

## **Tips for Providing Substantive Comments to the BLM During Public Comment Periods**

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Raise issues BLM has not considered, or reinforce issues BLM has already identified.
- Identify additional planning criteria.
- Provide information that can be used when developing alternatives.
- Provide reasonable alternatives.
- Provide additional information, data, or analysis that can be used when BLM considers impacts of alternatives.
- Raise concerns, with reasoning, regarding public land resources and/or use these resources within the planning area.
- Recommend specific changes to the landscape or current management actions.
- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of existing information pertinent to this planning effort.

Comments that are not substantive:

- State they are in favor of or against without giving a reason (e.g. "I don't like" an action without saying why).
- Only agree or disagree with BLM policy
- Do not provide justification or supporting data (e.g. "allow more grazing" without saying why).
- Don't pertain to the planning area (e.g. "the government should eliminate all dams throughout the west").
- Take the form of vague, open-ended questions.