

are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria, including an evaluation of the existing management direction in the context of the needs and interests of the public. It is probable that the collaborative planning process will recommend changes to the Gunnison RMP for this area so this notice provides for this contingency. If desired management actions identified in the planning process can be carried out within the existing guidance of the RMP then an RMP Amendment will not be necessary.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria may be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted throughout the creation of the Draft RAMP/Draft EA. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and other mediums at least 15 days prior to the event. The minutes and 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. Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. To ensure local community participation and input, public meetings will be scheduled at times that are convenient for the public to attend. Early participation is encouraged to help determine the future management of the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230; Fax (970) 642-4425. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Gunnison Field Office. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Gunnison Field Office during regular business hours (7:30am to 4:30pm), Monday through Friday, except 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:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Arden Anderson, Telephone—(970) 642-4454; E-mail—[Arden\\_Anderson@co.blm.gov](mailto:Arden_Anderson@co.blm.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a popular site for a variety of recreation activities in the urban interface zone near Gunnison, Colorado. The increased use over the years as well as changing needs and interests of the public necessitates a more detailed management strategy beyond the general guidelines contained in the Gunnison RMP (completed in 1993). Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent the 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 include: Management and protection of public land resources; recreation/visitor use and safety; access and transportation on the public lands; integrating management with the needs of the community and other agencies; reducing conflicts between different public land visitors and balancing multiple uses.

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; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

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 outdoor recreation, rangeland management, archaeology, wildlife, fisheries and soils.

Dated: December 6, 2003.

**Barry A. Tollefson,**

*Gunnison Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-116-6310-PB; HAG03-0031]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Off-Highway Vehicle Management Plan

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management Plan, and initiation of public scoping.

**SUMMARY:** The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV area. The BLM designated the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area "specifically to provide for OHV use" in the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP directs the agency to, "Manage off-highway vehicle use on BLM-administered land to protect natural resources, provide visitor safety, and minimize conflicts among various users." The development of the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Management Plan will provide site-specific guidance for managing OHV use in accordance with the Medford District RMP direction. Approximately 13,865 acres of public land in Oregon are being considered in this planning effort. The public scoping process will be used to identify interested and affected individuals and groups, and to identify issues associated with the management of OHV use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area. Issues identified through the scoping process will be used to explore a range of possible alternatives for managing OHV use in this area.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing 30 days from publication of this notice, to ensure timely consideration. Public scoping meetings and/or field tours will be held to provide the public with information on the planning process and to provide for opportunities for the public to share their concerns and ideas with the BLM. Meeting dates and locations will be announced through mailings, the local news media, and on the BLM Web site (<http://www.or.blm.gov>).

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Richard J. Drehobl, Ashland Field Manager, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford Oregon, 97504.

Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 1, Subpart B, § 1.27, all written submissions in response to this notice, public scoping letters, and draft and final Environmental Impact Statements will be made available for public inspection including the submitter's name and address, unless the submitter specifically requests 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 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, submitted on official letterheads, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristi Mastrofini at (541) 618-2384 or Don Ferguson at (541) 618-2292. Fax or E-mail can be sent to the attention of Kristi Mastrofini or Don Ferguson at (541) 618-2400, or [110mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:110mb@or.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OHV enthusiasts have recreated in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area for 40 to 50 years. The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) designated public lands in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak area as an OHV use area. The area is comprised of a checkerboard of BLM administered lands mixed with private lands (including lands owned by the City of Jacksonville, Motorcycle Riders Association, and Boise Corporation), increasing the complexity of managing trails and public access in the area. Off-highway vehicle use has increased tremendously in recent years, leading to the proliferation of new unauthorized trails on both public and private lands. Many existing trails are in good condition, while other trails are experiencing erosion that is leading to resource degradation. Due to the close proximity to the City of Jacksonville and adjacent wildland urban interface areas, and the checkerboard pattern of land ownership, there is also a high level of unauthorized access across private lands and vandalism (e.g. illegal dumping, sign shooting, etc). The Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Management Plan is needed to provide

for OHV use in accordance with the Medford District RMP.

Preliminary public scoping for the Timber Mountain/John's Peak Management Plan began in 1998; however, due to limited funding, work on this project was temporarily deferred. The following issues were identified to be associated with OHV use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV area: Effects to water quality and riparian conditions; effects on sensitive soils; effects to Threatened or Endangered plants, fish, and wildlife; and impacts to private land owners associated with the incidence of trespass on private lands. Through additional public scoping and specialist review, this list of issues will be refined. Issues determined to be significant to the planning process will be used to develop a range of alternatives for managing OHV use in the Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV area.

The National Environmental Policy Act encourages the use of cooperative relationships with Federal, State, and local agencies to capture opportunities where the decision-making authorities or special expertise of other agencies can enhance the planning process. The Medford District BLM, as the Lead Agency for this EIS, has identified opportunities to work cooperatively with Jackson County, the City of Jacksonville, the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Boise Cascade, and the Motorcycle Riders Association. The Medford District BLM will seek cooperative relationships with these local agencies and affected landowners to enhance this planning effort.

As public scoping progresses, other opportunities for cooperative relationships may become apparent.

Dated: November 15, 2002.

**Richard J. Drehobl,**

*Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area.*

**Ron Wenker,**

*District Manager, Medford District BLM.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-AR-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-ES; N-76527]

#### **Notice of Realty Action: Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Conveyance of Public Lands Near Beatty, NV**

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

**ACTION:** Classification of public land for conveyance pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

**SUMMARY:** The following described public land in Nye County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for conveyance under provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*), for the purposes of operating a municipal solid waste transfer station. These lands are hereby classified as suitable for conveyance in accordance with section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act, 43 U.S.C. 315f, and Executive Order No. 6910:

#### **Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada**

T. 12 S., R. 46 E.,

sec 13, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 5 acres more or less.

The solid waste transfer station will occupy a total of ten acres, five of which were previously classified under a notice for the existing Beatty Landfill (N-35639).

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Conveyance is consistent with BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. Patent will be issued to Nye County and will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, pursuant to the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

Patent will contain the following provisions:

1. Nye County a political subdivision of the State of Nevada, assumes all liability for and shall defend, indemnify, and save harmless the United States and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees (hereinafter referred to in this clause as the United States), from all claims, loss, damage, actions, causes of actions, expense, and liability (hereinafter referred to in this clause as claims), resulting from, brought for, or on account of, any personal injury, threat of personal injury, or property damage received or sustained by any person or persons (including the patentees employees) or property growing out of, occurring, or attributable directly or indirectly, to the disposal of solid waste