

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-010-1430-01; MTM 84895, MTM 88157]

**Notice of Intent To Plan Affecting Two Tracts of Public Land in Yellowstone County, Montana****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to plan affecting two tracts of public land in Yellowstone County, Montana.

**SUMMARY:** An environmental assessment will be prepared for amendment of the Billings Resource Management Plan to provide guidance on the management of the Four Dances Natural Area and the Sundance Lodge Recreation Area. The Billings Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in 1984. There is no land use planning guidance for the Sundance Lodge Recreation Area acquired in 1997 or the Four Dances Natural Area which was acquired in 1999. The environmental assessment will meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The document will guide future management decisions for the two acquired properties.

**DATES:** Any issues, concerns, or alternatives should be submitted to the BLM at the below address on or before August 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David C. Jaynes, Assistant Field Manager, BLM, 810 East Main Street, Billings, Montana 59105 or call 406-238-1540.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Sundance Lodge Recreation Area (MTM 84895), formerly the Altman Ranch, was acquired in 1997 and contains approximately 379.9 surface and mineral acres of bottom land along the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, located two miles southeast of Laurel, Montana.

The Four Dances Natural Area (MTM 88157), formerly the Larsen property, or Sacrifice Cliff, was acquired in 1999 and contains approximately 765 surface and mineral acres of land along the Yellowstone River. The open space values of this land are protected by a conservation easement that is held by the Montana Land Reliance and any use, land management, or development on this property will be done in conformance with this easement. Approximately 10 percent of the property is riparian land along the Yellowstone River with the remainder uplands on a plateau approximately 250 feet above the river overlooking Billings,

Montana. The overall objective for the plan is to manage these areas for recreation while protecting scenic, cultural, and wildlife values.

The public is requested to assist the BLM in the identification of issues. Examples of potential issues are: what types of recreational activities will be allowed, what types of facilities will be constructed, and what types of land treatments would be allowed. Meetings for the proposed RMP amendment are not yet scheduled. When meetings are scheduled the public will be notified through local news releases.

Dated: June 4, 1999.

**Sandra S. Brooks,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-14816 Filed 6-10-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-130-1020-00: GP9-0201]

**Notice of Meeting of Standards for Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing Guidelines Subgroup of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District.**ACTION:** Meeting of the Standards for Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing Guidelines Subgroup of the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council; Spokane, Washington, July 13, 1999.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the Standards for Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing Guidelines Subgroup of Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council will be held on July 13, 1999. The meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. at the Spokane District Office of The Bureau of Land Management, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington; 99212-1275. The meeting will adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m.. The meeting will consist of a field demonstration of techniques to assess achievement of rangeland health standards along Crab Creek in Lincoln County, Washington. Those wishing to join the tour at Tokio, Washington may do so at 9:30 a.m. Public comments will be heard from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. If necessary to accommodate all wishing to make public comments, a time limit may be placed upon each speaker.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Hubbard, Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District Office, 1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane,

Washington 99212-1275; or call 509-536-1200.

Dated: June 4, 1999.

**Joseph K. Buesing,**

*District Manager.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****National Park Service****Notice of Scoping for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, Yosemite National Park; Mariposa and Madera Counties, California**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (Pub. L. 91-190) and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90-542), the National Park Service is initiating public scoping for a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for a Merced River Management Plan for river segments in Yosemite National Park. This will culminate with a river management plan that comprehensively encompasses protection and enhancement of the values for which Merced River was designated as a Wild and Scenic River. The plan will address resource protection, potential development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The purpose of this scoping phase is to elicit early public comments regarding issues and concerns, a suitable range of alternatives and appropriate mitigation measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts which should be addressed.

**Background**

In 1987 Congress designated 122 miles of the Merced River as Wild and Scenic, including 81 miles within Yosemite National Park. Subsequently the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service jointly completed a comprehensive river management plan for Merced River segments outside of Yosemite National Park. The National Park Service is now initiating planning for the remaining segments. The two segments subject to this effort are the Merced River (the main stem, originating near Mt. Lyell and meandering through Yosemite Valley and flowing out of the park near El Portal) and the South Fork (originating near Triple Divide Peak and flowing out of the park near Wawona). In accord with the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the river segments within Yosemite