

4. Comments may be submitted during the public open houses and hearings that will be held at a later date; and

5. Written comments may be mailed directly, or delivered, to the BLM at: Rawlins RMP/EIS, Bureau of Land Management Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301-2407.

BLM will only accept comments on the Rawlins RMP DEIS if they are submitted in one of the five methods as described above. To facilitate analysis of comment and information submitted, BLM strongly encourages the public to submit comments in an electronic format through either the Web site or electronic mail. To be given consideration by BLM all DEIS comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and street addresses of each respondent, available for public review at the BLM office listed above during business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address or both from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: January 4, 2004.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register December 13, 2004.

Robert A. Bennett,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Buckman Water Diversion Project, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Interior, Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management, Taos Field Office, and Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, announce the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Buckman Water Diversion Project.

DATES: The Buckman Water Diversion Project DEIS will be available for review for 60 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions within the 60 day review period provided above. Any meetings or public involvement activities associated with distribution of the DEIS will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local media, at Web site <http://www.nm.blm.gov>, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the DEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties, and will be available via the Internet at <http://www.nm.blm.gov>.

Copies of the DEIS will also be available at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- Tetra Tech, Santa Fe Office, 502 West Cordova Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- City of Santa Fe, Sangre de Cristo Water Division, 801 West San Mateo, Santa Fe, NM 87504.
- Santa Fe County, Utilities Department, 205 Montezuma Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501.
- USDI Bureau of Reclamation, 555 Broadway Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Comments must be sent to Mr. Sandy Hurlocker (Buckman Diversion Comments), Espanola Ranger District, PO Box 3307, Espanola, New Mexico 87533. E-mail comments may be directed to the following e-mail address: comments-southwestern-santafe-espanola@fs.fed.us

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTRACT:

The Bureau of Land Management contact is Ms. Sher Churchill, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Taos, Field Office, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos, New Mexico 87571, telephone (505)

751-4725. The Forest Service contact is Mr. Sandy Hurlocker, NEPA Coordinator, Espanola Ranger District, P.O. Box 3307, Espanola, New Mexico 87533, telephone (505) 753-7331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area is located northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The DEIS describes and analyzes the impacts of alternatives for approximately 9 miles of upgrades to an existing access road and for construction and operation of a water diversion intake on the Rio Grande; sediment settling ponds; pumps and water pipelines to move the withdrawn water approximately 15 miles to the vicinity of its use; two water treatment plants; and two power lines a 115 Kv and a 12.47 Kv plus one substation.

If authorized, the project will be predominantly located on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and a relatively small portion of the project facilities will be located on private lands and Bureau of Land Management lands leased to the City of Santa Fe.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are co-lead agencies for this project; the Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (contributing funds), City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County are cooperating agencies. The City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and Las Companas Limited Partnership are the project applicants.

The project applicants (City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and Las Companas Limited Partnership) have proposed the Buckman Water Diversion Project to meet the immediate need for a sustainable means of accessing water supplies that make more direct use of the Applicants' water rights by diverting San Juan-Chama Project water and native Rio Grande water while reducing impacts to the aquifer. The Applicants propose to construct and operate a surface water diversion facility at the Rio Grande near the western terminus of Buckman Road located within the Santa Fe National Forest, near the existing Buckman Well Field. The water will be pumped to the Santa Fe vicinity where it will serve municipal and community water supply customers.

The Buckman Water Diversion is proposed to be constructed with the capacity necessary to meet the near-term need for water, based on physical, technical, and environmental limitations. The proposed project has an independent utility from the long-term water management strategy being undertaken by the City and the County.

The scoping process has included public meetings, field reviews, and interactions with various State and

Federal agencies. Issues identified during scoping led to the development of alternatives to a number of components in the proposed action. Also, on-going discussions and evaluations conducted by the lead agencies and Applicants have resulted in the identification of additional action items (such as power infrastructure and road upgrades) that have been incorporated into the proposed action and other action alternatives. The DEIS describes and analyzes the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of a range of action alternatives and the No Action alternative in detail. The alternatives, including the Agencies' Preferred Alternative, conform to existing laws and regulations, and provide for resource protection.

Sam DesGeorges,
BLM Taos Field Manager.

Gilbert Zepeda,
Santa Fe Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 04-26871 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-05-1310-DB]

Notice of Meeting of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group's Transportation Task Group

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) Transportation Task Group (subcommittee) will meet in Pinedale, Wyoming, for a business meeting. Task Group meetings are open to the public.

DATES: A PAWG Transportation Task Group meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2005, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the PAWG Transportation Task Group will be held in the Lovatt room of the Pinedale Library at 155 S. Tyler Ave., Pinedale, WY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Wadsworth, BLM/Transportation TG Liaison, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 E. Mills St.,

PO Box 738, Pinedale, WY 82941; 307-367-5341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) was authorized and established with release of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project on July 27, 2000. The PAWG advises the BLM on the development and implementation of monitoring plans and adaptive management decisions as development of the Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Field (PAPA) proceeds for the life of the field.

After the ROD was issued, Interior determined that a Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA) charter was required for this group. The charter was signed by Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, on August 15, 2002, and renewed on August 13, 2004. An announcement of committee initiation and call for nominations was published in the **Federal Register** on February 21, 2003 (68 FR 8522). PAWG members were appointed by Secretary Norton on May 4, 2004.

At their second business meeting, the PAWG established seven resource- or activity-specific Task Groups, including one for Transportation. Public participation on the Task Groups was solicited through the media, letters, and word-of-mouth.

The agenda for this meeting will include information gathering and discussion related to developing a transportation monitoring plan to assess the impacts of development in the Pinedale Anticline gas field, and identifying who will do and who will pay for the monitoring. Task Group recommendations are due to the PAWG in February, 2005. At a minimum, public comments will be heard just prior to adjournment of the meeting.

Dated: December 8, 2004.

Priscilla E. Mecham,
Field Office Manager.
[FR Doc. 04-27648 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-310-0777-XG]

Notice of Public Meeting: Northwest California Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest California Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 2 and 3, 2005, in Redding, California. On Feb. 2, the council members convene at 10 a.m. at the BLM Redding Field Office, 355 Hemsted Dr., and depart immediately for a field tour of projected land exchange sites. Members of the public are welcome on the tour, but they must provide their own transportation and lunch. On Feb. 3, the council convenes at 8 a.m. in the Conference Center at the McConnell Foundation headquarters, 800 Shasta View Drive in Redding. Time for public comment has been set aside for 10:30 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Burns, BLM Ukiah Field Office manager, (707) 468-4000; or BLM Public Affairs Officer Joseph J. Fontana, (530) 252-5332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Northwest California. At this meeting, agenda topics will include the proposed "Area 51" land exchange, other land exchange issues, transportation funding and recreation issues. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have time allocated for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. Members of the public are welcome on field tours, but they must provide their own transportation and lunch. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Dated: December 10, 2004.

Joseph J. Fontana,
Public Affairs Officer.
[FR Doc. 04-27592 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]
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