

Consequences, Alamogordo, and Las Cruces, New Mexico to ensure the opportunity for local community participation and input. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media and will be posted on the New Mexico BLM Web site (<http://www.nm.blm.gov>) at least 15 days in advance.

**ADDRESSES:** Existing planning documents and information are available at the Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. Written comments regarding the proposed plan revision and amendment should be sent to the BLM at the above address, Attention: RMP Team Leader. Written comments may also be faxed to 505-525-4412 or e-mailed to [LCFO\\_RMP@nm.blm.gov](mailto:LCFO_RMP@nm.blm.gov). Comments that are faxed or e-mailed must include "Scoping Comments for LCFO-RMP" in the subject line. Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the LCFO during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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:** Tom Phillips, RMP Team Leader, at (505) 525-4377. To have your name added to our mailing list, contact Rena Gutierrez at (505) 525-4338 or via e-mail at: [Rena\\_Gutierrez@nm.blm.gov](mailto:Rena_Gutierrez@nm.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The area encompassed by this planning effort includes Sierra, Otero, and Dona Ana Counties, New Mexico. Public lands in Sierra and Otero County are administered under the White Sands RMP, while public lands in Dona Ana County are administered under the Mimbres RMP. This entire Planning Area is about 6.65 million acres with approximately 2.88 million surface acres of public land and 5.01 million acres of federal minerals. BLM managed lands comprise about 43 percent of the three-county area.

The planning process will comply with the Federal Land Policy and

Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and associated Federal regulations. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local and regional needs as well as national needs and concerns.

There are several preliminary issues that BLM is seeking public input on through scoping. These issues were identified from evaluation of decisions in the current RMPs that BLM believes require updating and include: recreation; off highway vehicle management; threatened and endangered species management; renewable energy development potential (solar, wind, etc.); Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation; special status species habitat management; access; travel management; rights-of-way; and land tenure (acquisition or disposal). The preliminary planning criteria, which have been identified to guide the development of the RMP Revision-Amendment/EIS, are:

A. Actions must comply with laws, regulations, executive orders, and BLM Manuals (*i.e.*, supplemental program guidance).

B. Actions must be reasonable and achievable and allow for flexibility where appropriate (*i.e.*, adaptive management).

C. The Economic Profile System (EPS) developed by the Sonoran Institute will be used as a community involvement technique and a source of demographic and economic data for the planning process.

D. Actions will be considered through an interdisciplinary approach.

E. The White Sands RMP Revision and the Mimbres RMP Amendment planning team will work cooperatively with county and municipal governments, other Federal, State and local agencies, and interested groups and individuals. Collaborative public involvement and participation will be emphasized throughout this process.

F. The revision and amendment will establish the guidance upon which the LCFO will manage public lands within the three counties.

G. The planning process will include an EIS that complies with NEPA standards.

H. The revision and amendment will provide for the maintenance and enhancement of habitats for special status species within the Planning Area, while allowing the public the opportunity for access to public lands in a productive and meaningful way.

I. The revision and amendment will recognize valid existing rights related to the use of public lands. The revision and amendment will define the process that the LCFO will use to address applications or notices filed after the completion of the revision and amendment on existing land use authorizations.

J. The RMP revision and amendment process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for protection of cultural resources on public lands.

K. Decisions in the revision and amendment will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, and Federal governments and agencies, as long as the decisions are in conformance with BLM management policies.

Public participation will be encouraged through the three public meetings described above. Early participation is encouraged. In addition to the public meetings, opportunities for public participation will be available during the development of alternatives and upon publication of the Draft EIS. Notification of the publications and updates will be sent to various State and local government agencies, interest groups, Native American Tribes, permittees, and other interested public, as well as to the local news media. Federal, State and county governments have been asked to participate in the process and will be offered an opportunity to be cooperating agencies to assure their active participation.

Dated: November 5, 2004.

**Linda S. C. Rundell,**

*New Mexico State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Extension of the Public Review Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Oil and Gas Management Plan, Big Thicket National Preserve

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**SUMMARY:** This notice informs the public that the comment period is extended.

