

Trail Preservation Trust; ensure a financially secure, world-class historical and educational facility, operated through a partnership between the Federal Government and the community, thereby enriching and maximizing visitors' experiences to the region; and improve the coordination of advice and recommendations from the publics served.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melanie Wilson Gore,
Intergovernmental Affairs (640), Bureau
of Land Management, 1620 L Street,
NW., Room 406 LS, Washington, D.C.
20240, telephone (202) 452-0377.

Certification Statement

I hereby certify that the reestablishment of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities to manage the lands, resources, and facilities administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: May 23, 2002.

Gale A. Norton,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 02-13568 Filed 5-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-650-01-1220-JG-064B]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Amendment to the California Desert
Conservation Area Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Surprise Canyon in Panamint Mountains, Inyo County, CA.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.2(c), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to amend the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended). The proposed amendment will establish or revise trail designations for off-road vehicles within the Surprise Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The authority to designate is in accordance with 43 CFR 8342. The proposals will pertain to public lands addressed by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan in Inyo County that lie east of Highway 178 and approximately 23 miles north of the

community of Trona. The proposed plan amendment will include an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and CFR 1610.5-5.

The EIS will evaluate a full range of alternative means of access into the Surprise Canyon ACEC. During the 30 days scoping period, the public can assist the BLM in developing the range of alternatives that will be addressed.

DATES: The public is invited to submit comments on the scope of the plan amendment and EIS. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days from the publication date of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The specific date, time, and location of public scoping meetings will be announced by the Ridgecrest Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments in response to this notice should be sent to Hector Villalobos, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, (760) 384-5405. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Ridgecrest Field Office during normal working hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, except holidays), and may be published as part of the EIS or other related documents. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffery Aardahl, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, (760) 384-5420.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 29, 2001, BLM implemented an interim closure to all motorized vehicles on Route P71 in the Surprise Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The closure will remain in effect until the plan amendment is approved and implemented.

The following are preliminary issues identified: (1) The canyon area currently does not meet the BLM's minimum standards for a properly functioning riparian system due to soil erosion and streambed alternations caused by motorized vehicle use; (2) several federal and state sensitive plant and animal species that inhabit the area are being affected; and (3) value of the canyon area for recreation, including use of motorized vehicles.

The preliminary planning criteria include: (1) The CDCA amendment will be consistent with officially approved resource related plans, policies and programs of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes; (2) the amendment process and ORV trail designations shall be conducted in compliance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), planning regulations (43 CFR 1600), ORV trail designation regulations (43 CFR 8340), BLM manual guidance, and all applicable Federal laws affecting BLM land use decisions and ORV designations; (3) the planning process shall include an EIS with a biological evaluation prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500), and BLM guidance.

The public is invited to submit written information to the BLM that will be used to identify issues, concerns and opportunities related to various alternative means of access in the Surprise Canyon ACEC. Those members of the public who simply want to be placed on the mailing list for this project can make such a request in writing. All such information and requests should be submitted in writing to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555, Attn: Resources Management Branch Chief.

Digital electronic photos and maps of the Surprise Canyon area can be found at: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest>.

Dated: April 12, 2002.

Alan Stein,

Acting California Desert District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

**Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board;
Meeting**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The advisory board will meet Monday, June 24, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, and on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. local time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Marriott Denver Tech Center, 4900 South Syracuse Street, Denver, CO 80237.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO260, Attention: Ramona Delorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Submit written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting no later than close of business June 14, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Nordin, Wild Horse and Burro Public Outreach Specialist, at (775) 861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. Nordin at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, June 24, 2002 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Call to Order & Introductions

Co-chairs Comments & Housekeeping—Robin Lohnes, Gary Zakotnik

Welcoming Remarks—Ann Morgan—CO State Director; Henri Bisson, Elena Daly, John Fend

Old Business

Approval of March 2002 Minutes—Robin Lohnes

BLM Action on March 2002

Recommendations—John Fend

Charter Renewal & 2003 Nominations Update—John Fend

Annual WH&B Specialist Meeting Overview—Tom Pogacnik

Break

Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Budget Initiative—Hilleary Bogley, Wayne Burkhardt,

Discussion of Proposed Alternatives—Larry Johnson, Gary Zakotnik

Working Lunch (Board Members/Staff Only)

Old Business (Continued)

Update on Pending Litigation—John Fend

Discussion on AML High/Low Numbers—John Fend, Tom Pogacnik

Break

Old Business (Continued)

BLM Science Advisory Board Report—Linda Coates-Markle

Update on Immunocontraception—Linda Coates-Markle

Field Applicability—Linda Coates-Markle

Public Comments—Robin Lohnes, Janet Nordin

Recap/Summary—Robin Lohnes, E K James

Adjourn; Roundtable to Follow—All Dinner with BLM Staff (location TBA)

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

New Business

Sonora Desert Proposal—Merle Edsall

Break

Board Recommendations—Robin Lohnes, E K James

Report to Congress—Robin Lohnes, Gary Zakotnik

Next Meeting/Date/Site—All

Adjourn—Robin Lohnes

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal advisory committee management regulations (41 CFR 101-6.1015(b)) require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the Advisory Board on June 24, 2002, at the appropriate point in the agenda. This opportunity is anticipated to occur at 4:00 p.m. local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon June 24, 2002, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit

the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address the specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, speakers should submit two copies of their written comments where feasible. The BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, the BLM will make them available in their entirety, including your name and address. However, if you do not want the BLM to release your name and address in response to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. BLM will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. BLM will release all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, in their entirety, including names and addresses.

Electronic Access and Filing Address

Speakers may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: Janet_Nordin@blm.gov. Please include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Henri R. Bisson,

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

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