for instructions regarding plan protests. Only planning decisions that affect BLM lands and management responsibilities may be protested to the Director. Planning decisions that fall within the State of Maryland's jurisdiction and land management responsibilities cannot be protested. Comment letters regarding proposals affecting State of Maryland lands and its management responsibilities should be mailed to Barbara Grey, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, E-4, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Thank you again for your interest in this exciting and unique project. We look forward to working with you in the future as we implement these proposals.

Sincerely,

Ron Franks, Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Michael D. Nedd, State Director
BLM-Eastern States

FILING A PROTEST TO THE BLM

Any person or organization that participated in the planning process and has an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by approval of the Proposed CMP may protest the plan. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest:

- (1) Protests may only relate to proposals affecting BLM lands and the environmental analysis included in the CMP.
- (2) Comments received by BLM that pertain to, or are relevant to the State owned lands discussed in the CMP, will be forwarded to MD DNR for its review and consideration.
- (3) Only those persons or organizations that participated in the planning process may file a protest.
- (4) A protesting party may only raise those issues that were raised or commented on during the planning process.

In order to be considered complete, a protest must contain at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The name, mailing address, telephone number, and the interest of the person filing the protest.
- (2) A statement of the issue being protested.
- (3) A statement of the portion of the plan being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, and maps in the Proposed CMP.
- (4) A copy of all documents addressing the issue submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue was discussed for the record.
- (5) A concise statement explaining why the BLM Director's decision is believed to be incorrect; this is a critical part of the protest. Take care to document all relevant facts and reference and/or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents and available planning records (summaries, correspondence). A protest without any supporting data will not provide the BLM with sufficient information; the Director's review will be based on existing analysis and supporting data.

All protest letters must be sent to one of the following addresses:

US Postal Service:

Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, D.C. 20035

Or by overnight mail:

Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, N.W., Room 1075, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Protest letters must be postmarked by the 30th day following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. There is no provision for extension of the protest period.