

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[WO-100-08-1820-00]****Use of Science for Improving Management of Public Lands and Resources****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Announcement of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will conduct a public meeting on the use of science for improving the management of the Nation's public lands and resources. The public meeting will focus on science in support of rangeland ecosystem management. The purposes of the public meeting are to discuss BLM's current use of available scientific knowledge and information and to obtain public views on current and future research needs and on desirable science initiatives. The public meeting is part of an ongoing effort to base decisions concerning the conservation and use of our public lands and resources on the best available science.

DATES: BLM will hold the public meeting on January 26, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time.

Submit written comments no later than close of business January 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: BLM will hold the public meeting in Room 7000-B of the Department of the Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, WO-100, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Van Haveren, (303) 236-0161, or John Haugh, (202) 452-5071. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Public Meeting**

In an effort to ensure that BLM bases its resource management decisions on the best available science, BLM is conducting a public meeting on the use of science for improving the management of America's public lands and resources. BLM believes that a public meeting will facilitate the interactive exchange of ideas among the

attending interested parties and BLM. The public meeting is not intended to seek or obtain a consensus on any particular issue. BLM expects the parties to include representatives of Federal, State, and local government agencies; universities; private research entities; and interested individuals.

The specific purposes of the public meeting are to—

- Discuss BLM's current use of available scientific knowledge and information, that is, what information is BLM currently applying and how does it enter into decision-making processes;
- Discuss current and future research needs, including whether ongoing research activities should be adjusted to meet changing needs and how to anticipate future research needs; and
- Discuss the need for additional science initiatives.

The public meeting will be conducted as follows: A BLM representative will give a 15-minute summary that describes current and planned research activities. After the summary, the BLM representative will lead an interactive discussion. If time remains, participants will have an opportunity to make closing remarks. BLM will make a transcript of the public meeting and will make the transcript available to interested parties who contact one of the individuals listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Participation in the public meeting is not a prerequisite for submittal of written comments. BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on BLM's use of science are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analyses of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, commenters should submit two copies of their written comments, where practicable. BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, we intend to make them available in their entirety, including your name and address (or your e-mail address if you file electronically). However, if you do not want us to release your name and address (or e-mail address) in response

to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your wish 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 released in their entirety, including names and addresses (or e-mail addresses).

Electronic Access and Filing Address: Commenters may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: bvanhave@blm.gov. Please submit comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters or encryption. Please include the identifier "Science" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

Tom Fry,

Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 98-1034 Filed 1-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[ID-010-5700-10; IDI-31768]****Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification in Boise County, Idaho****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Classification for recreation and public purposes lease with option for conveyance of public land in Boise County.

SUMMARY: The following public lands adjacent to the community of Idaho City, Boise County, Idaho have been examined and found suitable for lease with an option for sale upon proper development as a public park under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*):

Boise Meridian, Idaho

T. 6 N., R. 5 E., section 26; Lots 10 and 14, part of Lot 13, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 56.93 acres more or less.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease or conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. Any adverse comments will be

reviewed by the District Manager. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective and the land leased to the City of Idaho City for a public park.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The segregation is effective January 15, 1998. The classification will be effective March 16, 1998.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the classification, lease or conveyance should be sent to: Area Manager, Cascade Resource Area, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Effie Schultsmeier, Cascade Area Realty Specialist, (208) 384-3357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is in response to an application by the City of Idaho City for a public park. The lands are not needed for Federal purposes and are needed by the City for a public park. Lease of the lands will not be authorized until after the classification becomes effective. Lease of the lands for recreational or public purpose use would be in the public interest, and will be subject to the following terms, conditions, and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of lease/patent issuance.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

4. Any other reservations that the authorized officer determines appropriate to ensure public access and proper management of Federal lands and interests therein. Lease of the lands will not be authorized until after the classification becomes effective.

Steven W. Moore,

Acting Cascade Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-1012 Filed 1-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a draft general management plan (GMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon. This notice also announces public open houses for the purpose of receiving comments on the draft document. All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including names, addresses and telephone numbers provided by respondents, may be released for public inspection.

DATES: Comments on the draft GMP/EIS should be received no later than March 13, 1998. Public meetings will be held as follows:

February 9, 1998, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the

Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 East River Street, Cave Junction, OR; and February 10, 1998, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the

Grants Pass City Council Chambers,

101 NW "A" Street, Grants Pass, OR.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft GMP/EIS should be sent to the Superintendent, Oregon Caves National Monument, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, OR 97523. Public reading copies of the draft GMP/EIS will be available for review at the following locations, as well as other local libraries around the Oregon Caves National Monument area: Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-6843; Columbia Cascades Support Office, National Park Service, Room 650, 909 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1060, telephone: (206) 220-4154; Oregon Caves National Monument, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, OR 97523, telephone: (541) 592-2100; Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Pacific West Region, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372, telephone: (415) 427-1300; Technical Information Center, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225-0287, telephone: (303) 969-2534; Portland Public Library, 801 SW. 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205, telephone: (503) 248-5123.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This draft GMP/EIS describes and analyzes the environmental consequences of four alternative strategies for guiding future management of the national monument. The major subject areas are natural and cultural resources, visitor services, and park management and operations. Alternative A is the "no action" alternative, which means a continuation

of the existing policies and programs. Alternative B is the "minimum requirements" alternative and describes those minimum actions that are required for the safe and effective operation of the park. Included is a 3,310-acre protected area within adjacent National Forest lands to protect cave ecology and the public water supply. Alternative C (the proposed action and preferred alternative) emphasizes enhanced protection of the monument resources and visitor experiences through park-led cave tours, an on-site visitor center in an adaptively reused historic building, establishment of a caves reservation system, and enhancement of non-motorized trails in a protected forest setting. It also provides for increased protection of the cave hydrology, surface forest environment, and public water supply through a 3,310-acre addition to the monument from adjacent National Forest lands. Alternative D emphasizes increased visitor services and recreation opportunities combined with increased watershed protection. A 2,373-acre addition and a 937-acre protected area are also part of the alternative. The draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the strategies comprising the four alternatives. The official responsible for a decision on the proposed action is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

Charlotte A. Munson,

Acting Superintendent, Columbia Cascades Support Office.

[FR Doc. 98-1018 Filed 1-14-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Glen Echo Park Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of scoping meeting/open house for the Glen Echo Park Management Plan/Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an upcoming scoping meeting/open house for the Glen Echo Park Management Plan and the intent to publish an environmental assessment in association with the management plan.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, February 3, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, Maryland.