

management, sociology and economics, and Geographic Information Systems.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Ron Wenker,**

*Nevada State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, Imperial County, CA

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office and Imperial County, California, intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended). This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Draft EIS/EIR and possible CDCA Plan amendment. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 12, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIR/EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIR/EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Draft EIR/EIS by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>.

- **E-mail:** [caocotillo@blm.gov](mailto:caocotillo@blm.gov).
- **Fax:** (760) 337-4490.
- **Mail:** Cedric Perry, Project Manager, California Desert District (CDD), BLM, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the CDD or the BLM's California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact Cedric Perry, BLM Project Manager, telephone (951) 697-5388; address 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; e-mail [Cedric\\_Perry@ca.blm.gov](mailto:Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Ocotillo Express, LLC has submitted an application for a right-of-way authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission, an approximate 15,000-acre, 550 megawatt (MW) wind energy project including a substation, administration, operations and maintenance facilities, transmission, and temporary construction lay down areas. The proposed wind energy project would be located on BLM administered lands and a small portion on lands under the jurisdiction of Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. The proposed action consists of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind turbine generators and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 550 MW of electricity. The project would be constructed in 2 phases: Phase I is anticipated to total approximately 299 MW, and Phase II is about 251 MW. A recently approved high-voltage transmission line known as the Sunrise Powerlink crosses the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project site and will facilitate interconnection of the proposed project and transmission of its renewable energy output to Southern California.

The BLM will be the lead agency for NEPA compliance and Imperial County will act as the lead agency under CEQA for the project. The BLM has invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be a cooperating Federal agency in the preparation of the EIR/EIS because the proposed project may require a section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. The BLM and Corps agree that establishing a cooperating agency relationship will create a more streamlined and coordinated approach in developing the Ocotillo EIR/EIS and they will be developing a Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and will guide the process of developing the EIR/EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues. Authorization of this proposal would require an amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans. The BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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.

**Thomas Pogacnik,**

*Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.*

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOS06000 L91310000.EI0000]

#### Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules for Public Lands in Colorado: Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties

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

**ACTION:** Proposed supplementary rules.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado is proposing supplementary rules for public land included in the San Luis Resource Area Travel Management Plan (TMP), approved on June 4, 2009. These supplementary rules would apply to the public lands within Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties, Colorado, within the TMP, and under the management of the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center. The proposed rules implement decisions found in the TMP relating to the use of the lands, conduct of visitors, health and safety of visitors, and protection of visitors and natural resources.

**DATES:** You should submit your comments by February 11, 2011. Comments postmarked or received in person or by electronic mail after this date may not be considered in the development of the final supplementary rules.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by the following methods: Mail or hand-deliver: Larry Velarde, Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado, 81144.

You may also submit comments via electronic mail to: [rgfo\\_comments@blm.co.gov](mailto:rgfo_comments@blm.co.gov) (include "Attn: San Luis Resource Area Travel Management Plan" in the subject line).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Larry Velarde, Natural Resource Specialist, Recreation, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144, (719) 852-5941. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact these individuals by calling the Federal Information Relay

Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- I. Authority
- II. Public Comment Procedures
- III. Background
- IV. Discussion of the Proposed Supplementary Rules
- V. Procedural Matters

**I. Authority**

43 U.S.C. 1740, 43 U.S.C. 315a, 43 CFR 8341.1, 8364.1, and 8365.1-6.

**II. Public Comment Procedures**

You may mail or hand-deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144, or e-mail to [rgfo\\_comments@blm.co.gov](mailto:rgfo_comments@blm.co.gov).

Written comments on the proposed supplementary rule should be specific, confined to issues pertinent to the proposed supplementary rules, and explain the reason for any recommended change. Where possible, your comments should reference the specific section or paragraph of the proposal that you are addressing. The BLM is not obligated to consider or include in the Administrative Record for the final supplementary rule, comments that the BLM receives after the close of the comment period (*see DATES*), unless they are postmarked or electronically dated before the deadline, or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (*see ADDRESSES*).

Comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents, will be available for public review at the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center address listed in **ADDRESSES** during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays). 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.

**III. Background**

A "Notice of Intent to Prepare the San Luis Resource Valley Travel Management Plan and Amend San Luis Valley Resource Management Plan and Start the Scoping Period" was announced in the **Federal Register** on

March 30, 2004 (69 FR 16599). The completion of the San Luis Resource Area TMP Environmental Assessment (EA) led to a 30-day public comment period, starting on June 3, 2008. Following analysis of the public comments, the BLM issued two decisions: An RMP amendment proposed decision record (May 14, 2009), and an implementation decision on the San Luis Resource Area TMP (June 4, 2009). The decision restricts off-highway vehicle use to designated roads and trails in the TMP area and includes discussion of the proposed supplementary rules.

**IV. Discussion of the Proposed Supplementary Rules**

These proposed supplementary rules apply to the public lands within the San Luis Resource Area TMP area. The TMP area consists of 520,945 acres of public lands within Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties, Colorado, in the following described townships:

**Colorado, New Mexico Principal Meridian**

T. 45 N., R. 4 E. through T. 45 N., R. 11 E.;  
 T. 46 N., R. 4 E. through T. 46 N., R. 11 E.;  
 T. 41 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;  
 T. 40 N., R. 4 E. through T. 40 N., R. 6 E.;  
 T. 40 N., R. 11 E.;  
 T. 42 N., R. 5 E. through T. 42 N., R. 7 E.;  
 T. 42 N., R. 9 E. and R. 10 E.;  
 T. 43 N., R. 5 E. through T. 43 N., R. 7 E.;  
 T. 43 N., R. 9 E. through T. 43 N., R. 12 E.;  
 T. 44 N., R. 4 E. through T. 44 N., R. 12 E.;  
 T. 47 N., R. 7 E. through T. 47 N., R. 10 E.;  
 T. 48 N., R. 8 E. and R. 9 E.;  
 T. 36 N., R. 6 E. through T. 36 N., R. 8 E.;  
 T. 36 N., R. 11 E. and R. 12 E.;  
 T. 38 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;  
 T. 38 N., R. 11 E. through T. 38 N., R. 13 E.;  
 T. 37 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;  
 T. 37 N., R. 12 E. and R. 13 E.;  
 T. 37 N., R. 4 E. through T. 37 N., R. 7 E.;  
 T. 37 N., R. 11 E. through T. 37 N., R. 13 E.;  
 T. 32 N., R. 7 E. through T. 32 N., R. 11 E.;  
 T. 33 N., R. 8 E. through T. 33 N., R. 11 E.;  
 T. 34 N., R. 6 E. through T. 34 N., R. 8 E.;  
 T. 34 N., R. 10 E. and R. 11 E.;  
 T. 35 N., R. 5 E. through T. 35 N., R. 8 E.;  
 and  
 T. 35 N., R. 10 E. and R. 11 E.  
 6th Principal Meridian  
 T. 27 S., 73 W. through T. 29 S., R. 73 W.

The proposed supplementary rules are consistent with the record of decision of the San Luis Resource Area TMP, approved on June 4, 2009. The TMP includes specific management actions that restrict certain activities and define allowable uses. Restrictions on general travel and off-highway vehicle use are intended to enhance user safety and ensure compliance with travel management restrictions. These restrictions are designed to protect critical resources and scenic values in