

### Preferred Alternative

There is no preferred alternative selected for the Draft EIS. We will evaluate public comments and have a preferred alternative in the final EIS.

### Public Review

We started the EIS for Izembek Refuge land exchange/road corridor in August 2009. At that time and throughout the planning process, we requested public comments and considered and incorporated them in numerous ways. In January 2010, we published a scoping newsletter describing the process for the EIS and informing the public of upcoming scoping meetings, and how they could be informed or involved. In October 2010, we published another newsletter informing the public of the issues identified during scoping. These newsletters were mailed to approximately 1,000 individuals, agencies, and organizations, and the documents were available over the Internet at <http://izembek.fws.gov/eis.htm>.

To gather additional input from the public, we held seven public open house meetings—five in communities adjacent to or within the boundaries of the Izembek Refuge; one in Washington, DC; and one in Anchorage, Alaska.

Individuals and organizations provided 31,568 comments during the scoping process. The responses came in emails, web forms, postcards, faxes, letters, and public hearing transcripts. Approximately 87 people spoke at meetings in 7 communities. The responses were reviewed, coded, and analyzed. Comments were sorted into broad issue groups including:

1. NEPA process (permits, the EIS, consultation and coordination);
2. Purpose and need for the action;
3. Proposed action, alternatives, and mitigation measures;
4. Affected environment, environmental consequences, and potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts; and
5. Data and available information.

We considered and evaluated these issues and public concerns, and used them to develop various aspects of the DEIS. The DEIS is now available for public review. As described in the following sections, the public may obtain copies of the DEIS summary, compact discs of the full document or view the document on our web site. Comments may be submitted at public meetings or via email, regular mail or fax. Once the public comment period ends, the comments will be analyzed and used to craft the final EIS which will be released later this year.

### Public Availability of Documents

In addition to any methods in **ADDRESSES**, you can view or obtain documents at our Web site: <http://izembek.fws.gov/EIS.htm>.

### Public Meetings

We will involve the public through open houses, meetings, and written comments. We will mail documents to our national and local Refuge mailing lists. Public open house meetings will be held in Anchorage, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point, Alaska. Dates, times, and locations of each meeting or open house will be announced in advance in local media and on our Web sites.

### Submitting Comments/Issues for Comment

We particularly seek comments on the issues and alternatives addressed in the DEIS. We will respond to all substantive comments in the final EIS.

We consider comments substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental assessment;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the draft EIS; and/or
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the assessment.

### Next Steps

After this comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a final EIS and decision document.

### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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 your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: March 13, 2012.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.*

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**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is announcing that the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children (Advisory Board) will hold its next meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The purpose of the meeting is to meet the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) for Indian children with disabilities.

**DATES:** The Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, March 30, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Orientation for new members will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mountain Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting and orientation will be held at the Manuel Lujan, Jr. Indian Affairs Building, 1011 Indian School Road North West, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104; telephone number (505) 563-5383.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Bement, Designated Federal Officer, Bureau of Indian Education, Albuquerque Service Center, Division of Performance and Accountability, 1011 Indian School Road NW., Suite 332, Albuquerque, NM 87104; telephone number (505) 563-5274.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the BIE is announcing that the Advisory Board will hold its next meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Advisory Board was established under the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*) to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, on the needs of Indian children with disabilities. The meetings are open to the public.

The following items will be on the agenda:

- Introduction of Advisory Board members.
- Introduction of Appointed Advisory Board Chair.
- Appointment of Advisory Board Vice Chair.
- Appointment of Advisory Board Secretary.
- Report from Gloria Yepa, Supervisory Education Specialist, BIE,

## Division of Performance and Accountability.

- Report from BIE Director's Office.
- Report from Stan Holder, Acting Associate Deputy Director, BIE, Division of Performance and Accountability.
- Board selection of Priority Topics.
- Public Comment (via conference call, March 29, 2012, meeting only\*).
- BIE Advisory Board-Advice and Recommendations.

\*During the March 29, 2012, meeting, time has been set aside for public comment via conference call from 1:30—2 p.m. Mountain Time. The call-in information is: Conference Number 1-888-417-0376, Passcode 1509140.

Dated: March 9, 2012.

**Larry Echo Hawk,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO2600000 L10600000 XQ0000]

#### Notice of Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

**DATES:** The Advisory Board will meet on Monday, April 23, 2012 from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., local time. This will be a one and a half day meeting.

**ADDRESSES:** This Advisory Board meeting will take place in Reno, Nevada at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, 2500 East 2nd Street, Reno, Nevada 89595. The hotel phone number for reservations is 775-789-2129 or 800-648-5080.

Written comments pertaining to the April 23-24, 2012 Advisory Board meeting can be mailed to National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147, or sent electronically to the BLM through the Wild Horse and Burro Web site at: [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/recent\\_news\\_and\\_information/enhanced\\_feedback\\_form.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/recent_news_and_information/enhanced_feedback_form.html).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6583. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the BLM Director, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief of the Forest Service on matters pertaining to the management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board operates under the authority of 43 CFR 1784. The tentative agenda for the two day event is:

#### I. Advisory Board Public Meeting

*Monday, April 23, 2012 (1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.)*

- 1:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions  
Call to order  
Assistant Director's Welcome  
Nevada State Director's Welcome  
Program Overview
- 2:30 p.m. Old Business  
Approval of October 2011 Minutes  
October 2011 Meeting follow up and responses to Recommendations
- 3 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Old Business cont'd  
October 2011 Meeting follow up and responses, cont'd
- 5 p.m. Adjourn

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)*

- 8 a.m. Old Business cont'd, Updates  
Director's Challenge  
Wild Horse and Burro Strategy and FY 2005-2010 Report to Congress Research
- 9:30 a.m. Break  
Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program  
Litigation
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Public Comment period  
Lunch (12 p.m.–1 p.m.)
- 1 p.m. New Business  
Sage Grouse Planning Strategy  
Advisory Board Charter/Standard Operating Procedures/By-Laws
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3 p.m. Board Recommendations
- 4:30 a.m. Recap/Summary/Next Meeting/Date/Site
- 5 p.m. Adjourn

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An

individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as an interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify Ms. DeLorme two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal Advisory Committee Management Regulations at 41 CFR 101-6.1015(b), requires BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a public meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

#### II. Public Comment Procedures

On Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 10:45 a.m. members of the public will have the opportunity to make comments to the Board on the Wild Horse and Burro Program. Persons wishing to make comments during the Tuesday meeting should register in person with the BLM by 10 a.m. on April 24, 2012, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of commenters, the Advisory Board may limit the length of comments. At previous meetings, comments have been limited to three minutes in length; however, this time may vary. Commenters should address the specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers are requested to submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above or bring a written copy to the meeting. There may be a webcam present during the entire meeting and individual comments may be recorded.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments. The BLM considers comments that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations to be the most useful and likely to influence BLM's decisions on the management and protection of wild horses and burros.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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