

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise the public that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to adopt the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) addressing oil and gas leasing for lands within Duchesne and Wasatch Counties, Utah, upon the Ashley and Uinta National Forests and of the availability of the BLM's Record of Decision (ROD).

DATES: The public has 30 days from the date of this notice to appeal this decision in accordance with the instructions provided in this Notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) addressing oil and gas leasing for lands within Duchesne and Wasatch Counties upon the Ashley and Uinta National Forests has been prepared by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM. National and local agreements between the two agencies identified the USFS as the lead agency for preparing the analysis with BLM participating as a cooperating agency as described in 40 CFR 1501.6.

The FEIS addresses the potential impacts of leasing on lands within the Ashley and Uinta National Forests and identifies which areas are available for leasing and any stipulations that will be attached to leases. The two Forest Service Plans have been amended to be consistent with the decisions reached in the ROD. The Mineral Leasing Act on 1920, as amended, provides the Secretary of the Interior the authority to issue oil and gas leases on lands where the oil and gas rights are held by the Federal Government. This authority has been delegated to the BLM. The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 requires BLM to obtain the consent of the Secretary of Agriculture before issuing oil and gas leases on National Forest System lands. Authority to consent has been delegated to Forest Supervisors.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1506.3(c), BLM is adopting the FEIS for the purpose of issuing oil and gas leases within Duchesne and Wasatch Counties of the Ashley and Uinta National Forests. BLM actively participated in the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS's and independently reviewed each document. Department of the Interior, as well as public comments and concerns, have been satisfactorily addressed in the FEIS. The FEIS complies with NEPA and meets the requirements of the regulations for implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 CFR part 1600). BLM's preferred alternative is Alternative 3 as

described in the FEIS (the USFS preferred alternative).

Copies of the FEIS are available from the Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah, 84078, and Uinta National Forest, 100 West 88 North, Provo, Utah, 84601. Public reading copies are available at the following BLM locations: Utah State Office, 324 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, and Vernal District Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah, 84078.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations in 43 CFR part 4. The Appellant has the burden of showing the decision appealed from is in error. If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Fouts, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145-0155, phone number 801-539-4044 or Jerry Kenczka, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah, 84078, phone number 435-781-4494.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

G. William Lamb,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-08-1020-00]

New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of council meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on February 20, 1998 at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The agenda for the RAC meeting will include a video conference in the morning with the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management on Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing and RAC success stories. (Other RACs in other States will also be included in the video conference). Additional agenda item in the afternoon include a briefing on (1) Implementation of the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing, (2) the Southwest Strategy and (3) the Automated Lands Minerals Records System (ALMRS).

The meeting will begin on February 20, 1998 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public. The time for the public to address the RAC is on the Friday, February 20, 1998, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The RAC may reduce or extend the end time of 4:00 p.m. depending on the number of people wishing to address the RAC. The length of time available for each person to address the RAC will be established at the start of the public comment period and will depend on how many people there are that wish to address the RAC. At the completion of the public comments the RAC may continue discussion on its Agenda items. The meeting on February 20, 1998, will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The end time of 4:00 p.m. for the meeting may be changed depending on the work remaining for the RAC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Armstrong, New Mexico State Office, Planning and Policy Team, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7436.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: January 9, 1998

Richard A. Whitley,

Deputy State Director.

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