

reduces the action to exchanging 9,161 public acres for 5,601 acres of offered lands. Under the No Action Alternative, an exchange would not occur; federal lands and minerals would remain under BLM management.

#### Comments on the FEIS

Comments will be considered in preparing the record of decision on the land exchange. All comments on the FEIS must be received within 30 days of this Notice. Send FEIS comments to: Shela McFarlin, BLM, Arizona State Office, 222 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Please note that comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, are available for public review and/or release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and street address from public review or from disclosure under FOIA, 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.

#### Protest of the Proposed Plan Amendment

This FEIS combines the analysis of the exchange proposal with a proposed plan amendment. The amendment would change the existing land tenure decision in the Phoenix and Safford District Resource Management Plans to retain much of the selected lands, to a decision to dispose of these lands. The plan amendment process offers an opportunity for administrative review by filing a protest with the BLM Director. This applies only to the proposed plan amendment, not the exchange itself. The protest must be received at the address below by close of business within 30 days of this Notice. Protest letters must be sent to: Director, BLM; Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator WO-210/LS-1075; Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. The overnight mail address for protests is: Director, BLM; Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210), 1620 L. Street NW, Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036. At a minimum, protest letters must include: (1) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest. (2) A statement of which

parcel or parcels (by township, range and section) or issues are being protested. (3) A statement of the part or parts of the plan amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables and maps included within the proposed plan amendment. (4) A copy of all documents addressing the issues or parcels that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record. (5) A statement of reasons explaining why the BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. All relevant facts need to be included in the statement of reasons. These facts, reasons, and documentation are very important to understand the protest rather than merely expressing disagreement with the proposed decision.

Copies of the FEIS may be requested from: Shela McFarlin, (address above), (602) 417-9568, or from these offices: BLM Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Rd., Phoenix, AZ. 85027; BLM Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 85748; and, BLM Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Avenue, Kingman, AZ. 86401. Review copies are available at public libraries in Mesa, Kingman and Kearny; and the Arizona State University, Hayden Library, Tempe, AZ.

Dated: June 16, 1999.

**Gary Bauer,**

*Acting State Director.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-015-1610-00]

##### Notice of Availability of Proposed Owyhee Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS); and Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Designations

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Owyhee Resource Area. The RMP/EIS addresses alternatives for management on 1.3 million acres of BLM administered public lands in

southwest Idaho. Consideration of 20 areas for Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation is also addressed in the document. This notice, therefore, is also issued pursuant to 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2(b) of the BLM Planning Regulations. The RMP/EIS also addresses suitability of wild, scenic and recreational designations on 223 miles of stream segments determined to be eligible for such designations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The public has the opportunity to protest the Owyhee Proposed Resource Management Plan, which is Alternative E in the final EIS. The BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2, state that any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which may be adversely affected may protest. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of receipt of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** The 30-day protest period provided for in the BLM Planning Regulations will begin on July 2, 1999 and end on August 2, 1999. Written protests may be submitted at any time during the protest period and must be filed (postmarked) by August 2, 1999 at the address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Written protests must be sent to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210/LS-1075, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daryl Albiston, Area Manager; or Fred Minckler, Team Leader at the address above. Telephone (208) 384-3300. Copies of the RMP/EIS are available for inspection at the BLM, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Owyhee Resource Area includes 1,320,032 acres of BLM administered public lands in western Owyhee County, Idaho and encompasses 1,779,492 acres including State and private lands. The Owyhee RMP/EIS describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing these public lands. The land use planning effort addresses a broad spectrum of land uses and allocations including wild horse management, land tenure adjustments, off-highway motorized vehicle (OHMV) designations, wild, scenic and recreational river designations, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). Twenty areas ranging in size from 114 acres to 141,796 acres totaling

293,133 acres are being considered for ACEC designation. Resource use limitations vary among alternatives for each area and pertain to OHMV designations, rights-of-way, livestock management, juniper control, fire management and minerals activities.

Dated: June 14, 1999.

**Howard Hedrick,**

*Associate District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-010-1220-00/G-010-G9-0255]

#### **Notice of Availability of a Draft Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP Amendment/EIS) for El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) and Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area (WSA)**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Albuquerque Field Office has completed a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If approved, the RMP Amendment would alter some decisions in the Rio Puerco RMP for the NCA and add decisions for lands recently acquired. The document establishes planning to the activity level for many of the issues addressed.

The EIS provides environmental analysis of the impacts of four alternative ways of managing the NCA and adjoining lands. Alternative A is the Existing Management (No Action) Alternative. It would be a continuation of current management and establishes the baseline for impact analysis. Management under Alternative B, the Resource Use Alternative, would support direct human action. Under Alternative C (Natural Processes), management would minimize human activity. Alternative D (Balanced Management) is the BLM's Preferred Alternative, which proposes to balance use and conservation. The document also addresses a legislative requirement to recommend for or against the designation of the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area as wilderness.

**DATES:** Written comments must be postmarked no later than September 24, 1999.

Formal verbal comments will be received at the following public

hearings, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and continue until those signed up to speak have had an opportunity to do so:

(1) Monday, July 26.

(2) Tuesday, July 27.

(3) Wednesday, July 28.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to: El Malpais Plan Team Leader, BLM Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montañito Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935. The public hearings will be held at the following locations:

(1) Grants High School, 500 Mountain Road, Grants, NM.

(2) Quemado High School, Highway 60, Quemado, NM.

(3) Del Norte High School, 5323 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Copies are available for review at public libraries in Albuquerque and Grants, New Mexico and at the following address on the Internet: [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov). Additional copies are available at the following BLM New Mexico offices: New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe; Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montañito Road NE, Albuquerque; Grants Field Station, 2001 Santa Fe Ave., Grants; and Socorro Field Office, 198 Neel Ave. NW, Socorro.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kent Hamilton, El Malpais Plan Team Leader, BLM Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montañito Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935; phone (505) 761-8746.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft RMP Amendment includes revised planning for the following four issues: (1) Recreation (including Visual Resource Management), (2) Access and Transportation, (3) Wilderness Suitability, and (4) Boundary and Land Ownership Adjustments. If approved, these amendments would only affect the NCA and adjoining areas as specified. Decisions for other issues and geographic areas addressed in the Rio Puerco RMP would not be changed.

The following issues have been addressed in the environmental analysis: (1) Recreation, (2) Facility Development, (3) Access and Transportation, (4) Wilderness Management, (5) Wilderness Suitability, (6) American Indian Uses and Traditional Cultural Practices, (7) Cultural Resources, (8) Wildlife Habitat, (9) Vegetation, and (10) Boundary and Land Ownership Adjustments.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday (except holidays), and may be published as part of the

Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street 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. 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.

**Mike O'Neill,**

*Acting Albuquerque Field Office Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection request.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), we are notifying you that an information collection request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. We are also soliciting your comments on this ICR which describes the information collection, its expected costs and burden, and how the data will be collected.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before July 26, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Interior Department (OMB Control Number 1010-0120), 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503; telephone (202) 395-7340. You should also send copies of these comments to us. The U.S. Postal Service address is Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165; the courier address is Building 85, Room A-613, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; and the e-Mail address is [RMP.comments@mms.gov](mailto:RMP.comments@mms.gov).