

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-056-1610DQ011H; HAG-04-0240]

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Upper Deschutes portion of the Deschutes Resource Area of the Prineville District. This Notice of Availability also serves as a notice of realty action in accordance with 43 CFR 2920.4 to be made available for non-competitive lease under Section 302(b) of FLPMA for military use by the Oregon Military Department and National Guard.

DATES: BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest that may be adversely affected, may protest. The protest must be filed within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice in the **Federal Register**. Instructions for filing of protests are described in the "Dear Interested Party" letter of the Upper Deschutes PRMP/FEIS and included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mollie Chaudet, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3050 N.E. Third St., Prineville, Oregon, 97754, telephone (541-416-6872), fax (541-416-6798), or e-mail (upper_deschutes_RMP@or.blm.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This planning activity encompasses approximately 400,000 acres of public land in the Deschutes Resource Area, Prineville District, and is located primarily in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties in central Oregon. The BLM has worked 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 revise the portion of the Brothers La-Pine Resource Management Plan (1989) included in the Upper Deschutes

planning area boundary, and will modify the boundary of the Two Rivers RMP. Some management direction will be clarified for the Middle Deschutes and Lower Crooked River Wild and Scenic River Plans. The Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan will also incorporate strategies and direction provided by the National and Central Oregon Fire Management Plan.

This land use plan focuses on the principles of multiple use management and sustained yield as prescribed by Section 202 of the FLPMA. The PRMP/FEIS considers and analyzes seven alternatives. These alternatives were developed based on a unique collaborative process. The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee chartered a working group including tribal, federal, state and local governments, private citizens, and interest groups. The working group reached consensus on the range of alternatives, reviewed public comments on the Draft EIS, and reached consensus on changes to the Draft Preferred Alternative.

The alternatives detailed in the PRMP/FEIS provide for a wide array of land use allocations and management direction as well as variable levels of resource protection, commodity production, and authorized land and resource uses. Alternative 7, the BLM preferred alternative (as modified by public comment on the Draft RMP/FEIS,) is the basis for the goals, objectives, and guidelines included in the Proposed RMP. The PRMP provides a balance of land and resource uses across the planning area and provides the framework for making present and future decisions for authorizing activities, such as grazing and mineral uses, considering the significant population growth anticipated in the area over the next 10-20 years.

The plan will also allocate lands within the planning area for the long-term training use of the Oregon Military Department and National Guard. The lands identified for military use within the Upper Deschutes RMP are proposed for non-competitive lease under Section 302(b) of FLPMA. The legal description of the lands proposed for lease are identified within the PRMP/FEIS.

Copies of the Upper Deschutes PRMP/FEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. The PRMP/FEIS is available for public inspection at the Prineville District Office in Prineville, Oregon, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays). Copies are also available at the Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook

County Libraries. Interested persons may also review the PRMP/FEIS on the Internet at: http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm. Comments on the Draft RMP/FEIS received from the public and internal BLM review comments were incorporated into the proposed plan where appropriate. Comments resulted in clarifications, technical corrections, changes to the alternatives, and changes to the analysis.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the PRMP/FEIS may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5. A protest may only raise those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. 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 e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov. Please direct the follow-up letter to the appropriate address provided below. To be considered complete, your protest must contain (at a minimum) the following information:

(1) Name, mailing address, telephone number, and the affected interest of the person filing the protest(s).

(2) A statement of the part or parts of the proposed plan being protested. To the extent possible, reference specific pages, paragraphs, and sections of the document.

(3) A copy of all your documents addressing the issue or issues which were discussed with the BLM for the record.

(4) A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Document all relevant facts, as much as possible. A protest merely expressing disagreement with the State Director's proposed decision without providing any supporting data will not be considered a valid protest.

All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail: Director, WO-210/LS-1075, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20240.
Overnight Mail: Director, WO-210/LS-1075, Bureau of Land Management,

Attn: Brenda Hudgens-Williams, Department of the Interior, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

To be considered timely, your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Though not a requirement, we suggest you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. You are also encouraged, but not required, to forward a copy of your protest to the Project Manager at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** above. This may allow us to resolve the protest through clarification of intent or alternative dispute resolution methods.

Please note that protests, including names and street addresses, are available for public review and/or release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Respondents who wish to withhold their name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under FOIA must state this prominently at the beginning of the written comment. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of official organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The Director will promptly render a decision on the protest. This decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

Elaine M. Brong,

Oregon State Director.

[FR Doc. 05-732 Filed 1-13-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT080-1610-DH]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Vernal Field Office Planning Area, in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Land Policy

and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and regulatory requirements, a Draft RMP Revision/EIS has been prepared for the Vernal Field Office planning area and is available for a 90 day public review and comment period. The Draft RMP Revision/EIS may be viewed and downloaded in PDF format at the project Web site at <http://www.vernalrmp.com>. Copies of the Draft RMP Revision/EIS will also be available for distribution and review during the comment period at the BLM Vernal Field Office, at the address shown below.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft RMP Revision/EIS will be accepted for 90 days following publication of the EPA Notice of Availability. Future public meetings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, local media news releases, mailings, and the project Web site at: <http://www.vernalrmp.com>.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Vernal Field Office RMP Comments—Attention Dave Moore, Vernal Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078. Comments may also be made electronically at: <http://www.vernalrmp.com>. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except weekends and holidays). All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Individuals may request confidentiality with respect to their name, address, and phone number. If you wish to have your name or street address withheld from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, the first line of the comment should start with the words "CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED" in uppercase letters in order for BLM to comply with your request. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Comment contents will not be kept confidential.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the planning project mailing list, visit the Web site shown above. You may also contact Dave Moore, Supervisory Planning Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, telephone: (435) 781-4400, or e-mail through the Web site: <http://www.vernalrmp.com>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The planning area includes all of the public land and federal mineral ownership managed by the Vernal Field Office in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, in northeast Utah, and about 3,000 acres in Grand County. The planning area encompasses public lands currently managed under the Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plans (RMP). This area includes approximately 1.8 million acres of BLM administered surface lands and 2.1 million acres of federal mineral lands under federal, state, private, and Ute Tribal surface in the three county areas.

The Draft RMP Revision/EIS addresses alternatives, management guidance, monitoring, and impact analysis of the alternatives. The alternatives present differing management balances between the various resources and uses. This planning effort will revise the Book Cliffs (1985) and Diamond Mountain (1994) RMPs. Once approved, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Vernal Field Office RMP Revision will supercede all existing management plans for the planning area. SWCA Environmental Consultants in Salt Lake City, Utah is assisting the BLM in the planning process and in the preparation of the document. In order to receive full consideration, comments should focus on specific management actions being considered and the adequacy of analysis. Responses to the comments will be published as part of the Final RMP Revision/EIS. The Draft RMP Revision/EIS contains four alternatives (including the No Action Alternative). Major issues considered are: management of oil and gas resources, special designation areas, wildlife, special status plants and animals, regional air quality, and recreation.

Dated: November 3, 2004.

Gene R. Terland,

Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-1020-XX-028H; HAG 05-0046]

2005 Meeting Notices for the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council

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

SUMMARY: The John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 8 a.m. to 4