

- Visual impacts from potential development.
- Cumulative impacts associated with geothermal leasing, including the potential for exploration and development operation.

The BLM will use a combination of scoping periods, public meetings, and the NEPA process to satisfy the public involvement process required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be contacted by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. Agencies or organizations with technical expertise or jurisdictional authority will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies during the NEPA analysis and environmental review.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendment in order to consider the resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping. The planning process will include specialists with expertise in rangeland management, minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, law enforcement, archaeology, botany, wildlife, fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, vegetation, and fire. Notification of the planning process will be sent to the Governor of Colorado, county commissioners, local tribes and potentially affected members of the public. The public is encouraged to help identify questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to the existing SLRA RMP. The BLM land use planning regulations require the BLM to publish, and provide for public review of, the proposed planning criteria that will guide the RMP amendment process. Planning criteria are the constraints, standards, and guidelines that determine what the BLM will or will not consider during its planning process. As such, they establish parameters and help focus analysis of the issues identified in scoping and structure the preparation of the EA and proposed RMP amendment. The BLM welcomes public comment on

the following proposed planning criteria,

1. The BLM will continue to manage the SLRA in accordance with FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701. *et seq.*), other applicable laws and regulations, and all existing public land laws.

2. The BLM will use a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional approach with local, state, tribal, and Federal agencies to jointly determine the desired future condition of public lands and provide consistency with their existing plans and policies, to the extent that those plans and policies are consistent with Federal law governing the administration of public land.

3. The BLM will limit its amendment of the RMP to geothermal resource leasing and development issues and will not address management of other resources. The BLM will consider and analyze the impacts from this increased use on other BLM-managed resource values.

4. The BLM will address the socioeconomic impacts of the alternatives.

5. The amendment process will follow the FLPMA planning process and include an EA that will comply with NEPA standards, and an EIS, if a Finding of No Significant Impact cannot be reached.

6. The BLM will consider environmental protection and energy production as both are desirable and necessary objectives of sound land management practices and not to be considered mutually exclusive priorities.

7. The BLM will prepare the EA in compliance with the Geothermal Steam Act, as amended, and the legislative directives set forth in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

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.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

John Mehlhoff,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-22737 Filed 9-10-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Public Laws 92-463 and 94-579, that the California Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, will participate in a field tour of BLM-administered public lands on Friday, October 1, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will meet in formal session on Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the BLM Needles Field Office, 1303 S Highway 95, Needles, CA 92363.

Agenda topics will include updates by Council members and reports from the BLM District Manager and five field office managers. Final agenda items, including details of the field tour, will be posted on the BLM California state Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/rac/dac.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Desert District Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Public comment for items not on the agenda will be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting Saturday morning. Time for public comment may be made available by the Council Chairman during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the end of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

While the Saturday meeting is tentatively scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the meeting could conclude prior to 4:30 p.m. should the Council conclude its presentations and discussions. Therefore, members of the public interested in a particular agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the California Desert District Advisory Council, c/o Bureau of Land Management, External Affairs, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Briery, BLM California Desert District External Affairs (951) 697-5220.

Dated: August 31, 2010.

Teresa A. Raml,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 2010-22678 Filed 9-10-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P