

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that HUD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have executed an Interagency Agreement (IAA) establishing a pilot grant program called the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP), and that the operating requirements for the DHAP have been issued through HUD Notice. DHAP is a joint initiative undertaken by HUD and FEMA to provide monthly rent subsidies and case management services for individuals and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita who were not receiving housing assistance from HUD prior to the disasters. The operating requirements for the DHAP are found in a HUD Notice PIH 2007, issued August 16, 2007. This notice and related program information on the DHAP is available from HUD's Web site at <http://www.hud.gov>.

To be eligible for DHAP, a family must have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and consequently is either receiving or is eligible to receive housing assistance from FEMA, and FEMA has determined the family is eligible for DHAP assistance.

HUD will invite public housing agencies (PHAs) that currently administer the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program to administer the DHAP based on several factors such as where the DHAP eligible families are currently residing or have indicated they wish to receive DHAP assistance.

Monthly rental assistance payments under the DHAP will not commence until November 1, 2007. However, PHAs that agree to administer the DHAP will begin providing pre-transitional case management services on or after September 1, 2007, for those families transitioning to the DHAP during the initial implementation phase.

DHAP is a temporary assistance program and will terminate as of March 1, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David A. Vargas, Director, Office of Housing Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4228, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-2815 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast area of the United States

causing unprecedented and catastrophic damage to property, significant loss of life, and the displacement of tens of thousands of individuals from their homes and communities. In September 2005, Hurricane Rita closely followed Hurricane Katrina and once again hit the Gulf Coast area of the United States, adding to the damage to property and displacement of individuals and families.

Many families who registered with FEMA were able to receive assistance either through a direct or financial assistance program under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Stafford Act) (42 U.S.C. 5174). Those families that are still receiving assistance from FEMA may receive assistance under the DHAP. The DHAP recognizes that, due to the magnitude of the Gulf Coast hurricanes, many impacted families still require additional housing assistance. As HUD is responsible for administering the HCV Program, the nation's largest tenant-based subsidy program, and has also successfully implemented the Katrina Housing Assistance Payments Program (KDHP) and the Disaster Voucher Program (DVP), FEMA has requested that HUD design a program that is modeled after those three programs.

In July 2007, HUD and FEMA executed an Interagency Agreement (IAA) under which HUD shall act as the servicing agency of the DHAP. HUD will utilize its existing network of local PHAs to administer the program. These PHAs administer the HCV program and as a result have the necessary local market knowledge and expertise in assisting families through a tenant-based subsidy program. In addition, through their administration of both the KDHP and DVP, the PHAs are experienced in working with significant numbers of families that have been displaced by disasters.

Pursuant to FEMA's grant authority, grants will be provided to local PHAs to administer DHAP on behalf of FEMA. Under DHAP, PHAs will make rental assistance payments on behalf of eligible families to participating landlords for a period not to exceed 16 months, with all rental assistance payments ending by March 1, 2009.

In order to prepare the family for this eventuality, case management services are provided for the entire duration of DHAP. These case management services include assisting participants to identify non-disaster supported housing solutions such as other affordable housing options that may be available for income eligible families.

In addition, beginning on March 1, 2008, families will be required to pay a portion of rent of \$50, which will increase by an additional \$50 each subsequent month. This gradual increase in the family share will further prepare the family to assume full responsibility for their housing costs at the end of DHAP.

PHA responsibilities for DHAP include calculating the monthly rent subsidy and making monthly rent subsidy payments on behalf of participating families, performing housing quality standards inspections when necessary, applying appropriate subsidy standards for families, and determining rent reasonableness for certain units. The PHA is also responsible for terminating the family's participation in the DHAP if the family fails to comply with the family obligations of the program.

More detailed information about DHAP and the governing operating requirements for the program can be accessed via the HUD Web site at <http://www.hud.gov>. Any subsequent revisions or amendments to those requirements and any further supplemental information will also be made available on the above Web site.

Dated: August 14, 2007.