**DATES:** The comment period is extended 30 days, to March 10, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** The OGMP/DEIS will be available for public review and comment at the following locations: Office of the Superintendent, Art Hutchinson, Big Thicket National Preserve, 3785 Milam Street, Beaumont,

Texas 77701-4724, Telephone: (409) 951-6802; Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, Telephone: (505) 988-6095; Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80228, Telephone: (303) 969-2377; Office of Public Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: 202-208-6843. The OGMP/DEIS can also be downloaded at <http://www.nps.gov/bith/pphtml/documents.html>. A printed copy or CD is also available, upon request, from Linda Dansby, EIS Project Manager, while supplies last.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Dansby, EIS Project Manager, Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, telephone (505) 988-6095.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notices of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Oil and Gas Management Plan, Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas, were published in the **Federal Register** by the National Park Service on December 13, 2004, (69 FR 72214-72215) and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on December 10, 2004. (EIS No. 040555) (69 FR 71811). The 60-day public review period began on the day of the EPA's publication and would have ended on February 8, 2005.

Dated: January 7, 2005.

**John A. Wessels,**

*Acting Director, Intermountain Region,  
National Park Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4312-CB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Environmental Impact Statement Concerning the Disposition of the Bureau of Mines, Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus, Hennepin County, MN**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement concerning disposition of the former Bureau of Mines, Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, concerning disposition of the former Bureau of Mines, Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus (Center), Hennepin County, near Minneapolis, Minnesota, and within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park System. The EIS will consider a range of alternatives for disposition of the Center and will be part of a planning process that will span three to four years, ending with a record of decision. There has been considerable public interest in the disposition of the Center. Some of the issues identified to date concern preservation and protection of cultural and natural resources, including protection of the groundwater associated with Coldwater Spring, and continued public access to the site.

The NPS anticipates starting the public scoping process for the EIS in February 2005. The NPS will prepare a scoping newsletter in the coming months that will identify issues and inform the public of the schedule for the EIS process and dates for upcoming meetings. To receive a copy of the newsletter, telephone or e-mail the NPS at the address listed below. Public scoping will occur through open public meetings and newsletters to State and Federal Agencies; federally recognized Indian Tribes, neighborhood community groups, county commissioners, local organizations, the congressional delegation, local elected officials, and other interested members of the public. All interested persons, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on issues, concerns and future uses of the Center that should be addressed in the EIS. Public meetings and site visits of the Center will be held throughout the spring and summer of 2005.

In addition to attending the upcoming scoping meetings, interested parties may provide comments on this initial phase of developing alternatives for the EIS. Send or e-mail comments to the NPS address listed below.

**DATES:** Specific dates, times, and locations of upcoming public meetings will be announced in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspapers, on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/miss/bom>, and will also be available by contacting the NPS office listed in the contact information below.

**ADDRESSES:** The National Park Service, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 111 Kellogg Blvd East, St. Paul, Minnesota, telephone: 651-290-3030. E-mail: [miss\\_bomcomments@nps.gov](mailto:miss_bomcomments@nps.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** General information about MNRRA is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nps.gov/miss>; information specific to the proposed action is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/miss/bom>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** If you wish to comment on any issues associated with the EIS, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand deliver comments to the address listed in the contact information section of this notice or via the Internet at [miss\\_bomcomments@nps.gov](mailto:miss_bomcomments@nps.gov). Due to concerns regarding computer viruses, comments will not be accepted as attachments. All comments you provide must be within the body of the e-mail. Be sure to include your name and return street address in your Internet message. Our practice is to make comments, including the names, home addresses, and other personal identifying information of commenters, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual commenters may request that we withhold specified personal identifying information from the public record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There, also, may be circumstances in which, on our own initiative, we would withhold from the public record a commenter's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold any of your personal identifying information from the public record you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment and identify the specific information you wish us to withhold. We cannot withhold an entire comment from the public record. We will make all commenter's submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for inspection in the public record.

Dated: October 27, 2004.

**Ernest Quintana,**

*Regional Director, Midwest Region.*

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