

2 will be accepted for 30-days following issuance of the final Plan. The plan will become effective when all protests have been resolved and a Decision Record is signed by the authorized officer.

**Julia Dougan,**  
Area Manager.

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[UT-046-05-4210-0-03-5]

**Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Plan Amendment to Virgin River Management Framework Plan, UT**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed plan amendment to the Virgin River Management Framework Plan (MFP).

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to advise the public that the Bureau of Land Management is preparing an EIS to consider proposed amendments to the land use plan that guides management of public lands within the Dixie Resource Area located in Washington County, Utah. The proposed amendment would consider alternatives for additional opportunities for land tenure adjustments.

**DATES:** The comment period for the preliminary issues and planning criteria identified for the proposed plan amendments will commence with publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted on or before July 5, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Crisp, Area Manager, Dixie Resource Area, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84770. Existing planning documents and information are available at the above address or telephone (801) 673-4654, Ext. 201. Comments on the proposed plan amendment should be sent to the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Dixie Resource Area of the Cedar City District, BLM, is proposing to amend the Virgin River MFP, to allow for land tenure adjustments not previously identified in the MFP. The main purpose is to identify and analyze lands that could be exchanged and result in acquisition of special status species habitat including desert tortoise habitat and to consider exchange criteria under which future land exchanges could take place. Lands transferred out of Federal ownership to private, state and municipal interests, as a result of the exchanges would be

available to meet the various needs of the respective parties. Where there are specific uses proposed on lands identified for exchange, those uses will be analyzed. This would include the potential use of public lands as an area for water overflow storage associated with the Sand Hollow Reservoir that is proposed to be built on adjacent private land. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to analyze the impacts of this proposal and alternatives. This notice begins the BLM planning scoping process. Additional public meetings and scoping will occur during the development of this EIS.

Preliminary planning issues have been identified to consist of possible adverse impacts to public lands once removed from public ownership, conflicts or controversy surrounding the use of public lands for the "overflow" of water from adjacent private lands, economic impacts, impacts on other natural resource and special status species from land disposal.

The following preliminary planning criteria have been identified and set the parameters under which land exchanges may take place:

1. The action results in a net gain of important and manageable resource values on public land such as Desert Tortoise and other T&E species habitat, crucial wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, high quality riparian area, live water, or areas key to the maintenance of productive ecosystems.
2. The action ensures the accessibility of public lands in areas where access is needed and cannot otherwise be obtained.
3. The action is essential to allow effective management on public lands in areas where consolidation of ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives.
4. The action results in acquisition of lands that serve a national priority as identified in Federal policy directives.

The following disciplines will be utilized for interdisciplinary input through out the NEPA process: Archeologist, Lands and Realty Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, Range Conservationist, Botanist, Mineral Specialist and Geologist, Certified Appraiser, Engineer, Planning Specialist, Soils Scientist and Hydrologist.

The present land use plan for the Dixie Resource Area is the Virgin River Management Framework Plan (MFP) prepared in 1977. This land use plan is being revised and updated through preparation of a newer and more comprehensive Dixie Resource Management Plan (RMP) but the completion date is uncertain at this

time. The planning amendment now being initiated will amend either the Virgin River MFP or the Dixie RMP, which ever is the current document at the time this amendment is completed.

**G. William Lamb,**  
Acting State Director.

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[AZ-040-05-1040 00]

**Notice of Meeting for the Gila Box Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given in accordance with 43 CFR 1780 that a meeting of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA) Advisory Committee will be held.

**DATES:** July 14, 1995, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Safford District Office.

**ADDRESSES:** BLM Safford District Office, 711 14th Ave., Safford, Arizona.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NCA Advisory Committee was established by Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 to provide input to the Safford District on management of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA). The Committee is continuing work on the Gila Box Interdisciplinary Activity Plan, which will be completed by December 1995.

The agenda for the meeting includes (1) refine management actions and (2) finalize preferred alternative.

All meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Committee between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. or may file written statements for consideration by the Committee. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must contact the BLM Gila Resource Area Manager at least two working days prior to the meeting. Written statements are also accepted at any time during preparation of the draft plan, and will be reviewed by the committee.

Statements should be mailed to Elmer Walls, Team Leader, Gila Resource Area, 711 14th Ave., Safford, Arizona 85546.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the Safford District Office and will be available for public inspection (during regular business hours) within 30 days after each meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Meg Jensen, Gila Resource Area Manager, or Elmer Walls, Team Leader, 711 14th Ave.,