

This Draft Land Management Plan (DLMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addresses future management options for approximately 1,867,800 acres of the San Juan National Forest, administered by the USFS; and approximately 500,000 surface acres and 300,000 acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the BLM. The planning area is located in southwestern Colorado, in Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Rio Grande, San Juan, and San Miguel Counties. The BLM and the USFS in southwest Colorado are managed under a combined “Service First” partnership. The San Juan Public Lands Center (SJPLC) and its Ranger District/Field Offices (Columbine, Dolores, and Pagosa) are the joint USFS/BLM Service First offices responsible for the management of the public lands and resources considered in this DLMP/DEIS. Information provided by the public; BLM and USFS personnel; other Federal, State, and local governmental agencies; Native American tribal agencies and organizations; and special interest and community organizations has been used to develop and analyze the four land management alternatives and the oil and gas leasing alternatives considered in detail in this document. Alternative A, the No-Action Alternative, represents the continuation of current management direction. Alternative B, the Preferred Alternative, which is described in detail in Volume 2 of this DLMP/DEIS, provides for a mix of multiple-use activities, with a primary emphasis on maintaining most of the large, contiguous blocks of undeveloped lands and enhancing various forms of recreation opportunities while, at the same time, maintaining the diversity of uses and active forest and rangeland vegetation management. Alternative C provides for a mix of multiple-use activities, with a primary emphasis on preserving the undeveloped character of the San Juan public lands. Alternative D provides for a mix of multiple-use activities, with a primary emphasis on preserving the “working forest and rangelands” character of the lands administered by the SJPLC in order to produce the highest amounts of commodity goods and services. Additionally, these alternatives, plus a no-leasing alternative, are described as part of the USFS oil and gas leasing availability analysis.

USFS MISSION STATEMENT

The phrase, “Caring For The Land And Serving People,” captures the USFS mission, which is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands in order to meet the needs of present and future generations. As set forth in law, the USFS mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept in order to meet the diverse needs of people.

BLM MISSION STATEMENT

The BLM is responsible for the balanced management of BLM-administered lands and resources, and their various values, so that they are considered in a manner and combination that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. This combination of uses takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, as well as wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific, and cultural values.