

for a formal listing under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has provided a list of species of particular concern (list will be provided with application package). Projects focusing on these species will be given special consideration. Projects focusing on species not included on this list will also be considered if accompanied by sufficient justification. This program is specifically directed towards species for which opportunities exist for developing strategies that assure long-term population stability and reduce the likelihood they will have to be dealt with through the regulatory processes. Therefore, projects involving FWS "Candidate," "Threatened," or "Endangered" species will not be considered. Likewise, species of great abundance, regardless of the management challenges they pose, are beyond the focus of SAR and will be rejected in the screening process.

This program is conducted in furtherance of the Secretary's obligations under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 USC 742a-742j, as amended) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-667e, as amended).

B. Background

The National Biological Service was transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey and renamed the Biological Resources Division (BRD) under Secretarial Order No. 3202 on October 1, 1996. BRD gathers and analyzes biological information and serves as an information clearinghouse, providing broad access to the widest possible range of factual data on the status and trends of the Nation's biota and the potential effects of land management choices. This information serves public and private landowners who are interested in sustaining biological resources. It also provides understanding to help avoid conflicts that can both impede development and degrade natural habitats.

The Species at Risk Program will develop scientific information and alternatives to assist Federal, State, and other land managers in their decisions regarding the protection of sensitive species and habitats.

C. Availability of Funds

Through this program, pre-proposals are invited for funding in Fiscal Year 1997. Total funding anticipated for the fiscal year is up to \$370,000. Monies will be provided to successful applicants on a competitive basis. In order to maximize the number of proposals there is no minimum project

cost. The maximum project cost will be \$80,000.

D. Eligibility Requirements

Under the terms specified in the information package, pre-proposals will be accepted from State agencies, private and industry groups, academic institutions, and Native American Tribes and Nations. Pre-proposals will be evaluated in light of their scientific merit, partnership opportunities, potential for providing useful information to resource managers, potential for conservation agreements, possibilities for cost sharing, and demonstration of successful completion within 18 months of date of initiation. Possible selectees will then be invited to submit a full proposal for consideration of funding.

E. Application Process

Parties interested in participating in this program should request an information package that will include detailed application forms, Federal Assistance forms (Standard Form 424, etc.), proposal format requirements, etc. from:

Mail:

Species at Risk Program, 12201
Sunrise Valley Drive, M.S. 300,
Reston, VA 20192, attn. John
Mosesso or Wendy Kuhne

Or E-Mail:

John_Mosesso@nbs.gov
Wendy_Kuhne@nbs.gov

Or Call: (703) 648-4070

F. Dates

Notice of interest in this program must be received by December 13, 1996.

Dennis B. Fenn,

Chief Biologist, Biological Resources Division,

[FR Doc. 96-28756 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-P

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-066-06-1220-00]

Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, Midland Long-Term Visitor Area, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an

environmental assessment and management plan affecting public lands within the Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, southern California. BLM has expanded the boundaries of the existing Midland Long-Term Visitor Area (LTVA), allowing the collection of fees, and will provide limited public services to users.

DATES: Any person whose interest is adversely affected by these decisions may have certain appeal rights as described in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4.411 to the U.S. Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The appeal must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days from the date of this notice to the following address: Ms. Julia Dougan, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-2000.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: David H. Eslinger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-2000; telephone (619) 251-4836.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Midland LTVA currently contains 135 acres of public lands immediately north of Midland Road, eight miles north of Blythe, in Riverside County, California. BLM proposes to expand the LTVA by about 100 acres, directly south across Midland Road from the existing LTVA. The proposed expansion would protect sensitive soils and wildlife, improve manageability, provide user services, and authorize collection of fees to cover operating expenses for visitor services provided. The additional lands are located in T5S, R22E, Sections 22 and 23.

The following management prescriptions are proposed: develop and maintain access from Midland Road into the LTVA addition; blade a berm along Midland Road to prevent route proliferation; sign the boundaries of the LTVA; install a trash dumpster and an informational display and signs; prohibit camping on public lands within two miles of the LTVA; increase Ranger patrols; issue no apiary permits on public lands within three miles of the LTVA; and increase visitor services through the use of volunteer hosts and the Blythe Chamber of Commerce.

