

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to consider proposed amendments to the SJRMP and the GRMP in the Lockhart Basin Area of San Juan County, Utah.

DATES: Public comment opportunities for identification of issues for the proposed plan amendment will commence with the date of publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted on or before December 2, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Walter, Monticello Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 435 North Main Street, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535, telephone (801) 587-1500. Comments on issues to be addressed in the proposed plan amendment should be sent to the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 10, 1997, the San Juan Resource Area (SJRA) of the Moab District published in the **Federal Register**, a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) level plan amendment for the SJRMP. This EA level amendment was originally proposed in order to provide additional recreational guidance for portions of the SJRMP in the Indian Creek Area and Canyon Basins Special Recreation Area, citing that since the completion of the SJRMP in March 1991, significant increases in recreation use has led to degradation of sensitive resources including riparian areas, cultural sites, visual resources etc. Upon publication of the **Federal Register** Notice, a public scoping effort was initiated.

Additionally, on January 13, 1998, the Moab and Monticello Field Offices, published in the **Federal Register**, a second Notice of Intent to prepare an EA level plan amendment for the Lockhart Basin area. The preliminary issues for this amendment involved visual resources, wildlife relative to current oil and gas categorization and resulting conflicts with other sensitive resource values.

It is the determination of the Bureau of Land Management that the public scoping efforts for both of these proposed amendments have identified significant concerns that should be addressed in an EIS amendment format and should include cross jurisdictional issues between the two BLM Field Offices. Issues that have been identified to be addressed in the new EIS level amendment are as follows:

(a) Livestock re-classification and forage reallocation for bighorn sheep to

enhance bighorn sheep management and reduce interspecies conflict.

(b) Potential reclassification of current oil and gas categories to enhance wildlife habitat protection and visual resource management,

(c) The implication of increased recreation use on BLM administered public lands in relation to Canyonlands National Park,

(d) The potential designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and inventory/classification of Wild and Scenic Rivers,

(e) Potential Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) closures in areas known to cause degradation of sensitive resources,

(f) Review and possible incorporation of Utah Rangeland Health Standards as appropriate,

(g) Re-evaluation of Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes.

(h) Consideration of the need for mineral withdrawal in certain portions of the area.

(i) Special management considerations in support of long term research and monitoring.

A separate activity level (site specific) camping facilities plan for the Indian Creek area is still under preparation and will continue. This plan is considered in conformance with the current SJRMP and will be incorporated by reference into the proposed SJRMP Amendment.

This notice provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the revised EIS level plan amendment. Additional comment opportunities on the revised scope of this project will be available as the planning/NEPA process continues.

No additional planning criteria are proposed for this effort beyond those previously identified in the SJRMP or GRMP.

This notice is also to advise the public that the BLM is seeking additional public input regarding potential areas that could be considered for either ACEC designation and or W&SR study and evaluation, as well as to seek additional public input on those areas that have already been nominated within the Lockhart Basin area. The Bureau of Land Management will determine what areas, if any, should be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). To be considered as a potential ACEC, and analyzed in a management plan alternative, an area must meet the criteria of "relevance and importance" as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610. An area meets the "relevance" criteria if it contains one of more of the following: (1) Significant historic, cultural, or scenic values, (2) fish and wildlife resource (including sensitive

species, or it's relative habitat or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity), (3) natural processes or systems (including rare, endemic, relic plants or communities and riparian areas), and (4) natural hazards such as severe avalanche, flooding, seismic activity, etc.

The "importance" criteria is used to insure that a specific resource or value, process or hazard has substantial significance and values. Importance can be characterized as follows: (1) Being more than locally significant, having special worth, (2) having qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, unique, endangered or threatened, meaningful or distinctive, (3) has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priorities or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA, and (4) has qualities which warrant concern to satisfy public or management concerns regarding public welfare and safety.

All ACEC nominations will receive a preliminary evaluation by an interdisciplinary team to determine if the area meets the "relevance" and "importance" criteria. Nominations should include descriptive materials, detailed maps and evidence supporting the relevance and importance of the resource. Additionally, public nominations are also being sought for those river segments which may be eligible for inclusion into the National Wild & Scenic River System.

