

Public Participation

The SDEIS was prepared subsequent to the issuance of a DEIS. Public scoping meetings for the DEIS were held August 10 and September 19, 2000, at the Reservation, and August 11 and September 20, 2000, at the North Las Vegas Airport in the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada. The DEIS was made available for public review and comment from March 30, 2001, to May 29, 2001. A Notice of Availability of the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 30, 2001 (66 FR 17437). Public notices were also published in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, the Las Vegas Sun, and the St. George Spectrum on April 6–8, 2001, and April 13–15, 2001. In addition, copies of the DEIS were mailed to a list of interested parties, including all attendees of the public scoping meetings and anyone who requested a copy, and the DEIS was available from the BIA in hard copy, on CD, and on the Internet. Public hearings on the DEIS were held on April 18, 2001, at the Reservation and April 19, 2001, at the Guy Elementary School in the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Public Comment Solicitation

As an alternative to submitting written comments regarding the content of the SDEIS to the locations identified in the **ADDRESSES** section, interested persons may instead comment via the Internet to AmyHeuslein@bia.gov or to BenBurshia@bia.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that your Internet message was received, contact Amy L. Heuslein at (602) 379–6750, or Ben Burshia at (435) 674–9720, respectively.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing addresses shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1–6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: November 19, 2001.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 01–29707 Filed 11–29–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES–020–02–1610–DU]

Notice of Availability and Protest Period of the Proposed Planning Analysis for Arkansas and Louisiana

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and protest period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Planning Analysis and Environmental Assessment (PA/EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that address management of public domain lands in Arkansas and Louisiana. The PA/EA describes and analyzes the proposed action for management of approximately 575 acres in Arkansas and 378 acres in Louisiana. These public lands are isolated tracts in seven counties in Arkansas and four parishes in Louisiana. The affected counties in Arkansas are: Baxter, Cleburne, Crawford, Fulton, Pike, Searcy and Van Buren. The affected parishes in Louisiana are Desoto, Natchitoches, Rapides and St. Martin. Split-estate Federal minerals are not included in this PA/EA. These documents were prepared to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

DATES: Protests on the Proposed PA/EA must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2001. The Proposed PA/EA and FONSI can be reviewed Mondays through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the BLM's Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404,

Jackson, Mississippi 39206, or by visiting the Web site at www.es.blm.gov/jfo/pages/lupj.html.

ADDRESSES: All protests must be filed only with the Director of the BLM and submitted by mail or overnight mail as follows: The address for regular mail is: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, WO 210/LS–1075, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; The address for overnight mail is: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator (WO 210); 1620 L Street, NW., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: (202) 452–5110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Duane Winters at (601) 977–5400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed Action was developed after review of comments on the Draft PA/EA. Public comments on the Draft PA/EA were received by mail, public meeting, e-mail, and phone calls.

The alternatives that were considered can be summarized as: (1) No Action or Custodial Management, (2) Disposal, and (3) Management through Partnerships. Under the Custodial Management alternative, the BLM would retain the tracts, but would not pro-actively manage them. There would be no actions taken to manage habitats or other resources. When presented to BLM, applications for use would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Because this alternative would essentially be a continuation of the current management approach, it is also referred to as the No Action alternative. With the Disposal alternative, BLM would pursue transfer of the tracts out of Federal ownership through various means including sale, exchange or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. In a sale or exchange, priority would be given to transferring the tracts to adjacent land owners. In the Partnership alternative, resource management objectives are developed for each tract. These objectives include the desired conditions, such as type of habitat and recreational opportunity. BLM would actively seek partners, and with their cooperation, develop site specific implementation plans to identify needed management actions.

The Proposed PA/EA describes proposed management, including proposed decisions on disposal, for each of the BLM-administered tracts in Arkansas and Louisiana. Three of the tracts in Arkansas are proposed for disposal. Two tracts in Arkansas are

proposed for withdrawal to the U.S. Forest Service. One tract in Arkansas and one tract in Louisiana are proposed for management with partners. The other six tracts in Arkansas and three tracts in Louisiana are proposed for continued management by the BLM under a modification of the custodial alternative.

The BLM planning process offers an opportunity for administrative review (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Any participant in the planning process who has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the proposed decisions may file a protest in writing with the BLM Director. (See **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections above for the nonextendable deadline and specific addresses for filing protests on this Proposed Plan.) Only those persons or organizations that participated in the planning and analysis process may protest the proposed decisions in the Proposed Plan. Protests may raise only the issues that were previously submitted for the record during the planning and environmental analysis process by the protestor or another participant in the process.

To be considered complete, a protest must include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the part or parts of the plan and the issues being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, or maps included within the Proposed Plan and EA.
3. A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process or a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.
4. A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the proposed decision(s) is wrong. All relevant facts need to be included in the statement of reasons.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, a decision document can be issued and, excluding any portions under protest, the Proposed Plan will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed Plan under protest until final action has been completed on that protest.

Dated: November 6, 2001.

Sammy St. Clair,
Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 01-29731 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-1020-00]

Notice of Intent To Amend Plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, et al.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a plan amendment for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, the Escalante Management Framework Plan, and the Paria Management Framework Plan with associated Environmental Assessments (EA). The planning area is located in southern Utah.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1600) this notice advises the public that the BLM, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is considering amending the GSENM Management Plan, the Paria Management Framework Plan to reallocate a portion of the Willow Gulch allotment, and the Escalante Management Framework Plan to reallocate the Clark Bench grazing allotment. These amendments will be addressed through two separate EAs. This notice initiates a 30-day comment period on the planning criteria and draft amendments/EAs.

ADDRESSES: For further information, to review the planning documents and to submit written comments, contact: Monument Manager, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 180 West 300 North, Kanab, Utah, 84741, (435-644-4300). Planning documents and letters received, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the GSENM Office in Kanab, Utah during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. If you are not currently on our mailing list and wish to receive a copy of the planning documents, please

send your name and address to the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The livestock grazing permittee has voluntarily relinquished all of the existing grazing privileges on the Clark Bench allotment. The Paria Management Plan amendment considers a proposal to close the Clark Bench allotment to grazing and to re-allocate the relinquished animal unit months (AUMs) for wildlife, watershed conservation, and riparian values. One livestock grazing permittee has voluntarily relinquished all of his existing grazing privileges on the Willow Gulch allotment. Grazing privileges held by the other livestock grazing permittee on the Willow Gulch allotment will not be affected. A proposal to re-allocate the relinquished AUMs on the Willow Gulch allotment for wildlife, watershed conservation, and riparian values will be considered through the Escalante Management Framework Plan amendment. The EAs will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team to analyze the impacts of these proposals and alternatives.

The BLM has identified the following planning criteria, which will guide development of the amendments:

1. These plan amendments/EAs are initiated in response to the voluntary relinquishment of the sole grazing preference/permit for the West Clark Bench grazing allotment. Analysis and decisions in the plan amendment/EA apply only to that allotment.
2. These plan amendments/EAs will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and all other applicable laws.
3. These plan amendments/EAs will be developed using an interdisciplinary approach (e.g., a team approach using a variety of skills and perspectives such as rangeland management specialists, riparian specialists, etc.), with input from interested public, the State of Utah, local governments, and other Federal agencies and entities.
4. Decisions in the plan amendments/EAs will provide for the balance of long-term sustainability with short-term uses.
5. These plan amendments/EAs will incorporate and comply with the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

Robert A. Bennett,
Assistant Utah State Director.
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