

CHAPTER 1—Countywide Resource Management Setting and Directions

Part 1: Legal Basis for County Resource Management Planning

This section will lay out the legal framework for county planning as it relates to public lands (It might also address state and private lands). This will be done by citing and synthesizing the ties of local planning to federal planning found in various Federal laws and regulations, such as FLPMA, NEPA, The Multiple-use Sustained Yield Act, The National Forest Management Act, The National Historic Preservation Act, CEQ Regulations, as well as State statutes pertaining to local government planning and zoning authority.

Part 2: Social and Economic Linkages to Public Lands Resources

This section will present the county’s social and economic profile, and will do so in terms of identifying and articulating the social and economic linkages the county, its citizens and businesses have to the public lands. This section will also describe how the county’s history, culture, character and communities have been shaped by, and are connected to, the physical surroundings, and what these connections mean in terms of a desired future for the county and its communities.

Part 3: The Current Resource Management Setting and Existing Conditions

This section will describe the current resource management setting, with particular emphasis on the existing level of county involvement and participation in planning and decision making processes of the Federal land management agencies. This section will also address what are identified by the county as being issues of “conflict and concern.” Out of this will flow a “list of major issues.” These major issues will be broad categories of resource management issues and topics that the plan will address in more detail in chapter two. The county may also want to describe the need for change in specific areas from current management direction.

Part 4: Description of Desired Future Condition

In this section the county will describe, in terms of the broad issues identified in the previous section, what it envisions as a desired future condition for county resource management (more specific plan elements will be addressed in chapter 2). Here the plan will describe the types of scenarios and conditions that “should” exist according to county’s perspective. Special emphasis should be given here to the role and level of involvement the county desires in future planning and decision making activities of the federal agencies.

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Part 5: General Policy/Position Statements

In this section the plan will make broad policy and position statements about

resource management within the county. These should relate to the major issues listed in Part 3. More specific statements will be made in Chapter 2.

Part 6: General Goals & Objectives

In this section, the plan will lay out goals and objectives to support the policy statements and to achieve the desired future condition.

Part 7: Monitoring

This section will describe the monitoring activities that need to be implemented in order to evaluate how much progress is being made in moving from the existing condition (the baseline) to the desired future condition. These monitoring activities can range anywhere from scientific studies to oral evaluations of progress and/or improvements. It is important that the method and frequency of the monitoring activities be specified and adhered to.

CHAPTER 2—Resource Management Plan Elements

The following structure would apply to, and be repeated for, each of the individual plan elements:

Part 1: Introduction

The purpose of the introduction is to lay out the “baseline” situation for each plan element by describing the “existing condition.” In the introduction the plan should clearly describe the issue (element) and its scope and dimensions, and reference any data or studies that pertain to the issue. It should also describe the current level of county involvement in decision making and/or management of the resource. The existing condition or situation should be described in such a way that will make it clear whether any improvement occurs over time.

Part 2: Social and Economic Linkages and Considerations

This section will address the social and economic linkages and considerations specific to each plan element

Part 3: Areas of Conflict or Concern

This part will address areas of conflict or concern specific to each plan element.

Part 4: Desired Management Emphasis

In this section, the plan will make a statement regarding the management emphasis the county would like to see applied to this particular plan element. This should be a concise statement about which values or outcomes should be the priority in managing for this plan element.

Part 5: Desired Future Condition

This section will describe the types of scenarios and conditions that should exist, according to the county’s perspective, for each plan element. It should also state the role and level of involvement the county desires in future planning and decision making activities of the federal agencies relative to each plan element.

Part 6: Policy/Position Statements

This section will clearly spell out the county’s policy/position relative to each of the plan elements. These statements should directly support the desired future condition described in Part 5.

Part 7: Goals and Objectives Supporting the Policy Statements

In this section, the plan will lay out the goals and supporting objectives to achieve the desired future condition.

Part 8: Action Items

A listing of the implementing actions the county will take to achieve the desired future.

Part 9: Monitoring

A description of the monitoring activities that need to be implemented in order to evaluate the degree of progress toward the desired future condition.

CHAPTER 3—Critical Lands, Sites and Resources Inventory and Management Policies

This section will list and describe specific lands, sites and resources that are of particular concern to the counties, and for each of the lands, sites or resources listed, the county will describe the management emphasis it would like to see, and also describe what it sees as its desired future condition. The objective is to describe the county’s management desires and goals for specific sites in a way that progress toward those goals can be monitored. This will be done by clearly showing the differences between the existing condition and the desired future condition. The specific sites will be arranged by category, using the same categories listed in Chapter 1.

Part 1: Introduction

The purpose of the introduction is to lay out the “baseline” situation for each site by describing the “existing condition.” The existing condition or situation should be carefully described in such a way that will make it clear whether any improvement occurs over time. In the introduction the plan should:

1. Describe the land area, site, or resource by name and location, and whenever possible, with accompanying maps and/or photographs.
2. Reference and/or cite any data or studies that pertain to the site or resource.
3. Describe the social and economic linkages associated with the site or resource, and why it is important to county in the social/economic context.
4. Describe the existing condition of the site or resource in terms of its physical characteristics and/or the current management situation.
5. Describe what the county sees as issues of conflict and/or concern associated with the site or resource.
6. Describe the current level of county involvement in decision making and/or management of the resource.

Part 2: Desired Management Emphasis

In this section, the plan will make a statement regarding the management emphasis the county would like to see for this particular site or resource. This should be a concise statement about which values or outcomes should be the priority in managing the site or resource.

