

resources, and protecting natural and cultural resources and refuge visitors.

Under this alternative, the refuge will continue to seek acquisition of lands within the present acquisition boundary. Lands acquired as part of the refuge will be made available for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education opportunities, where appropriate. Lands that provide high-quality habitat and connectivity to existing refuge lands will be priority acquisitions. Equally important acquisition tools to be used include: transfer lands, partnerships with conservation organizations, conservation easements with adjacent landowners, and leases/cooperative agreements with state agencies.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. During the draft comprehensive conservation plan/environmental assessment comment period, the Service received several comments, which were incorporated, when appropriate, and responded to in the comprehensive conservation plan.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 22, 2006.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 29, 2006.

[FR Doc. 06-7381 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-02-2640-HO-UTZA]

Notice of Temporary Closure of the Manning Canyon Area

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

ACTION: Extension of Notice of Temporary Closure, Manning Canyon Area.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Notice of Temporary Closure for the Manning Canyon area, first published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 2002 page 66000, volume 67, number 209, is hereby extended until rehabilitation, and range, habitat, and

watershed restoration are successful. The area described is hereby closed to all motorized vehicle and mechanized vehicle use to protect the rehabilitation efforts of the Manning Canyon hazardous mine tailings remediation project. The opening date for the West Manning Canyon and Lewiston roads will be determined by mutual agreement with Utah County. The public lands affected by this closure are all public lands within the following described area which is approximately 2,971 acres in size:

Manning Canyon Hazardous Material Cleanup Site

T. 6 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake Meridian,
Section 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$,
Section 14, all,
Section 15, all,
Section 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$, all public lands east of and including the north-south road,
Section 23, all,
Section 24, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$,
Section 26, all public lands east of the West Manning Canyon Road,
Section 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, north of the West Manning Canyon Road.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Ingwell, BLM Hazardous Material Specialist, Salt Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119; (801) 977-4300, or e-mail him at tim_ingwell@ut.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure of the public lands to motorized vehicle and mechanized use will serve to protect the rehabilitation of the lands following the cleanup of hazardous material in Manning Canyon. The hazardous material consists of numerous mine tailings piles containing large concentrations of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic. As a result of the cleanup of these hazardous mine tailings, large areas were re-contoured and reseeded and a repository was created to contain the tailings. These areas require protection until the rehabilitation actions are determined to be successful. A map depicting the closure area is available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office.

The authority for establishing this restriction is found at 43 CFR 8364.1(a) and 43 CFR 8341.2. This restriction does not apply to:

- (1) Any federal, state or local government officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force while in the performance of an official duty.
- (2) Any Bureau of Land Management employee, agent, contractor, or cooperator while in the performance of an official duty.

(3) Any federal, state, local, or contract law enforcement officer, while in the performance of their official duties, or while enforcing this closure notice.

Violation of this closure is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360-0.7 as further defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: July 23, 2006.

Glenn A. Carpenter,
Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 06-7371 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1310-DB]

Notice of Retraction of a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of retraction.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inadvertently published a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 (FR 71 45576). BLM will publish this Notice of Availability at a later date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Simons, Project Lead, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

Robert A. Bennett,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 06-7369 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID420 1610 DP 034D]

Notice of Availability of the Cottonwood, ID, Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and

the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Cottonwood Field Office and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To assure that they will be considered, BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMP/EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings, and on the BLM Web site (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>).

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Web Site: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>
- E-mail: comments@cottonwoodrmp.com
- Mail: Attn: RMP, BLM Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood ID 83522-9498

- Fax: (208) 962-3275

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Christman at the Cottonwood Field Office (see above address), telephone (208) 962-3245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cottonwood RMP planning area is located in the southern portion of the Idaho panhandle. The BLM administers scattered parcels of lands totaling 143,830 acres within the following Idaho counties: Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Adams. The Cottonwood Field Office planning area lies within the ceded territory of the Nez Perce Tribe. The Nez Perce Reservation lies within the planning area, and there are about 17,586 acres of BLM-administered land within the reservation boundary. Management of the BLM administered lands will involve trust and treaty resources.

The BLM-administered public lands within the planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions of the 1981 Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP) as amended. BLM will continue to manage these lands in accordance with the MFP and amendments until the Cottonwood RMP is completed and the Record of Decision is signed.

The Cottonwood RMP will provide future broad-scale management direction for land use allocations and allowable uses on public lands within the planning area. In the Draft EIS, four alternatives were analyzed, including a no action alternative. These alternatives were developed through issue identification during the scoping process. Such issues include: Watershed management, forestry, fuels treatments, recreation, land tenure, special designations, invasive plant species, travel management and special status species. The agency preferred alternative is alternative B.

The preferred alternative proposes the designation of five new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and the continuation of six ACEC/Research Natural Areas (RNAs) totaling 34,528 acres and ranging in size from 18 acres to 16,199 acres. Two existing ACECs totaling 3,986 acres would be dropped under the preferred alternative. Resource use limitations that apply to the proposed ACECs include no surface occupancy for mineral extraction activities and some restrictions on timber harvesting, livestock grazing, and road construction (See Table 1).