Nothing in the proposed plan shall have the effect of terminating any validly-issued rights-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement activities in such rights-of-way within the LTVA

boundaries, in accordance with Sections 509 (a) and 701 (a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Dated: October 24, 1996.

Lucia Kuizon,

Acting Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-28715 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

[NV-930-1430-01; N-58812]

Notice of Realty Action: Non-Competitive Sale of Public Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Non-Competitive Sale of Public Lands in Lincoln County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: The below listed public land in Rachel, Lincoln County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for sale utilizing non-competitive procedures, at not less than the fair market value. In accordance with Section 7 of the Act of June 28, 1934, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 315f and EO 6910, the described lands are hereby classified as suitable for disposal under the authority of Section 203 and Section 209 of the Act of October 21, 1976; 43 U.S.C. 1761.

DATES: On or before December 23, 1996, interested parties may submit comments to the Assistant District Manager, Nonrenewable Resources.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Gene L. Drais, Assistant District Manager, Nonrenewable Resources, HC 33, Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael McGinty, Realty Specialist, at the above address or telephone (702) 289-1882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following described parcel of land, situated in Lincoln County is being offered as a direct sale to Mr. Richard Castleton.

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 3 S., R. 55 E.,
Section 29, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
Section 31, Lot 1.

Containing 81.99 acres more or less.

This land is not required for any federal purposes. The sale is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest.

In the event of a sale, conveyance of the available mineral interests will occur simultaneously with the sale of the land. The mineral interests being offered for conveyance have no known mineral value. Acceptance of a direct

sale offer will constitute an application for conveyance of those mineral interests. The applicant will be required to pay a \$50.00 nonreturnable filing fee for the conveyance of the available mineral interests.

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

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

2. All the oil and gas mineral deposits in the land subject to this conveyance, including without limitation, the disposition of these substances under the mineral leasing laws. Its permittee, licensees and lessees, the right to prospect for, mine and remove the mineral owned by the United States under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe. This reservation includes all necessary and incidental activities conducted in accordance with the provisions of the mineral leasing laws in effect at the time such activities are undertaken, including, without limitation, necessary access and exit rights, all drilling, underground, or surface mining operation, storage and transportation facilities deemed necessary and authorized under law and implementing regulations. Unless otherwise provided by separate agreement with surface owner, permittee, licensees and lessees of the United States shall reclaim disturbed areas to the extent prescribed by regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior. All cause of action brought to enforce the rights of the surface owner under the regulations above referred to shall be instituted against permittee, licensees and lessees of the United States; and the United States shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of its permittee, licensees and lessees.

3. Those rights for an underground telephone cable and appurtenances granted to Lincoln County Telephone System, its successors or assignees, by right-of-way N-22164, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976; 43 U.S.C. 1761.

4. Those rights for an overhead 69 Kv three phase power distribution line, granted to Lincoln County Power #1., its successors and assignee, by right-of-way N-16673, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976; 43 U.S.C. 1761.

Upon publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except leasing under the mineral leasing laws. This segregation will

terminate upon issuance of a patent or 270 days from the date of this publication, whichever occurs first.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register, interested parties may submit comments regarding this action to the Assistant District Manager, Nonrenewable Resources at the address listed above. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In absence of any adverse comments, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior. The Bureau of Land Management may accept or reject any or all offers, or withdraw any land or interest in the land from sale, if, in the opinion of the authorized officer, consummation of the sale would not be fully consistent with FLPMA, or other applicable laws. The lands will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

Dated: October 24, 1996.

Gene A. Kolkman,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-28713 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

[ID-015-07-1610-00]

Amendment To Extend Public Comment Period on Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management—Interior.

SUMMARY: On Tuesday, August 13, 1996 a Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register for the draft Owyhee Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). That notice indicated that the public comment period provided for in 43 CFR Part 1600 (BLM Planning Regulations) would remain open until November 15, 1996. The comment period has been extended and will remain open until January 3, 1997.

DATES: The public comment period for the draft Owyhee Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) has been extended and will remain open until January 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted at any time during the comment period to the Boise Field Office and should be sent to: Owyhee Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.