

CFR 1500–1508) and related applicable Federal laws, Executive Orders, and regulations.

**Background:** The Barton Springs Ecosystem is dependent upon adequate spring flow from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer to support endangered species. Cessation of spring flow in the Barton Springs Ecosystem may result in “take” of listed species and an appreciable reduction in the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species. Due to the growing water use anticipated in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, a comprehensive management plan may be necessary to assure the sustained spring flow in the Barton Springs Ecosystem.

The Service proposes to prepare a draft EIS to evaluate the impacts of alternatives associated with issuing an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Section 9 of the Act prohibits the taking of Federally listed species, unless authorized under the provisions of Section 7 or 10 of the Act. The term “take” under the Act includes actions that may directly kill or injure listed species, actions that significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns such as feeding and breeding, and actions that detrimentally modify habitat to the extent that harms individuals of the species.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) allows the Service to permit taking of listed species, provided that taking is incidental to an otherwise legal activity, and that it will not jeopardize a listed species. The applicant must submit an HCP as part of the incidental take permit application.

**Proposed Action:** The District will consider adoption of an HCP consistent with the Service’s Barton Springs Salamander (Draft) Recovery Plan (January 2005) and with Sections 9 and 10 of the Act. The District’s proposed HCP will consider a comprehensive approach to protect Federally listed species and their habitats that may be affected by groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer. Activities proposed for consideration under the Permit may include management and permitting of certain water withdrawals from the Edwards Aquifer within the jurisdiction of the District, and habitat conservation measures to mitigate impacts of changes in flows of Barton Springs.

**Comments Requested:** The Service is soliciting information and comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the draft EIS. The NEPA process is intended to aid public officials to make decisions based on the understanding of

environmental consequences and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment. NEPA scoping procedures are intended to ensure that information on the proposed action, alternatives, and impacts are solicited from the public and that all information is available to public officials and citizens before planning decisions are made. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA. NEPA documents concentrate on the issues that are significant to the action in question. The Service invites the public to submit information and comments either in writing or at the scheduled meeting. The Austin meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on August 23, 2005, at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue in Travis County, Texas. The Service requests that comments be as specific as possible.

Major environmental and species concerns in this scoping process include the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposal could have on endangered and candidate listed species, other environmental resources, and the quality of the human environment. Other relevant issues include effects of aquifer and water withdrawal levels on Barton Springs flows, effect of various aquifer water use management options, and alternative water supply options on the environments affected by those options.

The Service is gathering information necessary for the preparation of an EIS. Information regarding the following topics would assist the Service in assessing the impacts of the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit under the provisions of an HCP: The hydrogeology of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and the effects of aquifer levels on spring flows at Barton Springs as they relate to the habitat needs of Federally listed species; potential water conservation measures and strategies to reduce the withdrawal demands on the Edwards Aquifer and their negative effects on spring flows; alternate water supplies and their potential effect on reducing Edwards Aquifer water withdrawals and maintaining spring flows; effects of aquifer level management and spring flow changes on the quality of the issues; the impact of no action; or suggestions that would be relevant toward the Service’s review and development of alternatives.

In addition to considering impacts on listed species and their habitat, the EIS must include information on impacts from the proposal and alternatives to the

proposal on other components of the human environment. These other components include such things as air and water quality, cultural resources, other fish and wildlife species, social resources, and economic resources.

**Joy E. Nicholopoulos,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–100–05–1310–DB]

#### **Notice of Availability of Supplemental Air Quality Information for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Jonah Infill Drilling Project, Pinedale, Wyoming**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of supplemental information and its public review period

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**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of supplemental air quality analyses and information prepared for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Jonah Infill Drilling Project (JIDP), Sublette County, Wyoming. The supplemental information will be available to the public for a 60-day review and comment period.

**DATES:** The supplemental air quality information will be available for review for 60 calendar days starting on the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best use your comments within this 60-day review period.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the supplemental air quality information is available for public inspection during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) at the following BLM office locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

- Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming.

The document may be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/nepadocs.htm>.

If you wish to review the information electronically, please check with the Pinedale Field Office as to the availability of BLM Internet documents.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding the JIDP DEIS, contact Carol Kruse, Project Manager, Pinedale Field Office, 432 E. Mill Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. For technical air quality information contact Susan Caplan, Meteorologist, BLM, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. Ms. Kruse and Ms. Caplan may be contacted by telephone at (307) 367-5352 and (307) 775-6113, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 11, 2005, the BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Availability of a DEIS for the JIDP for public review and comment. On April 12, 2005, the BLM published notification in the **Federal Register** of its intent to prepare supplemental air quality information for the JIDP DEIS. Until the analyses and supplemental information were completed, the public was provided with additional time to submit comments on the air quality information contained in the DEIS. The analyses have been completed and the supplemental air quality information is now available for review.

A summary of the supplemental air quality information has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. A copy of the full report is available from the Pinedale Field Office upon request.

#### How To Submit Comments

The BLM welcomes your comments on the supplemental air quality information prepared for the JIDP DEIS. The BLM asks that your comments specifically reference page number and paragraph in the report, where possible. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response; they will, however, be considered and included as part of the BLM decisionmaking process.

Written comments may be mailed directly or delivered to the BLM at: Jonah Infill Drilling Project DEIS, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

You may also send your comments electronically to [WYMail\\_Jonah\\_Infill@blm.gov](mailto:WYMail_Jonah_Infill@blm.gov). Please write "Attention: Carol Kruse" in the subject line.

To ensure full consideration by the BLM, all comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address.

Comments, including the names and street addresses of each respondent, will be available for public review at the

Pinedale Field Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. You 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: June 21, 2005.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-200-0777-XZ-241A]

#### Notice of Meeting, Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**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) Front Range Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held September 7, 2005 from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Holy Cross Abbey Community Center, 2951 E. Highway 50, Canon City, Colorado 81212.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Smith, (719) 269-8500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Royal Gorge Field Office and San Luis Valley, Colorado. Planned agenda topics include: Manager updates on current land management issues; current realty actions and travel management planning. All meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to make oral comments to the Council at 9:30 a.m. or written

statements may be submitted for the Councils consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Summary minutes for the Council Meeting will be maintained in the Royal Gorge Field Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting. Meeting Minutes and agenda (10 days prior to each meeting) are also available at: [http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/fracc/co\\_fr.htm](http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/fracc/co_fr.htm).

Dated: August 2, 2005.

**Roy L. Masinton,**

*Royal Gorge Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-300-1020-PH]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**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) Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held September 7 and 8, 2005 at the BLM Salmon Field Office, 50 U.S. Highway 93 South in Salmon, Idaho. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. September 7, with the public comment period as the first agenda item. The meeting will adjourn at or before 3 p.m. on the following day. This will be the final meeting of the 2004-05 session. The first meeting of the new session will be held in November or December.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the BLM Idaho Falls District (IFD), which covers eastern Idaho. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

- Sage Grouse Conservation strategies for the State of Idaho, if completed and released for public review.