

Shoshone Field Office of the BLM, 400 W F Street, Shoshone, Idaho.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Shoshone Field Office of the BLM, in Shoshone, Idaho, during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: For further information and/or to add your name to our mailing list, contact Rick VanderVoet, BLM Shoshone Field Office, PO Box 2-B, Shoshone, Idaho 83352, telephone (208) 732-7200, or James Morris, NPS, Craters of the Moon National Monument, PO Box 29, Arco, ID 83213, telephone (208) 527-3257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The expansion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and the changing needs and interests of the public necessitates development of a new plan for the Monument. Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM and NPS personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent BLM's and NPS's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The issue themes that will be addressed in the plan include, but are not limited to: protection of geologic features, cave management, fire and fuels management, cultural resource management, transportation management, recreation management, livestock grazing, land tenure adjustments, wilderness resource management, and designation of management zones. After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan.
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action.
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category 2 or 3. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include specialists with expertise in minerals and geology, archaeology, rangeland management, outdoor recreation, wildlife, wilderness, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology, and economics. Where necessary, outside expertise may be used.

Background Information: Presidential Proclamation 1694 established the Craters of the Moon National Monument on May 2, 1924 for the purpose of protecting the unusual landscape of the Craters of the Moon lava field. This "lunar" landscape was thought to resemble that of the moon and was described in the Proclamation as a "weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself." Since 1924, Monument has been expanded and boundary adjustments made through four Presidential Proclamations issued pursuant to the Antiquities Act (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431). Presidential Proclamation 1843 of July 23, 1928, expanded the monument to include certain springs for water supply and additional features of scientific interest. Presidential Proclamation 1916 of July 9, 1930, Presidential Proclamation 2499 of July 18, 1941, and Presidential Proclamation 3506 of November 19, 1962, made further adjustments to the boundaries. In 1996, a minor boundary adjustment was made by section 205 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-333, 110 Stat. 4093, 4106). Presidential Proclamation (7373) of November 9, 2000 is the fifth proclamation affecting the Monument. This latest proclamation directed the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management to manage the Monument cooperatively. The BLM and NPS propose to use a combined Resource Management Plan (RMP)/General Management Plan (GMP) process to replace portions of five existing BLM Land Use Plans and one NPS General Management Plan. This single, interagency RMP/GMP will establish management objectives for the entire Craters of the Moon National Monument. The proposed, new land use plan will be a stand-alone, comprehensive plan for the recently expanded Monument, and will serve as "blueprint" for joint management of these lands during the next 10-15 years.

Dated: April 16, 2002.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

Dated: April 17, 2002.

Elaine Marquis-Brong,
Director, National Conservation Landscape System, Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

[AZ 100-02-1610-DO-083A]

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, St. George, Utah; National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to (1) prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument, designated January 11, 2000, (2) prepare a RMP for the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, designated November 9, 2000, and (3) revise the 1992 Arizona Strip RMP. These three actions will require a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These lands are located in Mohave and Coconino Counties, Arizona.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Arizona Strip Field Office. BLM will work in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) for lands administered by the NPS Lake Mead National Recreation Area in the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. Separate plans will be developed for the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. This planning activity encompasses approximately 2,800,000 acres of public land, including 1,052,000 acres in the Grand Canyon Parashant Monument and 293,000 acres in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Park Service Organic Act, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area Enabling Legislation, the two monument proclamations, and the NPS and BLM management policies. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to

identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify planning issues and to develop planning criteria. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the existing RMP in the context of the needs and interests of the public and protection of the objects of historic and scientific interest specified in the proclamations.

Comments: Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meeting locations will be rotated among towns, which could include St. George and Kanab, Utah; Flagstaff, Kingman, Page, and Phoenix, Arizona; and Mesquite and Las Vegas, Nevada. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Grand Canyon Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments and the Arizona Strip Field Office public lands. The publication of this notice will initiate the BLM and NPS scoping comment period. Scoping will last a minimum of 90 days. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. Written comments will be accepted throughout the planning process at the addresses shown below. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, newsletters and the BLM web site (www.az.blm.gov). In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment on the alternatives and upon publication of the joint BLM draft RMP/EIS and NPS draft General Management Plan (GMP)/EIS. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Arizona Strip Field Office located in St. George, Utah. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Arizona Strip Field Office located in St. George, Utah, during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions

from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Dennis Curtis, Telephone 435 688-3202, or Diana Hawks, Telephone 435 688-3266, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790; Fax 435 688-3388; or Jim Holland, Telephone 702 293-8986, National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, Nevada 89005; Fax 702 293-8967.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The designation of Grand Canyon Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments and the changing needs and interests of the public necessitates a revision of the Arizona Strip RMP, 1992, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area GMP, 1986. Two monument plans and a revised RMP for the remaining BLM Arizona Strip area will be combined into one planning effort. These actions require three separate Records of Decision (ROD) within a single EIS.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM and NPS personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent BLM's and NPS's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that will be addressed in the plan effort are: management and protection of public land resources, recreation/visitor use and safety; access and transportation on the public lands; integrating monument management with community, tribal, and other agency needs; and balancing multiple uses. After gathering public comments, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan.
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action.
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category 2 or 3. In addition to the preceding major issues, management questions and concerns to be addressed in the plan include, but are not limited to: ecosystem health, riparian condition, threatened and endangered species habitat, wildlife habitat, reintroduction of native species, cultural resource protection and interpretation,

recreation/visitor use, rangeland management, woodland product harvest, and minerals management. The following disciplines will be represented on the BLM/NPS planning team: wilderness, recreation, wildlife, range management, botany, fire ecology, forestry, geology, realty, cultural resources, soils, hydrology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and engineering. Where necessary and available, outside expertise will be used.

