

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, and well be subject to:

1. Easements in accordance with the City of North Las Vegas Transportation Plan and as stated by letter to the Bureau of Land Management dated November 17, 1997.

2. All valid and existing rights.

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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 for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposal under the mineral material disposal laws. 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 lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the District Manager, Las Vegas District, 4765 Vegas Drive Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108.

Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for the senior high school. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the lands for a school site.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 17, 1998.

Mark R. Chatterton,

Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 98-5075 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ030-1010-00; AZA-29861]

Notice of Intent To Amend the Kingman Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, Arizona, will be preparing an EIS-level plan amendment to the Kingman Resource Management Plan. The plan amendment will assess impacts of proposed changes to land tenure classification decisions and resource management of federal lands in Mohave County in western Arizona.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until April 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Team Leader, Hualapai Mountain Project, Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Ave., Kingman, Arizona 86401-3629.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Don McClure, phone: (520) 692-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The planning area will include both public and non-public land in Mohave County in western Arizona, encompassing approximately 150,000 acres.

On June 11, 1997, Arizona BLM published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS-level analysis for a proposed land exchange near Kingman, Arizona, referred to as the Hualapai Mountain Exchange. As the offered and selected lands became more clearly defined during development of the draft EIS, it became apparent that adjustments in land tenure decisions of the Kingman Resource Management Plan would also be needed. The amendment is needed because approximately 15,000 acres selected by the Proponent were not identified for disposal in the Kingman Resource Management Plan by Township, Range, and Section. Also, the Proponent for the land exchange selected lands within the White Margined Penstemon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The boundary of the ACEC will not change

but the amount of acreage of designated ACEC lands will change. The language used for designating the ACEC was for the public acres within the boundary and not the boundary itself. The proposed change in the acreage of the ACEC involves approximately 1800 acres going out of public ownership with approximately 3950 acres coming into public ownership. The 1800 acres would lose its designation as ACEC lands while the approximately 3950 acres would be designated as part of the ACEC.

Proposed modifications to the Kingman Resource Management Plan will be integrated with the proposed Hualapai Mountain Exchange, and the impacts thereof will be presented in a single EIS-level analysis. The interdisciplinary EIS team will consist of specialists representing wildlife, recreation, minerals, archaeology, lands, surface protection, vegetation, range, soil and watershed, social and economic conditions. Specialists with other expertise will be added if needed.

Description of Possible Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives including the no-action alternative will be analyzed in the EIS. One alternative will be selected as the agency-preferred alternative before the draft environmental impact statement is released for public review.

Anticipated Issues and Criteria

Some issues expected to be addressed by the plan amendment include the following: proposed land tenure adjustments, and proposed management of lands and resources acquired by BLM through the proposed exchange.

The following criteria are proposed to guide resolution of the issues: actions must comply with laws, executive, orders, and regulations; consider long-term benefits to the public in relation to short-term benefits; be reasonable and achievable; use of the best available scientific information; use an interdisciplinary approach to land management; and contribute to or sustain the productivity and diversity of natural systems and the health of the land.

Other Relevant Information

A comprehensive public participation plan has been prepared. The interested public will be involved throughout the plan amendment process. The tentative project schedule is as follows:

Begin Public Comment Period on Draft Environmental Impact Statement—April 1998
File Final Environmental Impact Statement—September 1998
Record of Decision—January 1999.

Public Input Requested

Comments should address issues to be considered, if the planning criteria are adequate for the issues, feasible and reasonable alternatives to examine, and relevant information having a bearing on the EIS-level plan amendment.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

John R. Christensen,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-5036 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

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

[NM-030-1110-00; NMNM 95104]

Notice of Intent To Prepare A Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment; Socorro Resource Area, New Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA)/RMP amendment and an invitation for public participation.

SUMMARY: The BLM will prepare an EA/RMP Amendment for the purpose of addressing impacts of implementing a proposed 20-year withdrawal of 5,607.52 acres of public land in Socorro County, New Mexico from settlement, sale, location and entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws. The public is invited to participate in this planning effort with the identification of additional issues and planning criteria. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is protection of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the EA/RMP Amendment Team Leader, BLM, Socorro Resource Area Office, 198 Neel Ave., NW, Socorro, NM 87801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lois Bell, BLM Socorro Resource Area at (505) 835-0412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to amend the existing Socorro RMP to allow for the withdrawal of 5,607.52 acres of public land in the vicinity of Devil's Backbone in Socorro County, New Mexico described as:

New Mexico Principal Meridian,

T. 5 S., R. 3 W.,

Sec. 16, lots 5 to 8, inclusive, N $\frac{1}{2}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Secs. 21, 28, 29 and 32.

T. 6 S., R. 3 W.,

Sec. 4, lots 3 and 4, inclusive, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 9, W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 15, W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 16;

Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 5 S., R. 4 W.,

Sec. 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$.

The areas described aggregate 5,607.52 acres in Socorro County, New Mexico.

Types of Issues Anticipated

1. Does the existing Socorro RMP provide adequate protection for desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Devil's Backbone area?

2. Is a withdrawal necessary to properly protect desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Devil's Backbone area?

Criteria to Guide Development of the Planning Action

The following planning criteria were identified to help guide the resolution of issues.

Non-Discretionary Criteria

1. The proposed action must comply with laws, executive orders and regulations.

2. The proposed action must be reasonable and achievable with available technology.

Discretionary Criteria

1. Identify areas and resource values critical to desert bighorn sheep habitat in the area of Devil's Backbone.

2. Determine how critical wildlife habitat values should best be managed in the Devil's Backbone area.

Disciplines To Be Represented on Interdisciplinary Team

The plan amendment will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team consisting of an archaeologist, environmental coordinator, geologist, range land management specialist, realty specialist, recreation planner, surface protection specialist and a wildlife biologist.

Kind and Extent of Public Participation To Be Provided

A copy of this notice will be published in a local newspaper. Public participation will be in the form of written comments submitted to the Socorro Resource Area Office.

Location and Availability of Documents Relative to the Planning Process

All pertinent information is available in the BLM Socorro Resource Area Office, 198 Neel Avenue, Socorro, New Mexico 87801 and is available for public review weekdays during regular office hours, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Linda S.C. Rundell,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-5035 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-VC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Notice of Consultation Meeting**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of consultation meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that MMS will hold a meeting to consult with industry before setting up criteria to implement a disqualification provision in the proposed rule on Postlease Operations Safety, published on February 13, 1998 (63 FR 7335). A new regulation has been proposed to provide criteria that MMS will consider, individually or collectively, in evaluating whether to disqualify operators with repeat poor safety performance. MMS may also disapprove or revoke a company's status as a designated operator.

DATES: MMS will hold the meeting on March 24, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Preregistration will be held at 7:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Sheraton Crown Hotel, 15700 JFK Blvd., Houston, Texas 77032, telephone: (713) 442-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dough Slitor, Performance and Safety Branch at (703) 787-1591.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

E.P. Danenberger,

Cheif, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 98-5087 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Reclamation****Proposed Rule Making for Offstream Storage of Colorado River Water and Interstate Redemption of Storage Credits in the Lower Division States**

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft programmatic environmental assessment (DPEA); extension of deadline for comments.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published a notice of availability of a DPEA on December 31,