

of additional Fruitland CBM wells and associated facilities on multi-jurisdictional lands (BLM, USFS, and non-federal) within the San Juan Basin of southwestern Colorado. The EIS will address environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with drilling, production and eventual abandonment of these additional Fruitland CBM wells. The EIS will also disclose direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of projected CBM development on non-federal land within the described area.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until June 1, 2000. Two public scoping meetings will be held, one beginning at 4:00 p.m. on May 16, 2000 at the BLM/USFS Public Lands Center, Durango, Colorado and the other beginning at 5:00 p.m. on May 17, 2000 at the Bayfield High School, in Bayfield, Colorado.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Field Office Manager, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ilyse Auringer, Jim Powers, or Paul Peck (970) 247-4874.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The objectives of the EIS will be to study and assess the impacts of additional Fruitland CBM drilling and development within the described area of southwestern Colorado. Potential impacts of the proposed action involve various natural and human resources including, geology, water resources, biological (e.g., threatened and endangered species) wildlife, cultural, visual, land use, suburban interface and subdivisions, socioeconomic and others that are identified through the scoping process.

The proposed action will involve federal jurisdictions of the BLM and Forest Service. Two Record of Decisions, one by the BLM and one by the Forest Service will be issued. Much of the BLM jurisdiction is split estate land (where the mineral owner is not the same as the surface owner). Because of the large proportion of private mineral and surface estate contained in the proposed action, La Plata County will participate on this EIS as a Cooperating Agency. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will be an active, though informal, contributor. A memorandum of agreement is anticipated between the BLM, USFS, and La Plata County.

The BLM and Forest Service will issue interim criteria for those proposed Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) received prior to the completion of the EIS and the two Record of Decisions

(ROD's). The interim criteria will define those actions that would not limit the choice of reasonable alternatives and thus may be approved; as well as define those actions that may preclude future options and therefore may not be approved during preparation of the EIS and ROD's. The interim criteria will be subject to their own 30-day public comment period.

It is anticipated that the EIS process will take 24 months to complete and will include public information and meetings. Publication of the two ROD's is anticipated in March 2002. Public information, scoping meetings, and request for input on the EIS will begin with publication of this notice. Written comments must be submitted on or before June 1, 2000.

Dated: March 27, 2000.

**Calvin N. Joyner,**

*San Juan Field Office Manager, BLM, Colorado, and Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest, USFS, Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-700-00-0777-XQ-1784]

#### Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet in May, 2000 in Gunnison, Colorado.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Southwest Center, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; phone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail Roger\_Alexander@co.blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The May 11, 2000 meeting will be held at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds Multipurpose Building, 275 South Spruce Street in Gunnison, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and at approximately 4:30 p.m. The morning agenda will focus on the implementation of BLM Colorado Standards for public land health and Guidelines for livestock grazing and the Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan. General public comment is

scheduled for 9:15 a.m. A field trip to nearby grazing allotments is scheduled during the afternoon session. The public is invited to accompany the RAC on the field trip but will need to provide their own transportation; a four wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the Southwest Center Office and on the World Wide Web at [http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo\\_sw\\_rac.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo_sw_rac.htm) and are available for public inspection and reproduction within thirty (30) days following each meeting.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

**Roger Alexander,**

*Public Affairs Specialist.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** Lower Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Meeting Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Boise. Potential agenda topics are the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the U.S. Air Force Enhanced Training in Idaho project, sage grouse habitat management, implementation of rangeland standards and guidelines, proposed land exchanges and other land management issues.

**DATES:** May 3, 2000. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Public comment periods will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Lower Snake River District Office, located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barry Rose, Lower Snake River District Office (208-384-3393).

Dated: March 29, 2000.

**Katherine Kitchell,**

*District Manager.*

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