Background Information: On January 11, 2000, the President signed Proclamation 7265, creating the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 1,052,000 acres of public lands in Mohave County, Arizona. It borders Nevada to the west and Grand Canyon National Park to the south and BLM managed public lands to the east and north. The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on November 9, 2000, and is under the administration of the BLM. The monument is located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona. It borders the Kaibab National Forest to the west, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to the east, and the state of Utah to the north.

The Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument proclamation states that the NPS and the BLM shall manage the monument cooperatively and shall prepare an agreement to share, consistent with applicable laws, whatever resources are necessary to properly manage the monument; however, the NPS shall continue to have primary management authority over the portion of the monument within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the BLM shall have primary management authority over the remaining portion of the monument. The plan will need to address and incorporate, to the extent possible, NPS policies, regulations and management directives.

The Arizona Strip RMP was completed in 1992 and amended in 1998 to implement the Mohave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Several significant multi-discipline plans have recently been completed, including the Mt. Trumbull Resource Conservation Area Plan in 1995 and the Parashant Resource Conservation Area Plan in 1997. The Lake Mead National Recreation Area GMP was completed in 1986, and the Shivwits portion of this plan was revised as part of Parashant Interdisciplinary Plan completed cooperatively by the two agencies in 1997. We anticipate incorporating much

of the information in the existing plans into this plan revision.

Roger G. Taylor,

Arizona Strip Field Manager.

William K. Dickinson,

*Lake Mead National Recreation Area,
Superintendent.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ 069-01-1610-DO-241E]

Ironwood Forest National Monument

AGENCY: Tucson Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson, Arizona.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to (1) prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Ironwood Forest National Monument, designated on June 9, 2000, and (2) amend the 1989 Phoenix RMP to consider land tenure adjustments in support of the Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. These two actions will require a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These lands are located northwest of Tucson in Pima and Pinal Counties, Arizona.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare a RMP for the Ironwood Forest National Monument and an amendment to the Phoenix RMP to consider land tenure adjustments with one EIS prepared for both plans. The plan development will continue and expand the planning approach in the Tucson Field Office, which means working closely with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The planning effort will include the Ironwood Forest National Monument and other lands managed by the Tucson Field Office. The planning effort will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Monument proclamation, and BLM management policies. This notice also initiates the public scoping process to examine issues and develop planning criteria to guide the planning process. Formal scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the existing RMP in the context of the needs and interests of the

public and protection of the objects of scientific and historic interest in the National Monument.

ADDRESSES: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Tony Herrell, Telephone 520-258-7203, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85748; Fax 520-258-7238. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The designation of the Ironwood Forest National Monument and the changing needs and interests of the public necessitate the development of a RMP for the Ironwood Forest National Monument. In addition, the Phoenix RMP will be amended to address land tenure adjustments in support of the Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. These two actions require a single EIS. Public meetings will be held throughout the scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, meeting locations will occur in local communities in the Tucson area, including Marana, Eloy, Casa Grande, and Picture Rocks, as well as in the Phoenix area. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participants who wish to clarify the views they expressed. Written comments will also be accepted throughout the planning process at the address shown above. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, newsletters and the BLM web site (www.az.blm.gov). Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment on the alternatives and upon publishing the draft RMP/Draft EIS. Documents

pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Tucson Field Office located in Tucson, Arizona. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel and other agencies and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that will be addressed in the plan effort are: Management and protection of Monument resources; appropriate scientific research activities; visitor use and safety; identification of protection measures for cultural resources, sensitive plant and animal species and other special resources; public access and transportation within the Monument; commercial and industrial uses; integrating Monument management with tribal, other agency and community needs; and addressing urban interface and land tenure issues. Other issues may be identified by interested parties during the public scoping phase of the planning. After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan.
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action.
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided for each issue placed in category 2 or 3. In addition to the preceding major issues, management questions and concerns to be addressed in the plan effort include, but are not limited to: Native American consultation; rangeland management; watershed management; wildlife management; soil, water, and vegetation management; air quality; and hazardous materials. Disciplines corresponding to these issue areas will be represented and used during the planning process. Where necessary, outside expertise may be used.

Background Information: The Ironwood Forest National Monument was created to protect the resources of the Sonoran Desert. The Ironwood Forest National Monument Presidential Proclamation of June 9, 2000, designated about 129,068 acres of land in Pima and Pinal Counties, Arizona, managed by the BLM as the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

Before designation, management of the area was guided by the Phoenix RMP, completed in 1989. Previously