

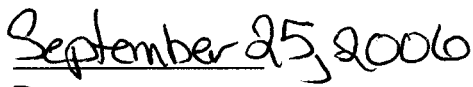
RECORD OF DECISION UKIAH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Having considered a full range of alternatives, associated effects, and public input, I recommend adoption and implementation of the attached Ukiah Resource Management Plan. This plan contains the decisions that will guide management of the lands and resources under the jurisdiction of the Ukiah Field Office. The plan addresses all relevant issues raised during the planning process.



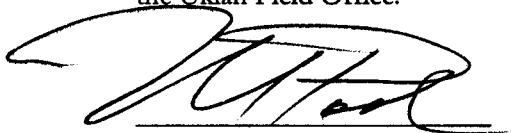
Rich Burns
Ukiah Field Manager



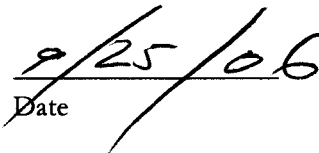
Date

STATE DIRECTOR APPROVAL

I approve the attached Ukiah Resource Management Plan. This document meets the requirement of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act to develop a land use plan for public lands administered by the Ukiah Field Office.



Mike Pool
California State Director



Date

Decision

The decision is hereby made to adopt the attached resource management plan for the public lands and resources managed by the Ukiah Field Office. The Ukiah Resource Management Plan was developed under regulations implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. An environmental impact statement was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to consider this decision. The Ukiah RMP adopted here is nearly identical to the Ukiah Proposed RMP presented for public review and protest on June 30, 2006.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN THE RMP

The underlying goal of developing alternatives was to explore the range of use options, protection options, and management tools that will achieve a balance between protection of the planning area's natural character, and a variety of resource uses and management issues. Alternatives must: meet the project purpose and need; be viable and reasonable; provide a mix of resource protection, management use, and development; be responsive to issues identified in scoping; and meet the established planning criteria, federal laws and regulations, and BLM planning policy.

Five alternatives were developed for detailed analysis. Alternative A was a continuation of current management as the "no action" alternative, and was developed from existing planning decisions, policies, and guidance. Alternatives B, C, and D were developed with input from public scoping, public workshops, and collaborative work among the BLM interdisciplinary planning team.

Of the action alternatives, Alternative B represented less intense management and/or use, emphasizing a greater utilization of natural processes wherever possible, and minimizing human impacts. This would result in lower levels of active involvement in resource restoration and management, as well as limited recreation use. In the middle of the spectrum, Alternative C provided a greater diversity of uses and approaches to management, with a broad mix of tools that would allow for moderate levels of use. Alternative D took a more active approach, allowing more intense management and/or use while still maintaining and enhancing resource conditions. It included the widest application of management tools and actions, and provided the highest level of recreation use. The preferred alternative and proposed RMP was developed using decisions from each of the other alternatives. See the Management Considerations section for more detail.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Federal regulations (40CFR 1505.02(b)) require that an agency identify the "environmentally preferable" alternative(s) in the ROD. Table 1 below compares the approved RMP with the environmentally preferable alternative for each major resource program. Tables making this comparison by management area are provided in Appendix 1. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that would result in the greatest beneficial impacts to the identified aspects of the environment.

Table 1

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	B + C	B
Wildlife and Fish	C	D
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C	C
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C	D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	C	B
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C	C
Wind Energy	D	D
Travel Management and Route Designation	A + C	B
Recreation	C	C
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	D
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS/DECISION RATIONALE

The approved RMP was selected by the BLM, with input from Tribes, state and county governments, other federal agencies, the Northwest California Resource Advisory Council (RAC), interested organizations, and the public. BLM considers the approved RMP as the best approach to meeting the purpose and need of this project, addressing the planning issues, and providing the optimal combination of flexibility and balance in managing both resources and uses of the lands in the planning area. Factors considered during this selection process include: environmental impacts; issues raised throughout the planning process; specific environmental values, resources, and resource uses; conflict resolution; public input; and laws and regulations.

The approved RMP draws from the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and is identical to the Proposed RMP. Based on input BLM received on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS, the following modifications were made to the RMP:

- a. **Wind Energy Berryessa Peak** – Changed from available for wind energy development to an avoidance area.
- b. **Blue Ridge** – Changed from multiple-use management to management for wilderness characteristics.
- c. **Walker Ridge** – The boundary for the ACEC designation is now based on the Rare Finds data base for serpentine endemic plant species as opposed to an elevation line west of the Lake County Boundary.
- d. **Scattered Tracts** – Various scattered tracts were changed from disposal to retention.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires that BLM manage the public lands according to land use plans (43 U.S.C. 1702; 43 U.S.C. 1732) in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in the natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use (43 U.S.C. 1701); and regulates the use, occupancy, and development of public lands (43 U.S.C. 1732). The RMP is the land use plan that provides the framework to accomplish these mandates. Through implementation of the RMP and other actions that may become necessary, BLM will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

The approved RMP focuses on the use of mostly moderate, sometimes targeted/opportunistic management interventions for most resource areas and management programs in the Ukiah Field Office. It also provides moderate levels of recreation use, with some new controls added to assure that neither resources nor recreation experiences suffer through overuse, while at the same time avoiding excessive restrictions.

