SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.5-5), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will consider a proposed amendment to the Bishop Resource Area Management Plan.

The proposed plan amendment would evaluate the potential wilderness suitability of eight Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Bishop Resource Area. An environmental assessment would be prepared to identify the environmental consequences of this action and determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement is needed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bishop Resource Area proposes to determine if eight Section 202 WSAs potentially qualify for wilderness designation based on the mandatory criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577). The WSAs were designated in 1979. They qualified for WSA designation only when considered in combination with similar wilderness values of adjacent United States Forest Service wilderness study areas. The Forest Service referred to their study areas as “RARE II Further Planning Areas”.

Without the adjoining Forest Service lands, the Bureau’s Section 202 WSAs would not have met minimum size requirements and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation opportunities.

The Forest Service RARE II areas were identified as nonsuitable for wilderness and released from further wilderness review.

The Bureau proposes to determine each Section 202 WSA’s wilderness suitability potential as per the Wilderness Act criteria, recommend an administrative land use designation based on wilderness suitability potential, and prepare an environmental assessment.

The Section 202 WSAs to be evaluated are located in Inyo and Mono Counties. Several contain multiple land parcels. The WSAs include the following:

1. CA-010-060—Paiute WSA—(3 parcels—7,600 total acres)
2. CA-010-063—Coyote Southeast WSA—(5 parcels—3,211 total acres)
3. CA-010-065—Black Canyon WSA—(3 parcels—total 6,518 acres)
4. CA-010-068—Wheeler Ridge WSA—(2 parcels—3,197 total acres)

5. CA-010-072—Laurel-McGee WSA—(1 parcel—110 acres)
6. CA-010-075—White Mountain WSA—(9 parcels—1,260 total acres)
7. CA-010-077—Benton Range WSA—(2 parcels—4,052 total acres)
8. CA-010-103—Sweetwater WSA—(1 parcel—960 acres)

Public participation is an integral part of the planning and environmental review process. For 30 days commencing the date of this notice, citizens are formally requested to identify issues related to wilderness value identification, including designation recommendations for the Section 202 WSAs. Relevant comments will be incorporated into the planning process and environmental assessment. Upon completion of the draft plan amendment and environmental assessment, a 60 day public comment period will take place.

DATES: Citizens are invited to submit or provide any information that may help the Bureau prepare this amendment and environmental assessment. Written comments must be submitted no later than August 12, 1996, to the following address: Ms. Genivieve D. Rasmussen, 785 N. Main Street, Ste. E, Bishop, CA 93514. Citizens submitting comments will automatically be included on a mailing list to receive a copy of the Proposed Plan and Environmental Assessment when available.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Genivieve D. Rasmussen, Area Manager, Bishop Resource Area.

Dated: July 2, 1996.

Leslie M. Cone,
District Manager.

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[OR-957-00-142-00; G6-0200]

Filing of Plats of Survey; Oregon/Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.