

Phoenix, AZ 85027; Telephone (623) 580-5628; Fax (623) 580-5580; e-mail: chris_horyza@blm.gov. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Phoenix Field Office at the address listed above. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Phoenix Field Office during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The extraordinary population growth in Arizona, and especially the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area, as well as the creation of Agua Fria National Monument, requires reconsideration of previous land use plan decisions. This planning activity will develop management plans for Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw Foothills through one planning effort. These actions require a single EIS with two records of decision.

The BLM will develop these plans using a community-based collaborative approach. The BLM will work with local communities to develop creative ways to resolve community issues and BLM management issues and establish a sense of ownership for BLM activities. BLM will work cooperatively with Federal agencies and State, tribal, and local governments in developing the plans. The planning area is within the planning jurisdiction of the Arizona State Land Department, Yavapai County, Maricopa County, Peoria, and Phoenix. Other agencies involved in the planning process may include Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Public Service, and Yavapai and Maricopa County Departments of Transportation and Parks and Recreation. In addition, Tonto and Prescott National Forests adjoin the planning area and contain similar cultural, historic, recreational, and natural resources that should be managed in concert with the BLM-

managed lands. The collaborative planning approach will encourage long-term support for BLM land use plan decisions and continued community involvement in BLM projects.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been raised by BLM employees, other agencies, and through contacts with individuals and user groups. BLM will address the following major issues in the plans: (1) Meeting public needs and achieving a healthy, thriving environment in the face of rapidly increasing urban population; (2) identifying actions necessary to provide for visitor use and safety in the Agua Fria National Monument; and (3) identifying actions necessary to protect the monument's natural and cultural resources consistent with the proclamation. These are the issues that have been raised to date.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, BLM will place the suggested issues into one of four categories:

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

BLM will address category one issues in the land use plan process and give a rationale in the plan for each issue placed in category two or four. Issues falling under category three will be passed to, and addressed by, the appropriate management agency or entity.

In addition to the preceding major issues, management questions and concerns to be addressed in the plans include, but are not limited to, the following: ecosystem health, riparian condition, threatened and endangered species habitat, wildlife habitat, reintroduction of native species, cultural resource protection and interpretation, recreation and visitor use, access and transportation, rangeland management, and minerals management. The following disciplines will be represented on the BLM planning team: wilderness, recreation, wildlife, rangeland management, botany, fire ecology, geology, realty, cultural resources, soils, hydrology, and geographic information systems (GIS). Where necessary, outside expertise may be used.

Background Information: Agua Fria National Monument was created on January 11, 2000, with the signing by the President of Proclamation 7263. The Monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. At

least 450 prehistoric sites are known to exist within the monument. In addition to its rich record of human history, the monument contains other objects of scientific interest, including a diversity of vegetation communities, a wide array of sensitive wildlife species, and native fish populations.

The purpose of the monument designation is to protect these sensitive natural and cultural resources. The proclamation designated more than 71,000 acres to be managed by the BLM for this purpose. Establishment of the national monument necessitates development of a land use plan.

The area in and around Phoenix, Arizona, has experienced significant population growth in recent years. Since 1990, Maricopa County's population has increased nearly 35 percent. During this same time period, the City of Peoria has annexed more than 59,000 acres, including more than 16,000 acres of BLM land, and the City of Phoenix has added more than 19,000 acres, including nearly 700 acres of BLM land. These are only two of the growing cities and towns expanding their borders toward and into the Bradshaw Foothills Planning Area. The increased pressure on public lands for recreation, rights-of-way, mineral materials, and other purposes resulting from population increases requires BLM to readdress its land use plan decisions.

Elaine Marquis-Brong,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-939-1610-DO]

California Coastal National Monument

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management; California State Office.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the California Coastal National Monument, designated January 11, 2000. This action will require a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The planning area includes all counties which border the California Coast.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the California Coastal National Monument Area. The monument includes all unappropriated and unreserved islands,

rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles owned by the United States along the Pacific coastline of California located above high mean tide. This area overlaps the Arcata, Ukiah, Hollister, Bakersfield, and the Palm Springs—South Coast Field Offices. This planning activity encompasses approximately 883 acres of public land or approximately 11,500 islands. 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 BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. Partners in the plan will include all major coastal management agencies and local governments. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria, including an evaluation of the existing RMPs and Management Framework Plans (MFPs) 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: The publication of this notice initiates the public scoping process. Formal scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. The Draft California Coastal National Monument Plan is scheduled for completion in September 2003. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the addresses listed below. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (www.ca.blm.gov) 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 Participation: Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, open houses will be held in locations most closely affiliated with the monument. Probable locations include the towns of Eureka, Mendocino, Guala, San Francisco, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. Early participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the California Coastal National Monument. In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment on the alternatives and upon

