

Tribe or local government, (2) existing or potential serious deterioration of public land, (3) possible significant impacts, and (4) proposed uses which may or may not be in the best public interest and which may be in substantial conflict with other uses.

The basic issue to be addressed in the statewide wilderness plan amendment process is whether or not selected inventory areas should be designated as WSAs. All other facets, as noted below, contribute to resolving this basic issue. The three items listed here as the scoping topics are the essential factors which will be applied by BLM in making decisions relative to this issue.

Scoping comments must specifically address areas in the inventory that the BLM determined have wilderness characteristics, including:

(a) Any, additional information concerning wilderness characteristics in the wilderness inventory units,

(b) Information regarding the manageability of potential WSAs. Such information may address things such as valid existing rights which could be exercised (developed) within the next ten to fifteen years and thereby preclude effective management under the IMP,

(c) Specific information on other resource uses within each wilderness inventory unit which should be considered. Such uses could involve grazing practices, rights of way, corridor development of use, recreation development or mechanical uses, off highway vehicle use, development for mineral extraction, or oil and gas exploration and production.

The preliminary alternatives are identified: (1) No Action—Under this alternative none of the inventory areas would be designated as WSAs and the lands would continue to be managed according to the existing land use plans; (2) All Areas Would be Designated as WSAs—all acreage in the inventory areas with wilderness characteristics would be designated as WSAs, and IMP would be applied to all lands, and (3) Selected WSAs—Under one or more of the alternatives, some of the acreage or portions of acreage in the inventory areas with wilderness characteristics would be designated as WSAs and IMP would be applied, while other areas would not be designated as WSAs. In presenting these alternatives, the EIS would provide information and analysis to identify impacts associated with each alternative.

Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and other factors identified by interdisciplinary teams and managers for use in formulating judgements about data collection, analysis, and decision making. These criteria assist in focusing

the subject matter, clarifying, and simplifying subsequent prescribed resource management planning actions by setting forth basic standards for deciding and judging certain components of the planning actions.

The 43 CFR part 1600 regulations require the consideration of planning criteria and mandate early public involvement in their development. The preliminary planning criteria to be used in the statewide plan amendment process are as follows:

1. BLM will amend the RMPs or MFPs based on the information contained in the Utah Wilderness Inventory of 1999 as considered in this planning/NEPA process.

2. All Federal laws (such as the Clean Water Act, Archeological Resource Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, etc) will be recognized and followed as they apply to this planning/NEPA process.

3. To the extent possible under Federal law, and within the framework of proper long-term management of the public lands, BLM will strive to ensure that its management prescriptions and planning actions take into consideration related programs, plans, or policies of other resource agencies. This will include the formal consistency review by the State of Utah Governor's office. BLM will work closely with the Governor's Office to help facilitate the consistency review process.

4. BLM will provide local, State and Federal agencies a copy of the Draft EIS with a written request to comment. Agencies may identify in writing any inconsistencies with formally approved land use plans or their related jurisdictions.

5. Existing WSAs will continue to be managed under the provisions of the IMP. The current plan amendment process will not revisit previous suitability recommendations for the existing WSAs. IMP will not be applied to any inventory unit that has not been designated as a WSA.

6. Planning decisions eventually made through this BLM process will apply only to (Federal) public lands.

7. All valid existing rights will continued to be recognized.

8. When WSAs are designated, the following recommended standards will be used to locate boundaries:

- 300 feet from high standard paved roads,
- 100 feet from high standard graveled roads,
- 30 feet from low standard dirt roads.

Exceptions may be granted to the above setbacks if resource conditions warrant.

9. The plan amendment process will address OHV designations in the inventory areas, consistent with the provisions of the IMP as necessary to protect wilderness characteristics.