PROTEST AND APPEAL

The Proposed RMP decisions were available for protest to the BLM Director for a 30 day period, in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2. No protests were received.

The decisions designating routes of travel for motorized vehicles are an implementation decisions and are appealable under 43 CFR Part 4. These decisions are contained in Appendix A of the RMP. The appeal procedures are summarized below.

The route decisions, as described in Appendix A of the RMP, are effective upon issuance of this Record of Decision, unless a stay of the decision is granted. In accordance with 43 CFR 8342.3(b), public notice was provided with publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS and with a Notice of Availability of this Record of Decision and approved RMP.

Appeal Procedures

Any party adversely affected by the proposed route designations may appeal within 30 days of receipt of this decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4.4. The publication of the Notice of Availability of this ROD and approved RMP will be considered the date the decision is received. The appeal should state the specific route(s), as identified in Appendix A of the RMP, on which the decision is being appealed. The appeal must be filed with the Field Manager, at the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah Field Office
2550 N. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

You may include a statement of reasons when the notice of appeal is filed, or you may file the statement of reasons within 30 days after filing the appeal. A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents must also be sent to the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite E-1712, Sacramento 95825.

If the Statement of reasons is filed separately, it must be sent to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203. It is suggested that any appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Request for Stay

If you wish to request a stay of the decision pending the outcome of the appeal, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at the time the appeal is filed and must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce impacts were incorporated into the management alternatives analyzed in the EIS and the adopted RMP, so impacts identified are considered unavoidable and would result from implementing the management actions and mitigation. If impacts are not discussed, analysis has indicated either that none would occur or that their magnitude would be negligible. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm while still meeting the goals, purpose and need requirements of the RMP have been adopted.

The ROD approves monitoring programs that aid in managing and protecting the resource values of the area. Monitoring of biological resources addresses species needs and will ensure BLM complies with the terms and conditions of the September 2006 Biological Opinions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Scoping and Alternative Development Workshops

BLM officially initiated the planning process for the Ukiah RMP with publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on June 21, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 118). Media releases requested public input and announced open houses for public scoping, held in eight cities during August and September 2004, and one field trip. The formal scoping period ended September 15, 2004, although additional comments were accepted after that date. A total of over 647 written comments were compiled during this period. These comments were recorded and categorized according to both source and topic, and were then compiled, reviewed, and assessed in a scoping report completed by the BLM in November 2004.

Following scoping, BLM held four public Alternative Development Workshops in February 2005. These workshops engaged the public, agencies, and tribes in the process of developing management alternatives for consideration in this Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Draft RMP and Draft EIS

The public comment period for the Ukiah Draft RMP/Draft EIS opened with publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* on September 16, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 179). This NOA notified the public of the BLM's publication of the Draft RMP and associated Draft EIS. The NOA also solicited public comments and participation.

Five public comment meetings were held in October 2005 in local communities across the Ukiah Field Office's planning area. By the end of the public comment period, 2,290 agency, individual, or organization comments were received.

Tribal Consultation

The Ukiah Field Office interacts with 28 federally recognized and two non-federally recognized tribes. Consultation with all 30 tribes regarding the Ukiah RMP began in June of 2004. On August 2, 2004, certified letters were sent to each tribal office containing a packet of information about resource management plans and the BLM planning process. The tribes were also formally invited to attend two scoping meetings set up especially to address their concerns and involvement with the Ukiah Plan. As a means of reaching out further to tribes for their input, representatives from the Ukiah Field Office visited 3 Central Valley tribal offices on September 14, 2004. These tribes were interested in the process but had no means of attending the public meetings held earlier in their area.

Tribal consultation continued during the alternative formulation process. The draft Ukiah RMP/EIS was made available for public review September of 2005, and copies of the document were sent to all 28 federally recognized and the 2 non-federally recognized tribes along with a letter informing the tribes to provide their written comments to BLM by December 15, 2005.

A Ukiah RMP/EIS briefing with the California State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) was held on May 8, 2006. Planning and process procedures were discussed in addition to discussions about comments received from the tribes. The SHPO appreciated the outreach and coordination efforts of the Ukiah Field Office in addition to our long term partnerships with the tribal communities in the area.

County, State and Federal Participation

Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Yolo, and Mendocino Counties requested more specific information regarding certain aspects of the RMP of interest to them such as land tenure, open space preservation, special area designation, recreation management, access, and energy development. In each instance, the Ukiah Field Manager and representatives from the Ukiah staff met personally and or talked by telephone with local county officials and discussed their issues and how the RMP would address their concerns.

The following state agencies have been provided with information on the RMP process and consultation is ongoing with: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), California Department of Fish and

Game, California State Parks and California Coastal Commission. The Draft RMP was also submitted to the California Governor's Clearing House for review by appropriate agencies.

An RMP overview and its affect on the Lake Berryessa Visitor's Services Plan was provided to representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation from Lake Berryessa. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been ongoing throughout the planning process. BLM has initiated formal consultation on the Proposed RMP by submitting a Biological Assessment to these federal agencies.

