

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

November 17, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4100 (220) I

EMS TRANSMISSION 11/18/2004
Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-044
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: All WO Officials and SD's (except Alaska and ESO)

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

Subject: Request for Comments on Administrative Review Copy of Revisions to Grazing Regulations Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

DD: 11/26/2003

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to request comments on the administrative review copy of the Revisions to Grazing Regulations DEIS.

Background: On March 3, 2003, an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Intent were published in the *Federal Register* announcing BLM's intent to revise the grazing regulations for public lands and to prepare an EIS on the proposed revisions. The proposed regulations have been completed and will be announced in early December 2003. The administrative review copy of the DEIS has been prepared using BLM's ePlanning system. The Grazing Regulation EIS is one of the pilot projects for ePlanning. As part of that pilot, the internal review process will use the ePlanning comment module to gather comments from WO and State Office specialists.

Action: All WO Officials and SD's (except Alaska and ESO) are asked to submit detailed review comments on the administrative review copy of the DEIS using the ePlanning system. The comments must be submitted in accordance with the instructions found on the ePlanning website. The ePlanning website is accessible at www.blm.gov/grazing. Because this document is still in draft, it is accessible only with a password. Therefore, each resource specialist who is assigned to review this document must be provided with the password. The password will be distributed under a separate e-mail directly to WO Officials, SD's, and DSD's for Resources on November 19, 2003. A pdf version of the administrative review draft is available on the website which you may use to print a hard copy of the document to facilitate the review.

Comments are to be submitted into the ePlanning website by November 26, 2003. Due to the holiday, we will keep the system open to accept comments through November 28, 2003, however, we encourage you to complete comments by or before the stated due date.

State Directors are also to submit by November 26, 2003, responses to the data call found in Attachment 1.

We apologize for the quick turnaround requested for this review, however, we are under a very tight deadline for issuing this DEIS in a timely manner following the release of the Proposed Rule.

Contact: Any general questions regarding the Proposed Rule, administrative review copy of the DEIS or the data call should be directed to Molly S. Brady, Rangeland, Soils, Water, and Air Group, at 202-452-7714. Technical problems related to the ePlanning website should be directed to Mary Beth Stulz, National Science and Technology Center, at 303-236-0100.

Signed by:
Edward Shepard, Jr.
Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning

Authenticated by:
Barbara J. Brown
Policy & Records Group, WO-560

1 Attachment

1 - Grazing Regulations DEIS Data Call (1 p)

Grazing Regulations DEIS Data Call

In order to complete the analysis in DEIS, we need data and information on the following:

1. Biological assessments (BA's)
 - a. Number of BA's completed in FY 2003.
 - b. Number of BA's released or treated as "Proposed Decisions" in FY 2003.
 - c. Number of BA's protested or protested and appealed in FY 2003.

2. Consultation, cooperation and coordination (CCC) with the interested public
 - a. Number of individuals or organizations identified as "interested publics" for purposes of grazing decisions by Field Office.
 - b. Issues, concerns or problems that have been encountered in conducting CCC with the interested public.