Throughout the preparation of the Statewide EIS and Multiple Plan Amendments, the public will have several opportunities to provide input, and review information, and will be asked to comment on the draft EIS. This will be done via Internet and regular mail. All who desire to be on the mailing list should contact the BLM at the address given above.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

**Linda Colville,**

*Utah Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-6573 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1220-00]

#### Central California Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Meeting of the Central California Resource Advisory Council

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for Central California will meet in the Carrizo Plain and San Luis Obispo, California.

**DATES:** March 29-30, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Guy L. Goodwin Education and Visitor Center, Carrizo Plain Natural Area, Apple Farm Restaurant, 2015 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, Holiday Inn Express, 1800 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 12 member Central California Resource Advisory Council is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. The Council will meet for a tour of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area beginning at 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 29 at the Guy L. Goodwin Education and Visitor Center, located just off Soda Lake Road, about five miles south of Soda Lake in eastern San Luis Obispo County, California. The Council will travel to the city of San Luis Obispo for a dinner meeting that evening at the Apple Farm Restaurant beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, the

Council will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Holiday Inn Express, 1800 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo. Agenda items will include a discussion of giant Sequoia ecology, fees and guidelines for recreation on public land, the distribution of range improvement funds, and agricultural land retirement in the Central Valley. A public comment period is scheduled beginning at 11:00 a.m., March 30. Anyone may discuss any public land issue with the Council at that time. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting, or at the address below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Mercer, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308, telephone 661-391-6010.

Dated: March 9, 1999.

**John Skibinski,**

*Associate Field Office Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-6604 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-99-1610-00]

#### Land Use Restrictions: Utah; Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; Off-Highway Vehicle Use

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of a temporary closure to off-highway vehicle use for protection of the Kodachrome Bladder Pod (*Lesquerella tumulosa*) endangered plant species near Kodachrome Basin, Utah.

**SUMMARY:** This notice closes approximately 3,062 acres to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, with one designated route within the closed area. OHV access on the designated route, Rock Springs Bench Road, will remain open. Access and use on private land are not affected by this closure. The legal descriptions for the closed area is: All of T38S R02W Sections 23, 22, 21 and the parts of T38S R02W Sections 15, 16, and 17 that are within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument boundaries. Temporary fencing and signing may be used as necessary to facilitate this action. The authority for this action is 43 CFR 8341.2.

**DATES:** This closure will begin immediately and remain in effect pending completion of a Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Management Plan, which is expected to be completed by the fall of 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of maps are available at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Office, 337 S. Main, Suite 010, Cedar City, Utah, 84720.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom Leatherman, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Office, at (435) 865-5107.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 3,062 acre habitat includes the area near Kodachrome Basin State Park. The Bladder Pod was listed as an endangered plant species on October 6, 1993. Most of the area is currently designated as open to OHV use as documented in the Paria Management Framework Plan completed in 1981. Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, BLM is required to protect the habitat for all listed species. Monitoring plots were established in 1997 to determine changes in the population. In 1998, when these plots were visited, mortality from OHV use was documented. An interdisciplinary team was assigned to review the protection requirements and determine appropriate actions to protect this population. The team determined impairment was occurring and that closure of the area was appropriate to protect this species. Therefore, BLM is temporarily closing the area to OHV use. The Rock Springs Bench Road, a designated OHV access route, will remain open. Access and use on private lands in the area is not affected by these restrictions.

**G. William Lamb,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-05;N-63021 and N-63022]

#### Notice of Realty Action Lease/ conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

**ACTION:** Recreation and public purpose lease/conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for lease/conveyance for recreational or public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The City of Las

Vegas proposes to use the land for a Metropolitan Police Academy and Public Park.

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

Park Site:

T. 20S. R. 60E. Sec. 7

N $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$

25 acres

Metropolitan Police Academy:

T. 20S. R. 60E. Sec. 7

S $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$

5 acres

Containing 30 acres, more or less.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The lease/conveyance is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest. The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

and will be subject to:

An easement 50 feet in width along the South boundary, 40 feet in width along the West boundary in favor of the City of Las Vegas for roads, public utilities and flood control purposes.

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.