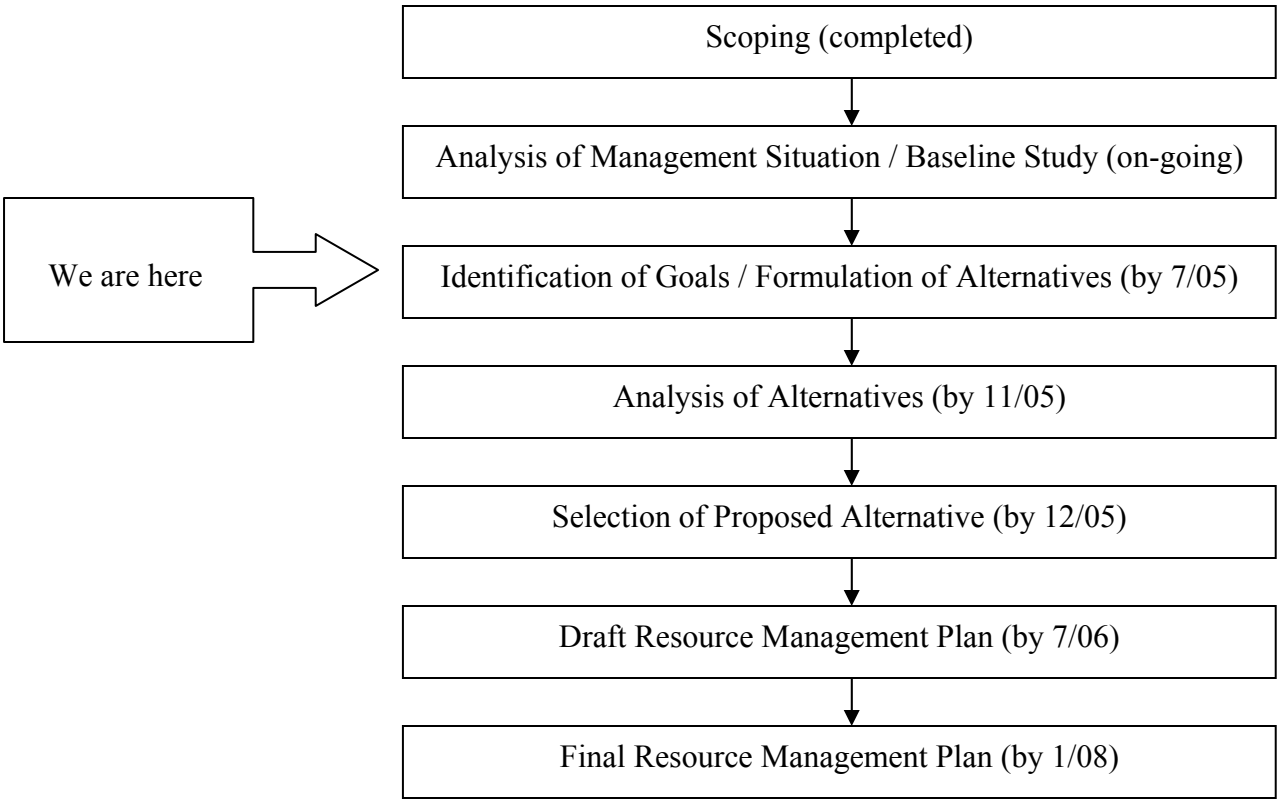
Little Snake Resource Area
Resource Management Plan Timeline



Goals and Alternatives Process
in BLM Resource Management Plan Revision

Step 1: Define Goals and Objectives and Alternatives

By **resource** type (e.g., vegetation, oil and gas, off-highway vehicles (OHVs))

By **physical**, unique areas (e.g., Sandwash, Vermillion Basin)

