

available for certain uses, including any applicable restrictions, and lands which are closed. Land use plans provide direction for the management of BLM administered lands in accordance with the legal mandates of FLPMA, BLM regulations, and the mission and goals of BLM's Strategic Plan under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, and in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource and archaeological values.

There are more complex demands being made of the public lands today than when the BLM planning regulations and original guidance were issued in the 1980s. There are also new circumstances, such as increasing population growth near public lands in the West, and new data, such as new information on the condition and trend of vegetation, soil, and water resources that must be considered in BLM's land use plans.

The proposed planning guidance differs from existing guidance in that it:

1. Encourages planning on a variety of scales, including both traditional RMPs at the local level and larger regional-level plans, and combinations of these across different land ownerships and jurisdictions;
2. Encourages greater public participation throughout the planning process and facilitates multi-jurisdictional planning;
3. Clarifies the relationship between land use plans and implementation plans;
4. Provides the minimum procedural requirements for completing land use plans and implementation plans;
5. Clarifies the relationships between land use plan and NEPA requirements;
6. Addresses new requirements and approaches for managing public lands or resources; and
7. Addresses the consideration of new information and circumstances, such as new listings of threatened and endangered species, and new requirements and standards for the protection of air and water quality.

In recent years, the BLM has sought to engage and also participate with other landowners and jurisdictions in developing land use plans which address management of natural resource values and uses on a watershed or ecosystem basis, rather than on a strictly jurisdictional basis. The new planning guidance emphasizes the need to plan in conjunction with local communities and stakeholders, and in partnership with other planning jurisdictions. As the existing guidance did not address the BLM's role in these types of multi-

jurisdictional plans, there is a need for the policy guidance provided in the planning manual and handbook.

The new guidance is also less process oriented, meaning there is more flexibility in the planning process. Specifically, the new planning guidance highlights the minimum requirements for planning, rather than being prescriptive. It builds on field experience gained in implementing the 1983 planning regulations (43 CFR 1600) and subsequent manual guidance.

This is internal guidance and no comment period is required. However, in the interest of improving BLM's planning process, public comments will be considered in development of the final version of the planning guidance. A public record and summary of how comments were addressed will be available at the BLM Washington Office for review upon request. The final planning manual will not be protestable or appealable.

DATES: Comments on the draft land use planning manual and handbook will be accepted until July 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft land use planning manual and handbook may be obtained from the Internet at www.blm.gov; from the BLM Washington Office at the following address: BLM, Planning, Assessment and Community Support Group (WO-210), 1849 C Street, NW., (LS-1050), Washington, D.C. 20240-0001; or from any BLM State Office or field office.

Comments can be electronically sent to www.wo210@blm.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Land Management (WO-210), Attention: Ted Milesnick, 1849 C Street NW., (LS-1050), Washington, DC, 20240-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Milesnick at (202) 452-7727, Ann Aldrich at (202) 452-7722, or Paul Politzer at (202) 452-0349.

Dated: May 23, 2000.

Michael Mottice,

Acting Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Joshua Tree National Park Advisory Commission, Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Joshua Tree National Park Advisory Commission (Commission) will be held from 10:00

am (PDT) until 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 17, 1999, at the Helen Gray Center, on Whitefeather Drive in the community of Joshua Tree, California. The Commission will hear reports on the Climbing Committee, the Wilderness Sustainability Study, Implementation of the Trails Plan, Line Item Construction for the West Entrance Visitor Center, the Learning Center and the Desert Institute.

The Commission was established by Public Law 103-433, section 107 to advise the Secretary concerning the development and implementation of a new or revised comprehensive management plan Joshua Tree National Park.

Members of the Commission include:

Mr. Chuck Bell, Planner
 Ms. Cyndie Bransford, Recreational Climbing Interest
 Ms. Marie Brashear, Mining Interest
 Mr. Gary Daigneault, Property Owner/Business Interest
 Hon. Kathy Davis, County of San Bernardino
 Mr. John Freter, Property Owner Interest
 Mr. Brian Huse, Conservation
 Mr. Julian McIntyre, Conservation
 Mr. Roger Melanson, Equestrian Interest
 Mr. Ramon Mendoza, Native American Interest
 Ms. Leslie Mouriquand, Planner
 Mr. Richard Russell, All Wheel Drive Vehicle Interest
 Ms. Lynne Shmakoff, Property Owner Interest
 Hon. Roy Wilson, County of Riverside
 Mr. Gilbert Zimmerman, Tourism

Included on the agenda for this public meeting will be:

Discussion of the Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan.

- Primitive Auto Camping (*i.e.* study, Environmental Assessment, funding).
- Artificial Water Sources (*i.e.* study, Environmental Assessment, funding).

The meeting is open to the public and will be recorded for documentation and transcribed for dissemination. Minutes of the meeting will be available to the public after approval of the full Advisory Commission. For copies, please contact Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, California 92277 at (760)367-5502.

Dated: May 11, 2000.

Ernest Quintana,
Superintendent.

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