



# Simulating Coordinated Resource Management: Nevada Youth Range Camp

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This curriculum is used at Nevada Youth Range Camp for teaching high school age campers about the role of public involvement in coordinated resource management of public lands. Learners role play different interests in identifying objectives and coming to agreement about plans. It could be adapted for other audiences. The pages in this font are for the instructor only. The pages in this font are for the campers.

**Location:** Use the watershed surrounding Nevada Youth Range Camp (10-30 square miles in size) that campers have become familiar with through the week. The area is managed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in conjunction with private landowners representing multiple ownership and management within the watershed.

**Stage setting:** Inform the campers that for the next 2.5 hours they will be participating in a process called “coordinated resource management.” This process is currently being used across the West by people concerned with rangeland management. The first step is for the planners to learn the country--its resources, problems, and opportunities. This is material we have been learning at Range Camp.

**Resources Tour (15-30 minutes) (Optional)**

Note to Facilitator: This is a descriptive “tour” of the area that the campers have become familiar with through the course of the week at Range Camp. If possible, use agency counselors to conduct the tour. It should be adapted to the campers, building on their week’s curriculum and informing them about the area they have explored. The tour should not present a plan or a planning solution to the local problems. The tour should present basic information about the resource base, its problems and opportunities. It should focus attention on multiple uses of the land and on issues presently occurring or which could realistically occur within the current area, and/or challenges faced by the managing agencies. Ideally the resource base and described scenario will develop potential for later discussion of many issues typical of multiple use planning such as hunting, mining, recreation, livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use, fishing, irrigation water supply, wild horse use, etc. The tour should be fast-paced enough for interest to remain high and thorough enough to adequately cover most uses and identifiable parts of the watershed land base.

**TASK A Identification of Land Uses and Interest Groups**

Ask participants to take several minutes to record the potential uses of this land area and the users associated with each use. When most campers have started to write down uses and users proceed with Question 1 below. (Have a flip chart ready).

**Task A Identification of Land Uses and Users**

Individually (3-5 minutes)

List below the uses that could or do occur on this land:

For each use, list the user, the person or group usually associated with that use:

List the USES that could or do occur on this land

List USERS, (person or group) for this use

List the USES that could or do occur on this land	List USERS, (person or group) for this use
for example: Grazing	Ranchers
Fishing	Anglers
Mining	Miners
Camping	Public
Pine nut gathering	Native Americans, public

## Questions and discussion

1. "What are some possible uses for this land and who are the users associated with each use?" As people respond, write all comments just as they are expressed on the flip chart. Instead of paraphrasing if they are too wordy, ask: "How shall I write that on the chart?" List all suggestions, specific or general. Number the items as you go along to simplify identification later. When you think that you have enough material, go on to Question 2.
2. "Other than users, who else may be deeply concerned with the use of this land?" Record these (e.g., USFS, BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife, etc.) also on the flip chart.
3. "Which of these people or groups of people are similar?" Designate similar people or groups by letters, symbols or colors. When most are designated, or the group seems to run out of thoughts, stop. Change categories for uses if the participants change their minds. Do not get bogged down in the details of grouping. For example, if some people think one use should be in another category, put it in both categories and go on to the next step. The number of groups should be 1 / 3, **1 / 4**, or 1 / 5 the number of campers.
4. "What label could we give to all the items in the same category?" (e.g., agriculture, recreationists, miners, wildlifers, etc.) By developing category names for each group with the learners, they begin to recognize a common theme.

## Developing Interest Group Objectives

Divide into groups, one for each land-use category, with an equal number in each group (generally not more than six and not less than three persons per group). One way to set up groups is to have the total group count off by the number of categories identified. Another way is to let campers choose.

Pass out TASK B.

Note to Facilitator: It is important for each user group to firmly establish its objectives before splitting up into planning groups. So allow enough time for each group to agree and for each person to make a complete copy of the group's objectives or wants on their task card B, before moving into the next stage, Coordinated Resource Management.

If a group flounders at this stage, a counselor may be able to ask some questions to help them refocus.

**Task B Developing User Group Objectives**

(In groups) (15-20 minutes)

User group label \_\_\_\_\_

Your task is to list what your group wants, what it thinks are important for the management of this land. In other words, your group wants certain actions by the land management agency, certain uses to be allowed, steps or restrictions to manage other uses, etc. You want to be sure that \_\_\_\_\_ what? \_\_\_\_\_.

