

EFFECTIVE DATES: July 28, 1997, through December 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins District Office, Great Divide Resource Area, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Calton, Range Management Specialist, (307) 328-4210.

Kurt J. Kotter,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-16724 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-035-1110-00]

Revised Notice of Intent To Amend the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (RMP)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Revision of the original Notice of Intent to amend the Medicine Lodge RMP, and to prepare the supporting environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: In November, 1996, the BLM received requests from Fremont and Jefferson Counties to modify the terms and conditions of their existing rights-of-way for the Egin-Hamer Road. On December 19, 1996, the BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to consider amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. The scoping process officially ended on January 31, 1997. The right-of-way modifications proposed by the Counties would eliminate the existing seasonal closure from December 1 through March 31 and allow the road to remain open year-round, subject to terms and conditions appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Modifying the seasonal limitations of the rights-of-way would require amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. An environmental assessment will be prepared to analyze the effects of the proposed right-of-way modifications and land use plan amendment.

Based on formal scoping a new alternative was developed following collaboration among the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, BLM and both Counties. The new alternative to be analyzed is based upon (a) eliminating the current seasonal road closure as the Counties desire, (b) seasonally restricting human entry to existing main roads only within approximately 200,000 acres of BLM-administered land on both sides of the Egin-Hamer Road and (c) terms and conditions

appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Securing a seasonal, area-wide closure on federal, state and private lands would require a combined effort by the BLM, Idaho Department of Lands and the Counties involved. County ordinances would be needed to enforce a closure on private lands. The contention is that such an alternative would allow year-round use of the road for the general public without increasing the net disturbance to wintering elk. Seasonal closure of land adjacent to the Egin-Hamer Road would also require amending the current land use plan and will, therefore, be considered in this Proposed Amendment/EA.

DATES: Although the scoping period has officially ended, several open houses are scheduled. Should unanticipated events require rescheduling any or all of the open houses, the changes will be noticed in local newspapers and letters to interested parties no less than 1 week prior to the revised date(s). Public open houses are scheduled to be held at the following locations and times:

- (1) 7/17/97 (Thursday)—Fremont County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
- (2) 7/18/97 (Friday)—Jefferson County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
- (3) 7/21/97 (Monday)—Clark County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The open houses will allow the Counties, IDF&G and BLM to collectively provide information about the proposal to the public and to answer questions about the Counties' proposal prior to BLM completing and mailing the Proposed Amendment/EA. When completed (current time frame of August, 1997) the BLM will mail the Proposed Amendment/EA to members of the interested public for a 30-day review and comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Gardetto, Bureau of Land Management, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. (208) 524-7545.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1988, rights-of-way were issued to Fremont County and Jefferson County for use along the Egin-Hamer Road. The 10-mile gravel road connects the communities of Egin and Hamer in southeastern Idaho (T.7N., R.38E., Boise Meridian). As early as 1983 concerns about effects of vehicle travel on wintering elk populations prompted an eventual amendment to the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan. The September 1987 amendment closed the area to vehicle use from December 1 through March 31 of each year. The current seasonal closure of the Egin-Hamer Road, itself, was incorporated as one of the terms

and conditions to the rights-of-way issued to the Counties.

Dated: June 19, 1997.

Joe Kraayenbrink,

Area Manager, Medicine Lodge Resource Area.

[FR Doc. 97-16888 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-07-1820-00-1784]

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; Resource Advisory Council meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet on Thursday, July 10, 1997, in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will not comply with the 15-day minimum notification period required by the Code of Federal Regulations at Title 41, Part 101-6.1015(b)(1). The notification period was not met because of difficulty in securing a meeting facility.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401; telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The July 10, 1997, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Railroad Depot, 728 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte, Colorado. The agenda will include discussions on the proposed Gunnison sage grouse conservation plan and follow-up discussion on the Hartman Rocks motocross issue. Time will be provided for public comments.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Montrose District Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the