

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 281.72 acres under application are located in Iron County, and are described as follows:

**T. 35 S., R. 12 W., Salt Lake Meridian, Utah**

Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 23, Lot 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The above described lands were segregated from the public land and mineral laws on July 30, 2004, in connection with an exchange proposal (UTU-79738) between the Bureau of Land Management and the State. The lands have been eliminated from the exchange and the exchange segregation is hereby terminated upon publication of this notice. The filing of the *in lieu* application by the State segregates the Federal lands from the public land laws and mineral laws. This segregation becomes effective upon publication of this notice and shall terminate upon the issuance of a certificate of acceptance of the *in lieu* selection for the Federal lands if the lands are found suitable for transfer; upon the publication in the **Federal Register** of a notice of termination of the segregation; or upon the expiration of two years from the date of the filing of this application, whichever occurs first.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2091.3-1(b) and 43 CFR 2201.1-2(c)(2).

Dated: October 26, 2007.

**Jeff Rawson,**

*Acting State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310--SS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-510-1610-DQ]

#### Notice of Availability of Special Status Species Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement, New Mexico

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Special Status Species Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for portions of the

Carlsbad and Roswell Field Offices in New Mexico.

**DATES:** The BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest the BLM's approval or amendment of a RMP. You may file a protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Instructions for filing of protests are described in the Dear Reader letter in the front of the Special Status Species Proposed RMPA/Final EIS and in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information on how to file a protest, refer to the Supplementary Information section below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Howard Parman, BLM, Pecos District Office, 2909 West Second Street, Roswell, New Mexico 88201. To receive a copy of the document, contact the BLM at the above address or call 505-627-0272 during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The planning area for the Special Status Species Proposed RMPA/Final EIS, which includes approximately 850,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands and 1.15 million acres of Federal minerals, is located in Chaves, Eddy, Lea, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. A map of the planning area is available on the BLM New Mexico Web site (<http://www.nm.blm.gov>). The BLM-administered public lands within the planning area are currently managed under interim management guidelines issued on August 5, 2004, in accordance with the decisions in the 1988 Carlsbad RMP, as amended, and the 1997 Roswell RMP. The BLM will continue to manage these lands in accordance with the interim management guidelines until the RMPA is completed and a Record of Decision is signed.

The purpose of the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS is to amend the existing RMPs, to protect and enhance habitat for the lesser prairie chicken and sand dune lizard while allowing other uses to continue. The Proposed RMPA/Final EIS documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of six alternatives for BLM-administered public lands within the planning area. Issues related to possible management direction and planning decisions (not in priority order) include: development of energy resources, special management

designation, special status species management, livestock grazing, and off-highway vehicle designations.

The Draft RMPA/EIS was released to the public for a 90-day comment period on October 20, 2006. The BLM hosted public meetings in Roswell, Carlsbad, Artesia, and Hobbs, New Mexico, and Midland, Texas, to answer questions about the document, as well as to solicit comments from the public. Public comments on the Draft RMPA/EIS are on file and available for public review at the address listed above.

Six alternatives were identified in the Draft RMPA/EIS:

- *The No Action Alternative:* represents the continuation of existing management plans, policies, and decisions as established by the current RMPs.
- *Alternative A:* Adopts the portions of the Conservation Strategy developed by the Southeast New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken Working Group that applies to public lands and Federal minerals.
- *Alternative B (BLM's Preferred Alternative):* Represents the Conservation Strategy and adds emphasis to sand dune lizard habitat and surface reclamation.
- *Alternative C:* Represents the continuation of Interim Management, originally put in place by the BLM (August 2004) to preserve management options in the Planning Area.
- *Alternative D:* Focuses management efforts on preserving occupied habitat.
- *Alternative E:* Focuses management efforts of preserving lesser prairie-chicken habitat through the designation of an area of critical environmental concern.

