

and concerns are communicated to the BLM Northern Field Office manager for decisions in land use, planning, and management.

The South planning area is described as beginning on the Petroleum Reserve boundary on the township line between T. 8 N., R. 40 W. and T. 9 N., R. 39 W., Umiat Meridian (U.M.), and thence easterly along the township lines to the northeast corner of T. 8 N., R. 26 W., U.M., thence southerly and easterly along township and section lines in a stair-step fashion to the Petroleum Reserve boundary where the Colville River flows from T. 5 S., R. 15 W. to T. 4 S., R. 15 W., U.M., thence generally westerly, southerly, westerly, and northerly following the boundary of the Petroleum Reserve to the point of beginning. This area consists of approximately 9.2 million acres. A map of the plan area (which also serves as the Call map) showing boundaries of the area on a township-by-township basis is available at BLM's Information Center in the Anchorage Federal Office Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, (907-271-5960).

Call for Nominations: Pursuant to 43 CFR 3131.1 and 3131.2, relevant information related to possible oil and gas leasing is requested for the plan area. Oil and gas companies are specifically requested to nominate areas within the plan area that they would like to have considered for oil and gas leasing. Nominations must be depicted on a Call map by outlining the area(s) of interest along township lines. Nominators are asked to submit a list of townships nominated to facilitate correct interpretation of the Call map. Although the identities of those submitting nominations for oil and gas leasing become a matter of public record, the individual nominations will be held confidential.

Nominators also are requested to rank townships nominated for oil and gas leasing according to priority of interest (e.g., high priority 1, medium priority 2, or low priority 3). Townships nominated that do not indicate priorities will be considered priority 3. Blanket priorities on large areas are not useful in the analysis of industry interest. The telephone number and name of a person to contact in the nominator's organization for additional information should be included in the response.

Although nominations are to be submitted along township lines, comments are also being sought on the preferred size of tracts for leasing in this area, not to exceed 60,000 acres. 43 CFR 3130.4-1 limits the size of an oil and gas

lease tract within the NPR-A boundaries to no more than 60,000 acres.

Authority: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as amended; Title I of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*), as amended by the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1981, Pub. L. 96-514, 94 Stat. 2957, 2964 (codified in 42 U.S.C. 6508); the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, 94 Stat. 2371, section 810, 16 U.S.C. 3120; and the regulations at 43 CFR parts 2360 and 3130.

Henri R. Bisson,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-310-0777-XG]

Notice of Public Meeting: Northwest California Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest California Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, July 19 and 20, 2005, in Lake County, California. On July 19, members will convene at the Bureau of Land Management's Redbud Trailhead, on California State Highway 20, eight miles east of Clearlake Oaks. Members will join BLM staff members for a float trip on a portion of Cache Creek which will be the focus of land and resource management decisions in the Ukiah Resource Management Plan now under development. Members of the public are welcome on the trip, but they must provide their own transportation and water craft. On July 20, the members will convene a business meeting at 8 a.m. in the Conference Center at the Konocti Harbor Resort, 8727 Soda Bay Rd, Kelseyville, California. Time for public comment has been scheduled for 1 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Ukiah Field Manager Rich Burns (707) 468-4000 or BLM Public Affairs

Officer Joseph J. Fontana, (530) 252-5332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Northwest California. At this meeting, agenda topics will include discussion of the draft range of alternatives being developed for the Ukiah Resource Management Plan and review of an environmental assessment for the Salmon Creek Resources land exchange in the Redding Field Office. The RAC members will also hear status reports from the Arcata, Redding and Ukiah field office managers. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have time allocated for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. Members of the public are welcome on field tours, but they must provide their own transportation and lunch. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Dated: June 6, 2005.

Joseph J. Fontana,
Public Affairs Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-11768 Filed 6-14-05; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-930-02-1610-PN]

Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public that the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council will hold a public meeting on July 27, 2005. The public is invited to participate and to provide oral testimony.

DATES: July 27, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, Alaska 99588; phone (907) 822-3217. For questions related to subsistence management issues on

Bureau of Land Management lands, inquiries may also be directed to Taylor Brelsford, Subsistence Coordinator, Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; phone (907) 271-5806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regional Council discussion during the meeting will be devoted to the review and recommendation of the East Alaska Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: June 7, 2005.