TABLE 1.—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Area name	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres	Preferred alternative direction
Wapshilla Ridge (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands and BLM Idaho Watch List plant (Idaho RNA cell for ba-salts).	1, 2	401 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 401 acres.
Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA, riparian, Palouse prairie remnant, Clearwater River islands.	3	43 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 43 acres.
Captain John Creek (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands, Douglas fir, and riparian (Idaho cell). Captain John Creek provides habitat for listed steelhead and spring/summer chinook Salmon, and Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.	1	1,321 exist-ing.	Continue as RNA/ACEC 1,321 acres.
Long Gulch (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	4	47 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 47 acres.
Lucile Caves (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA, Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock, Idaho BLM sensitive plants, wildlife and snails; limestone cave and spring; geology.	4	404 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 136 acres/
Skookumchuck (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	4	18 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 18 acres.
Craig Mountain (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, scenic, cultural, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's silene; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.	2	3,956 exist-ing.	Discontinue ACEC.
Elk City/American Hill Lake (Existing ACEC—1989).	Natural hazards, designated ACEC because of concerns for safety and public welfare.	5, 6	30 existing	Discontinue ACEC.
Lower Lolo Creek (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; National historic trail.	7, 8, 9	3,678 exist-ing.	Continue as ACEC 3,678 acres.
Lower Salmon River (Con-fluence to White Bird Creek) (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's silene; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural proc-esses.	3, 4	15,702 ex-isting.	Continue as ACEC 16,199 acres.
Upper Lolo Creek	Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles and plants, cultural, scenic.	7, 10	1,625 pro-posed.	Do not add ACEC.

TABLE 1.—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—Continued

Area name	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres	Preferred alternative direction
Partridge/Elkhorn	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife.	14	576 proposed.	Do not add ACEC.
Little Salmon	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife.	14	590 proposed.	Do not add ACEC.
Upper Salmon River (White Bird Creek to French Creek).	Cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and MacFarlane's four-o'clock; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural processes.	4	5,759 proposed.	Add as ACEC 5,759 acres.
East Fork of American River	Listed fish, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants; natural processes; riparian and wetlands; and old growth Engelmann spruce.	3, 11, 12	570 proposed.	Add as ACEC 570 acres.
American River Historic Sites District.	Cultural resources, historic mining	13	6,356 proposed.	Add as ACEC 6,356 acres.

Use Limitations:

- 1 = Timber harvest only to support stand health.
- 2 = Exclude livestock grazing.
- 3 = Prohibit soil or vegetation disturbance not supporting improved condition (long term).
- 4 = No actions resulting in long-term adverse impacts to listed plants.
- 5 = Closed to OHV use.
- 6 = No ground disturbing activities other than rehab.
- 7 = No construction of hydroelectric facilities.
- 8 = No new road construction within 300' of Lolo Creek or on slopes exceeding 50%.
- 9 = Custodial timber management.
- 10 = Timber harvest activities on slopes over 50% utilize aerial or high lead systems.
- 11 = Decommission temporary roads within 3 years of construction.
- 12 = No road construction within Riparian Conservation Areas.
- 13 = Use mining plan of operations.
- 14 = Minimize road construction.

Additionally, BLM would recommend the continuation of the mineral withdrawal of the Lower Salmon River corridor. The preferred alternative recommends four suitable segments of river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system; one segment (totaling 24 miles) is suitable for inclusion under the scenic classification, three segments (totaling 5.34 miles) are suitable for inclusion under the recreational classification. Resource use limitations that apply to the suitable river segments include no surface occupancy for mineral extraction activities. The 750 acre portion of the Frank Church/River of No Return Wilderness will continue to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics under all alternatives. Two previously designated Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) (totaling 10,872 acres) will continue to be managed under the BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. 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. A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS is available for review via the Internet Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>. You may also obtain a copy on CD-ROM, or paper copy at the BLM Cottonwood Field Office at the address listed above, or by contacting Carrie Christman at (208) 962-3245.

Dated: June 7, 2006.

Bud Cribley,

Acting State Director, Idaho.

[FR Doc. E6-14542 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-910-06-1739-NSSI]

Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Group

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, North Slope Science Initiative, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Science

Technical Group (STG) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 11-12, 2006, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting will be held at the Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, in the Kobuk Conference Room. On October 11, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The public comment period starts at 3 p.m. On October 12, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the same location.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Taylor, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (910), Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. Telephone (907) 271-3131, or e-mail kenton_taylor@ak.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Group provides advice and recommendations to the North Slope Science Oversight Group (OG) regarding priority needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring and research activities that lead to informed land management decisions. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

- Onshore oil and gas development monitoring requirements.
- Offshore oil and gas development monitoring requirements.