**Orlando J. Cabrera,**

*Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-610-07-1220-PA]

**California Desert District; Notice of Solicitation for Nominations**

**ACTION:** Call for nominations for the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Advisory Council.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District is soliciting nominations from the public for five members of its District Advisory Council to serve the 2008-2010 three-year term. Council members provide advice and recommendations to BLM on the management of public lands in southern California. Public notice begins with the publication date of this notice. Nominations will be accepted through Saturday, October 30, 2007. The

three-year term would begin January 1, 2008.

The five positions to be filled include:

- One non-renewable resources representative.
- One recreation representative.
- Two public-at-large representatives.
- One wildlife interests.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The California Desert District Advisory Council is comprised of 15 private individuals who represent different interests and advise BLM officials on policies and programs concerning the management of 11 million acres of public land in southern California. The Council meets in formal session three to four times each year in various locations throughout the California Desert District. Council members serve without compensation except for reimbursement of travel expenditures incurred in the course of their duties. Members serve three-year terms and may be nominated for reappointment for an additional three-year term.

Section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of BLM administered lands. The Secretary also selects council nominees consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which requires nominees appointed to the council be balanced in terms of points of view and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands.

The Council also is balanced geographically, and BLM will try to find qualified representatives from areas throughout the California Desert District. The District covers portions of eight counties, and includes over 11 million acres of public land in the California Desert Conservation Area and 300,000 acres of scattered parcels in San Diego, western Riverside, western San Bernardino, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties (known as the South Coast).

Any group or individual may nominate a qualified person, based upon their education, training, and knowledge of BLM, the California Desert, and the issues involving BLM-administered public lands throughout southern California. Qualified individuals also may nominate themselves.

Nominations must include the name of the nominee; work and home addresses and telephone numbers; a biographical sketch that includes the nominee's work and public service record; any applicable outside interests or other information that demonstrates

the nominees qualifications for the position; and the specific category of interest in which the nominee is best qualified to offer advice and council. Nominees may contact the BLM California Desert District External Affairs staff at (951) 697-5217 or write to the address below and request a copy of the nomination form.

All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests, organizations, or elected officials supporting the nomination. Individuals nominating themselves must provide at least one letter of recommendation. Advisory Council members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, generally in late January or early February.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be sent to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Razo, BLM California Desert District External Affairs (951) 697-5217.

Dated: July 26, 2007.

**Steven J. Borchard,**

*District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1110-JM-H2KO; G-06-HAG-0139]

#### Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze potential effects of implementing the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project (North Steens Project). The proposed project area lies within the Andrews Management Unit (AMU) and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), designated October 30, 2000 by Act of Congress.

The North Steens Project is located in Harney County, Oregon, and affects approximately 336,000 acres of public and private lands.

**DATES:** The Final EIS will be available for a 30-day period of availability with the publishing of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** North Steens Project EIS Lead, BLM, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738; (541) 573-4543; Fax (541) 573-4411; or e-mail ([ornseis@blm.gov](mailto:ornseis@blm.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The North Steens Project is a proposed landscape-level project utilizing a combination of western juniper treatments (mechanical and nonmechanical methods) and wildland (prescribed and natural) fire to treat fuels and to restore sagebrush/steppe habitat. Implementation of the project would reduce the increasing adverse influence of western juniper in mountain big sagebrush, low sagebrush, quaking aspen, mountain mahogany, old growth juniper (over 120 years old), and riparian plant communities.

Section 113(c) of the Steens Act states, "The Secretary shall emphasize the restoration of the historic fire regime in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the resulting native vegetation communities through active management of western juniper on a landscape level. Management measures shall include the use of natural and prescribed burning."

The Resource Management Plans for the CMPA and AMU contain overall direction and guidance for proposed management actions such as those analyzed in the North Steens Project EIS. Management actions analyzed include seeding of native species, reduction of western juniper (less than 120 yrs old), fencing, and management of wildland fire. Preliminary issues and management concerns were identified by BLM personnel and through public scoping. Major issues addressed in the EIS include management of woodlands, rangeland vegetation, Steens Mountain Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), Wild and Scenic River corridors, wildlife habitat, special status species, wildland fire/fuels, recreation, cultural resources, noxious weeds, water quality/aquatic resources/fisheries, biological soil crusts, and social and economic values. The EIS also considered American Indian traditional practices. An interdisciplinary approach was used to develop the Final EIS.

Government agencies having specific expertise or interests in the project were