Since some of these are more important than others, rank them in order of priority: 1, 2, 3, etc.

Everyone in your group should make a copy of this by filling out their own TASK B.

Objectives or wants:

Priority:

Objectives or wants:	Priority:
For example: If your group were bird watchers, you might want proper management of Big Creek riparian vegetation as your top priority	1

## **Coordinated Resource Management**

"Announcement! The District Ranger or Field Office Manager (federal land manager) has just announced that there has been ore discovered in Big Creek Canyon. He or she has determined that because of this proposal, the potential for resource conflicts in the watershed is great and that all the land uses have some impact on each other and on the resource base. He has therefore decided that this represents a good time and area for Coordinated Resource Management. At this point, read and the proposal (Scenario) to the group.

### **Ore Deposits Found Near Big Creek Canyon**

"Ground Sleuth" Mining company has recently discovered the world's largest deposit of unobtainium. This compound is used in alloying metal to increase its tensile strength and has both military and commercial applications. The estimated mine life is approximately 50 years. If the mine is permitted to operate, it will employ 1,000 people at peak of construction (five-year mine construction period and five-year dam construction period) and 400 people during operation. A mining operation of this scale in Lander County offers both great benefits and great concerns. The taxes on the mined compound could bring tremendous wealth to both the County and the State. The increase in population brings in much-needed economic activity, but also greatly exceeds Austin and the County's existing housing, infrastructure and service capabilities. The mine and tailings area will encompass approximately a four-square-mile area and will almost completely remove one mountain peak. The impact to the natural resources of the area will be significant. Additionally, the large influx of people will also change the existing small town and agricultural culture of the area. At any point in time from initial construction of the mine through the estimated 50 year mine life, the price of unobtainium could drop below the break-even cost of operations, and the mine could be shut down.

As a further complication, one of the unique aspects of this compound is that the milling and refining process requires large quantities of water (half the total annual flow of Big Creek), which is completely used in the process and therefore is lost to the watershed for other purposes such as fisheries, agriculture and aquifer recharge. Therefore, Ground Sleuth mining is requesting a permit from the Nevada State Water Engineer and the USFS to construct a dam just below Big Creek Campground in order to create a reservoir of sufficient quantity (five plus years flow) for mining and milling operations. Evaporation from the reservoir will also use water. Flows from Big Creek are currently used by a farm in the valley and contribute to the flow of the mighty "Reese River." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also determined that Big Creek has potential to maintain lahontan cutthroat trout and is urging the USFS to manage the stream for cutthroat. Nevada Department of Wildlife and local anglers want to keep the existing non-native fishery intact.

Construction of the dam will cut off the main back-country road over the Toiyabe Mountain Range and flood the entire canyon. This will impact wildlife habitat and trailing areas. It will also decrease the Poverty Flats Ranch's summer allotment by half, further threatening the economic viability of this combined cattle and alfalfa operation. Big Creek canyon also comprises a third of the "Let'em Run" Wild Horse Herd Management Area with a maximum appropriate management level of 500 horses. The four-square-mile area chosen for the tailings pile will also impact existing agricultural operations, Sage Grouse lekking and brooding sites, and critical fall mule deer habitat. The mine site will impact a critical summer feeding area for mule deer and a major portion of Shepherd Sheep Company's summer and fall grazing.

Upper Big Creek Canyon is revered by the local Yomba Tribe as an ancient holy site and traditional summer and fall camp for gathering chokecherries, pine nuts, hunting and fishing. Local businessmen are excited about the potential for increased economic activity. Local residents are disturbed by the potential loss of their quiet small town. Ranchers and farmers are concerned about the potential impacts to water and

forage. Many sportsmen are concerned about the loss of habitat to fish and game, while others are excited about the possibility of a large reservoir and associated fishing and boating opportunities. The governor is pushing for the mine in expectation of increased royalty taxes. The district ranger and local government officials are caught in the middle of a large and complex struggle over natural resource use and land management.

At the conclusion of reading the scenario, state that the interest groups are requested to participate in the planning process and to form Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) teams. (Note: The numbers of CRM teams equal the number of people in each interest group. **By counting off, reform into CRM teams** based upon use or interest groups previously identified. Each team should contain a representative of each interest group).