In the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS, the BLM has selected Alternative B, the Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMPA, as its Proposed Plan. Comments on the Draft RMPA/EIS received from the public and internal BLM review comments were incorporated into the Proposed Plan. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change the proposed land use decisions in the Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Plan represents the portions of the strategy developed by the Southeast New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken Working Group that apply to public lands and Federal minerals, and adds emphasis to sand dune lizard habitat and surface reclamation. Copies of the Special Status Species Proposed RMPA/Final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. A copy of the Special Status Species Proposed RMPA/Final EIS is available

for review via the internet from a link at <http://www.nm.blm.gov>, or at the BLM Roswell Field Office, 2909 West Second Street, Roswell, New Mexico, and the Carlsbad Field Office, 620 East Greene Street, Carlsbad, New Mexico. Electronic (on CD-ROM) and paper copies may also be obtained by contacting Howard Parman at the aforementioned address and phone number.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5-2. A protest may only raise those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid, unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by regular mail or other delivery service postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy, and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide us with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of Brenda Hudgens-Williams, Protest Coordinator, at (202) 452-5112, and e-mails to [bhudgens@blm.gov](mailto:bhudgens@blm.gov). Please direct the follow-up letter to the appropriate address provided below.

The protest must contain:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the part or parts of the proposed plan and the issues being protested.
3. A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process of a statement to the date they were discussed for the record.
4. A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the State Director's decision is wrong.

All protests must be in writing and must be sent to the following address via regular mail or other delivery service: Regular Mail, Director 210, Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035. Overnight Mail, Director 210, Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20236.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM Director will promptly render a decision on the protests. The decision will be in writing and will set forth the reasons for the decision. The protest decision will be sent to the protesting party by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. The decision of the Director will be the final decision of the Department of the Interior. The State Director will sign the Record of Decision for the Special Status Species RMPA once the protests are resolved.

**Linda S.C. Rundell,**

*New Mexico State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT090-1610-012J]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Monticello Field Office in San Juan County, Utah

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby gives notice that the Monticello Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) is available for a 90-day public review and comment period. This notice also meets requirements in 43 CFR 1610, 7-2(b) concerning potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

**DATES:** To ensure that your written comments on the DRMP/DEIS will be considered, you should send them to the BLM within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce public meetings and other public-involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, news releases, direct mailings, and posting on the project Web site at: [www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html). Public meetings will be held in Monticello, Moab, Blanding, Montezuma Creek, and Salt Lake City, UT; and in other locations, if warranted.

**ADDRESSES:** Address written comments to: RMP Comments, Monticello Field

Office, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535.

Comments may also be faxed to the Monticello Field Office at (435) 587-1518, or submitted electronically by e-mail to: [UT\\_Monticello\\_RMP\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:UT_Monticello_RMP_Comments@blm.gov). Comments and information submitted on the DRMP/EIS, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address. The BLM will not accept anonymous comments. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Torres, Land Use Planner, Monticello BLM Field Office, PO Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535, phone (435) 587-1524. To have your name added to the Monticello RMP mailing list, or to view and download the DRMP/DEIS in portable document format (PDF) go to the project Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning.1.html>. Copies of the DRMP/DEIS are also available at the BLM Monticello Field Office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DRMP/DEIS addresses public lands and resources managed by the Monticello Field Office in San Juan County, Utah. These lands and resources are currently managed under the San Juan Resource Management Plan (1991). The planning area includes approximately 1.8 million acres of BLM-administered surface lands and additional federally-owned minerals under Federal, state, tribal, and private lands in the area. Decisions in the Monticello RMP will only apply to BLM-administered public lands and federally-owned minerals.

Major issues considered in the DRMP/DEIS include oil and gas leasing, mining, range and livestock management, access and transportation, recreation and off-highway vehicle management, special status species, special designations (including ACECs and suitability of rivers for Congressional designation into the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System), and lands with wilderness characteristics.

The DRMP/DEIS proposes and analyzes five alternatives for future management of the public lands and