

Nevada. The Notice of Availability of the Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** July 26, 2002 (67 FR 48942).

The Elko Field Office Manager will sign the Record of Decision (ROD) concurrent with this notice approving the project and incorporating mitigating modifications analyzed under the proposed action. The decision to approve the mining operation will be in full force and effect, effective when the Field Office Manager signs the Record of Decision. A petition for a stay of the decision must be filed in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR part 4.

Copies of the ROD can be obtained from the Elko Field Office at 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, or by calling (775) 753-0200 and requesting a copy of the document. You may also download the document from the Elko Field office internet site at www.nv.blm.gov/elko. Additionally, we will mail a copy of the ROD to individuals, agencies or companies that commented during the scoping process, or on the Draft and Final EIS.

Helen Hankins,

Elko Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 02-24297 Filed 9-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-03000-1430-ER]

Notice of Intent To Consider a Plan Amendment and Prepare an Environmental Analysis for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah.

ACTION: Notice of intent to consider a plan amendment and prepare an environmental analysis for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Management Plan to allow certain road improvements on the Hole-in-the-Rock Road.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Regulations (43 CFR part 1600) this notice advises the public that the BLM, GSENM is considering amending the GSENM Management Plan in response to a proposal from Kane County to widen and upgrade the travel surface of the road known as the Hole in the Rock Road in Kane County, Utah. In addition, in accordance with the existing

Monument Management Plan, consideration will be given to stabilization of washout prone areas, preventing erosion and sediment loading, and improving safety along the road. These proposed actions will be initially addressed through an environmental assessment. The scoping process will be used to help determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis (environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment.) If an EIS is warranted, the written comments in response to this notice may be used to help determine the scope of alternatives and analysis in the EIS. This notice initiates a 30-day public scoping period.

If you have information, data, or concerns related to the potential impacts of improving the Hole-in-the-Rock-Road, have comments on the planning criteria, or suggestions for alternatives, please submit them to the address below.

The Kane County Road Department has proposed improvements including widening the running surface of the road to a width of 26 feet with cut and fill slopes as needed, installing drainage structures (ditches, culverts etc.) as needed, and applying a gravel surface to the road. The improvements would be on the segment of road starting at the Kane/Garfield County line and south for approximately 18 miles.

DATES: Scoping comments must be received at the address below by October 25, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be sent to: Monument Manager, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 190 East Center Street, Kanab, Utah 84741. Planning documents and letters received, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the GSENM Office in Kanab, Utah during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and 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.

If you are not currently on our mailing list and wish to receive a copy of future planning documents, please send your

name and address to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Chapman, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 435-644-4309, or Dave Hunsaker, Acting Monument Manager, 435-644-4330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is a cooperative effort between Kane County, Utah Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, and BLM. BLM is the lead agency for this action. Kane County received a grant from Federal Highways Administration for engineering, design, environmental analysis preparation, and construction of the project. The environmental analysis is being prepared by a third party, EarthTouch of Layton, Utah with guidance from the BLM and Federal Highways Administration.

The BLM has identified the following planning criteria, which will guide development of the amendment:

1. The environmental analysis and any plan amendment will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and all other applicable laws.

2. The environmental analysis and any plan amendment will be developed using an interdisciplinary approach (e.g., a team approach using a variety of skills and perspectives such as biologists, archaeologists, etc.) with input from interested public, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies.

3. Any action that would affect a Wilderness Study Area will not be permitted.

4. Analysis and decisions in the environmental analysis and any plan amendment apply only to this action and will provide for the balance of long term sustainability with short-term uses.

Dated: August 13, 2002.

Robert A. Bennett,

Associate State Director, Utah.

[FR Doc. 02-24300 Filed 9-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-1220-BY]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and To Consider Amending the Green River Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider amending the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) by designating the Pilot Butte/Wild Horse National Back Country Byway, and request for public participation.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering a National Back Country Byway designation for portions of Sweetwater County (Wyoming) Roads 4-14 and 4-53, crossing BLM-administered public lands. The BLM invites the public to participate in the planning effort and to identify management needs and issues associated with the proposed National Back Country Byway designation. If the planning effort results in a decision to designate a National Back Country Byway, the Green River RMP will be amended accordingly.

DATES: The BLM invites the public to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EA to be prepared for the potential RMP amendment. Submissions should be in writing or by e-mail (see **ADDRESSES** below) and must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Future public involvement activities, opportunities, and review/comment periods will be announced at least 15 days in advance through other notices, media releases, or mailings.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in writing to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, or by e-mail to: [rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov]. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Rock Springs Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Weynand, Assistant Field

Manager, at the above addresses or e-mail, or at telephone number (307) 352-0246. Persons wishing to be placed on the mailing list and to participate in the planning effort should contact Bernie Weynand, Assistant Field Manager, at the address, telephone number or e-mail address above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under a cooperative agreement, the BLM, Sweetwater County, and the Cities of Rock Springs and Green River, Wyoming, have established a wild horse viewing and interpretive loop driving tour on portions of County Roads 4-14 and 4-53 crossing BLM-administered public lands. These actions were addressed in an EA before they were implemented. BLM has determined that this interpretive driving loop meets the criteria for designation as a National Back Country Byway.

While the proposed byway designation is in conformance with the general provisions of the Green River RMP decisions, a National Back Country Byway designation requires a specific land use planning decision. Because this particular designation was not one of the decisions previously made in the Green River RMP (1997), to do so now would require amending the RMP. The EA to be prepared will tier from the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Green River RMP as well as the EA prepared for the viewing areas and interpretive signs that have been put in place. The analysis will focus on the comparative socio-economic affects, along with any associated affects to other resources and land uses, of either designating or not designating the proposed byway.

The planning effort will include opportunities for public participation. A public review and comment period will be held on the completed EA before a decision is made on the proposed byway designation.

Any proposal to amend the Green River RMP decisions as a result of the planning effort will also be subject to protest by parties who participate in the planning process and who have an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by the adoption of any RMP decision amendments, as provided by Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1610.5-2.

Dated: May 6, 2002.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 02-24299 Filed 9-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The advisory board will meet Monday, October 28, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, and on Tuesday, October 29, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, 122 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO260, Attention: Ramona Delorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Submit written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting no later than close of business October 18, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Nordin, Wild Horse and Burro Public Outreach Specialist, (775) 861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. Nordin at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, October 28, 2002 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

8:00 Call to Order & Introductions
Co-chairs Comments & Housekeeping:
Robin Lohnes/Gary Zakotnik
Welcoming Remarks: (BLM Director