

House" route and "Snow Flat Spring Cave" route which were identified as "ways" within the Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) during the wilderness inventory of these Public Lands in San Juan County, Utah, to all motorized and mechanical vehicles.

SUMMARY: This action temporarily closes to motorized and mechanical vehicular use portions of the Moon House and Snow Flat Spring Cave routes inventoried as "ways" within the Fish Creek Canyon WSA on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in San Juan County, Utah. Specifically that portion of the Moon House route to be closed is the way that begins at the southern boundary of Section 35 in T. 38 S., R. 19 E., SLBM and continues to the edge of McCloyd Canyon. Specifically the portion of the Snow Flat Spring Cave route to be closed is the way in Sections 1 and 12 of T. 39 S., R. 19 E., SLBM, that begins at the end of the cherry stemmed road approximately one-half mile from the Snow Flat Road (Mormon Trail). The way will be closed from that point to the edge of McCloyd Canyon. The routes have seen no authorized vehicular traffic in more than eight years because they had been closed with signs posted stating "No Motor Vehicles." San Juan County officials recently removed these signs without authorization. Publicity surrounding the County's removal of the signs is anticipated to increase vehicular traffic substantially. There is imminent threat of considerable adverse effects to wilderness characteristics and cultural resources. A substantial increase in vehicle use of these routes would seriously degrade wilderness suitability and may constrain Congress from designating those portions of the WSA affected by the routes into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Increased vehicular use would also cause considerable adverse effects upon cultural resources through surface disturbance and removal of artifacts. This temporary emergency closure will take effect immediately. Authority for this temporary emergency closure order is contained in 43 CFR 8341.2. This temporary closure will remain in effect until permanent designation procedures are followed as identified in 43 CFR 8342.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent E. Walter, Field Office Manager, 435 North Main (P.O. Box 7), Monticello, Utah 84535, (435) 587-1500.

Dated: January 12, 2000.

Kent E. Walter,

Field Office Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-2810-AF]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment; Las Cruces Field Office, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an RMP amendment and invitation to participate in identification of issues and planning criteria.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Cruces Field Office, New Mexico, is initiating the preparation of an RMP Amendment which will include an environmental assessment (EA). The Amendment would allow the implementation of the Fire Management Plan, Phase I. The Plan would guide Fire Management Policy and Practices on public land administered by the Las Cruces Field Office. These lands include approximately 5.9 million acres in Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, Dona Ana, and Otero Counties in southwestern New Mexico. A map of this area is available at the Las Cruces Field Office. The public is invited to participate in the planning process, beginning with the identification of issues and planning criteria.

DATES: Comments relating to the identification of issues and planning criteria will be accepted until February 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Helen Graham, Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim McCormick, Assistant Field Manager,

Renewable Resources or Helen Graham, Team Leader, Las Cruces Field Office at (505) 525-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fire Management Plan would amend the White Sands RMP and the Mimbres RMP.

Anticipated issues to be addressed in the development of the amendment include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) The impact of smoke from wildfire and prescribed fire;

(2) The impact of wildfire, prescribed fire, and suppression activity on soil erosion and surface water quality;

(3) The impact of fire suppression activity on resource values;

(4) The impact of wildfire, prescribed fire, and suppression activity on wildlife, and special status species;

(5) The impact of wildfire, prescribed fire, and suppression activity on vegetation;

(6) The impact of wildfire, prescribed fire, and suppression activity on cultural resources;

(7) The proliferation of undesirable, non-native species due to fire and/or fire exclusion;

(8) The risks associated with hazardous fuel (grass, brush, etc.) accumulation in the vicinity of urban interface, sensitive features, and other improvements; These issues are not final and may be refined or expanded through active public input.

The RMP Amendment will be developed by an interdisciplinary team using representation from the Team Leader, Fire Management Specialist, Range Management Specialist, Wildlife Biologist(s), Archeologist, Soil Scientist, Hydrologist, Outdoor Recreation/Wilderness Planner, and Writer-Editor. Additional technical support will be provided by other specialists as needed.

Public participation activities during the planning process will include consultation with cooperating agencies, mail outs, media notices, **Federal Register** notices, and public meetings.

