

Flathead and Glacier Counties; thence east along the Canadian border to the county line between Valley and Daniels Counties; thence southerly along the Valley-Daniels County line; to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation; thence westerly and southerly between Valley County and Fort Peck Indian Reservation to the Missouri River; thence southwesterly along the Valley-McCone county line; thence southwesterly along the Valley-Garfield county line; thence southwesterly along the Phillips-Garfield county line; thence southerly along the Petroleum-Garfield county line; thence southerly along the Petroleum-Rosebud county line; thence westerly along the Petroleum-Musselshell county line; thence westerly along the Fergus-Musselshell county line; thence westerly along the Fergus-Golden Valley county line; thence westerly along the Fergus-Wheatland county line; thence westerly along the Judith Basin-Wheatland county line; thence southerly along the Meager-Wheatland county line to a point on the eastern boundary of the Butte District; thence west and northerly along the east boundary of the Butte District to the point of beginning.

Miles City District Office

Beginning at a point on the Canadian border and the county line between Valley and Daniels county; thence east along the Canadian border to the Montana-North Dakota state line; thence south along the Montana-North Dakota border; thence south along the Montana-South Dakota border to the southeast corner of Montana; thence west along the Montana-Wyoming border to the Park-Carbon county line; thence west and north along the east boundary of the Butte District; thence north, west and northerly along the Lewistown District southern and eastern boundaries to the point of beginning.

Dickinson District Office

All of North and South Dakota.

The Office Name Change and Area of Administration Are Listed Below

1. The Dillon Resource Area Office is now called the *Dillon Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction remains the same.

2. The Garnet Resource Area Office is now called the *Missoula Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction remains the same.

3. The Headwaters Resource Area Office is now called the *Butte Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction remains the same.

4. The Great Falls Resource Area Office is now called the *Great Falls*

Field Office and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction remains the same.

5. The Judith and Havre Resource Area Offices are combined and are called the *Lewistown Field Office* with the boundary (area) of jurisdiction the combination of the two former resource areas.

6. The Havre Resource Area Office is now called the *Havre Field Station* and is attached to and under the supervision of the Lewistown Field Office.

7. The Phillips and Valley Resource Area Offices are combined and are called the *Malta Field Office* with the boundary (area) of jurisdiction the combination of the two former resources areas.

8. The Valley Resource Area Office is now called the *Glasgow Field Station* and is attached to and under the supervision of the Malta Field Office.

9. The Big Dry and Powder River Resource Area Offices are combined and now are called the *Miles City Field Office* with the boundary (area) of jurisdiction the combined resources areas.

10. The Billings Resource Area Office is now called the *Billings Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction remains the same.

11. The Dickinson District Office is now called the *North Dakota Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction is the State of North Dakota.

12. The Belle Fourche Resource Area Office is now called the *South Dakota Field Office* and the boundary (area) of jurisdiction is the State of South Dakota. The management officer (Field Manager) of each field office is a "line" official and reports to the Montana/Dakotas State Director. A supervisor will be in each of the field stations and will report to a Field Manager.

Business with BLM should be conducted at the above locations as was done in the past as the "new" field offices will, from a non-BLM (external customer) view, operate like the "old" district offices. This reorganization merely renames offices, adjusts some jurisdictional boundaries, as outlined above, and removes a layer of the organizational structure between the identified "old" Resource Areas which are now Field Offices or Field Stations and the Montana State Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Singer, Deputy State Director, Division of Support Services, 406-255-2742.

Larry E. Hamilton,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-27699 Filed 10-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-010-02-5700-10; IDI-32281]

Notice of Realty Action—IDI-32281; Direct Sale of Public Lands in Owyhee County, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management—Interior.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Owyhee County, Idaho has been examined and through the public-supported land use planning process has been determined to be suitable for disposal utilizing direct sale procedures pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 at no less than the appraised fair market value of \$9,000.00. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 6S., R. 4E., Section 4: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Aggregating 30.0 acres more or less.

The patent, when issued will contain a reservation to the United States for ditches and canals.

DATES: On October 15, 1998, the land described above will be segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, except the sale provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The segregative effect will end upon issuance of patent or 270 days from the date of publication, whichever occurs first.

ADDRESSES: Bruneau Resource Area, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Mike Austin, at the address shown above or (208) 384-3339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This land is not required for any federal purpose. Because of its location or other characteristics, this land is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public domain. It would be in the public interest to sell this land by direct sale to Owyhee County for solid waste disposal purposes. Their refusal or failure to pay the appraised fair market value shall result in cancellation of the sale.

