

the BLM determined that a new RMP Amendment and supplemental analysis under NEPA were warranted. The parties involved in the litigation regarding the 2007 plan amendment reached a settlement in November 2014. Based on that agreement, the Roan Plateau Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS includes an alternative that was identified in the November 2014 settlement. That "Settlement Alternative" was identified as the Proposed Alternative in the Draft Supplemental EIS.

The planning area, which is in west-central Colorado, includes approximately 73,602 acres of BLM-managed land (Federal surface, Federal mineral estate, or both). It is located primarily in Garfield County with a small portion in southern Rio Blanco County. The Roan Plateau RMP Amendment proposes to amend the management decisions in the Glenwood Springs and White River RMPs as they relate to the planning area.

The Roan Plateau RMP Amendment process began originally with scoping in 2000. The BLM published the Draft EIS in November 2004 and the Final EIS in August 2006. The BLM then issued two Records of Decision, one in June 2007 and a second, pertaining to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, in March 2008. Following the District Court ruling in 2012, the BLM published a Notice of Intent to develop the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS on January 28, 2013 (78 FR 5834), which initiated a second scoping period. The Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS was published on November 20, 2015 (80 FR 72732), and made available for public comment. The BLM held three public meetings to discuss the Draft RMP Amendment/Supplemental EIS and received approximately 50,000 comment submissions during the comment period. The BLM carefully considered those comments. The BLM made changes to the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS in response to comments received from the public and cooperating agencies, United States Fish and Wildlife Service consultation, and extensive internal BLM reviews. These changes included the addition of clarifying text and updated information, however, none of the changes constituted a substantial change in the proposed land use plan decisions or the analysis in the Draft Supplemental EIS that would require additional supplementation.

Major issues considered in the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS include fluid minerals management; social and

economic impacts; riparian habitat management; recreation; and air, water, and ecological resources. The RMP also addresses decisions regarding Wild and Scenic Rivers, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and lands with wilderness characteristics. Decisions related to Greater Sage-Grouse management in the proposed Amendment are consistent with last year's Northwestern Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment Record of Decision.

The Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS focuses on evaluating new information and new issues raised since the BLM developed the 2006 Roan Plateau Final EIS. This includes an evaluation of four alternatives including the No Action Alternative (Alternative I). Alternative II is based on the Proposed Plan from the 2006 Roan RMP Amendment/Final EIS and includes updated decisions and analysis based on new information and issues raised during the scoping period for the Supplemental EIS. Alternative III is based on the "Community Alternative" raised during the original EIS process by Rock the Earth. Alternative III was augmented with input from other Supplemental EIS scoping comments. This alternative allows oil and gas leasing throughout the planning area, but limits surface disturbance on BLM lands above the rim. Wilderness characteristics would be managed for protection in this alternative, and all eligible river segments in the planning area would be determined to be suitable for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Alternative III also analyzes two proposed sub-alternatives for target shooting restrictions in an open Off-Highway Vehicle area. Alternative IV is the BLM's Proposed Alternative and is based on the terms of the 2014 Settlement Agreement. This alternative would allow for leasing at the base of the plateau (11,170 acres) and within several retained lease areas on the top of the plateau (1,830 acres). Other resource management decisions in this alternative would be similar to Alternative II.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS may be found in the "Dear Reader" Letter of the Roan Plateau Proposed RMP Amendment/Final Supplemental EIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Emailed 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, the BLM will consider the emailed protest as an advance copy, and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emails to [protest@blm.gov](mailto:protest@blm.gov).

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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Ruth Welch,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCON06000 L16100000.DQ0000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, Colorado

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) located in Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties in Colorado and by this notice is announcing its availability.

**DATES:** The BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's Proposed RMP/Final EIS. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Proposed RMP/Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State and local government agencies; tribal governments; and other stakeholders. Copies of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are available for public inspection at the Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506; and the BLM's Uncompahgre Field Office at 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. Interested persons may also review the Proposed RMP/Final EIS on the Internet at [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html). All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

*Regular Mail:* BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383.

*Overnight Delivery:* BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, 20 M Street SE., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Collin Ewing, NCA Manager, telephone 970-244-3049; address Grand Junction Field Office (see address above); email [dencarmp@blm.gov](mailto:dencarmp@blm.gov). 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, seven 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 D-E NCA planning area includes approximately 218,000 acres of State, private and BLM-managed lands located in Delta, Mesa and Montrose counties in western Colorado. Within the D-E NCA planning area, the BLM administers approximately 210,000 acres of Federal surface and subsurface estate. Management decisions made as a result of the RMP will apply only to the BLM-administered lands in the D-E NCA planning area. The D-E NCA was established by the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. The D-E NCA is currently managed under the 1987 Grand Junction Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved RMP, as amended; the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin ROD and Approved RMP, as amended; and the BLM's 2010 Interim Management Policy for the D-E NCA and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. When approved, this RMP will replace all of these existing plans for the D-E NCA planning area.

The Draft RMP and Draft EIS public comment period, which began on May

17, 2013, and ended September 23, 2013, included a 45-day extension in response to requests from the public. The total comment period encompassed 129 days.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes and analyzes five management alternatives, each of which includes objectives and management actions to address management challenges and issues, including the conservation and protection of the unique and important resources that were identified as purposes of the area's designation.

Alternative A is the no action alternative and would retain the current management goals, objectives and direction specified in the 1987 Grand Junction RMP and 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP, where the management is consistent with the Omnibus Act.

Alternative B focuses on allowing natural processes to influence the condition of resources, which would involve placing additional restrictions on allowable uses to manage the D-E NCA. Recreation would be managed largely through Extensive Recreation Management Areas, where the BLM would commit to providing activity opportunities but not specific recreation outcomes or settings. Alternative C emphasizes active management for biological restoration and cultural resource protection. The BLM would set objectives that provide a high level of resource protection and restoration. Only two areas would be managed as Special Recreation Management Areas, with the rest of the D-E NCA not managed as recreation areas. Alternative D would also emphasize an active management approach for biological restoration and cultural resource protection, but with objectives that provide a lower level of restoration and protection for these resources as compared to Alternative C. Resource uses, particularly trail-based recreation and livestock grazing, would be emphasized. The Proposed RMP is based upon the Preferred Alternative (E) identified in the Draft. Alternative E from the draft was largely a combination of management approaches already considered under alternatives A through D. The Proposed RMP also includes changes from the draft in response to public comments and advisory council recommendations. Public comments identified opportunities to better resolve conflicts or impacts as well as identified parts of the EIS in need of greater clarity. As with the Draft Preferred Alternative, the Proposed RMP would set objectives for biological resources that are more ambitious than those in Alternative D but less ambitious than those in Alternative C. As with

Alternatives C and D, a wide range of tools would be available to achieve these objectives.

The Proposed RMP would provide comprehensive, long-range decisions for the use and management of resources in the D-E NCA, focusing on the conservation and protection of the unique and important resources that were identified as purposes of the area's designation.

The Proposed RMP includes: goals, objectives, management actions, allowable use, and implementation decisions to ensure future BLM management supports the protection of two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, four Special Recreation Management Areas, Extensive Recreation Management Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and a stream segment, Cottonwood Creek, which was found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The following is a brief summary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process findings: of the 147.6 miles of 8 streams inventoried, 64.4 miles were found ineligible and 83.2 miles were found eligible; of the 83.2 eligible stream miles, 69.1 miles were determined non-suitable and 14.1 miles were determined suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Maps are included to illustrate the Proposed RMP as well as the other alternatives considered in the Final EIS.

The D-E NCA is withdrawn from all the mineral laws and BLM expects very little ground disturbance. The proposed plan alternative includes mitigation to protect soils, wildlife and habitat (e.g., measures to reduce risk of disease transmission from domestic sheep to wild bighorn sheep), a national trail management corridor to protect the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and protections relevant to the National Historic Preservation Act.

The BLM made changes to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in response to public comment on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in addition to cooperating agency reviews, advisory council reviews, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation, and extensive internal BLM reviews of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The BLM carefully considered all comments and incorporated them into the Proposed RMP as appropriate. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not constitute a substantial change that would require a supplemental EIS.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed RMP/Final EIS may be found in the "Dear Reader" Letter of the D-E

NCA Proposed RMP/Final EIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5–2. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Emailed 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, the BLM will consider the emailed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emails to [protest@blm.gov](mailto:protest@blm.gov).

