

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Indian Gaming Management Staff, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202) 219-4068.

Dated: February 21, 1997.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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Bureau of Land Management

(AZ-020-07-1430-00; AZA 29960)

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environment Assessment Analyzing the Impacts of the Proposed Exchange of Approximately 4,300 Acres of Public Land in Maricopa County and up to 700 Acres of Private Land Within the Saguaro National Park Boundaries in Pima County, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Land Management intends to prepare an environmental assessment for the exchange of public lands in Maricopa County, Arizona for private lands of equal value in Pima County, Arizona.

1. Identification of the geographic areas involved: The proposed land exchange involves approximately 4,300 acres of public lands currently managed by the Phoenix Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, that are located southwest of Lake Pleasant (south of State Highway 74) near Phoenix, Arizona. The private lands to be offered in exchange (up to 700 acres) are within the Saguaro National boundaries as authorized by Pub. L. 103-364, October 14, 1994.

2. At a minimum, the no action alternative and an alternative that considers the proposed action will be analyzed.

3. General types of issues anticipated: the proposed land exchange involves issues related to the natural resource values and uses of public lands in question. Issues to be fully analyzed will involve impacts on water resources, native vegetation, wildlife, recreation, socioeconomic, public access, grazing allotments, minerals and cultural resources.

4. Disciplines to be represented and used to prepare the environmental assessment: wildlife, biology, recreation,

reality, range, socioeconomic, geology and archaeology.

DATES: The kind and extent of public participation: Public open house scoping meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

Tucson Open House, March 26, 1997 4-8 p.m. at the Picture Rocks Retreat, 7101 W. Picture Rocks Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Phoenix Open House, March 27, 1997 4-8 p.m. Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office Conference Room, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona (602) 780-8090.

Written comments may be submitted during the public meeting or to the address given in the section below. Public comments will be accepted until 30 days after the publication of this Notice.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the Environmental Assessment should be submitted to Bureau of Land Management, Attn. Shela McFarlin, Project Manager, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shela McFarlin, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027, phone (602) 780-8090.

Dated: March 5, 1997.

William T. Childress,

Resource Advisor.

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(AZ-930-07-1020-00)

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Plan Amendment of Land Use Plans in Arizona for Implementation of Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Environmental Assessment Summary

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, an environmental assessment (EA) on the Statewide Plan Amendment for Implementation of Arizona Standards and Guidelines has been prepared. The Proposed Plan Amendment would amend Arizona Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans (Resource Management Plans, Management Framework Plans, and amendments) containing decisions

that conflict with Arizona Standards and Guidelines. The modified decisions will bring the affected plans and Arizona Standards and Guidelines into conformance.

The EA assessed the impacts associated with modifying land use plan decisions. An analysis of potential environmental impacts found that impacts would not be significant, resulting in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

DATES: Protests on the proposed decisions in the Proposed Plan Amendment for Implementation of Arizona Standards and Guidelines must be postmarked by April 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Protests must be sent to Director (210); Bureau of Land Management; 1849 C Street, NW; MS-1000LS; Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Mahoney, Team Leader, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, Telephone: (602) 417-9238.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Three alternatives are considered in the EA. The no action alternative (continuation of current management) provides a baseline for comparison with other alternatives. The Proposed Action modifies land use plan decisions which conflict with Arizona Standards and Guidelines. This action affects decisions in the Safford and Yuma Resource Management Plans. Alternative A analyzes the effects of decision changes which would be needed if the Fallback Standards and Guidelines, contained in 43 CFR 4180, were to be adopted. Alternative A would affect decisions in the Arizona Strip, Safford, and Yuma Resource Management Plans.

Arizona Standards and Guidelines were developed in partnership with the Arizona Resource Advisory Council and with other public involvement.

Other Relevant Information

The proposed decision is subject to a 30-day protest period as required by BLM planning regulations. Any person who participated in this planning process and has an interest that may be adversely affected by the proposed decision may submit a protest following the procedures provided in 43 CFR 1610.5-2.

Following the resolution of any protest and Governor's consistency review, a final decision on the Statewide Plan Amendment for Implementation of Arizona Standards and Guidelines will be documented in