

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Needles Field Office intends to prepare an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan with an associated environmental assessment (EA). This notice initiates the public participation and scoping processes for the CDCA Plan amendment and environmental assessment.

DATES: Public comments will be accepted throughout the plan amendment and EA process, but to be most beneficial comments on issues and potential impacts should be submitted in writing to the address listed below within 30 days following the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments and other correspondence regarding issues and planning criteria should be sent to the BLM, Needles Field Office, attention George R. Meckfessel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Needles Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1303 South US Highway 95, Needles, California 92363. Documents pertinent to this notice, including comments of respondents, will be available for public review at the Needles Field Office, California during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact George R. Meckfessel, (760) 326-7008, or e-mail George_Meckfessel@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM, Needles Field Office intends to prepare an amendment to the CDCA Plan with an associated environmental assessment that would make all or a portion of the Valley Wells Allotment unavailable for grazing. The allotment consists of 223,000 acres and is located in northeastern San Bernardino County, California. The allotment includes portions of the North Mesquite Mountains Wilderness, Mesquite Wilderness, Kingston Range Wilderness, and the Hollow Hills Wilderness areas.

The proposal to make a portion or all of the allotment unavailable for grazing livestock does not conform to the CDCA Plan and, therefore, requires the development of a plan amendment.

Approximately half of the allotment is within a Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA), designated by the BLM through the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan amendment (2002) to the CDCA Plan. Most, but not all, of the

DWMA contains critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Making all or a portion of the allotment unavailable for grazing would complement and enhance implementation of the USFWS Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan (1994). Comparable desert tortoise habitat within the allotment is contained in, and outside, the DWMA.

Additional benefits to non-listed species and habitats, such as the BLM sensitive Rusby's desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea rusbyi* ssp. *eremicola*) and the Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*), would also be realized by removal of cattle grazing from all or portions of the allotment.

Preliminary issues identified include: air quality; areas of critical environmental concern; cultural resources; environmental justice; livestock grazing; Native American religious concerns; socioeconomic; soils, water quality; wetlands/riparian zones; wilderness; wildlife, including threatened or endangered species; and vegetation, including invasive species.

Preliminary planning criteria include: 1. Developing the plan amendment in compliance with Federal Land Policy and Management Act, all other applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and BLM supplemental program guidance; 2. developing an EA in the planning process that will comply with National Environmental Policy Act standards; 3. initiating government to government consultation, including tribal interests; 4. incorporating by reference the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management into the plan amendment/EA; 5. complying with Appendix C of BLM's Planning Handbook (H 1601-1) in making resource specific determinations; 6. assuring that the plan amendment is compatible, to the extent possible, with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies; and, 7. consider the extent to which the plan amendment achieves the recovery goals outlined in the Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan and the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan amendment to the CDCA Plan.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the "ADDRESSES" section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal

identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM will place issues identified during scoping into one of three categories:

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

The BLM will provide an explanation in the plan as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan amendment. 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 BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendment in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines that will be involved in the planning process include but are not limited to rangeland management, wilderness, sensitive species (plants and animals,) cultural resources, and recreation.

Dated: September 16, 2008.

Rodney Mouton,

Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. E8-22766 Filed 9-30-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV912-1640-PH-006F; 08-08807; TAS: 14X1109]

Notice of Public Meeting: Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, and Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Combined Resource Advisory Council Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada's three Resource Advisory Council will hold a joint meeting.

DATES: Thursday, November 13, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, November 14, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Gold Coast Hotel-Casino, 4000 W. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rochelle Ocava (775) 861-6588 or Rochelle_Ocava@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The three 15-member Nevada Councils advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM Nevada State Director, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Nevada. Agenda topics include a presentation and discussion of accomplishments during 2008 and the outlook for 2009 for the BLM in Nevada; opening remarks and closeout reports of the three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs); breakout meetings of each group category; breakout meetings of the three RACs; discussion of a recreation subgroup of the existing RACs; and setting of schedules for meetings of the individual RACs for the coming year. An agenda will be available 30 days prior to the meeting at <http://www.blm.gov/nv>. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the three RAC groups or the individual RACs. The public comment period for the Council meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 13. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact Rochelle Ocava.

Dated: September 23, 2008.

Ron Wenker,

State Director, Nevada.

[FR Doc. E8-23126 Filed 9-30-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-920-1310-08; TXNM 107307, TXNM 107313]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases TXNM 107307 and TXNM 107313

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease.

SUMMARY: Under the Class II provisions of Title IV, Public Law 97-451, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas leases TXNM 107307 and TXNM 107313 from the lessee, Southern Bay Energy, LLC for lands in Burleson County, Texas. The petition was filed on time and was accompanied by all the rentals due since the date the lease terminated under the law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margie Dupre, BLM, New Mexico State Office, at (505) 438-7520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: No valid lease has been issued that affect the lands. The lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals and royalties of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof, per year, and 16 2/3 percent, respectively. The lessee paid the required \$500.00 administrative fee for the reinstatement of the lease and \$166.00 cost for publishing this Notice in the **Federal Register**. The lessee met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). We are proposing to reinstate leases TXNM 107307 and TXNM 107313, effective the date of termination, December 1, 2007, under the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: September 25, 2008.

Margie Dupre,

Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team.

[FR Doc. E8-23104 Filed 9-30-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-056-5853-ES; N-84739; 8-08807; TAS:14X5232]

Notice of Realty Action: Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes of Public Lands in Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a request for lease and subsequent conveyance of approximately 19.375 acres of public land in the City of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act. The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) proposes to use the land for a public Park and Ride bus facility.

DATES: Interested parties may submit written comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance of the lands until November 17, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to the BLM Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimber Liebhauser, (702) 515-5088.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following described land in Clark County, Nevada, has been examined and found suitable for lease and subsequent conveyance under the provisions of the R&PP Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The parcel of land is located north of Elkhorn Road, between North Durango Drive and the U.S. Highway 95 and is legally described as:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 19 S., R. 60 E.,

Sec. 17, a portion of Government Lot 19 (NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂SE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, N¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, N¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄).

The area described contains 19.375 acres, more or less.

This description will be replaced by additional lot designation on final approval of the official plat of survey.

In accordance with the R&PP Act, the RTC has filed an application to develop the described land as a public Park and Ride facility with related facilities to meet the growing travel demands between the northwest part of the Las Vegas valley and the resort corridor. Related facilities include a terminal building with a waiting area, restrooms