Part 3: Desired Future Condition

For each site or resource, this section of the plan will describe what the County sees as the desired future condition of the site or resource. This section will describe, in future tense, the ideal scenario it envisions for the future of this site or resource. It will describe the desired future in a way that clearly shows how that future is different from the existing condition, and should do so in a way that is easily observable or measurable – so progress toward that future can be monitored.

This description should address each of the areas of conflict or concern identified in the introduction in a way that describes the desired resolution to the issue. This description should also include statements about the physical characteristics and/or the management framework that should exist in the ideal future and the degree of county involvement in decision making and/or management of the resource.

This section should also refer to any planning & zoning actions or designations that it foresees for each site or resource, such as zoned uses, recreation overlays, historical development districts, etc.

Part 4: Monitoring

This section will describe the monitoring activities that need to be implemented in order to evaluate how much progress is being made in moving from the existing condition (the baseline) to the desired future condition. These monitoring activities can range anywhere from scientific studies to oral evaluations of progress and/or improvements. It is important that the method and frequency of the monitoring activities be specified and adhered to.

Sample Resource Management Plan Text

Critical Lands, Sites, and Resources Inventory

1. Cassidy's Cabin Historic District

The history and folklore associated with the Cassidy's is of foremost importance to Smart County's heritage development. The Cassidy cabin area is in the top tier of historic sites in Smart County's heritage development strategy in terms of importance and need for improvement. It is a central component of local history, culture and folklore, and is a popular destination for visitors, receiving approximately 22,000 visitors annually (BLM Visitation Report, 2001, p.17). It is also the site for the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous and other large-group gatherings.

While the direct economic impact from this site is not very large, and is very difficult to determine, it is important to recognize that this site is an important component in the overall

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Cassidy history and heritage development strategy and is therefore an integral part of a larger whole. Its economic importance to this strategy is expected to increase significantly over the coming decade.

Perhaps even more important than its economic impact is its social and cultural significance. As a focal point of Cassidy history and as a time-honored gathering place for decades, this site is of inestimable value to the local culture and traditions. Past management has not been adequately sensitive to this fact.

Currently the area has two chemical toilets and guest register which includes a brief history of the cabin, but facilities and interpretation are inadequate in relation to the significance, interest and visitation the site receives. The roads to the cabin, and in the general proximity of the cabin, are of poor quality and in many places are suffering from erosion and deep rutting. In the past it was possible to access this site from I-70 at the Head of Carlsbad. That Interstate exit/entrance has been closed recently by UDOT.

Smart County has had very little input into current management, is not presently involved in any discussions regarding future plans for the area.

Desired Management Emphasis

Smart County would like to see heritage tourism and improved visitor management and facilities as the primary emphasis in the management of this site.

Desired Future Condition for Cassidy's Cabin Historic District

Under an ideal management scenario, this area would be upgraded to better accommodate visitors, and particularly large groups. It would have improved and better maintained roads and signs, as well as defined parking areas and turn-outs.

As the highest priority, it would have significantly better interpretation infrastructure, which would tell the story of the Cassidys, and the unique history of the surrounding features, such as Joe's Office, the Meat Hanger, the corral, and the creative and humorous effort to homestead the area. The county would take a lead role in developing the content of the interpretive media, which would be integrated into the larger interpretive framework of telling the stories of the San Rafael Swell and the Cassidy's as part of the county's heritage development strategy.

The envisioned improvements would be small scale with minimal impact in terms of disturbance and visual aesthetics. This area would be the central location for telling the story of the Cassidy brothers. The story would be told with some small scale, aesthetically appropriate kiosks, which would include maps and descriptions that connect the visitor to other important Cassidy history sites.

Development of a small camping area with additional toilets and garbage collection would also take place.

Access on the main road to the cabin would be improved with slightly upgraded graveled roads. The ideal future would also see construction of an interchange on I-70 that would allow safe and convenient access to the area from I-70.

Smart County would have a lead role in working with the BLM in improving this historic district. Smart County, through the Land's Council's Heritage Sub-committee, would

be directly involved with the BLM as a cooperating agency in planning for the area's improvements and would take a lead role in developing the interpretive infrastructure in such a way as to make establish this site as an important component of its heritage development strategy and ensure that the interpretation media is consistent with related heritage sites and with promotional media and marketing.

Monitoring

Progress will be measured by the number and level of improvements that lead toward achieving the desired future condition. Progress will be assessed / monitored through an annual meeting with the BLM Field Office. This meeting will be requested and hosted by Smart County on at least an annual basis to not only assess progress, but to also facilitate collaboration between the County and the BLM. ,

2. Rock Art panels in the vicinity of Cassidy's Cabin

There are two rock art panels in the vicinity of Cassidy's cabin. There has been no attempt to safeguard or to provide interpretation about these panels in any way. A spider-web of different roads and trails to the rock art panels have sprung up in a haphazard and unmanaged way, damaging the vegetation and landscape and causing confusion for visitors.

Desired Management Emphasis

Smart County would like to see heritage tourism and improved visitor management and facilities, with special attention to better managing access as the primary emphasis in the management of this area.

Desired Future Condition for Rock Art panels in the vicinity of Cassidy's Cabin

We envision a future condition in which a single road, well defined with appropriate road signage and turn-outs, would lead to the rock art panels. The other redundant routes would be closed and rehabilitated. Small interpretive signs would be placed at the rock art sites themselves with appropriate information about the sites.

Monitoring

Progress will be measured by the number and level of improvements that lead toward achieving the desired future condition. Progress will be assessed/ monitored through an annual meeting with the BLM Field Office. This meeting will be requested and hosted by Smart County on an annual basis to not only assess progress, but to also facilitate collaboration between the County and the BLM.