Organizations

Briefings on the Ukiah RMP alternatives and proposed action were also provided to the representatives of the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership, UC Davis Natural Area Reserve Managers, and Tuleyome. Special Interest Groups who also requested and were provided briefings on the Ukiah RMP included Back Country Horseman, Clear Lake Horsemen, Ukiah Valley Trails, and the Mendocino 4-Wheel Drive Club.

Northwest Resource Advisory Council

The Northwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members were kept involved with the process through briefings provided during the regular council meetings, and through workshops designed to gather and disseminate key information and data.

Advertisements and Announcements

Newspaper advertisements, press releases, and informal flyers were issued or posted to notify the public of the project, to announce public meetings and workshops, to request public comments, and to provide contact information. Press releases were sent to local and major northern California news media, and meeting announcements were published in several local and regional newspapers including the *Ukiah Daily Journal*, *Lake County Record Bee*, *Clearlake Observer*, *Press Democrat (Santa Rosa)*, *Napa Register*, *Inter-Coastal Observer (Gualala)*, *Colusa Sun Herald*, and the *Woodland Democrat*. Press releases were not carried by Sacramento or San Francisco Bay Area newspapers. Stories were printed in at least two local newspapers on the RMP development at different points in the process.

Project Website

An informational website, <http://www.blm.gov/ca/ukiah/rmp/index.html> has been available to the public throughout the planning process. It provides background information on the Ukiah Field Office, downloadable version of documents including the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Planning Update Mailers

The BLM produced two special Planning Update mailers: one to announce a series of special public meetings focused on refining the plan's alternatives, and one announcing the publication of the Draft RMP. These were sent via direct mail to the Ukiah mailing list and were also distributed at public meetings. The Planning Updates included background information on the Ukiah Field Office's lands, a description and timeline for the upcoming planning process, dates and locations of the public scoping meetings, and contact information for getting public comments to the BLM.

Distribution of Proposed Plan/Final EIS

The BLM distributed paper copies and CDs to interested parties and made the document available on the web, at BLM offices, and at the Ukiah public library.

APPENDIX 1**Environmentally Preferable Alternative by Management Area****Cow Mountain**

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	B + C	B
Wildlife and Fish	C	D
Vegetation Management	C	B
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C	C
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C + D	C + D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	A + B	A + B
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C	C
Wind Energy	D	A
Travel Management and Route Designation	C	B
Recreation	C	C
Interpretation and Education	C	D
Soil Resources	C	D
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Knoxville

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	B + C	B + C
Wildlife and Fish	C	B
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C + D	C + D
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C	D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	C	B
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C	C
Wind Energy	D	B
Travel Management and Route Designation	C	B
Recreation	A	A
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Indian Valley

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	C	A
Wildlife and Fish	C	D
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C	C
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C	D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	B	B
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C	C
Wind Energy	D	B
Travel Management and Route Designation	C	B
Recreation	A	A
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Cache Creek

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	C	B
Wildlife and Fish	B	B
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C + D	C + D
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C + D	C + D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	A	A
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C + D	C + D
Wind Energy	D	D
Travel Management and Route Designation	A	A
Recreation	C	B
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	D
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Cedar Roughs

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	B + C	B + C
Wildlife and Fish	C	D
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	C
Cultural and Historic Resources	C	C
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	B	B
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	B	B
Fire Management	C	C
Energy and Minerals	C + D	C + D
Wind Energy	D	D
Travel Management and Route Designation	A	A
Recreation	C	C
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Berryessa

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	C	C
Wildlife and Fish	C	C
Vegetation Management	C + D	C + D
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C	C
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	A	D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	C	B
Fire Management	C + D	C + D
Energy and Minerals	C	C
Wind Energy	D	D
Travel Management and Route Designation	A	B
Recreation	A	A
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Stornetta

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	B + C	B + C
Wildlife and Fish	C	C
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C + D	C + D
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C	C
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	C	C
Fire Management	C	C
Energy and Minerals	B	B
Wind Energy	B	B
Travel Management and Route Designation	A + B	A
Recreation	C + D	C + D
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	D
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

The Geysers

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	C	B
Wildlife and Fish	C + D	C + D
Vegetation Management	C + D	C + D
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C + D	C + D
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	A	A
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	A	A
Fire Management	C	C
Energy and Minerals	D	D
Wind Energy	D	D
Travel Management and Route Designation	C	A
Recreation	C	C
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A

Scattered Tracts

Resource Program	Adopted RMP	Environmentally Preferable Alternative
Visual Resources Management	C	B
Wildlife and Fish	C + D	C + D
Vegetation Management	C	C
Riparian and Wetland Resources	C	D
Cultural and Historic Resources	C + D	C + D
Lands and Realty	C	C
Special Designations	C	D
Forest Management	A	A
Livestock Grazing Management	C	B
Fire Management	C	C
Energy and Minerals	B	B
Wind Energy	B	B
Travel Management and Route Designation	C	B
Recreation	C	C
Interpretation and Education	C	C
Soil Resources	C	C
Water Resources	C	D
Air Quality	A	A