Step 2: Compile as *Alternative Packages*

Resource	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Proposed Alternative
OHV	Idea A	Idea B	Idea C	Idea D	Idea C
Oil and Gas	Idea A	Idea B	Idea C	Idea D	Idea A
Sandwash	Idea A	Idea B	Idea C	Idea D	Idea B
Vermillion	Idea A	Idea B	Idea C	Idea D	Idea D

Notes

- Alternative generation proceeds in two stages. The first stage involves identifying a range of options for each alternative. Although each resource will have Alternatives 1-4, these alternatives will not necessarily make sense as a package for all resources together (i.e., Alternative 2 for oil and gas and Alternative 2 for OHVs may be contradictory). The second stage will focus on ensuring that all the options in each alternative fit together, and it is likely that these alternatives will follow a common theme.
- Alternatives 1 and 4 (in the mock-up provided here) represent "**goal posts**" for each resource, and BLM has encouraged NWCOS to help them set these goals posts as wide as possible, acknowledging that the options must be legal and within the realm of possible.
- For each resource there is a **"No Action Alternative**" that represents management practices under the current Resource Management Plan (RMP). For some resources, but not for all, the No Action Alternative represents one of the goal posts.

Step 3: Analyze Alternative Packages

In this step, BLM will analyze the impacts of the management options in each alternative on other resources and on the socioeconomic status of the community.

Step 4: Select Proposed Alternative

The management options for each resource in the proposed alternative that BLM selects must fall within the goal posts identified in Step 2, above.

Current NWCOS Role

Provide consensus advice on:
Now:

- Goals and Objectives
- Alternatives/Packages of Alternatives

Later:

- How to analyze alternatives
- Selection of Proposed Alternative

If subcommittees <u>succeed</u> at consensus:

- NWCOS will have a great of influence on RMP
- NWCOS members will have more control over their destiny
- BLM will still be the final decision-maker

If subcommittees <u>fail</u> at consensus:

- BLM will proceed with the RMP through their traditional process, and NWCOS and members will have less influence and control over their destiny

Facilitator's Note: During the Vegetation and Habitat Subcommittee meeting on April 19, the group observed that there are various possibilities in between complete success and complete failure at consensus.

How to Get There

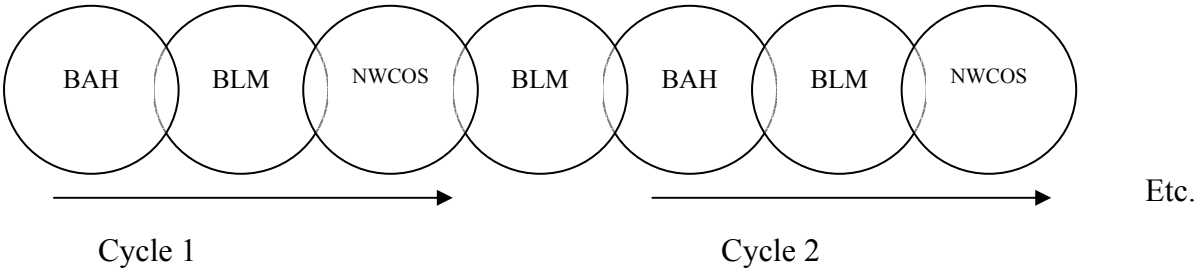
NWCOS Input Deadlines:

- Goals and Objectives: NWCOS input completed in June
- Alternatives: NWCOS input completed in July

Current Process (Iterative)

