

Subcommittee, and the Oil and Gas Subcommittee, are scheduled. These reports are followed by RAC discussions and any RAC recommendations, development of draft agenda items and selection of a location for the next RAC meeting, and a RAC assessment of the current meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary White, Nex Mexico State Office, Office of External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7404.

**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: June 29, 2000.

**M.J. Chavez,**  
*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-17180 Filed 7-6-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-1010-AA]

#### Notice of meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana, Billings and Miles City Field Offices, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council will have a meeting on August 10 at the Forsyth Country Club, Forsyth, Montana starting at 8:00 a.m. Primary agenda topics include an update on coalbed methane development, continued discussion on access, and the status of the Weatherman Draw proposal.

The meeting is open to the public and the public comment period is set for 11 a.m. on August 10. The public may make oral statements before the Council or file written statements for the Council to consider. Depending on the number of persons wishing to make an oral statement, a per person time limit may be established. Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marilyn Krause, Public Affairs Specialist, Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301, telephone (406) 233-2831.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management. The 15 member Council includes individuals who have expertise, education, training or practical experience in the planning and management of public lands and their resources and who have a knowledge of the geographical jurisdiction of the Council.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

**Timothy M. Murphy,**  
*Miles City Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-250-00-1220-PA-24 1A]

#### Notice of Bureau of Land Management National Off-Highway-Vehicle Strategy; Request for Comment

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

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Responding to an increasing public interest in issues surrounding the use of off-highway-vehicles (OHVs) on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is announcing the public involvement phase of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Strategy, seeking public comments on OHV-related issues.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking ideas and solutions from the public on how best to ensure that the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands. The BLM will develop a strategy based on public input to address land-management issues prompted by the growing popularity of OHV use.

**DATES:** You should submit your comments by August 31, 2000. BLM will not necessarily consider comments postmarked or received by messenger or electronic mail after the above date in the decisionmaking process on the OHV strategy.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail: Director (250), Bureau of Land Management, Administrative

Record, Room 204 LS, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

Personal or messenger delivery: Room 204, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Internet e-mail: Special comment site at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov).

Mailer: We will send you an OHV mailer if you contact the Bureau of Land Management at 1849 C Street NW., LSB 406-C, Washington, DC 20240, Attn: Correspondence—WO 615

Other: We will also accept comments at local or State "listening meetings" which will be held by BLM or BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RACs).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rodger E. Schmitt, National Recreation Group Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC, at (202) 452-7771.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The goal of the OHV strategy is to provide local managers a framework for addressing issues such as current OHV designations, executive orders, regulations, trends in management and management approaches, route inventory needs, resource issues, special management and sensitive areas and resources, monitoring, education, law enforcement, and budget.

BLM management of OHVs is guided by Executive Orders 11644 made in 1972 and 11989 made in 1977, when only about five million OHVs were in use nationally. Today, that number has risen dramatically. In addition, technological advances now make it possible for these vehicles to travel over lands that were formerly inaccessible. Many of BLM's land use plans do not adequately address the increases in OHV use. In addition, BLM's budget-related resources—including the number of recreation specialists and law enforcement personnel—have not kept pace with the past decade's growth in OHV use. These factors, plus litigation over OHV management issues, have created the need for a national OHV management strategy.

Comments will be collected through August and will be analyzed and used to help BLM develop guidance for local solutions by November 30. Once the guidance is written, BLM will implement it locally with the help of public and private partners to achieve on-the-ground goals.

**Jack Peterson,**

*Acting National Recreation Group Manager.*

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