

the public lands administered by the BLM must conform to the procedures described on page 16 of the Record of Decision, and be filed with the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709-1657, with copies submitted to each party named in the decision, to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Renee Snyder, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Challis Resource Area, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467 (208) 756-5400, or Leon Jadowski, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Challis Ranger District, HC 63, Box 1669, Challis, Idaho 83226 (208) 879-4400.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Jenifer Arnold,

Acting District Manager, Upper Columbia Salmon-Clearwater Districts, Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-99-940-1610-00]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Statewide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Multiple Plan Amendments To Consider Establishment of New Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on Selected Public Lands in Utah, and Call for Information

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a plan amendment process for up to 136 wilderness inventory areas on approximately 2.6 million acres of Federal land throughout Utah. The planning process may designate new WSAs under the authority of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The 2.6 million acres have been inventoried by BLM and have been found to have wilderness characteristics.

Establishment of WSAs would be an administrative action resulting in the application of interim management policy (IMP) for a temporary period until they are released from further consideration or Congress acts to designate them as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas F. Slater, Resource Manager (Phone: 801-539-4063 or E-mail:

tslater@ut.blm.gov) or Holly Roberts, Planning Coordinator (Phone 801-539-4272 or E-mail h1robert@ut.blm.gov), BLM Utah State Office (Attention: Wilderness Project), P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145.

DATES: The BLM is requesting public input and involvement in two venues: (1) Submission of written information by regular mail in response to scoping materials soon to be distributed, and (2) submission of written scoping comments by electronic mail via Internet access at: HTTP://WWW.UT.BLM.GOV/WILDERNESS. All scoping comments regarding this FLPMA Section 202 WSA activity must be received in writing by the BLM Utah State Office no later than May 19, 1999.

In order to facilitate the identification of issues and the submission of pertinent comments, BLM has scheduled eleven open house meetings at various locations in Utah. At these sessions, BLM personnel will be available to explain the inventory procedures and findings, make file material pertinent to each location available for inspection, and respond to questions regarding the EIS/plan amendment process. This will provide an opportunity for commenters to become fully informed prior to their submission of written comments. The location, date, and time for each open house are as follows:

Kanab, Utah, Holiday Inn Express, April 21—5:00PM-8:00PM

St. George, Utah, Abbey Inn, 1129 South Bluff Street, April 22—3:00PM-8:00PM

Escalante, Utah, Escalante High School, 800 East Highway 12, April 23—5:00PM-8:00PM

Castle Dale, Utah, Museum of the San Rafael, 96 North 100 East, May 3—3:00PM-8:00PM,

Salt Lake City, Utah, Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1060—May 7—3:00PM-8:00PM

Tooele, Utah, Tooele City Recreation Complex, 350 West 400 North, May 4—3:00PM-8:00PM

Vernal, Utah, Western Park, 302 East 200 South, May 4—3:00PM-8:00PM

Richfield, Utah, Weston Inn, 647 South Main, Basement, May 5—3:00PM-8:00 PM

Moab, Utah, Senior Citizen Center, 450 East 100 North, May 5—3:00PM-8:00PM

Monticello, Utah, Monticello High School Gymnasium, 190 South 200 West, May 6—4:00PM-8:00PM

Fillmore BLM Office, 35 East 500 North, May 6—3:00PM-8:00PM

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM recently completed an inventory of

wilderness characteristics on Federal lands in many locations in the State of Utah. This evaluation identified approximately 2.6 million acres in 136 areas with wilderness characteristics. These wilderness characteristics are size, roadlessness, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, or primitive and unconfined recreation. Some areas also have supplemental values.

In accordance with the Section 202 of FLPMA, and 43 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1610.5-5 (Amendment), land use plans may be changed through amendments based on the need to consider new data or changing circumstances. Based on the inventory findings, the current situation warrants individual plan review with the possibility of amending numerous affected planning documents. The following land use plans are to be reviewed and potentially amended:

St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan

Vermillion Management Framework Plan

Zion Management Framework Plan

Paria Management Framework Plan

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Plan

San Juan Resource Management Plan

Grand Resource Management Plan

Henry Mountain Management Framework Plan

Pinyon Management Framework Plan

Warm Springs Resource Management Plan

House Range Resource Management Plan

Pony Express Resource Management Plan

Box Elder Resource Management Plan

Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan

Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan

San Rafael Resource Management Plan

Price River Management Framework Plan

Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan

Issue identification is considered integral to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and planning processes. Issues are used to identify the scope of information and analysis in the EIS and to focus the process on relevant environmental concerns. Generally, an issue is a matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land uses that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives among which to choose or decide.

