

September 23, 1999, Shiprock Chapter House, Shiprock, NM.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand-deliver comments to Harold D. Russell, Area Forester, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office, Federal Building, 301 West Hill, P.O. Box 1060, Gallup, New Mexico 87305. You may also comment via the Internet to: Russell@105.doi.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact the Navajo Area Office directly at (520) 729-7228. Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or 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. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. 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.

The public hearings will be held at the locations listed in the **DATES** section.

The DPEIS is available for review at two locations: (1) The Branch of Environmental Services, Navajo Area Office, Federal Building, 301 West Hill, Gallup, New Mexico; and (2) the Branch of Forestry, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1 mile north on Route 12, Fort Defiance, Arizona. To obtain a copy of the DPEIS, please write to the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, P.O. Box 230, Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504, or call (520) 729-4007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold D. Russell, (520) 729-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to adopt a ten-year management plan for the Navajo Forest. The Navajo Forest lies in the Chuska Mountains and Defiance Plateau areas of the Navajo Nation, along the Arizona-New Mexico border. The area encompasses nearly 600,000 acres.

The DPEIS presents a preferred alternative, the no action alternative and three other action alternatives. Under the preferred alternative, approximately 79,500 acres out of 253,754 acres designated as commercial timberland would be harvested over the next ten years. Individual treatment areas would be limited to 100 acres or less, and harvesting would incorporate a combination of even-aged and uneven-aged management systems designed to promote more diversity in the vegetative structure. This alternative also designates 74,735 acres as Special Management Areas (SMA's), which would be excluded from commercial timberland in order to protect critical wildlife habitat and vital watershed areas, even where these SMA's are located within the most productive areas of the forest.

Timber protection activities under the preferred alternative include, where needed, fire prevention, prescribed burns, trespass control and insect and disease control. An estimated 680 acres per year would be subjected to prescribed burns, and 75 acres per year treated for insects and disease. Additional activities include monitoring and mitigation in accordance with published plans, guidelines or handbooks referenced in the DPEIS.

The no action alternative continues current levels of production—approximately 88,000 acres over the next ten years, with even-aged management and without SMA's. The three other action alternatives include: (1) No timber harvesting and no SMA's; (2) even-aged management, with a lower rate of harvest—approximately 79,000 acres over the next ten years—than the no action alternative, and with SMA's; and (3) uneven-aged management, with approximately 84,400 acres to be harvested over the next ten years and without SMA's. All of the alternatives include timber protection plus monitoring and/or mitigation measures.

The DPEIS addresses the environmental issues identified during public scoping. These include timber resources, other forest resources, water resources, biological resources, air quality, cultural resources and socio-economics.

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of

authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: August 20, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-22130 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent to Amend Existing Land Use Plans of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northern and Central California Regions, for Purposes of Establishing Standards for Land Health

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent to amend existing land use plans of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), northern and central California regions, for purposes of establishing Standards for Land Health.

SUMMARY: BLM California recently completed a process to incorporate Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing into the existing land use plans of the northern and central California regions (Alturas, Arcata, Bakersfield, Eagle Lake, Redding, Surprise, Ukiah Field Offices). However, the standards and guidelines were limited in scope to BLM's grazing management program.

This proposal will apply the Rangeland Health Standards to all other resource uses and activities through BLM's planning process in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-5. All existing land use plans will be amended at the same time. BLM anticipates no significant adverse environmental effects of implementing this proposal. Since the standards will help ensure consistent management of the public lands, BLM expects the environmental effects to be positive. BLM will complete an environmental assessment (EA) as part of the plan amendment process. A separate planning process to establish Land Health Standards for the California desert region is expected to be completed in the year 2000.

The intent of the standards is to provide for a balance of sustainable development and multiple use along with progress toward attaining healthy, properly functioning ecosystems. The standards will be implemented, to the extent feasible, through terms and conditions of permits, leases, and other authorizations. BLM authorizations should determine whether the standards

are met, and if not, whether reasonable mitigation measures are available which would allow the standards to be met or significant progress toward meeting the standards achieved.

DATES: Interested parties may submit comments on the scope of this amendment, including suggesting any reasonable alternatives for BLM's consideration, identifying possible adverse environmental effects of the amendment, or submitting any other suggestions or concerns BLM should take into account. Comments on this notice must be received by BLM at the following address on or before September 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Land Health Coordinator, U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825; tel: (916) 978-4400.

Dated: August 10, 1999.

Carl D. Rountree,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 99-22171 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-500 1990-00]

Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado) Open Houses and Comment Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of open houses and public comment period.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Front Range RAC) will hold an open house in Golden, Colorado for the purpose of gathering public comments and input on Outdoor Recreation Management Guidelines. These Guidelines will be recommended to the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado for consideration and use in day-to-day management of public lands in Colorado. The RAC will also accept written comments on the Outdoor Recreation Management Guidelines.

DATES: The open house will be held September 7, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Denver West Village, 14707 W. Colfax Ave., Golden, Colorado from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The two open houses previously published in the July 30, 1999 **Federal Register** have not changed and are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo Street, Colorado Springs,

Colorado on August 17, 1999 and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds, 10165 County Road 120, Salida, Colorado on August 31, 1999. Any changes to the time, date and/or location of the open houses will be publicized in the local media. The written public comment period which began July 30, 1999 ends September 15, 1999. Comments should be sent to Bureau of Land Management, Front Range Center, Attn: RAC, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, Colorado 81212. Written comments and those given at the Open Houses will be equally considered. A copy of the Draft Outdoor Recreation Management Guidelines may be requested.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Front Range Center, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City Colorado 81212; Telephone (719) 269-8500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Smith at 719-269-8553

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Front Range RAC, along with the other RACs in Colorado, intend to develop a joint set of outdoor recreation management guidelines to recommend to the BLM in Colorado for adoption and use in everyday management of the lands the agency administers. The open houses are intended as a means for the RACs to gather informal input and ideas on the proposed set of guidelines that all the RACs in Colorado have agreed with so far. After September 15, 1999, representatives from all RACs will jointly develop a set of final recommended guidelines to submit to the BLM for consideration. The guidelines will include recommendations dealing with the management of off-highway vehicle use.

Kenneth Smith,

Acting Front Range Center Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-22120 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-500-1990-00]

Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado) Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix, notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Front Range Resource Advisory

Council (Colorado) will be held on September 16, 1999 in Canon City, Colorado.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. at the Holycross Abbey Community Center, 2951 E. Highway 50, Canon City, Colorado. Topics to be discussed at the meeting will include current issues within the Center including a discussion on the comments received from the Recreation Guidelines Public Open Houses and public comment period. All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public.

Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council at 9:30 a.m. or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. The Center Manager may limit the length of oral presentations depending on the number of people wishing to speak.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 1999 from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Front Range Center, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City Colorado 81212; Telephone (719) 269-8500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Smith at 719-269-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Summary minutes for the Council meeting will be maintained in the Front Range Center Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Kenneth Smith,

Acting Front Range Center Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-22121 Filed 8-25-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-700-99-1010-00-1784]

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Open Houses

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; Southwest Resource Advisory Council Open Houses on Draft Recreation Guidelines.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will hold a series of open houses in southwestern Colorado for the purpose of gathering public comments and input on recreation management guidelines to be recommended to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Colorado for use