

Obispo, California Valley, and Bakersfield, California. Participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Carrizo Plain National Monument and the Bakersfield Field Office public lands. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site (www.ca.blm.gov) at least 15 days prior to the event. Any notes generated and the list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participant who wishes to clarify the views they expressed. In addition to public meetings, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment upon publication of the draft Carrizo RMP, and Caliente RMP Plan Amendment/EA. In addition, written comments will be accepted throughout the entire planning process.

Background Information: On January 17, 2001, the President signed a proclamation creating the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of public lands primarily in San Luis Obispo County, with smaller portions within Kern and Santa Barbara Counties, all in California. Located midway between the cities of Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, the monument links Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge to the southeast with privately conserved lands and the Los Padres National Forest to the northwest. The Caliente RMP was completed in 1997 and encompassed all BLM managed public lands within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kings, Tulare, and western Kern counties. Public involvement in preparation of the Caliente RMP was solicited through announcements in the **Federal Register**, the mailing of a notice to 1,300 people and organizations, six scoping meetings, the mailing of a draft plan to 1,000 interested publics, and 6 public open houses. The Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan was completed between 1996 and 1999. This plan was jointly prepared and signed by The Nature Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and BLM, following public involvement that included a mailing to 1,000 people and organizations, 7 public meetings, and an additional mailing to a list of 200 people and organizations before the final plan was compiled. Neither plan has been amended previously, and both continue to provide clear and broadly supported

direction for public lands now within the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Elaine Marquis-Brong,

Director, National Landscape Conservation System, Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR113-6310-AA; HAG02-0018]

Cascade-Siskiyou National Resource Management; Notice of Availability of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Medford District.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management of 1976 and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 CFR 1506.6(2), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument located in Jackson County, Oregon. The DRMP will provide a range of alternatives, including identification of a preferred alternative, for management direction for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The DRMP addressed management on approximately 52,947 acres of public land. Final decisions through this planning process will supercede planning guidance presented in the Medford District Resource Management Plan. The Plan will provide direction for management of these public lands for a period of approximately 10 years. The DRMP/DEIS considers all issues raised during plan scoping that are within the decision space allowed by the Presidential Proclamation 7318 which designated the Monument and other non-discretionary programs and policies. Issues addressed in the DRMP/DEIS include vegetation management, access, prescribed fire, recreation, visitor use, and facilities/rights-of-way. The DRMP/DEIS describes four alternatives for management of the CSNM, including a "No Action" Alternative A. Each "action" alternative

has a different emphasis, primarily defined in terms of the amount of management intervention necessary to meet the primary goal of protecting, maintaining, restoring or enhancing relevant and important ecological, biological, geological, and archaeological objects. Alternative B promotes natural ecosystem processes in the management of plant communities. Alternative C incorporates active management for protection and maintenance of the conifer communities while limiting some ground disturbing management tools that may be used in maintaining and restoring the other plant communities. Alternative D promotes aggressive management for protection, maintenance and restoration of Monument resources through the use of all management tools available. The alternatives defer proposing land use allocations or management directions that are precluded by the need for the livestock grazing study required by the Proclamation. The action alternatives were prepared in accordance with applicable planning procedures and are designed to protect, maintain, restore or enhance Monument objects, resources and ecological processes.

DATES: The public has the opportunity to review and comment on the CSNM DRMP/DEIS. It is anticipated that this document will be available for review around May 2002. Per BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.2(e), ninety (90) days shall be provided for review of the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement. The 90-day period shall formally begin when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of the filing of the draft environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**. During this time period, written comments on the contents of the DRMP/DEIS will be solicited, particularly comments that address one or more of the following: (1) New information that would affect the analysis; (2) possible improvements in the analysis; and (3) suggestions for improving or clarifying the proposed management direction. Specific comments are most useful. BLM will respond to comments addressing the adequacy of the DRMP/DEIS in the Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement. Comments on the DEIS, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Medford District Office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays). Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public

review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly 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 or organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

BLM will discuss the various management alternatives and answer questions pertaining to the Monument at an open-house type public meeting to be held at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon during the comment period. If there is sufficient public interest, the BLM may have additional public meetings. All public meetings will be announced in the Medford and Ashland newspapers and on the BLM Medford District's web site, <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/> under "Planning Documents" at least 15 days prior to the event.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Richard J. Drehobl, Monument Manager, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Hass, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon, 97504, telephone 541-618-2253. Single copies of the DRMP/DEIS will be available at the BLM Medford District Office around May 2002. Interested persons not already on the mailing list may review the DRMP/DEIS via the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/> under "Planning Documents." A hard copy or a CD-ROM of the DRMP/DEIS may be requested from the Medford District Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) consists of 52,947 acres of federal land located in southern Jackson County, Oregon. These federal lands are managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District Office. Although there are approximately 32,222 acres of non-federal lands interspersed among the federal land within the Presidential Proclamation boundary, the CSNM is comprised of only federal land.

The CSNM is located in the Klamath and Rogue River basins and four watersheds that have a combined total of approximately 780 miles of streams. There are three ecoregions identified in the CSNM having particular biological significance in terms of species

richness, endemism, and unique evolutionary/ecological phenomenon.

Archaeological evidence indicates that people have lived in the region for at least 10,000 years. Various native peoples inhabited or used the CSNM area including the Shasta, the Klamath and Modoc tribes. Euro-American settlement in the Rogue and Shasta valleys from the 1850s on spurred the development of a new way of life in the region.

The BLM controls approximately 251 miles of road that access the 52,947 acres of public land designated as the Monument. These roads provide access for recreation, private property and management activities such as wildfire suppression.

Dated: January 3, 2002.

Ron Wenker,
District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

[ID 070-02-1610-DO-051D]

Craters of the Moon National Monument; Land Use Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Upper Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls, Idaho; National Park Service, Craters of the Moon National Monument.

ACTION: Issuance of a Notice of intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP)/General Management Plan (GMP), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Craters of the Moon National Monument. The Monument is located in Blaine, Butte, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Power Counties, Idaho.

SUMMARY: This document announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) intend to jointly prepare a land use plan and associated EIS for the Craters of the Moon National Monument. This planning activity encompasses approximately 739,682 acres of federally managed land. The plan will fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, the National Park Service Organic Act, other pertinent statutes, the Presidential

Proclamations establishing and expanding the Monument, and the NPS and BLM management policies. The BLM and NPS 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. Publication of this notice initiates the public scoping process to identify planning issues and to develop planning criteria. Formal scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the existing land use plans in the context of the needs and interests of the public and protection of the values for which the Monument was established and expanded.

Comments: Open-house 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 nearby towns, especially those within a one-hour drive of the Monument. The dates and locations of these meetings will be announced through mailings and local and regional media releases. The notices will also be posted on the National Park Service (www.nps.gov/crmo) and Bureau of Land Management (www.id.blm.gov/planning) web sites. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. The BLM and NPS are interested in public comment regarding issues to be addressed by this planning effort. Issues identified by the public will help define the alternative management strategies to be analyzed in this conservation planning/environmental impact analysis process. To receive full consideration during alternative formulation, written comments identifying issues to be addressed must be postmarked or transmitted not later than 60 days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Informal public participation is encouraged throughout this process. Open-house meetings will be held to explain the planning/environmental impact analysis process and receive public input. Formal opportunity for public review and comment will be provided upon publication of the joint draft plan and EIS. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Craters of Moon National Monument Headquarters, eighteen miles southwest of Arco on U.S. Highway 93, and at the