

submitted at the meeting or mailed to the address below prior to the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries about the meeting should be sent to External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teresa McPherson at (907) 271-5555.
Date: July 10, 1997

Tom Allen,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-912-07-0777-52]

Notice of Meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

SUMMARY: On August 18 and 19, 1997, Utah's Resource Advisory Council will take a first-hand look at the agency effort to rehabilitate the fire-scarred areas of Cove Fort and the Little Sahara Recreation Area. The Council will discuss the issue of fire rehab within the State. The RAC will receive a preliminary report, from the subgroup of the RAC, of their initial findings during this meeting.

A public comment period is scheduled for August 19, from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. in the Fillmore Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 35 East 500 North, Fillmore, Utah. RAC meetings are open to the public; however, transportation, meals, and overnight accommodations are the responsibility of the participating public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public interested in attending the fire rehabilitation tour or desiring an opportunity to address the Council should contact Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111; phone (801) 539-4195.

Date: July 17, 1997.

G. William Lamb,
Utah BLM State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-07-1610-00]

Availability of Proposed Plan Amendment Regarding Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Box Elder Resource Management Plan, Salt Lake District, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed plan amendment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake District, has completed an Environmental Analysis/Finding of No Significant Impact of the Proposed Plan Amendment to the Box Elder Resource Management Plan (RMP). This notice of availability addresses designation of two new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and proposes to amend two existing ACECs.

DATES: The protest period for the proposed ACECs will commence with the date of publication of this notice and last for 30 days. Protests must be received on or before August 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Protests must be addressed to the Director (WO-210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Stephenson, Environmental Specialist/Planner, Salt Lake District Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119, (801) 977-4317. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and Proposed Plan Amendment are available for review at the Salt Lake District Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed plan amendment designates two new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Salt Wells Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) and Blue Springs WHA, and amends two existing ACECs, Donner Creek/Bettridge Creek, and Central Pacific Railroad Grade. Salt Wells WHA, 5,389 public areas, and Blue Springs WHA, 5,715 public areas, provide crucial habitat for numerous wildlife species. The Donner/Bettridge Creek ACEC would be increased by a 40 acre parcel, and all current management decisions would apply to this parcel. The Central Pacific Railroad Grade ACEC would be modified to encompass the grade for a width of 400 feet, for 90 miles from Golden Spike National Historical Site (Golden Spike) to Lucin, from Golden Spike on the west to Stinky Springs on the east (13.5 miles), and 232

acres of land which involves the Union Pacific Railroad grade. This ACEC designation protects the historical integrity and associated values of the grades, townsites, and artifacts located in the vicinity of the grades.

The following management prescriptions are proposed for each ACEC.

Salt Wells ACEC Prescriptions

Grazing: The livestock grazing season of use would be changed to the winter period, if the permittee agrees to the change. If spring grazing continues, the area should be fenced to create pastures for the Salt Wells Allotments. If grazing permits are relinquished within the Salt Wells WHA, these areas would be closed to grazing to protect the wetland values.

Mineral Development: Oil & gas leasing would be subject to Category 3 (No Surface Occupancy) stipulation. A land withdrawal from the operation of the public land laws and location and entry under the United States Mining laws is proposed.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV): The Salt Wells WHA (excluding the county roads) would be "closed" to OHV use.

Blue Springs ACEC Prescriptions

Land Tenure Adjustments: Acquired lands within the state managed Public Shooting Grounds Wildlife Management Area would only be available for disposal to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources through an exchange where similar wildlife habitat or habitat of T&E or sensitive wildlife species is acquired by the BLM.

Grazing: Grazing would continue at current levels, class of livestock and season of use as that described in the Box Elder RMP for those lands located within the Blue Springs WHA. If grazing permits are relinquished within the Blue Springs WHA, these areas would be closed to grazing to protect the wetland values.

Mineral Development: Oil & gas leasing would be subject to Category 3 (No Surface Occupancy) stipulation. A land withdrawal from the operation of the public land laws and location and entry under the United States Mining laws is proposed.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV): The Blue Springs WHA would be "closed" to OHV use.

Donner/Bettridge Creek ACEC Prescriptions

This parcel is located adjacent to the existing ACEC and would be managed according to the goals and objectives of the existing management plan, and have the same restrictions or limitations to