Henri R. Bisson,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 05-11774 Filed 6-14-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice to solicit comments and hold public meetings on the development of management strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, including Lower Basin shortage guidelines, under low reservoir conditions.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) has directed the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to develop additional Colorado River management strategies to address operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions. It is anticipated that, among other potential elements, these strategies could identify those circumstances under which the Department of the Interior (Department) would reduce annual water deliveries, and the manner in which annual operations would be modified.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Two public meetings will be held to solicit comments on the content, format, mechanism, and analysis to be considered during the development of management strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the public meetings to be held at the following locations:

- *Tuesday, July 26, 2005*—10 a.m. to 12 noon, Henderson Convention Center, Grand Ballroom, 200 South Water Street, Henderson, Nevada.
- *Thursday, July 28, 2005*—10 a.m. to 12 noon, Hilton Salt Lake City Center,

Topaz Room, 255 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Written comments on the proposed development of these strategies may be sent by close of business on *Wednesday, August 31, 2005*, to: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, Attention: BCOO-1000, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470, fax at 702-293-8156, or e-mail at strategies@lc.usbr.gov; and/or Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, Attention: UC-402, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84318-1147, fax at 801-524-3858, or e-mail at strategies@uc.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D., at 702-293-8500 or e-mail at strategies@lc.usbr.gov; and/or Randall Peterson at 801-524-3633 or e-mail at strategies@uc.usbr.gov. If special assistance is required regarding accommodations for attendance at either of the public meetings, please call Nan Yoder at 702-293-8495, fax at 702-293-8156, or e-mail at nyoder@lc.usbr.gov no less than 5 working days prior to the applicable meeting(s).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years the Department has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve the efficient and coordinated operation and management of the Colorado River. For example, a number of Indian water rights settlements have been enacted and implemented, while additional settlements are under active negotiation. Important programs have been developed in the Upper and Lower Basins to address conservation of endangered species. Scientific investigations are proceeding under the framework of the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program to study the impacts to and improve the values for which the Grand Canyon National Park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established. In 2003, water users in California executed agreements that will assist California to limit its use of water from the Colorado River to its normal year apportionment of 4.4 million acre-feet (maf).

More recently a new management challenge has emerged on the Colorado River. The Colorado River Basin has experienced the worst five-year drought in recorded history. Drought in the Basin has impacted system storage, while demands for Colorado River water supplies have continued to increase. During the period from October 1, 1999, to October 1, 2004, storage in Colorado River reservoirs fell from 55.7 maf to 29.7 maf.

In the future, low reservoir conditions may not be limited to drought periods as additional development of Colorado River water occurs. The Colorado River is of strategic importance in the southwestern United States for water supply, hydropower production, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other benefits. In addition, the Republic of Mexico has an allocation to the waters of the Colorado River pursuant to a 1944 treaty with the United States.

In a May 2, 2005, letter to the Governors of the Colorado River Basin States, issued in the context of the 2005 Annual Operating Plan mid-year review, the Secretary directed Reclamation to develop additional strategies to improve coordinated management of the reservoirs in the Colorado River system. Pursuant to that direction, Reclamation conducted a public consultation workshop on May 26, 2005, in Henderson, Nevada, and has prepared this **Federal Register** notice. In order to assure the continued productive use of the Colorado River into the future, Reclamation is soliciting public comments on, at a minimum, the development of management strategies for the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions.

It is the Department's intent that the development of additional management strategies, including Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines, will provide guidance to the Secretary's Annual Operating Plan decisions, and provide more predictability to water users throughout the Basin, particularly those in the Lower Division States of Arizona, California, and Nevada. For example, in 2001 the Department adopted Interim Surplus Guidelines (66 FR 7772) that are used by the Secretary in making annual determinations regarding "Normal" and "Surplus" conditions for the operation of Lake Mead. Among other provisions, these Guidelines have allowed the Department and entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada that rely on the Colorado River greater predictability in identifying when Colorado River water in excess of 7.5 maf will be available for use within these three states. In contrast, at this time the Department does not have detailed guidelines in place for annual determinations of releases from Lake Mead of less than 7.5 maf to water users in the three Lower Division States (often referred to as a "shortage" condition on the lower Colorado River). Therefore, water users who rely on the Colorado River in these states are not currently able to identify particular reservoir conditions under which the Secretary would release less than 7.5 maf for use