It has been determined that the subject parcel contains no known mineral values; therefore, mineral interests will be conveyed simultaneously. A separate nonrefundable filing fee of \$50.00 is required from the purchaser for conveyance of mineral interests.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice is in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the Bruneau Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the Area Manager, who may sustain, modify, or vacate this realty action to accommodate the protest. If the protest is not accommodated, the comments are subject to review by the District Manager who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

Dated: October 2, 1998.

Signe Sather-Blair,

Bruneau Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-27697 Filed 10-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-1310-00]

Intent To Prepare A Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Public Land in Otero and Sierra Counties, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an RMPA/EIS and invitation to participate in identification of issues and planning criteria.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the BLM, Las Cruces Field Office will direct preparation of a Fluid Minerals Leasing RMPA/EIS by Dames and Moore, Inc., a qualified consultant. The RMPA/EIS will address fluid minerals (oil, gas, and geothermal) leasing and subsequent activities (e.g., exploration, development, and/or production) on public land in Otero and Sierra Counties, New Mexico. Planning efforts for the RMPA will determine which public land and fluid minerals should be made available for leasing and subsequent activities, and what requirements (stipulations) may be needed to protect other resource values. The EIS will identify the potential

impacts that fluid minerals leasing and subsequent activities could have on the environment and identify appropriate measures to mitigate those impacts.

The BLM will conduct three public scoping meetings. All of the public meetings will be informal to foster public attendance and input. The dates, times, and locations for these meetings are as follows:

Date	Location
Monday, November 2, 1998, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Best Western Sally Port Inn, 2000 N. Main, Roswell, New Mexico.
Wednesday, November 4, 1998, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Civic Center, 800 E. First St., Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Thursday, November 5, 1998, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St., Truth of Consequences, New Mexico.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through November 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Theresa Hanley, BLM, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa Hanley, Team Leader, at (505) 525-4342 or Russ Jentgen at (505) 525-4351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of issuing Federal fluid mineral leases is to provide the opportunity to explore for and produce domestic resources of fluid minerals to meet the National demand for fluid minerals leasing through the Minerals Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. Previous environmental and planning documents were prepared to address fluid minerals leasing for this area (public land in Sierra and Otero Counties), including the Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas and Geothermal Leasing in the White Sands Resource Area completed in 1981, and the White Sands RMP completed in 1986. However, large increases in oil and gas lease nominations in 1998 prompted the BLM to review the RMP. It was found to lack information to make leasing decisions commensurate with the increased leasing nominations and potential subsequent exploration and development. BLM is developing this RMPA/EIS to be consistent with current laws, regulations, and supplemental program guidance (BLM Manual Section 1624.2) for fluid minerals leasing and providing the public an opportunity to review the leasing decision-making. The RMPA/EIS will determine where and under what conditions fluid minerals leasing and subsequent activities will be

permitted. The determinations will provide the basis for timing, surface use, and no surface occupancy stipulations that will be attached to Federal fluid mineral leases. The RMPA/EIS also will identify the circumstances necessary for granting waivers, exceptions, or modifications to stipulations. The RMPA/EIS will be a Category 2 Amendment as defined in BLM Manual Section 1617.42.

The planning area will include public land in Otero and Sierra Counties, encompassing 2.4 million surface acres administered by BLM and 3.7 acres of Federal mineral estate.

It is anticipated that the RMPA/EIS process will require 24 months to complete and will include public and agency scoping, coordination and consultation with Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, public review and public hearings on the published draft RMPA/draft EIS, a published proposed RMPA/final EIS, published Record of Decision, and Plan Amendment. Publication of the Record of Decision is anticipated in September 2000.

BLM public information and scoping will include notification to the public and Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies of the proposed action; identification by the public of the range of issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS; development of planning criteria; and the solicitation of assistance from the public to identify reasonable alternatives. In addition, the public will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project at scheduled public scoping meetings (see **SUMMARY** section of this notice).

Written comments should address: (1) Issues to be considered, (2) if the planning criteria are adequate for the issues, (3) feasible and reasonable alternatives to examine, and (4) relevant information having a bearing on the RMPA/EIS. BLM will maintain a mailing list of parties and persons interested in being kept informed about the progress of the RMPA/EIS.

Description of Possible Alternatives

A range of reasonable alternatives, including an alternative considering no action as required by NEPA, will be developed and analyzed in the EIS. Through scoping, the public will assist in developing the alternatives. One alternative will be selected as the agency-preferred alternative.

Anticipated Decisions and Criteria

The anticipated decisions will include answers to the following: