

necessary, outside expertise may be used.

**Background Information:** On June 9, 2000, the President signed Proclamation 7317, creating the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 164,000 acres of public lands in Montezuma and Dolores Counties, Colorado, borders the State of Utah and the Navajo Reservation to the west, and the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation is located to the south. The National Park Service, Hovenweep National Monument, manages 400 acres inside the boundaries of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Mesa Verde National Park is 12 miles east of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

The San Juan/San Miguel RMP completed in 1985 encompassed the monument (Anasazi ACEC at that time) and has been amended four times. Two of these amendments affected management within the area now designated as Canyons of the Ancients National Monument: an amendment for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development (1991) and an amendment to implement the Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (1997).

Information from the existing plan and amendments may be incorporated into this plan.

**LouAnn Jacobson,**

*Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA 169-02-1610-DO]

#### Carrizo Plain National Monument

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management; Bakersfield Field Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to (1) prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carrizo Plain National Monument, designated January 17, 2001, and (2) amend the Caliente RMP, approved on May 5, 1997. This action will require a single Environmental Assessment (EA). The planning area is located in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Kern Counties, in California.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP and RMP amendment with an associated EA for the Bakersfield Field

Office. This planning activity encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of public land. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the monument proclamation, and BLM management policies. The Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP will be created by combining the existing Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan with pertinent decisions within the Caliente RMP, and amending those decisions as needed to bring them into conformance with the monument proclamation. Those decisions within the Caliente RMP that pertain only to Carrizo will then be removed from the Caliente RMP by amendment. Both the Caliente RMP and the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan were prepared by the BLM in collaboration with a broad cross-section of interested parties. The BLM will again work collaboratively with interested parties to review the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The environmental review process includes an evaluation of the pertinent RMP decisions in the context of the needs and interests of the public and protection of the objects of historic and scientific interest specified in the proclamation.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the planning process. General scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. The Draft Carrizo RMP and Draft Caliente RMP Amendment/EA are expected to be completed in December 2002. A Notice of Availability will be published in the **Federal Register**, beginning a 60 day public comment period. Public meetings will be held during the 60 day comment period. A decision on the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP and Caliente RMP Plan Amendment is expected by May 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP, Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308; Fax 661 391-6040. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Bakersfield Field Office located in Bakersfield, California. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bakersfield Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., 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:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Chris Ryan, Telephone 661 391-6107.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Carrizo Plain National Monument is currently managed under the recently completed Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan and the Caliente RMP. Together, these existing plans provide a comprehensive management program which is believed to be appropriate for the new monument. While BLM will review this existing management program in light of current issues associated with the new monument, a full scale planning effort is not considered necessary. However, BLM will evaluate any public comments as to the adequacy of the existing management program prior to making a final determination on the scope of the monument plan and related NEPA document. (1) The new Carrizo RMP will be comprised of those goals, decisions, and allocations within the Caliente RMP that pertain to the Carrizo Plain National Monument, combined with the primary goals and decisions identified within the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan. Activity plan direction from the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan will be carried forward and appended to the Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP. Modification of existing land use planning decisions is not anticipated except where necessary to conform to the monument proclamation. (2) The Caliente RMP will be amended by removing those decisions and allocations that pertain only to public lands within the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and clarifying that the remaining direction excludes the monument from that point forward. This will eliminate any overlap and potential conflict between the two land use plans.

**Public Participation:** Public meetings will be held during the EA public comment period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meeting locations will be rotated among the towns of San Luis

Obispo, California Valley, and Bakersfield, California. Participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Carrizo Plain National Monument and the Bakersfield Field Office public lands. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site ([www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)) at least 15 days prior to the event. Any notes generated and the 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. In addition to public meetings, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment upon publication of the draft Carrizo RMP, and Caliente RMP Plan Amendment/EA. In addition, written comments will be accepted throughout the entire planning process.

**Background Information:** On January 17, 2001, the President signed a proclamation creating the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of public lands primarily in San Luis Obispo County, with smaller portions within Kern and Santa Barbara Counties, all in California. Located midway between the cities of Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, the monument links Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge to the southeast with privately conserved lands and the Los Padres National Forest to the northwest. The Caliente RMP was completed in 1997 and encompassed all BLM managed public lands within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kings, Tulare, and western Kern counties. Public involvement in preparation of the Caliente RMP was solicited through announcements in the **Federal Register**, the mailing of a notice to 1,300 people and organizations, six scoping meetings, the mailing of a draft plan to 1,000 interested publics, and 6 public open houses. The Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan was completed between 1996 and 1999. This plan was jointly prepared and signed by The Nature Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and BLM, following public involvement that included a mailing to 1,000 people and organizations, 7 public meetings, and an additional mailing to a list of 200 people and organizations before the final plan was compiled. Neither plan has been amended previously, and both continue to provide clear and broadly supported

direction for public lands now within the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

**Elaine Marquis-Brong,**

*Director, National Landscape Conservation System, Bureau of Land Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR113-6310-AA; HAG02-0018]

#### **Cascade-Siskiyou National Resource Management; Notice of Availability of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Medford District.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS).

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management of 1976 and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 CFR 1506.6(2), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument located in Jackson County, Oregon. The DRMP will provide a range of alternatives, including identification of a preferred alternative, for management direction for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The DRMP addressed management on approximately 52,947 acres of public land. Final decisions through this planning process will supercede planning guidance presented in the Medford District Resource Management Plan. The Plan will provide direction for management of these public lands for a period of approximately 10 years. The DRMP/DEIS considers all issues raised during plan scoping that are within the decision space allowed by the Presidential Proclamation 7318 which designated the Monument and other non-discretionary programs and policies. Issues addressed in the DRMP/DEIS include vegetation management, access, prescribed fire, recreation, visitor use, and facilities/rights-of-way. The DRMP/DEIS describes four alternatives for management of the CSNM, including a "No Action" Alternative A. Each "action" alternative

has a different emphasis, primarily defined in terms of the amount of management intervention necessary to meet the primary goal of protecting, maintaining, restoring or enhancing relevant and important ecological, biological, geological, and archaeological objects. Alternative B promotes natural ecosystem processes in the management of plant communities. Alternative C incorporates active management for protection and maintenance of the conifer communities while limiting some ground disturbing management tools that may be used in maintaining and restoring the other plant communities. Alternative D promotes aggressive management for protection, maintenance and restoration of Monument resources through the use of all management tools available. The alternatives defer proposing land use allocations or management directions that are precluded by the need for the livestock grazing study required by the Proclamation. The action alternatives were prepared in accordance with applicable planning procedures and are designed to protect, maintain, restore or enhance Monument objects, resources and ecological processes.

**DATES:** The public has the opportunity to review and comment on the CSNM DRMP/DEIS. It is anticipated that this document will be available for review around May 2002. Per BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.2(e), ninety (90) days shall be provided for review of the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement. The 90-day period shall formally begin when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of the filing of the draft environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**. During this time period, written comments on the contents of the DRMP/DEIS will be solicited, particularly comments that address one or more of the following: (1) New information that would affect the analysis; (2) possible improvements in the analysis; and (3) suggestions for improving or clarifying the proposed management direction. Specific comments are most useful. BLM will respond to comments addressing the adequacy of the DRMP/DEIS in the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Comments on the DEIS, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Medford District Office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays). Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public