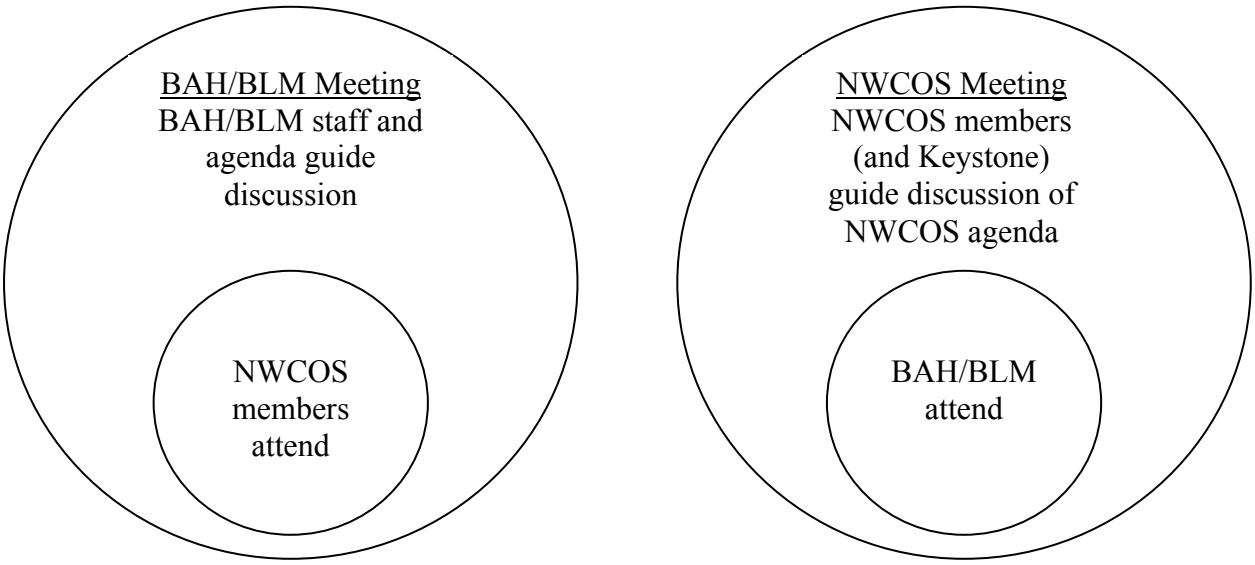
In the current RMP communication process, Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) gives a document to BLM, and BLM gives the document to NWCOS. NWCOS gives comments to BLM, and BLM gives those comments to BAH. BAH creates a new version of the document and gives it to BLM, and BLM gives this document to NWCOS. This cycle goes on and on, and it is potentially inefficient and runs the risk of miscommunication, as the nuances of NWCOS ideas may be getting lost in the transition and translation.

This current cycle looks like this:



Proposed Process

In order make the communications between BAH, BLM, and NWCOS flow more smoothly, Keystone proposes getting all three groups in the room together to discuss the goals and objectives and the alternatives. If NWCOS members sat in on a BAH/BLM meeting, the BAH/BLM staff and agenda would guide the discussion. If BAH/BLM staff attended a NWCOS meeting (of the full group or a subcommittee), NWCOS (and Keystone) would guide the discussion according to a NWCOS agenda. It would look like this:



<u>Possible</u> Meeting Approach

[Note to reader: Please be aware than many of these meeting dates may be altered to fit NWCOS needs. Please refer to the current meeting schedule on the NWCOS website at http://nwcos.org/7128.html.]

Date	Currently Scheduled Activity	Keystone Proposal
May 2	**BAH internal meeting to refine alternatives**	• *Keystone drafts summaries of subcommittee meetings* • *BAH reviews input from NWCOS and incorporates*
May 16, 17, 18	**BAH, BLM meeting to work on alternatives**	• *Invite NWCOS to participate on May 17 and 18* • *BAH/BLM agenda*
May 18	**Full NWCOS meeting**	• *BLM gives overview of current status*
June 1 and 2	*NWCOS subcommittee meetings as needed*	• *BAH participates* • *NWCOS agenda*
June 15	*NWCOS meeting*	• *Finalize goals and objectives* • *Identify remaining alternative issues*
June/July	*NWCOS subcommittee meetings as needed*	• *BAH participates* • *NWCOS agenda*
July 20	*Full NWCOS meeting*	• *Finalize alternatives*

Items in **BOLD** have already been scheduled.

Items in *ITALICS* are <u>possible dates</u> and <u>possible approach</u> only.