

for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM prepared the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment and Draft EIS to address a range of alternatives focused on specific conservation measures across the Northwest Colorado range of the Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG). This Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS is one of 15 separate planning efforts that are being undertaken as part of the BLM's and U.S. Forest Service's National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. The Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS proposes to amend the RMPs for the Colorado River Valley, Grand Junction, Kremmling, Little Snake, and White River field offices, as well as the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Routt National Forest. The current management decisions for resources are described in the following RMPs/LRMPs:

- Glenwood Springs RMP (1984)
- Grand Junction RMP (1987)
- Kremmling RMP (1984)
- Little Snake RMP (2011)
- White River RMP (1997)
- Routt National Forest LRMP (1997)

The planning area includes approximately 8 million acres of BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, State, local, and private lands located in northwestern Colorado, in 10 counties (Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit). Within the decision area, the BLM and U.S. Forest Service administer approximately 1.6 million surface acres and 2.7 million acres of Federal oil and gas mineral (subsurface) estate. Surface management decisions made as a result of this Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS will apply only to the BLM and U.S. Forest Service-administered lands in the decision area. The decision area is defined as those BLM and U.S. Forest Service-administered lands and Federal mineral estate within three categories of habitat identified by Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

- Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH)—Areas identified as having the highest conservation value to maintaining sustainable GRSG populations; include breeding, late

brood-rearing and winter concentration areas.

- Preliminary General Habitat (PGH)—Areas of seasonal or year-round habitat outside of priority habitat.
- Linkage/Connectivity Habitat—Areas identified as broader regions of connectivity important to facilitate the movement of GRSG and maintain ecological processes.

The formal public scoping process for the RMP Amendment/EIS began on December 9, 2011, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 77008), and ended on March 23, 2012. The BLM held four scoping open houses in January and February 2012. The BLM used public scoping comments to help identify planning issues that directed the formulation of alternatives and framed the scope of analysis in the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS. The scoping process was also used to introduce the public to preliminary planning criteria, which set limits on the scope of the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS.

Major issues considered in the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS include special status species management (GRSG specifically), energy development, lands and realty (including transmission), and livestock grazing.

The Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS evaluates four alternatives in detail, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and three action alternatives (Alternatives B, C and D). The BLM identified Alternative D as the preferred alternative. Identification of this alternative, however, does not represent final agency direction, and the Proposed RMP Amendment may reflect changes or adjustments based on information received during public comment, from new information, or from changes in BLM policies or priorities. The Proposed RMP may include objectives and actions described in the other analyzed alternatives or otherwise within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed.

Alternative A would retain the current management goals, objectives, and direction specified in the current RMPs for each field office and the LRMP for the Routt National Forest. Alternative B includes conservation measures from the Sage-grouse National Technical Team Report. Alternative C includes conservation measures various conservation groups submitted to the BLM. Alternative D includes conservation measures the BLM developed with the cooperating agencies.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.7–2(b), this notice announces a concurrent public

comment period on proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). One ACEC is proposed in Alternative C. The Sage-grouse Habitat ACEC (approximately 910,000 acres) would include the following resource use limitations if it were formally designated:

Close to fluid mineral leasing; designate as a Right-of-Way exclusion area; close to livestock grazing; allow vegetation treatments only for the benefit of GRSG; and recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Helen M. Hankins,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLUT030000–L17110000–PH0000–24–1A]

### Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Monument Advisory Committee; Meeting/Conference Call

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting/Conference.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) will host a meeting/conference call.

**DATES:** The GSENM MAC will host a meeting/conference call on Tuesday,

Sept. 24, 2013, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. MDT.

**ADDRESSES:** Those attending in person should meet at the GSENM Headquarters, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah, in the Cottonwood Conference Room located off the lobby.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Public participants wishing to listen to the conference call, orally present material during the teleconference, or submit written material for the GSENM MAC to consider during the teleconference should notify Larry Crutchfield, Public Affairs Officer, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah 84741; phone (435) 644-1209; or email [lcrutchf@blm.gov](mailto:lcrutchf@blm.gov) by Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question with the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies will be received during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member GSENM MAC was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 2, 2011, pursuant to the Monument Management Plan (MMP), FLPMA, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972. As specified in the MMP, the GSENM MAC has several primary tasks: (1) Review evaluation reports produced by the Management Science Team and make recommendations on protocols and projects to meet overall objectives; (2) Review appropriate research proposals and make recommendations on project necessity and validity; (3) Make recommendations regarding allocation of research funds through review of research and project proposals as well as needs identified through the evaluation process above; and, (4) Could be consulted on issues such as protocols for specific projects.

Topics to be discussed by the GSENM MAC during this meeting/conference call include review of the GSENM Campground and Day Use Business Plan, formulation of a land health subcommittee to assist with the development of the MMP amendment, future meeting dates and other matters as may reasonably come before the GSENM MAC. A public comment period will take place immediately following the business meeting. The meeting is open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating public. The conference call will be recorded for purposes of minute-taking.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1784.4-1.

**Jenna Whitlock,**

*Associate State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWY930000-L16100000-DS0000]

#### **Notice of Intent To Extend the Public Scoping Period for the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) and To Amend the 2008 Rawlins RMP To Address Wild Horse and Burro Management in the Rock Springs and Rawlins Field Offices, WY**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to extend the scoping period for an additional 30 days for the ongoing Rock Springs RMP, which was initiated on February 2, 2011, to address wild horse and burro management in the Rock Springs Field Office and to amend the 2008 Approved Rawlins RMP for the Adobe Town Herd Management Area in the Rawlins Field Office in Wyoming. The BLM, by this notice, is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process for wild horse and burro management.

**DATES:** This notice extends the scoping period initiated on February 2, 2011 for wild horse and burro management in the ongoing Rock Springs RMP and associated environmental impact statement (EIS) and initiates the public scoping process for wild horse and burro management for the Adobe Town Herd Management Area (HMA) for the amendment of the 2008 Approved Rawlins RMP.

Comments on issues relating to these two planning efforts may be submitted in writing until September 16, 2013. Two public scoping meetings concerning wild horse and burro management will be held in Rock Springs and Rawlins, Wyoming. The meeting times and addresses will be announced through the local news media, newspapers, and the BLM Web

site at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html> at least 15 days prior to the event. In order to be included in the Draft Rock Springs RMP/EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public scoping meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft Rock Springs RMP/EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Rock Springs RMP/EIS and an amendment to the Rawlins RMP by any of the following methods:

*Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html>;

*Email:*

[RockSpringsRMP\\_WY@blm.gov](mailto:RockSpringsRMP_WY@blm.gov). Include "Wild Horses" in the subject line of the message;

*Fax:* 307-352-0329; or

*Mail:* BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Wild Horse Scoping, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, during normal business hours: 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jay D'Ewart, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, at 307-352-0331. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to speak with Jay D'Ewart during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 27, 2011, the Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) filed a lawsuit (*Rock Springs Grazing Association v. Salazar*, No. 11-CV-00263-NDF) in the United States District Court for Wyoming contending, in part, that the BLM had violated Section 4 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. 1334, by failing to remove strayed animals from private lands controlled by RSGA within the Wyoming checkerboard pattern of mixed public and private land ownership. RSGA-controlled private lands include lands within the BLM's Rock Springs and Rawlins management areas in the Adobe Town, Great Divide Basin, Salt Wells Creek, and White Mountain HMAs.