Unlike land use planning decisions, implementation decisions included in this Proposed RMP/Final EIS are not subject to protest under the BLM planning regulations, but are subject to an administrative review process through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, pursuant to 43 CFR part 4 Subpart E. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land use planning process, they are subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by specific resource program regulations once the BLM resolves the protests to land use planning decisions and issues an Approved RMP and ROD. The Approved RMP and ROD will, therefore, identify the implementation decisions made in the plan that may be appealed to the Office of Hearing and Appeals.

Before including your phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5.

**Ruth Welch,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

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LVRCF1604630 241A; MO#]

**Notice of Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions of Specific Uses on Public Lands for the Burning Man Event (Permitted Event), Pershing County, NV**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, will implement a temporary closure and temporary restrictions to protect public safety and resources on public lands within and adjacent to the Burning Man event on the Black Rock Desert playa.

**DATES:** The temporary closure and temporary restrictions will be in effect from August 1 to September 21, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Mack, Jr., Black Rock Field Office Manager, Winnemucca District, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445–2921, telephone: 775–623–1500, email: [wmack@blm.gov](mailto:wmack@blm.gov). 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 hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The temporary closure and temporary restrictions affect public lands within and adjacent to the Burning Man event permitted on the Black Rock Desert playa within the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in Pershing County, Nevada. The legal description of the affected public lands in the temporary public closure area is:

**Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada**

T. 33 N., R. 24 E., unsurveyed,  
Sec. 1, that portion lying northwesterly of East Playa Road;  
Sec. 2, that portion lying northwesterly of East Playa Road;  
Sec. 3;  
Sec. 4, that portion lying southeasterly of Washoe County Road 34;  
Sec. 5;  
Sec. 8, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
Sec. 9, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;

Sec. 10, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 11, that portion of the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lying northwesterly of East Playa Road.  
T. 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> N., R. 24 E., unsurveyed,  
Secs. 25, 26, and 27;  
Sec. 28, that portion lying easterly of Washoe County Road 34;  
Sec. 33, that portion lying easterly of Washoe County Road 34;  
Secs. 34, 35, and 36.  
T. 34 N., R. 24 E., partly unsurveyed,  
Sec. 23, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 24, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Secs. 25 and 26;  
Sec. 27, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
Sec. 33, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, that portion of the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lying northeasterly of Washoe County Road 34, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
Secs. 34, 35, and 36.  
T. 33 N., R. 25 E.,  
Sec. 4, that portion lying northwesterly of East Playa Road.  
T. 34 N., R. 25 E., unsurveyed,  
Sec. 16, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 21;  
Sec. 22, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
Sec. 27, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 28;  
Sec. 33, that portion lying northwesterly of East Playa Road;  
Sec. 34, that portion of the W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lying northwesterly of East Playa Road.

The temporary closure area comprises approximately 14,153 acres in Pershing County, Nevada.

The public closure is necessary for the period of time from August 1 through September 21, 2016, because of the Burning Man event activities in the area, starting with fencing the site perimeter, final setup, the actual event (August 28 through September 5), initial phases of cleanup, and concluding with final site cleanup.

The public closure area comprises about 13 percent of the Black Rock Desert playa. Public access to other areas of the playa will remain open and the other 87 percent of the playa outside the temporary closure area will remain open to dispersed casual use.

The event area is contained within the temporary closure area. The event area is defined as the portion of the temporary closure area (1) entirely contained within the event perimeter fence, including 50 feet from the outside of the event perimeter fence; and (2) within 25 feet from the outside edge of the event access road; and includes the entirety of the aircraft parking area outside the event perimeter fence.

The temporary closure and temporary restrictions are necessary to provide a safe environment for the participants of the permitted event and for members of the public visiting the Black Rock Desert, and to protect public land resources by addressing law enforcement and public safety concerns associated with the event. The event is expected to attract approximately