

Dated: August 22, 2008.

Gladys Cotter,

Associate Chief Biologist for Information.

[FR Doc. E8-20023 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-08-1610-DQ-028M]

Notice of Availability of the Alabama and Mississippi Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for Alabama and Mississippi.

DATES: The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's Proposed RMP. 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 in the *Federal Register*.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Alabama and Mississippi PRMP/FEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the Proposed RMP/FEIS are available for public inspection at the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. Interested persons may also review the Proposed RMP/FEIS on the Internet at http://www.es.blm.gov/AL_MS_RMP. All protests must be in writing and must be mailed to:

Regular Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gary Taylor, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. Mr.

Taylor may also be contacted by telephone: (601) 977-5413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This PRMP/FEIS covers all the public land resources administered by the BLM in the States of Alabama and Mississippi. The issues addressed in the PRMP/FEIS are mineral leasing and ownership adjustment of the scattered surface tracts. Within the two States combined, the BLM administers approximately 333 acres of public land surface and mineral estate and 621,090 acres of Federal minerals where the surface estate is in non-Federal ownership. The BLM also has responsibility for 2,081,880 acres of mineral estate where the surface is managed by other Federal agencies, including 1,871,550 acres of National Forest lands. On these lands, leasing of Federal minerals is subject to management as directed by the surface managing agency, and the decisions of this RMP will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the minerals. The RMP will not make decisions on oil and gas leasing of National Forest acreage, because by regulation the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is responsible for land use planning decisions on oil and gas leasing. Within the two States, there are also 9,788 acres of lands with uncertain title. These are public domain lands according to General Land Office records, but may have private claims of ownership. The RMP will not make management decisions on these lands per se; however, these lands will be available for disposal to qualified applicants under the Color-of-Title Act. Public participation was solicited during the formation of the Draft RMP/EIS through public meetings in Gulf Shore, AL; Birmingham, AL; and Jackson, MS.

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS received from the public and internal BLM review were incorporated into the proposed plan. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use decisions.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the PRMP/FEIS may be found in the Dear Reader Letter of the Alabama and Mississippi PRMP/FEIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5. E-mail and faxed 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 e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed

protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to *Brenda.Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov*. All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the address(es) set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section, above.

Before including your phone number, e-mail 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.

Dated: March 25, 2008.

Juan Palma,

State Director, Eastern States.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 25, 2008.

[FR Doc. E8-19951 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-070-1610-011J]

Notice of Availability of the Price Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for the Price Field Office.

DATES: The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's PRMP/FEIS. 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 this notice in the *Federal Register*.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Price Field Office PRMP/FEIS were sent to affected Federal, state, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the PRMP/FEIS are available

for public inspection at: Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501. Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84145.

Interested persons may also review the PRMP/FEIS on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/planning.html>. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following addresses:

Regular Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Floyd Johnson, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501; phone: (435)636-3600; or e-mail at: Floyd_Johnson@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Price RMP planning area is located in central

Utah. The BLM administers approximately 2.5 million acres of surface estate and 2.8 million acres of Federal mineral estate within the planning area.

The Price RMP will provide future broad-scale management direction for land use allocations and allowable uses on public lands within the planning area. Implementation of the decisions of the PRMP/FEIS would apply only to BLM-administered public lands and Federal mineral estate. In the Draft RMP/EIS (DRMP/DEIS), which was released for public review and comment in July 2004, five alternatives were analyzed, including a No Action alternative. These alternatives were developed through issue identification during the scoping process. Public involvement and collaboration began with scoping to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities to be resolved in the planning process. Input on planning issues was gathered from the public during a comment period and

associated open houses. The major issues addressed in the PRMP/DEIS include: oil and gas leasing and development; management of recreation opportunities in Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), designation of routes for off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel, livestock grazing, management of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), and recommendations for Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) designations. In September 2007 a Supplemental DEIS was released for public review and comment which considered an additional alternative emphasizing the protection of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The PRMP/FEIS would designate five new ACECs, and the continuation of eight existing ACECs, totaling 206,965 acres. Resource use limitations that apply to the proposed ACECs include a range of prescriptions as described in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

| Area name | Values of concern | Resource use limitations | Acres |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| Big Flat Tops | Relict vegetation | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 | 192 |
| Bowknot Bend | Relict vegetation | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 | 1,087 |
| Dry Lake Archaeological District | Cultural | 11, 12, 13, 14 | 18,010 |
| Interstate 70 | Scenic | 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14 | 33,068 |
| Muddy Creek | Cultural, Historic, Scenic | 2, 5, 7, 9, 12 (1 in WSA), 13, 14, 15 | 25,119 |
| Pictographs/Rock Art | Cultural | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (partial), 7, 8, 14 | 5,303 |
| San Rafael Canyon | Scenic | 5, 6 (partial), 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16 | 17,595 |
| San Rafael Reef | Scenic, Vegetation | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14 | 73,170 |
| Seger's Hole | Scenic | 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14 | 7,067 |
| Nine Mile Canyon | Cultural | 14, 17, 18 | 26,211 |
| Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. | Paleontologic | 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1 (partial), 12 (partial) | 766 |
| Heritage Sites | Historic | 2, 3 (partial), 4, 7, 8, 12, 15, 23 | 1,095 |
| Uranium Mining Districts | Historic | 6, 12, 15, 24 | 2,201 |

1. Closed to oil and gas leasing.
2. Closed to mineral materials disposal.
3. Proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.
4. Excluded from ROW grants.
5. Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products.
6. Excluded from livestock use.
7. Excluded from land treatments.
8. Excluded from range improvements.
9. VRM Class I.
10. Closed to OHV use.
11. Block cultural surveys required.
12. Oil and gas leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy.
13. Avoidance area for ROW grants.
14. OHV use limited to designated routes.
15. Firewood collection not allowed.
16. Oil and gas subject to minor constraints.

17. Oil and gas leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy on federal surface, Controlled Surface Use on split estate.
18. VRM Class II and III.
19. Closed to public access without authorization (use fee).
20. Camping not allowed.
21. Fossil and mineral collection not allowed.
22. Hiking on developed trails only.
23. VRM Class II.
24. No historic structures to be disturbed.

Comments on the Price Field Office DRMP/DEIS received from the public and internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the PRMP/FEIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use plan decisions.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the PRMP/FEIS may be found in the Dear Reader Letter of the PRMP/FEIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. E-mail and faxed 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 e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate

address, as set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Before including your phone number, e-mail 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, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5–1.

Dated: June 5, 2008.

Selma Sierra,

Utah State Director.

[FR Doc. E8–19950 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DQ–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate a Cultural Item: Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate a cultural item in the possession of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO, which meets the definitions of “sacred object” and “object of cultural patrimony” under 25 U.S.C. 3001.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service’s administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3003 (d)(3). The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the cultural item. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

The cultural item is a “piki stone” from the Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico (A661.1). The piki stone is a sandstone slab, measuring approximately 26 x 19 x 2 inches, with the top surface blackened from baking. On November 10, 1972, the museum purchased the stone for \$150 from Mr. Juan Melchoir of Cochiti Pueblo. Museum accession notes indicate that the stone dates to about 1930 and “was used by his family for several generations for baking piki bread.” The stone has long been a part of the museum’s “Hopi House” exhibit

in the Crane American Indian Cultures Hall.

During a consultation in the early 1990s, a group of council representatives from the Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico visited the museum and identified the stone as coming from the pueblo and determined that it was a sacred object and object of cultural patrimony; however, a formal claim was not officially submitted until 2006. The claim states that the Pueblo of Cochiti believes the stone “was stored by Mr. Melchoir during remodeling phases of a traditional cooking building and sold to the individual who” sold it to the museum and could not have been alienated by Mr. Melchoir, and thus is an object of cultural patrimony. The formal claim also states that the stone “was used, and if repatriated would continue to be used, in traditional cooking ceremonies, conducted throughout the year by appointed Cochiti women, during times of traditional society events. These events involve many culturally sensitive ceremonies in which cooking, and piki bread, are of major significance to conduct the ceremony.” Thus, the claim asserts that the stone is also a sacred object.

“Piki” is a borrowed Hopi term to describe the wafer bread, while some use the Tewa term guayave, or a variation thereof; and at Cochiti it is ma’tzin. At Cochiti, the “piki stone” itself is also referred to as a comal or yo’asha. The anthropology and documentary literature has little information about yo’asha at the Pueblo of Cochiti. The few references that could be found would suggest that such stones are “privately owned real property” which can be owned, exchanged, traded, purchased, and inherited. Although the tribe concurs that some stones are privately held, during consultation, the Pueblo of Cochiti offered compelling evidence that a few special ones are communally owned and are stored in communal piki houses. They are used by community members for specific ceremonies, thus making them objects of cultural patrimony and sacred objects. Because museum documentation states that the stone in this notice was sold by Mr. Melchoir, the Pueblo knows its history, and that it was used by the entire community for religious events. Mr. Melchoir was responsible for the piki house in which the stone was placed, but the tribe claims that the people knew it was a house for everyone. Each year, specific leaders are appointed to do things on behalf of the entire community. According to tribal consultation, currently there is one

communal piki house with one stone, an example of a shared place for making ma’tzin for ceremonies. The stone in the museum’s possession came from a house of this type, and if returned, will go back into this particular house.

Anthropology and documentary literature does confirm that piki bread is used by many pueblos during religious ceremonies. For the people of Cochiti, ma’tzin was a traditional everyday foodstuff, but it was also eaten on religious feast days and for celebrations. The Pueblo of Cochiti concurs that ma’tzin was an everyday food item, but also emphasizes that it could have deep religious meanings at particular times and events. The Pueblo of Chociti NAGPRA representative, Mr. Lee Suina, explained, “You can go to a restaurant and have wine and bread, but when you go to church and eat wine and bread, it has more meaning. Since we know the piki was for this specific reason, then it’s special. It’s not an everyday form of bread, in this case.” Mr. Suina explained that prayers were likely offered when the stone was quarried, and prayers were offered when the stone was used to make ma’tzin for numerous ceremonies.

Officials of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(C), the cultural item is a specific ceremonial object needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Officials of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science have also determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(D), the cultural item has ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group or culture itself, rather than property owned by an individual. Lastly, officials of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between the sacred object/object of cultural patrimony and the Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico.

Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the sacred object/object of cultural patrimony should contact Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Curator of Anthropology and NAGPRA Officer, Department of Anthropology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205, telephone (303) 370–6378, before September 29, 2008. Repatriation of the sacred object/object of cultural patrimony to the Pueblo of Cochiti, New