

cultural, visual, paleontological, and recreation resources; lands and realty; nonrenewable and renewable energy development; wilderness; and transportation and travel management.

On April 16, 2007, the BLM New Mexico released the Draft RMP/EIS for a 90-day public comment period concurrent with a Notice of Availability, which was published in the **Federal Register**. The BLM New Mexico conducted public hearings on the Draft RMP/EIS and analyzed public comments received. Minor modifications and technical changes were made to the Preferred Alternative, which was carried forward as the Proposed Alternative (Alternative B) in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

The BLM New Mexico released the Proposed RMP/Final EIS for a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and 30-day protest period on December 5, 2008. The BLM New Mexico modified one decision in the Approved RMP as a result of the Governor's Consistency Review. The Governor's letter stated that the BLM's land tenure and fluid mineral decisions regarding a state-designated conservation easement at Horse Springs Ranch were inconsistent with the purposes of the Conservation Easement (CE), which is to protect wildlife habitat. In light of the Governor's letter, the State Director modified Alternative B by selecting the lands and realty decision in the No Action Alternative, which will retain the BLM scattered parcels (3,856 acres) within the CE boundary. This decision meets the objectives of the State's CE. With regard to the Governor's concerns about the potential impacts that fluid mineral leasing decisions may have within the area of the State's Horse Springs Conservation Easement ("CE"), the State Director maintains the discretion to decline to issue leases on a case-by-case basis. In recognition of the particular resource concerns of this CE, the State Director will carefully exercise this discretion for any lease proposal in the surface area covered by the CE. After the issuance of this ROD, the BLM will undertake a plan amendment process to consider closing the area covered by the CE to fluid mineral leasing.

The BLM received three protests on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The protests raised issues regarding rangeland resources, lands with wilderness characteristics, and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (Trail). As a result of the protests, minor editorial modifications and technical clarifications were made in the ROD and in the Approved RMP.

The first modification concerns lands with wilderness characteristics. After review of the wilderness protest, an error in the original wilderness inventory was identified in one small area within a unit the protestor had proposed as having wilderness characteristics. Approximately 600 acres of BLM public land was found to contain wilderness characteristics because they adjoin the Chupadera Wilderness, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages. Therefore, the BLM will select Alternative C for this area, which has a higher level of protection through a Lands and Realty decision. The BLM will issue this ROD and subsequently initiate a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and supporting NEPA analysis to further address this area's wilderness characteristics. The RMPA process will include opportunities for public participation. The second modification concerns the Trail and future opportunities for trail routing. The decision reflects a map revision in the final RMP by adopting portions of Alternative C and the No Action Alternative, lands suitable for disposal in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. This modified decision will provide more options for the future protection of the Trail.

Following modification of the aforementioned decisions and review of the protests, it was determined that the Socorro Field Manager followed all applicable procedures, laws, regulations, and policies, and considered all relevant resource factors, as well as public input in developing the Socorro RMP. Therefore, the protests were dismissed.

Decisions identifying routes of travel within designated areas for motorized vehicles are implementation decisions, and are appealable under 43 CFR part 4. These decisions are contained in Appendix J of the Approved RMP. Any party adversely affected by the proposed route identifications may appeal within 30 days of publication of this Notice of Availability pursuant to 43 CFR, part 4, subpart E. The appeal should state the specific route(s), as identified in Appendix J of the Approved RMP, on which the decision is being appealed. The appeal must be filed with the Socorro Field Office Manager at the above listed address. Please consult the appropriate regulations (43 CFR, part 4, subpart E) for further appeal requirements.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6(b)(2).

**Jesse Juen,**

*Associate State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[SDM 99842]

#### Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; South Dakota

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw 50 acres of National Forest System land from mining to protect the recreational uses and improvements within this portion of the Steamboat Rock Picnic Grounds. This notice also gives an opportunity to comment on the proposed action and to request a public meeting.

