

flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Ralph O. Morgenweck,**

*Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-600-04-1010-BN]

#### Notice of Public Meetings, Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held February 12, 2004, May 6, 2004, August 12, 2004, and November 10, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held February 12, 2004, at the Glenwood Springs Community Center located at 100 Wulfsohn Road, Glenwood Springs, Colorado; May 6, 2004, at the Lodore Hall located on the Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge in Moffat County, Colorado; August 12, 2004, at the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service Office located on the Grand County Fairgrounds in Kremmling, Colorado; and November 10, 2004, at the Holiday Inn located at 755 Horizon Drive in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 4 p.m. Public comment periods will be at 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Husband, BLM Little Snake Field Office Manager, 455 Emerson St., Craig, Colorado; Telephone (970) 826-5000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Northwest Colorado RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a

variety of public land issues in Colorado.

The purpose of the February 12, 2004 meeting is to consider several resource management related topics including the Roan Plateau Draft Management Plan, BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy, and Committee Reports. Topics of discussion for all Northwest Colorado RAC meetings may include fire management, land use planning, invasive species management, energy and minerals management, travel management, wilderness, wild horse herd management, land exchange proposals, cultural resource management, and other issues as appropriate.

These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RACs. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: January 5, 2004.

**John E. Husband,**

*Little Snake Field Office Manager and Designated Federal Official for the Northwest Colorado RAC.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-04-1610-DT]

#### Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Federal Fluid Minerals Leasing and Development in Sierra and Otero Counties, NM

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/FEIS) for Federal Fluid Minerals Leasing and Development in Sierra and Otero Counties, New Mexico. The planning area encompasses approximately 1.8 million surface acres and 5 million subsurface acres of public lands managed by the Las Cruces Field Office,

located in Sierra and Otero Counties in southern New Mexico. The BLM has and will continue to work closely with all interested parties to identify management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. Final decisions will supersede the oil and gas decisions identified in the White Sands Resource Area RMP (1986) and provide direction for management of these fluid minerals resources on the public lands for approximately 20 years.

The BLM does have the authority to protect unique and sensitive areas through land management restrictions, for example, one such tool could be an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation. While this Fluid Minerals Resource Management Plan Amendment addressed only oil and gas leasing, the BLM is required to consider updating and revising RMPs if there is new data of significance to the RMP that needs to be addressed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Such data to consider has surfaced in Dona Ana, Otero, and Sierra Counties that may require BLM to consider a revision to the existing RMPs in those three counties starting in 2004 which includes looking at all public land issues including nominations for ACECs.

**DATES:** The Proposed RMPA/FEIS for Federal Fluid Minerals Leasing and Development in Sierra and Otero Counties, New Mexico will be available for a 30-day protest period in accordance with the BLM's land-use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Protests must be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability of the FEIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Written protests must be submitted to Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Alternatively, and to expedite delivery, you may send your protest using an express delivery service to Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210, 1620 L Street NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy, and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide