

public land. The planning process will comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The RMP will replace the following land use plans: Big Desert Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1980), Big Lost MFP (1983), Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP (1985) and the Medicine Lodge RMP (1985).

The process this RMP/EIS will use is an open collaborative approach allowing Tribal governments, State and Federal agencies, local elected officials, interested individuals and an interdisciplinary team with BLM subject matter specialists to identify issues and concerns, and develop and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives for management of the public lands. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs, interests and concerns. Agency representatives and interested persons are invited to visit with Upper Snake Field Office officials at any time during the EIS process. In addition, two specific time periods are identified for the receipt of formal comments. These two comment periods are:

(1) During the open house scoping process (ending 15 days after the last open house meeting date), and

(2) During the 90-day formal review period following release of the Draft RMP/EIS. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify planning issues and to develop planning criteria. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues, concerns and ideas that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. These issues also guide the planning process. The scoping process includes an evaluation of the existing land use plans in the context of the needs and interests of the public and tribal members.

Public scoping (open houses) to identify specific issues to be addressed in the RMP will offer an opportunity for the public to provide input. Subsequent opportunities for public involvement will occur at specific stages in the planning process. You may submit comments in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit formal scoping comments within 15 days after the last public meeting. Individual respondents may request confidentiality, however, all submissions from agencies, organizations or businesses, and from

individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of agencies, organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. 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.

In order to address issues and meet BLM planning requirements for determining public land uses, decisions may be made for air, soil, and water resources; vegetation (including noxious weeds); riparian areas; forestry management (including juniper woodlands); wildlife and fishery habitat; special status species (including threatened, endangered, candidate, and BLM sensitive species); livestock grazing; fire management; lands (including land tenure adjustments and rights-of-way); locatable, leasable, salable and fluid minerals; recreation (travel management); wilderness; visual resources; cultural and paleontological resources; hazardous materials; and special designations (including wild and scenic rivers and areas of critical environmental concern). In addition, decisions may be made regarding the conditions under which future fluid mineral leases will be issued by the field office.

After gathering public comments on which issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be evaluated for their applicability to the planning process and categorized into one of the following three categories:

- (1) Issues to be resolved in the plan;
- (2) Issues resolved through policy or administrative action; or
- (3) Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

This evaluation and categorization will be described in the plan with associated rationale. In addition to the issues to be resolved in the plan, a number of management questions and concerns will also be addressed. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping period.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resources and issues identified. Specialists with expertise in the disciplines corresponding to these issue areas will

be represented and utilized during the planning process.

Dated: February 19, 2008.

Peter J. Ditton,

Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-01-134-1220-AL-241A]

Notice of Public Meetings, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA) Advisory Council will hold two meetings, scheduled on March 20, 2008 and September 18, 2008. The meetings will begin at 4 p.m. and will be held at the Mesa County Administration Building; 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, CO.

DATES: The meetings will be held on March 20, 2008 and September 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: For further information or to provide written comments, please contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; (970) 244-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area was established on October 24, 2000 when the President signed the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Wilderness Act of 2000 (Act). The Act required that an Advisory Council be established to provide advice in the preparation and implementation of the Resource Management Plan. The NCA name was congressionally changed at the end of 2004 from Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area to McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA).

The MCNCA Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, March 20, 2008 and Thursday, September 18, 2008, at the Mesa County Administration Building, 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado, beginning at 4 p.m. The agenda topics for the March meeting are:

- (1) Report on River Management program.
- (2) Camping in Rabbit Valley.
- (3) Managers Update.
- (4) Advisory Council field trip schedules.

(5) Public Comment period.

Topics pertaining to all other meetings will be similar in nature. All meetings will be open to the public and will include a time set aside for public comment. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at any meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak. Summary minutes of all Council meetings will be maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Office in Grand Junction, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting. In addition, minutes and other information concerning the MCNCA Advisory Council can be obtained from the MCNCA Web site at: <http://www.co.blm.gov/mcnca/index.htm>, which will be updated following each Advisory Council meeting.

Dated: February 22, 2008.

Paul H. Peck,

Manager, *McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO620 1820 XH 24 1A]

Call for Nominations for Resource Advisory Councils

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to request public nominations for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) that have member terms expiring this year. The RACs provide advice and recommendations to BLM on land use planning and management of the public lands within their geographic areas. The BLM will consider public nominations for 45 days after the publication date of this notice.

DATES: Send all nominations to the appropriate BLM State Office by no later than *April 14, 2008*.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the locations to send your nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Justin Hall, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management,

Legislative Affairs and Correspondance, 1849 C Street, NW., MS-5654, Washington, DC 20240; 202-208-1423.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)(43 U.S.C. 1730) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to select 10 to 15 member citizen-based advisory councils that are consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As required by the FACA, RAC membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands. The rules governing RACs are found at 43 CFR 1784. These include three categories:

Category One—Holders of Federal grazing permits and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation;

Category Two—Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historic organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations; and

Category Three—Representatives of State, county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a State agency responsible for management of natural resources; representatives of Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the Council is organized; representatives of and employed as academicians involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of the State or States in which the RAC has jurisdiction. The BLM will evaluate nominees based on their education, training, experience, and their knowledge of the geographical area of the RAC. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to collaborative resource decisionmaking. The following must accompany all nominations:

- letters of reference from represented interests or organizations,
- a completed background information nomination form, and
- any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

Simultaneous with this notice, BLM State Offices will issue press releases providing additional information for submitting nominations, with specifics about the number and categories of member positions available for each

RAC in the State. Nominations for RACs should be sent to the appropriate BLM offices listed below:

Alaska

Alaska RAC

Sharon Wilson, Alaska State Office, BLM, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, (907) 271-4418

Alternate: Pam Eldridge, (907) 271-5555

Arizona

Arizona RAC

Deborah Stevens, Arizona State Office, BLM, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, (602) 417-9215

California

Central California RAC

David Christy, Folsom Field Office, BLM, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, California 95630, (916) 985-4474

Northeastern California RAC

Jeff Fontana, Eagle Lake Field Office, BLM, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, (530) 252-5332

Northwestern California RAC

Jeff Fontana, Eagle Lake Field Office, BLM, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, (530) 257-0456

Colorado

Front Range RAC

Jon Dow, Royal Gorge Field Office, BLM, 3170 E. Main Street, Canon City, Colorado 81212, (719) 269-8559

Northwest RAC

David Boyd, Glenwood Springs Field Office, BLM, 50629 Highways 6 and 24, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601, (970) 947-2800

Southwest RAC

Melodie Lloyd, Grand Junction Field Office, BLM, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, (970) 244-3097

Idaho

Coeur d'Alene District RAC

Lisa Wagner, Coeur d'Alene District Office, BLM, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815, (208) 769-5014

Idaho Falls District RAC

Joanna Wilson, Idaho Falls District Office, BLM, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, (208) 524-7550

Boise District RAC

MJ Byrne, Boise District Office, BLM, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705, (208) 384-3393

Twin Falls District RAC