

Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Dakotas Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The Dakotas Resource Advisory Council meeting will be held on September 9, 2015 in Dickinson, North Dakota. When determined, the meeting place and time will be announced in a news release.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mark Jacobsen, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301; (406) 233-2831; [mjacobse@blm.gov](mailto:mjacobse@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-677-8339 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 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in North and South Dakota. At this meeting, topics will include: an Eastern Montana/Dakotas District report, North Dakota and South Dakota Field Office manager reports, Fort Meade trail work report, Lead shooting range report, Sturgis Rally briefing, individual RAC member reports and other issues the council may raise. All meetings are open to the public and the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations should contact the BLM as provided above.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1784.4-2

**Diane M. Frieze,**

*Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLCON03000 L16100000.DR0000 15x]

**Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Grand Junction Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) located in Mesa, Garfield, Montrose, and Rio Blanco counties, Colorado. The Colorado State Director signed the ROD on August 24, 2015, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved RMP effective immediately.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ROD and Approved RMP are available upon request from the Field Manager, GJFO, BLM, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506 or via the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp/rmp.html> under the "RMP Documents" link. Copies of the ROD and Approved RMP are available for public inspection at the GJFO (see address above) and the Mesa County libraries in Grand Junction, Collbran, De Beque, Fruita and Gateway, Colorado.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christina Stark, Planning and Environmental Coordinator; telephone 970-244-3027; GJFO (see address above); email [cstark@blm.gov](mailto:cstark@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device 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, seven 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 GJFO has worked cooperatively with the public, interest groups, stakeholders, cooperating agencies, Native American tribes, the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and neighboring BLM offices for the past seven years developing the approved RMP. The result is an Approved RMP that seeks to provide a balance between

the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural and cultural values, while allowing resource use and development in existing or reasonable locations. Goals and objectives focus on environmental, economic and social outcomes achieved by strategically addressing demands across the landscape. Management direction is broad to accommodate a variety of values and uses. Management decisions outlined in the Approved RMP apply only to BLM-managed surface lands (approximately 1,061,400 acres) and BLM-managed Federal mineral estate (approximately 1,231,300 acres) that lies beneath BLM-managed surface lands, and lands managed by other Federal, State, and private owners, including National Forest System lands.

The Approved RMP will replace the 1987 Grand Junction Resource Area RMP. The Approved RMP outlines goals, objectives, management actions and allowable uses for resources and land uses including, but not limited to: Air, soil, water, upland and riparian vegetation, fish and wildlife, cultural and paleontological resources, visual resources, recreation, livestock grazing, energy development, minerals, forestry and realty.

The BLM initiated scoping for the RMP revision in 2008 and collected information and public input via public meetings in order to develop the Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was published in December 2012. Based on public and agency comments, the BLM developed the Proposed RMP by combining various elements of all the alternatives considered in the Draft RMP/EIS.

The BLM published the Proposed RMP/Final EIS on April 10, 2015, and made it available for a 30-day public protest period. During the protest period for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the BLM received 19 protests on a variety of issues. Following the protest resolution, the BLM made minor editorial modifications to the Approved RMP to provide further clarification on some of the decisions being made. The BLM dismissed all protests.

The BLM regulations also require a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review period for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to ensure consistency with officially approved or adopted state or local government plans, policies or programs. The Governor did not identify any inconsistencies as part of this review.

While the Approved RMP contains some conservation management measures for the Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, final decisions on how to manage Greater Sage-Grouse habitat within the GJFO administrative

boundaries will be made in the Record of Decision for the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment and EIS. The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment and EIS will fully analyze applicable Greater Sage-Grouse conservation measures, consistent with BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-044. The BLM expects to make a comprehensive set of decisions for managing Greater Sage-Grouse on lands administered by the GJFO in the ROD for the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment. That decision will amend the Approved RMP. In the interim, leasing in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will continue to be deferred until a final decision has been made on the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment.

The Approved RMP includes some implementation decisions, which are displayed and numbered as implementation decisions in the Approved RMP. Implementation decisions are generally appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR 4.410. For example, the decisions designating routes of travel are implementation decisions and are appealable under 43 CFR part 4. The route decisions are displayed as an attachment to Appendix M of the Approved RMP. Any party adversely affected by the route designations may appeal within 30 days of publication of this Notice of Availability pursuant to 43 CFR, part 4, subpart E. The appeal should state the specific route(s), as identified in Appendix M of the Approved RMP, on which the decision is being appealed. The appeal must be filed with the Grand Junction Field Manager at the address listed above. Please consult the appropriate regulations (43 CFR, part 4, subpart E) for further appeal requirements.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6.

Gregory P. Shoop,

BLM Colorado Associate State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Final Action: Crude Helium Sale and Auction for Fiscal Year 2016 Delivery

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico State Office, is issuing this Final Notice to conduct a sale and auction from the Federal Helium Program, administered by the BLM New Mexico Amarillo Field Office. The BLM will use the sale and auction process outlined in this Notice for the sale and auction that the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (HSA) requires the BLM to conduct during fiscal year (FY) 2015 for delivery in FY 2016. This action takes into consideration public comments received as a result of the Notice of Proposed Action published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 2015.

DATES: This Notice is effective on August 24, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Jolley, Amarillo Field Manager, at 806-356-1002. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose and Background

In October 2013, Congress passed the HSA (Pub. L. 113-40). The HSA requires the Department of the Interior, through the BLM Director, to offer for sale and auction annually a portion of the helium reserves owned by the United States and stored underground in the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, Texas (50 U.S.C. 167d(b)). On July 22, 2014, the BLM published a "Final Notice for Implementation of Helium Stewardship Act Sales and Auctions" in the **Federal Register**, (79 FR 42808) (2014 Final Notice). The 2014 Final Notice contained information about the HSA, definitions of terms used in the Notice, the reasons for the action, and a process for conducting the auctions and sales in FY 2014. The 2014 Final Notice is available at the BLM helium operations Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/nm/helium>.

The BLM published a "Notice of Proposed Action: Crude Helium Sale and Auction for Fiscal Year 2016 Delivery" in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 2015 (80 FR 33548). The BLM requested comments regarding elements of the FY 2016 sale and auction. These elements included:

- a. The process for arriving at the price for helium to be sold at the Phase B auction and sale, as described in section 1.01 of this Notice;
- b. The format of the auction, as described in section 1.04 of this Notice;
- c. Who will be allowed to purchase helium in the FY 2016 Phase B sale, as described in section 2.01 of this Notice; and
- d. The process for allocating helium for the FY 2016 Phase B sale, as described in section 2.02 of this Notice.

A summary of changes made as a result of those comments is provided below:

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Affected text	Explanation of change
Volumes Offered in the FY 2016 Helium Auction and Sale.	Added non-allocated and adjusted sale volumes.
Section 1.01 .....	Added the additional three criteria from the statute regarding pricing.
Section 1.03 .....	The BLM set the auction date as August 26, 2015, with auction results published on the BLM Web site on August 27, 2015; the BLM set the sale date for September 1, 2015.
Section 2.01 .....	The BLM re-instituted the non-allocated sale.
Section 2.02 .....	Added explanation for decision to reinstitute non-allocated sale.
Section 2.03 .....	Added information on how FY 2016 Phase B sale will be allocated among those participating in the non-allocated sale.