

alternative is the Adaptive Management Alternative that emphasizes maintaining the current level of enjoyment of the area's recreational opportunities and unique characteristics while recognizing that increased future use will trigger the need for increased levels of management. Monitoring for land health and visitors' beneficial experience will determine when increased levels of management are required. Objectives for this alternative include preserving the character of the area; preserving and enhancing traditional recreation activities—hiking, camping, mountain biking, OHV use, horseback riding, hunting, and boating; and maintaining land health and improving priority areas of concern. The document contains a summary of the decisions and resulting impacts, an overview of the planning process and planning issues, the Proposed Plan, comment letters and responses received during public review of the Draft Plan, and responses to the substantive issues raised during the review.

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for public, administrative review of proposed land use plan decisions during a 30-day protest period of the PRMP/FEIS. Any person who participated in the planning process for the PRMP/FEIS, and who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest approval of this PRMP/FEIS and the land use plan decisions contained within it (*see* 43 CFR 1610.5-2) during this 30-day period. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to this PRMP/FEIS may protest. A protest may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to the publication of this PRMP/FEIS. These issues may have been raised by the protesting party or others. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage. The 30-day period for filing a plan protest begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes in the **Federal Register** its Notice of Availability of the Final environmental impact statement containing the PRMP/FEIS. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest, along with all attachments, must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. A letter of protest must be filed in accordance with the planning regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(1). Protests must be in writing. 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, BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and emails to *Brenda\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov*. If sent by regular mail, send to: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington DC 20035. For overnight (*i.e.*, Federal Express) mailing, send protests to: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036. In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the PRMP/FEIS being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, *etc.*, included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the Colorado BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts.

As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, or available planning records (*i.e.*, meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, *etc.*). A protest that merely expresses disagreement with the Colorado BLM State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data. Upon resolution of any protests, an Approved Plan and Record of Decision will be issued. The approved Plan/Record of Decision will be mailed to all individuals who participated in this planning process and all other interested public upon their request.

Dated: April 6, 2004.

**Raul Morales,**

*Manager, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-5853-EU]

#### **Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Area as expanded by the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, Public Law 107-282, November 6, 2002**

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

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** U.S. Air Force, Nellis Air Force Base; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Clark County Regional Flood Control District; Clark County Comprehensive Planning; City of Henderson; City of Las Vegas; City of North Las Vegas.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft EIS with the specific purpose to authorize transfer of title or uses of public land in the Las Vegas Valley. The project area consists of all remaining lands identified for disposal within the boundary established by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) (Public Law 105-263), as amended by the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Act) (Public Law 107-282). This EIS will ensure the intent of Congress, as portrayed in the SNPLMA and the Clark County Act, is met by providing land for organized local community development. This does not preclude other authorized uses of public lands such as applications for Rights-of-Way, Leases and Recreation and Public Purpose Leases located in Clark County, Nevada, Hydrographic Basin 212. The EIS fulfills the needs and obligations set forth by NEPA, FLPMA, and BLM management policies as defined in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1998.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date of publication of the

Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/lvdiseis>.
- E-mail: [jsteinme@nv.blm.gov](mailto:jsteinme@nv.blm.gov).
- Fax: (702) 515-5155.
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301.

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. Copies of the Draft EIS are available in the BLM Las Vegas Field Office at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Jeff Steinmetz, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Telephone (702) 515-5097; e-mail [jsteinme@nv.blm.gov](mailto:jsteinme@nv.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Shortly after approval of SNPLMA, the BLM received an increase in requests for public land disposal. The Clark County Act significantly increased the amount of land available for disposal by adding approximately 22,000 acres to the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Area by amending the boundary defined and approved in SNPLMA. (The rapid disposal rate and additional lands created the need to augment the impact analysis conducted for the Las Vegas RMP, signed October 5, 1998). The current Draft EIS considers and analyzes three alternatives that meet the requirements of SNPLMA and the Clark County Act. The alternatives include complete disposal, a disposal implementation option (conservation transfer) that addresses sensitive environmental resources, and a no action alternative as required by NEPA. The no action alternative to land disposal is a continuation of realty management as specified in the RMP, including disposal of BLM-managed

lands until the cumulative development (including private lands) throughout the Las Vegas Valley reaches the projected total of 80,000 acres. Land disposal authorized by SNPLMA and the Clark County Act that would result in subsequent development of more acreage than the amount evaluated in the RMP are not included in the no action alternative. Under the complete disposal alternative all BLM land within the disposal boundary would be available for disposal, unless the action would violate another law, such as the Endangered Species Act. Analysis of this alternative includes evaluation of indirect and cumulative impacts of post-disposal development. Under the disposal implementation option or conservation transfer alternative, the BLM would consider transfer options that restrict subsequent use of individual properties to protect sensitive environmental resources. These options could include mitigation and/or protection of the resource before or after the property is transferred. Major resource issues addressed in the Draft EIS include air quality, surface water hydrology and water quality, water supply and demand, protected and sensitive plant and wildlife species, archaeological and historic sites, paleontological resources, socioeconomic, recreation opportunities, and visual characteristics. A predictive model for air quality impacts prepared by Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) was used as the basis for the reasonably foreseeable land development scenario and as the best available data for analyzing cumulative impacts of past, present, and projected development. In addition, BLM is currently working with Argonne and Clark County Department of Air Quality Management to run another model that includes potential mitigation for Ozone precursors. This model run will be ready before the Final EIS is completed.

**Mark T. Morse,**

*Field Manager, Las Vegas.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-930-04-1310-DB]

#### Notice of Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Integrated Activity Plan Amendment

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Integrated Activity Plan Amendment.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces an extension of the public comment period on the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Integrated Activity Plan Amendment. The original notice issued June 18, 2004 provided for a comment period to end on August 2, 2004. BLM is extending the comment period until August 23, 2004.

**DATES:** Written comments on issues relating to the future land use, planning, and management of the Northeast corner of National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska must be submitted or postmarked no later than August 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the document should be addressed to: Susan Childs, Project Manager, Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Plan Amendment, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (930), 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. Comments can also be submitted by accessing the Web site developed for this project at <http://nenpra.ensr.com>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Childs, BLM Alaska State Office, 907-271-1985 or by mail at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The original Notice of Availability issued on June 18, 2004 provided for comments on the Draft EIS to be received through August 2, 2004. The North Slope Borough, the local government for the plan area, has requested an extension in the comment period. BLM has decided to act in accordance to the Borough's request, therefore, comments on the Draft EIS Amendment and on issues relevant to the review of the proposed plan amendment will now be accepted through August 23, 2004.