publication of the BLM draft RMP/EIS. In addition, written comments will be accepted throughout the entire planning process.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to California State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Division of Resources, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825; Fax 916-978-4657. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at that office, the Arcata Field Office in Arcata California, the Ukiah Field Office in Ukiah, California, the Hollister Field Office in Hollister, California, the Bakersfield Field Office in Bakersfield, California, and the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office in Palm Springs, California. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at those above listed offices during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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 Tony Danna, telephone 916 978-4630, or Paul Brink, telephone 916 978-4641.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The creation of the California Coastal National Monument necessitates a maintenance action to the Arcata RMP, the Clear Lake MFP, the Hollister RMP, the Caliente RMP, and the South Coast RMP in order to revise the boundaries of these plans to exclude the new Monument.

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 planning effort include, but are not limited to: management and protection of shore birds and pinnepeds; management and protection of the area's cultural, historic, and prehistoric values;

management integration with other agencies along the coastal zone; management of recreation/visitor use and safety; facilities and infrastructures needed to provide visitor interpretation/appreciation and administration of the monument; and integrating monument management with community, tribal, and other agency needs. 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 wildlife/fisheries/marine sciences management, minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, lands and realty, botany, soils, information technology, sociology, and economics. Where necessary, outside expertise may be sought to advise BLM staff.

Background Information

On January 11, 2000, the President signed the Proclamation creating the California Coastal National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 883 acres or approximately 11,500 islands along the entire coast of California. This monument does not include submerged lands or territorial waters that are owned by the State of California. The Proclamation recognizes the biological, geological, and cultural significance that warrant protection as a national monument. In particular, gulls, the endangered California least tern, the endangered brown pelican, and the snowy plover reside in and establish their nests on the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles that comprise the national monument. Studies as early as 1970 have noted that the rookeries on which these birds breed are unprotected and threatened. The number of breeding pairs for some of the species continues to decline. The monument also provides forage and breeding habitat for several mammal

species, including a number of threatened pinnepeds. Recognizing their ecological importance, the Secretary of the Interior designated these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles as the "California Islands Wildlife Sanctuary" on April 11, 1983 (Public Land Order 6369). On February 5, 1990, the BLM designated these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles an Area of Critical Environmental Concern pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*). While the BLM retains legal responsibility for the Sanctuary, the State of California's Department of Fish and Game currently handles day-to-day management under a 2000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Elaine Marquis-Brong,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-174-02-1610-DO-083A]

Notice of intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Public Lands Center, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Dolores, Colorado, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, designated June 9, 2000. This action will require a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These lands are located in Montezuma and Dolores Counties, Colorado.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. This planning activity encompasses approximately 164,000 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 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 RMP 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: The publication of this notice initiates the public scoping comment process. Formal scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site (www.co.blm.gov/canm/index.html) 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 Participation: Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meeting locations will be rotated between the towns of Cortez and Durango, Colorado. Early participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment on the alternatives and upon publication of the BLM draft RMP/EIS. In addition, written comments will be accepted throughout the entire planning process.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Canyons of the Ancients Planning, Bureau of Land Management, Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323; Colorado_CANM@co.blm.gov; Fax 970.882.7035. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Anasazi Heritage Center, located 3 miles west of Dolores, Colorado. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Anasazi Heritage Center, during regular business hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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 Gary Thrash, Telephone 970.385.1371, or Marilyn Eastin, Telephone 970.882.4811, or Colorado_CANM@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The creation of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument along with the changing needs and interests of the public necessitates a completion of a new RMP for the monument. This action will require a single EIS with one Record of Decision (ROD). Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, individuals and user groups, and by the Southwest Resource Advisory Council in public meetings held prior to monument designation. 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, but are not limited to: preservation of cultural and natural resources; balancing multiple uses such as recreation, livestock grazing, energy development, traditional and Native American activities; integrating monument management with community, tribal, and other agency needs; visitor services; and access and transportation on the public lands.

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 archaeology, paleontology, rangeland management, minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, wilderness, wildlife, lands and realty, hydrology, ecology, fire, geographic information systems, sociology, and economics. Where