

covered in the RMP amendment will be public lands, which include split estate lands, managed by BLM. Decisions in the RMP amendment will be made only on lands managed by BLM; (3) the BLM will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach, where possible, to jointly determine the desired future condition of public lands; (4) the BLM will make all possible attempts to ensure that its management prescriptions and amended planning actions are as complimentary as possible to other planning jurisdictions, within the boundaries described by law and policy; (5) the BLM will consider the management prescriptions on adjoining lands to minimize inconsistent management. To the extent possible, BLM will coordinate inventories, planning, and management programs with other Federal, state, tribal, and local governments and agencies; (6) management prescriptions will focus on the relative values of resources and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or economic output; (7) to the extent possible, the BLM will use current scientific information, research, new technologies and the results of resource assessments, monitoring and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or recover impaired ecosystems; and (8) the plan amendment will be completed in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other relevant Federal laws, executive orders and management policies of the BLM.

#### **Site-Specific NEPA**

While this EIS is intended to analyze site-specific impacts, site-specific NEPA analysis and documentation must remain adequate and detailed enough to identify and support any Conditions of Approval or other adaptive management actions justified by future site-specific considerations. This is necessary so as to retain BLM's full authority at each decision stage to manage its lands in accordance with land use plans, prevent unacceptable impacts, and to support appropriate levels of protection and/or mitigation against effects on other resource values. Accordingly, additional site-specific NEPA analysis may be required before individual activities are approved based on a review of the specific conditions and the adequacy of

the existing NEPA documentation at the time activities are proposed.

**Patrick Gubbins,**

*Price Field Manager.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

**[OR-027-1610-DR; HAG 05-0050]**

#### **Notice of Availability of Records of Decision for the Andrews Management Unit and Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Resource Management Plans (RMPs)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Steens Mountain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Plan**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Stees Act), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policies, the BLM announces the availability of the RMPs/RODs for the Andrews Management Unit (AMU) and Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMWA), located primarily in Harney County in southeastern Oregon. The Oregon/Washington State Director approved the RMPs/RODs, which become effective immediately. In accordance with the Steens Act, BLM is also releasing the Final Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan for pertinent lands within the CMWA.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the AMU and CMWA RMPs/RODs are available upon request from the BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, via e-mail at *OR\_Burns\_RMP@or.blm.gov*, or via the Internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/Planning/AndrewsSteensRMP/RMP.htm>.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Information about the plans may be obtained by contacting the RMP Project Leader, Gary Foulkes, BLM, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, telephone (541-573-4400), fax (541-573-4411), or e-mail (*gfoulkes@or.blm.gov*).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The AMU and CMWA RMPs/RODs were developed with broad public participation over a

three-year collaborative planning process. These RMPs/RODs address management on approximately 1,649,470 acres of public land consisting of the 1,221,314-acre AMU (public land in the Andrews Resource Area outside the CMWA) and public land in the 428,156-acre CMWA. In addition, 53,436 acres of the Three Rivers Resource Area falling within the CMWA were also included in this planning effort, and the Three Rivers RMP is amended as a result. The AMU and CMWA RMPs/RODs are designed to achieve or maintain desired future conditions determined through the planning process. The RMPs include a series of management actions to meet the desired resource conditions for upland and riparian vegetation, wildlife habitats, cultural and visual resources, livestock grazing and recreation, wilderness, and WSRs, as well as other resources. The Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan addresses management issues associated with the 170,084-acre wilderness area and the 105 miles of WSRs in the CMWA.

Management activities in the approved AMU and CMWA RMPs/RODs are essentially the same as those described in Alternative D for each area in the AMU/CMWA Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which was published in August 2004. BLM received five protests on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and three comment letters on the Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan. The protests were resolved without changes to the RMPs. No inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs were identified during the Governor's consistency review of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. As a result, except for separating the text for the two plans, only minor editorial modifications were made in the RMPs/RODs. These modifications corrected errors that were noted during review of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and provide further clarification for some of the decisions. The Comments received on the Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan were considered during development of the Final Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan.

**James G. Kenna,**

*Associate State Director, Oregon/Washington.*  
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