In order to be considered, the body of water must be free flowing. A river segment can be determined free flowing if it is a flowing body of water, estuary, or section, portion, or tributary thereof including, rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. River segments can be any size and must be existing or flowing in natural conditions without major modification. All nominations should be accompanied by detailed maps and descriptions.

Dated: October 27, 1998.

Douglas M. Koza,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-29285 Filed 10-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-924-1430-01; MTM 84004]

Public Land Order No. 7371; Opening of Land Under Section 24 of the Federal Power Act; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order opens, subject to the provisions of Section 24 of the Federal Power Act, 70 acres of National Forest System land withdrawn by a Secretarial Order which established Bureau of Land Management Powersite Reserve No. 110. This action will permit consummation of a pending Forest Service land exchange and retain the power rights to the United States. The land is temporarily closed to surface entry and mining due to a pending land exchange. The land has been and continues to be open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 2, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Sorg, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406-255-2945.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 10, 1920, Section 24, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 818 (1994), and pursuant to the determination by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in DVMT-246, it is ordered as follows:

At 9 a.m. on November 2, 1998, the following described National Forest System land, withdrawn by Secretarial Order dated January 24, 1910, which established Powersite Reserve No. 110, will be opened to disposal by land exchange, subject to the provisions of Section 24 of the Federal Power Act as specified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in determination DVMT-246, and subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, and the requirements of applicable law:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 1 S., R. 22 W.,

Sec. 26, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 70 acres in Ravalli County.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 98-29255 Filed 10-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-62050]

Amendment of Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan (MFP)/ Notice of Realty Action, Direct Sale of Public Land, Pershing County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Plan Amendment/Notice of Realty Action.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has amended the Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan to identify for disposal under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act 350 acres of public land described as:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 27 N., R. 31 E.,

Sec. 7: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 8: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Containing 350 acres more or less.

The subject lands have been found suitable for direct sale under Sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719), at not less than fair market value.

The above described lands are hereby classified for disposal in accordance with Executive Order 6910 and the Act of June 28, 1934, as amended.

The lands were formerly segregated from sale by publication of a Notice of Realty Action (N58101) published in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 1994, in anticipation of an R&PP lease. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the segregation against sale under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is terminated and the subject lands are open to sale under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Upon patent issuance for the subject lands, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease N-58101, issued to the Pershing County Fair and Recreation Board, shall terminate.

The lands are not required for Federal purposes. Disposal is consistent with the Bureau's planning for this area and would be in the public's interest. This land is being offered by direct sale to the Pershing County Fair and Recreation Board. It has been determined that the subject parcel contains no known mineral values.

Acceptance of a direct sale offer will constitute an application for conveyance of those mineral interests having no known value. The applicant will be required to pay a \$50.00 non-refundable filing fee for conveyance of the said mineral interests. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Planning Protests

Any party that participated in the plan amendment and is adversely affected by the amendment may protest

this action as it affects issues submitted for the record during the planning process. The protests shall be in writing and filed with the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Manager (WO-210), 1849 "C" Street NW/LS-1075, Washington, DC 20240 within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Detweiler, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, NV 89445, telephone (702) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public lands are being offered to the Pershing County Fair and Recreation Board for the proposed Desert Coral Golf Course. Currently, the parcel is under Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease N-58101 by the Board for the subject golf course. Sale of the parcel to the Board would give them more flexibility in procuring financing and in management of the proposed golf course.

A patent, when issued, will contain the following reservations to the United States:

A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States pursuant to the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

And will be subject to:

1. Those rights for highway purposes which have been granted to the Nevada Department of Transportation, by Right-of-way NEV-048800, under the Act of November 9, 1921 (23 U.S.C. Sec. 18).

2. Those rights for communication line purposes which have been granted to Bell Telephone Company of Nevada under Right-of-way N-12799, under the Act of March 4, 1911 (43 U.S.C. 961) and under Right-of-way N-61913, under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

3. Those rights for natural gas pipeline purposes which have been granted to Southwest Gas Corporation by Right-of-way NEV-058689, under the Act of February 25, 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185 Sec. 28).

4. Those rights for power transmission line purposes which have been granted to Sierra Pacific Power Company by Right-of-way N-12800, under the Act of March 4, 1911 (43 U.S.C. 961) and Right-of-way N-60884 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed sale to the Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5100 E.