Three public scoping meetings will be held to obtain public input regarding the RMP Amendment. The public scoping meeting will be held at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
February 15, 2000	7:00-9:00 p.m	BLM, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, NM.
February 16, 2000	7:00-9:00 p.m	Lordsburg Civic Center, 313 East Fourth St., Lordsburg, NM.
February 17, 2000	7:00-9:00 p.m	Otero County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, Room 253, 1000 New York Ave., Alamogordo, NM.

Complete records of the planning process will be available for public review at the BLM, Las Cruces Field Office at the address above.

Joseph B. Peterson,

Acting Field Manager, Las Cruces.

[FR Doc. 00-1763 Filed 1-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice and Agenda for Meeting of the Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Department) has established a Royalty Policy Committee (Committee), on the Minerals Management Advisory Board, to provide advice on the Department's management of Federal and Indian minerals leases, revenues, and other minerals related policies. Committee membership includes representatives from States, Indian Tribes and allottee organizations, minerals industry associations, the general public, and Federal departments. At this tenth meeting, the Committee will elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Parliamentarian, and consider revised by-laws. The Phosphate, Trona and Leaseable Solid Minerals; Coal; Accounting Relief for Marginal Properties; and Freedom of Information Act Subcommittees will also present interim reports. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be prepared to discuss Royalty in Kind pilots, Royalty Management Program's reengineering overview and Operational Models, MMS's Strategic Plan for 2001-2005, and the April Award Ceremony.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, February 4, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Standard time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, Texas 77060, telephone number (713) 875-1652.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary L. Fields, Chief, Program Services Office, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3062, Denver, CO 80225-0165, telephone number (303) 231-3102, fax number (303) 231-3781.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The location and dates of future meetings

will be published in the **Federal Register**. The meetings will be open to the public without advanced registration. Public attendance may be limited to the space available. Members of the public may make statements during the meetings, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the Committee for its consideration. Written statements should be submitted to Mr. Gary L. Fields, at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Minutes of Committee meetings will be available 10 days following each meeting for public inspection and copying at the Royalty Management Program, Building No. 85, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

These meetings are being held by the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, and Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-63, revised.

Dated: January 18, 2000.

R. Dale Fazio,

Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Salton Sea Restoration Project, Coachella and Imperial Counties, California, INT-DES-00-03

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) have prepared a joint DEIS/DEIR for the Salton Sea Restoration Project (SSRP). The Salton Sea is an artificially maintained inland body of water located in the southeastern corner of California, southeast of Palm Springs, and spans Riverside and Imperial counties. Based on scientific, environmental, and feasibility studies conducted for the SSRP, five project alternatives were developed to address project goals. The DEIS/DEIR describes and presents the environmental effects of the five alternatives as well as the No Action Alternative. Public hearings will be held

to receive written or verbal comments on the DEIS/DEIR from interested organizations and individuals on the environmental impacts of the proposal. A Notice of Public Hearing will be published at a later date with dates, times, and locations of the hearings.

DATES: A 90-day public review period commences with the publication of this notice. Submit written comments on the DEIS/DEIR on or before April 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the DEIS/DEIR should be addressed to Mr. Tom Kirk, Director, Salton Sea Authority, 78-401 Highway 111, Suite T, La Quinta, CA 92253; or to Mr. William Steele, Program Manager, Salton Sea Project, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470.

The document is available on the Internet at <http://www.lc.usbr.gov>. Copies of the DEIS/DEIR may be requested from Mr. Steele at the above address or by calling (702) 293-8129. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for locations where copies of the DEIS/DEIR are available for public inspection.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tom Kirk, SSA, at (760) 564-4888; or Mr. William Steele, Reclamation, at (702) 293-8129.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSRP was developed to comply with Public Laws 102-575 and 105-372 which direct the Secretary of the Interior to "conduct a research project for the development of a method or combination of methods to reduce and control salinity, provide endangered species habitat, enhance fisheries, and protect recreational values * * * in the area of the Salton Sea" as well as "complete all studies, including, but not limited to environmental and other reviews, of the feasibility and benefit-cost of various options that permit the continued use of the Salton Sea as a