

of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations and business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**DATES:** Comments on the Ring of Fire Draft RMP/EIS will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Comments on the Ring of Fire Draft RMP/EIS must be received on or before the end of the comment period at the physical address or e-mail address listed above. Specific dates and locations of public meetings to gather public comment will be announced through news releases and notices.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Lloyd (*akrofrmp@blm.gov*) at (907) 267-1246 or Amy Lewis (*Amy.Lewis@urscorp.com*) at (907) 261-9730.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Ring of Fire RMP planning area covers 1.3 million acres of BLM-administered lands. The Ring of Fire Draft RMP/EIS focuses on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as prescribed by section 202 of FLPMA. The Ring of Fire Draft RMP/EIS considers and analyzes four alternatives, including a No Action and a preferred alternative. The alternatives provide variable levels of support to all resources and programs present in the planning area and are designed to guide future management and resolve land management issues identified during the early stages of the planning process. The alternatives were developed based on extensive public scoping and involvement.

There are five main resources addressed through this planning process. The Lands and Realty section addresses the need to determine the appropriate mix of lands and realty actions needed to provide a balance between land use and resource protection. The Off-highway Vehicles (OHV) section addresses management of access trails and roads for the use of OHVs for various purposes, including recreation, commercial uses, subsistence activities, and the general enjoyment of public lands while protecting natural and cultural resources. The Recreation section examines how recreation should be managed to provide a diversity of experiences on BLM-managed lands. The document analyzes what measures are necessary to ensure that a diversity of recreational opportunities is

maintained, and what level of commercial recreational use is appropriate to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities. The Leasable Minerals section and the Locatable Minerals section address the need to determine which areas should be made available for mineral exploration and development One Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is recommended for designation in the preferred alternative and is also considered in other alternatives—the Neacola Mountains ACEC, containing approximately 229,000 acres. The ACEC would have the following resource use limitations: (1) Closed to locatable and saleable mineral entry (but open to mineral leasing), (2) OHV use limited, (3) VRM Class III, and (4) ROW avoidance. The public involvement and collaboration process implemented for this effort included 10 public scoping meetings. Notices of these meetings and invitations to participate in the development of this plan were sent to over 400 individuals, organizations, and tribal entities, as well as to State, Federal, and local government agencies. Meetings were held at the Native Village of Eklutna in Eklutna and at the Chilkat Indian Village IRA in Klukwan. Continuous involvement throughout the planning process has taken place with the State of Alaska, and several meetings have been held between the State and the BLM at varying levels of authority to discuss the Ring of Fire RMP/EIS. A joint BLM-State position was created as part of this project, with that person acting as liaison between the State of Alaska and the BLM during this planning process.

After comments on the Ring of Fire Draft RMP/EIS are reviewed and any adjustments to the document are made, a Proposed RMP and Final EIS are expected to be available in spring 2006.

**Julia Dougan,**

*Acting State Director.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-190-05-1610-DT]

**Notice of Availability of Proposed Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA).

**DATES:** For decisions being considered that would amend the existing plan decisions, BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest that may be adversely affected, may protest. The protest must be filed within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of receipt of the Final EIS for the CCMA in the **Federal Register**. Instructions for filing of protests are described in the front cover of the Proposed RMPA and Final EIS for the CCMA and included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Decisions that make designations on individual routes are not protestable, but are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4 upon adoption of a Record of Decision.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

George Hill, (831) 630-5000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This planning project considers designating a route network and off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, limited, closed) for serpentine barren areas (soils devoid of vegetation) and the designation of expanded boundaries for the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (SBMRNA), an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the CCMA. The planning area is approximately 75,000 acres located in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California and is managed by the (BLM) Hollister Field Office. The area is currently managed according to the CCMA RMPA, as adopted in 1999.

The Proposed Action contained in the Proposed RMPA and Final EIS for the CCMA contains the following proposed decisions: Designations for OHV use on the routes currently inventoried and assessed by the BLM; adoption of route designation and area designation criteria for serpentine barren areas; and designation of an expanded boundary and interim management for the SBMRNA. The Draft RMPA and Draft EIS for the CCMA was published in May 2004. BLM accepted public comment on the Draft EIS from July 16 through November 15 of 2004. Comments received from the public during the review period and comments from

internal BLM review are incorporated into the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change the proposed decisions. Copies of the Proposed RMPA and Final EIS for the CCMA have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the document are also available for public inspection at: BLM Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA; and BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA. Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed Plan/Final EIS may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5. A protest may only raise those issues with plan-level decisions that were submitted for the record during the planning process. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at (202) 452-5112, and e-mails to [Brenda\\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov](mailto:Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov).

Please direct the follow-up letter to the appropriate address provided below. The protest must contain:

- a. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- b. A statement of the part or parts of the plan and the issue or issues being protested.
- c. A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process or a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.
- d. A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the State Director's decision is wrong.

All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

The Director will promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

**Robert Beehler,**

*Hollister Field Office Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ 330-05-1610-DP-082A-241E]

#### Notice of Availability of Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Lake Havasu Field Office (Arizona) Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning regulations, title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.2(f)(3) and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, title 40 CFR 1502.9(a), the BLM hereby gives notice that the Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) is available for public review and comment. The planning area encompasses more than 1.3 million acres of the BLM-administered lands.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DRMP/DEIS will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be mailed to Tim Smith, Lake Havasu Field Manager, Resource Management Plan, Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406. You may also comment using the following e-mail address:

[Lake\\_havasu@blm.gov](mailto:Lake_havasu@blm.gov). Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the above listed address. A minimum of five public meetings will be held during the 90-day public review and comment period during which oral and written comments will be accepted. Exact dates, places, and times of public meetings will be announced using local media, and may be posted on the Arizona BLM Web page, or you may contact Gina Trafton at (928) 505-1273 for further information.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will

be available for public review at the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gina Trafton, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, 2610 Sweetwater, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406, telephone (928) 505-1273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A copy of the Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for review via the Internet from a link at <http://www.az.blm.gov> (subject to change). You may also obtain an electronic (on CD-ROM), or paper copy at the Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu Field Office at the address listed previously or by contacting Gina Trafton at (928) 505-1273.

The Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being developed by the BLM. The DRMP/DEIS includes strategies for protecting and preserving the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific, and scenic values that balance multiple uses of the BLM-administered lands throughout the Lake Havasu Field Office planning area.

The preferred alternative attempts to accomplish the above in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Game, the BLM and other land managing agencies within the boundaries of the planning area. The range of alternatives in this draft incorporates planning decisions brought forward from the current BLM planning documents, the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (1987), Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan (1995), Lower Gila