Explain the following CRM **ground rules**:

1. Each of you (each interest) has a legitimate reason to be part of the process; therefore, you should feel free to speak up and express your thoughts and feelings, and you should make others feel comfortable when they speak.
2. Decisions made through CRM are not useful unless the people involved are willing to live by them and carry through with their commitment. So don't agree to anything unreasonable that you or your interest group can't live with.
3. Even though voting may be faster in the short run, it leads to squelching minority viewpoints. If that occurs, some people would not be willing to live by decisions and CRM accomplishes nothing but costs everyone time and effort. Therefore, all decisions must be reached by consensus. If you do not all agree, then learn more or discuss the issue further until you can make a decision everyone can live with.
4. All decisions made through CRM must be legal. If you have any questions about public land management laws, ask a counselor.

Pass out TASK C and be sure everyone understands his or her task.

Note to Facilitator: Counselors should be available to help answer questions about such things as USFS and BLM policy or other points of fact. Hopefully, the CRM groups will be able to deal with matters of interpretation and compromise.

Use your judgment and allow the participants time to work out difficult issues without allowing them to get bogged down or off track such that they lose interest.

## Task C Developing CRM Plans

(In CRM Teams) (40 to 60 minutes)

Your task is to **develop a plan** for the use and management of this area using the Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process.

First, the representative of **each interest should identify the prioritized objectives** or wants that his or her group believes are important in the designated planning area and why. Normally these would be listed on a flip chart, overhead projector, etc.

After everyone has listed their wants and the reason why each is important, anyone in the CRM group can **propose ideas that bridge between two or more user groups**. These should be listed for all to see, especially if everyone agrees or to help get the wording right so all can agree.

Continue to **create and record action statements** about your plans for the management of the land. These will provide the basis for your plan, which can be displayed as a map, list of action statements, table of decisions, etc.



## **Selection by a County Board**

After about half an hour, when most groups are about through resolving issues and reaching a consensus, announce, "The County Board of Commissioners has just resigned due to an overload of reviewing environmental impact statements. Each CRM team has one minute to elect one person to serve as your representative on the new County Board of Commissioners."

Tell the new commissioners they are to appoint someone from their CRM team to serve as their alternate. "Leave your list of objectives with that person and give them any special instructions that you feel are necessary for them to represent your interest."

Take the new Commissioners aside and tell them, "Each CRM team will be making a three-minute presentation with a visual display of their plan. You will be asked to judge these and select the best plan. Your task now is to develop a set of criteria and a rating system. Hand out TASK D to them."

After the Board leaves the room, make this announcement to those remaining in the CRM groups. "You have about 15 minutes to finish your plan and develop a three-minute presentation to be made to the County Board of Commissioners at their public meeting. Your three-minute presentation must include a visual display, such as a land-use map, list of actions or a chart as a part of your presentation, and more than one person in each group must participate in making the presentation."

Pass out markers and large paper to each group.

When the Board is ready, have them enter the room and sit at the front. (Hand out Task D.) The chairperson announces the rules from Task D and suggests that the audience may want to rate each of the plans.

The Chairman of the Board reads aloud the criteria selected by the Board for evaluating the plans.

**Task D Evaluation of Plans**

List below the criteria that should be used to judge the plans. Also, decide how many points each criteria should be worth.

Plan Rating

Criteria	Max possible points	1	2	3	4	5

Select someone to be a time keeper.

Select someone to be the chair. This person will announce these rules.

**Rules**

1. Each presentation must be approximately three minutes long. You will be warned when two minutes are up.
2. There will be no rebuttal or questions asked from the floor. However, the commissioners may ask as many questions as they need to.
3. There will be quiet from the audience unless applause is called for at the end of a presentation.

Notes:

## **Conclusion**

After the presentations, the County Commission leaves the area and selects the best plan. While they are away, ask the others if they would have used the same criteria for judging the plans. When the commissioners are ready, have them announce their selection and the reasons way. Then ask all:

Ask, "What additional information would have been helpful to you in making or judging these plans?" and "How could we find out this information?"

"How is what we did today similar to what happens in real CRM?"

"How is it different?"

TASK A IDENTIFICATION OF LAND USES AND USERS  
Individually. (5 to 10 minutes)

List below the uses that could or do occur on this land:

For each use, list the user, the person or group usually associated with that use:

List the USES that could occur on this land. List USERS, (people) associated with this use


**TASK B DEVELOPING USER GROUP OBJECTIVES**

(In groups) (15 to 20 minutes)

User group label \_\_\_\_\_

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Objectives or wants:	Priority: