

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[WO-310-1310-PB-24 1A]****Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Control Number 1004-0160****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect certain information from geothermal lessees to determine if the lessee qualifies for lease extensions. We collect nonform information under 43 CFR Part 3208 to determine if a lessee is making diligent and bona fide efforts to utilize and produce geothermal resources.

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before April 11, 2003. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0160" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

All comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Barbara Gamble on (202) 452-0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden,

including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001-1025) as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases for geothermal development. The legislation allows for lease extensions when the Secretary of the Interior determines a lessee made a substantial investment to develop the geothermal resources. It also allows leases to continue beyond the primary terms if there are wells capable of producing geothermal resources. The regulations 43 CFR 3208 specifically address extended lease terms. Lessees may request a lease extension beyond the primary term by: drilling, diligent efforts, production of byproducts, and unit commitment. We use the nonform information to determine if a lessee qualifies to extend its geothermal lease. The lessee submits the following nonform reports, as needed, to support a lease extension:

(1) Diligent Efforts Report—This report includes a description of negotiations for sales contracts, marketing agreements, and planned or conducted operations to define geothermal resources;

(2) Bona Fide Efforts Report—This report includes:

(a) Operations conducted during the primary term of the lease and currently in progress to identify and define the geothermal resource, including a summary of results on those operations;

(b) Actions completed in support of operations, including obtaining permits, environmental studies, or meeting permit requirements, or other related activities;

(c) Actions completed during the primary term of the lease and currently in progress to negotiate marketing agreements, sales contracts, drilling agreements, financial arrangements, electric transmission or wheeling arrangements, or other related actions; and

(d) Current economic factors and conditions that affect the lessee's efforts to produce or utilize geothermal steam in commercial quantities.

(3) Significant Expenditures Report—This report includes:

(a) Expenditures to conduct actual drilling operations on the lease;

(b) Expenditures for road or generating facilities construction on the lease;

(c) Architectural or engineering services procured for the design of generating facilities located on the lease; and

(d) Environmental studies required by State or Federal law. BLM does not require the lessee to submit this report if they choose to make payments in lieu of commercial quantities production.

Based on our experience administering the activities described above, we estimate the public reporting burden for each report is two hours per response. The respondents include individuals, small business, and large corporation. We estimate 75 responses per year and a total annual burden of 150.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 5, 2003.

Michael H. Schwartz,
Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-3261 Filed 2-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[CO-160-03-1220-DU-241E]****Notice of Intent To prepare a Recreation Area Management Plan and an Amendment to the Gunnison Resource Management Plan for the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and an amendment to the Gunnison Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in Gunnison County, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare a RAMP with an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hartman Rocks area near Gunnison, Colorado. The planning area encompasses approximately 10,000 acres of public land. This proposed action is being taken in response to increasing use and the changing needs and interests of public land users of this popular recreation area located near the city of Gunnison. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that

are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria, including an evaluation of the existing management direction in the context of the needs and interests of the public. It is probable that the collaborative planning process will recommend changes to the Gunnison RMP for this area so this notice provides for this contingency. If desired management actions identified in the planning process can be carried out within the existing guidance of the RMP then an RMP Amendment will not be necessary.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria may be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted throughout the creation of the Draft RAMP/Draft EA. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and other mediums at least 15 days prior to the event. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participant who wishes to clarify the views they expressed. Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. To ensure local community participation and input, public meetings will be scheduled at times that are convenient for the public to attend. Early participation is encouraged to help determine the future management of the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230; Fax (970) 642-4425. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Gunnison Field Office. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Gunnison Field Office during regular business hours (7:30am to 4:30pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be

available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Arden Anderson, Telephone—(970) 642-4454; E-mail—Arden_Anderson@co.blm.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a popular site for a variety of recreation activities in the urban interface zone near Gunnison, Colorado. The increased use over the years as well as changing needs and interests of the public necessitates a more detailed management strategy beyond the general guidelines contained in the Gunnison RMP (completed in 1993). Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that will be addressed in the plan include: Management and protection of public land resources; recreation/visitor use and safety; access and transportation on the public lands; integrating management with the needs of the community and other agencies; reducing conflicts between different public land visitors and balancing multiple uses.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include specialists with expertise in outdoor recreation, rangeland management, archaeology, wildlife, fisheries and soils.

Dated: December 6, 2003.

Barry A. Tollefson,

Gunnison Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-3165 Filed 2-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-116-6310-PB; HAG03-0031]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Off-Highway Vehicle Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management Plan, and initiation of public scoping.

SUMMARY: The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV area. The BLM designated the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area "specifically to provide for OHV use" in the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP directs the agency to, "Manage off-highway vehicle use on BLM-administered land to protect natural resources, provide visitor safety, and minimize conflicts among various users." The development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Management Plan will provide site-specific guidance for managing OHV use in accordance with the Medford District RMP direction. Approximately 13,865 acres of public land in Oregon are being considered in this planning effort. The public scoping process will be used to identify interested and affected individuals and groups, and to identify issues associated with the management of OHV use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area. Issues identified through the scoping process will be used to explore a range of possible alternatives for managing OHV use in this area.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing 30 days from publication of this notice, to ensure timely consideration. Public scoping meetings and/or field tours will be held to provide the public with information on the planning process and to provide for opportunities for the public to share their concerns and ideas with the BLM. Meeting dates and locations will be announced through mailings, the local news media, and on the BLM Web site (<http://www.or.blm.gov>).