**DATES:** Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by December 9, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, 1019 North 5th Street, Custer, South Dakota 57730 or the BLM Montana State Director, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Valerie Hunt, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 303-275-5071 or Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, 406-896-5052.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USDA Forest Service has filed an application with the BLM pursuant to Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714, to withdraw the following-described National Forest System land within the Black Hills National Forest from location or entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2) for a period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights:

#### Black Hills National Forest

*Black Hills Meridian*

Steamboat Picnic Grounds

T. 2 N., R. 5 E.,

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

The area described contains 50 acres in Lawrence County.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect the recreational uses and improvements within this portion of the Steamboat Rock Picnic Grounds.

The use of a right-of-way or cooperative agreement would not provide adequate protection of the Federal investment in improvements and current uses in this area due to the broad scope and nondiscretionary nature of the general mining laws.

No alternative sites are feasible due to the specific uses and improvements already in place.

No water will be needed to fulfill the purpose of the requested withdrawal.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest, P.O. Box 948, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602.

Records related to the application, as well as comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Black Hills National Forest, P.O. Box 948, 900 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602, during regular business hours.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish to withhold your name or 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 organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the

proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the Forest Supervisor's Office within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** and in at least one local newspaper no less than 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated from location or entry under the United States mining laws, unless the application is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. The land will remain open to other uses within the statutory authority pertinent to National Forest System lands and subject to discretionary approval.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

(Authority: 43 CFR 2310.3-1(b))

**Cynthia Staszak**,  
Chief, Branch of Land Resources.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLNMF01000.L143000000.EU0000; NMNM 122597]

#### Notice of Realty Action: Competitive Sale of Public Land Near Aztec in San Juan County, NM

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

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer, by competitive sale, one parcel of land totaling 73.75 acres within the Aztec city limits in San Juan County, New Mexico. The sale will be subject to the applicable provisions of Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), respectively, and BLM land sale regulations. The purpose of the sale is to dispose of lands which are difficult and uneconomic to manage. The sales will be conducted as a competitive bid auction in which interested bidders must submit written sealed bids equal to or greater than the appraised fair market value of the land. Bidders who submit written sealed bids will have the opportunity to increase their bids in a

silent auction to be held after the BLM opens all written sealed bids.

**DATES:** Comments regarding the proposed sale must be received by the BLM on or before October 25, 2010. Sealed bids must be received no later than 3 p.m., Mountain Time on November 15, 2010. The BLM will open the sealed bids and allow supplemental bidding in a silent auction on November 15, 2010, which will be the sale date. Other deadline dates for payment are specified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning the proposed sale should be sent to the Field Manager, BLM Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, New Mexico 87401. Sealed bids must also be submitted to this address. Supplemental bidding in the silent auction will be conducted at this address. Additional information including bid forms, times, and bidding procedures will be available in an Invitation for Bids available from the Farmington Field Office. More detailed information regarding the proposed sale and the land involved, including maps and current appraisal, may be reviewed during normal business hours between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Farmington Field Office at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Albert M. Gonzales, Realty Specialist, (505) 599-6334 or via e-mail at [Albert\\_Gonzales@blm.gov](mailto:Albert_Gonzales@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following public land is proposed for competitive sale in accordance with Section 203 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1713):

#### New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 30 N., R. 11 W.,

Sec. 17, S½SE½SE½, S½N½SE½SE½, and N½NE½SE½SE½;

Sec. 20, lot 1.

The area described contains 73.75 acres, more or less, in San Juan County.

The public land has been identified as suitable for disposal in the BLM's September 29, 2003, Farmington Resource Management Plan, as amended, and is not needed for any Federal purpose. The sale is consistent with current BLM planning for this area and would be in the public interest. The land meets the criteria for sale under 43 CFR 2710.0-3(a)(3), because its location and other characteristics make it difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency. The land is intermingled with private land. This land contains no other known public