Planning issues may have two or more of the following characteristics; (1) concern expressed by the public, State,

Tribe or local government, (2) existing or potential serious deterioration of public land, (3) possible significant impacts, and (4) proposed uses which may or may not be in the best public interest and which may be in substantial conflict with other uses.

The basic issue to be addressed in the statewide wilderness plan amendment process is whether or not selected inventory areas should be designated as WSAs. All other facets, as noted below, contribute to resolving this basic issue. The three items listed here as the scoping topics are the essential factors which will be applied by BLM in making decisions relative to this issue.

Scoping comments must specifically address areas in the inventory that the BLM determined have wilderness characteristics, including:

(a) Any, additional information concerning wilderness characteristics in the wilderness inventory units,

(b) Information regarding the manageability of potential WSAs. Such information may address things such as valid existing rights which could be exercised (developed) within the next ten to fifteen years and thereby preclude effective management under the IMP,

(c) Specific information on other resource uses within each wilderness inventory unit which should be considered. Such uses could involve grazing practices, rights of way, corridor development of use, recreation development or mechanical uses, off highway vehicle use, development for mineral extraction, or oil and gas exploration and production.

The preliminary alternatives are identified: (1) No Action—Under this alternative none of the inventory areas would be designated as WSAs and the lands would continue to be managed according to the existing land use plans; (2) All Areas Would be Designated as WSAs—all acreage in the inventory areas with wilderness characteristics would be designated as WSAs, and IMP would be applied to all lands, and (3) Selected WSAs—Under one or more of the alternatives, some of the acreage or portions of acreage in the inventory areas with wilderness characteristics would be designated as WSAs and IMP would be applied, while other areas would not be designated as WSAs. In presenting these alternatives, the EIS would provide information and analysis to identify impacts associated with each alternative.

Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and other factors identified by interdisciplinary teams and managers for use in formulating judgements about data collection, analysis, and decision making. These criteria assist in focusing

the subject matter, clarifying, and simplifying subsequent prescribed resource management planning actions by setting forth basic standards for deciding and judging certain components of the planning actions.

The 43 CFR part 1600 regulations require the consideration of planning criteria and mandate early public involvement in their development. The preliminary planning criteria to be used in the statewide plan amendment process are as follows:

1. BLM will amend the RMPs or MFPs based on the information contained in the Utah Wilderness Inventory of 1999 as considered in this planning/NEPA process.

2. All Federal laws (such as the Clean Water Act, Archeological Resource Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, etc) will be recognized and followed as they apply to this planning/NEPA process.

3. To the extent possible under Federal law, and within the framework of proper long-term management of the public lands, BLM will strive to ensure that its management prescriptions and planning actions take into consideration related programs, plans, or policies of other resource agencies. This will include the formal consistency review by the State of Utah Governor's office. BLM will work closely with the Governor's Office to help facilitate the consistency review process.

4. BLM will provide local, State and Federal agencies a copy of the Draft EIS with a written request to comment. Agencies may identify in writing any inconsistencies with formally approved land use plans or their related jurisdictions.

5. Existing WSAs will continue to be managed under the provisions of the IMP. The current plan amendment process will not revisit previous suitability recommendations for the existing WSAs. IMP will not be applied to any inventory unit that has not been designated as a WSA.

6. Planning decisions eventually made through this BLM process will apply only to (Federal) public lands.

7. All valid existing rights will continue to be recognized.

8. When WSAs are designated, the following recommended standards will be used to locate boundaries:

- 300 feet from high standard paved roads,
- 100 feet from high standard graveled roads,
- 30 feet from low standard dirt roads.

Exceptions may be granted to the above setbacks if resource conditions warrant.

9. The plan amendment process will address OHV designations in the inventory areas, consistent with the provisions of the IMP as necessary to protect wilderness characteristics.

Throughout the preparation of the Statewide EIS and Multiple Plan Amendments, the public will have several opportunities to provide input, and review information, and will be asked to comment on the draft EIS. This will be done via Internet and regular mail. All who desire to be on the mailing list should contact the BLM at the address given above.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

Linda Colville,

Utah Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–010–1220–00]

Central California Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Meeting of the Central California Resource Advisory Council

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for Central California will meet in the Carrizo Plain and San Luis Obispo, California.

DATES: March 29–30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Guy L. Goodwin Education and Visitor Center, Carrizo Plain Natural Area, Apple Farm Restaurant, 2015 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, Holiday Inn Express, 1800 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12 member Central California Resource Advisory Council is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. The Council will meet for a tour of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 29 at the Guy L. Goodwin Education and Visitor Center, located just off Soda Lake Road, about five miles south of Soda Lake in eastern San Luis Obispo County, California. The Council will travel to the city of San Luis Obispo for a dinner meeting that evening at the Apple Farm Restaurant beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, the