SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the BLM provides the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps to assess the impact of the BLM’s information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the BLM’s information collection requirements and provides the requested data in the desired format.

A Federal Register notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on November 18, 2019 (84 FR 63673). No comments were received.

We are again soliciting comments on the ICR that is described below. The BLM is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the BLM; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the BLM enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the BLM minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. This ICR seeks authorization for the use of Form 3200–9 (Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations) by both the BLM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS).

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 in your comment to the BLM to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Abstract: The BLM uses the required information to collect information from those who wish to participate in the exploration, development, production, and utilization of geothermal resources. The BLM has authority to issue geothermal leases in BLM-managed lands, and in national forests and other lands administered by the USFS. In this ICR, the BLM is proposing to revise Form 3200–9, Notice of Intent to Conduct Geothermal Resource Exploration Operations. A respondent submits this form either to the BLM or to the USFS, depending upon which agency has surface-management jurisdiction. Upon receiving such a form, the relevant agency determines whether to grant a permit to conduct geophysical exploration activities for geothermal resources. Approval by the authorizing agency is required before any ground-disturbing activities beyond usual use may commence. At present, Form 3200–9 refers directly only to the BLM. The proposed revisions of the form would simplify its use by both agencies. The BLM is proposing that the remaining forms in this ICR be renewed without revision.

Title of Collection: Geothermal Resource Leasing and Permitting, and Geothermal Resources Unit Agreements.

OMB Control Number: 1004–0132.


Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Description of Respondents: Businesses that wish to participate in the exploration, development, production, and utilization of geothermal resources on BLM-managed public lands, and lands managed by other Federal surface-management agencies.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 913.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 1 to 40 hours, depending on activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 5,409.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, except for Form 3260–5, Monthly Report of Geothermal Operations, which is filed once a month.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: $84,985.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)

Faith Bremner,

Bureau of Land Management, Senior Regulatory Analyst.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Paria River District Office announces the availability of the Records of Decision (RODs) for the Approved Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons units of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) and the Federal lands excluded from the GSENM by Proclamation 9682, now identified as the Kanab-Escalante Planning Area (KEPA). The Department of the Interior (DOI) Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Casey Hammond, signed the RODs on January 31, 2020, which constituted the final decision of the DOI and made the Approved RMPs and two implementation-level route designations in GSENM effective immediately. The GSENM RMPs replace the GSENM Monument Management Plan (MMP) from 2000 for public lands within the GSENM boundary. The KEPA RMP replaces the 2000 GSENM MMP for public lands excluded from the monument boundary by Proclamation 9682.

ADDRESSES: The RODs are available on the BLM ePlanning project website at https://go.usa.gov/xVCGJ. Click the “Documents & Reports” link on the left side of the screen to find the electronic versions of these materials. Hard copies of the RODs are available for public inspection at the Kanab Visitor Center, 74 East Highway 89, Kanab, Utah 84741.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Barber, Paria River District Manager, 669 S Hwy. 89A, Kanab, Utah 84741, phone (435) 644–1200 or email...
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In conjunction with cooperating agencies, and using input provided by the public, stakeholder groups, State and local government entities, American Indian Tribes, and the Utah Resource Advisory Council, the BLM developed the Approved RMPs for the GSENM and the KEPA.

The GSENM includes three units: The 209,993-acre Grand Staircase Unit, the 551,634-acre Kaiparowits Unit, and the 242,636-acre Escalante Canyons Unit. The BLM’s Approved RMPs for the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons units of the GSENM identify goals, objectives, and management actions necessary for the proper care and management of the objects and values identified in Proclamation 6920, as modified by Proclamation 9682, while allowing for other appropriate uses, such as the ongoing management of recreation, grazing, and scientific research.

The KEPA encompasses 861,974 acres of public lands. The Approved RMP for the KEPA manages those lands for multiple use and sustained yield, including resource protection, consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94–579), as amended. This plan allows for the future consideration of mineral leasing and development, balances off-highway vehicle travel with other resource uses, and makes public lands available for grazing while protecting natural and heritage resources.

The BLM, along with cooperating agencies, prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act for the GSENM and KEPA RMPs to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and the alternatives.

In the future, the National Park Service (NPS), who cooperated with the BLM on preparation of the NEPA analysis, may adopt the EIS and prepare a separate decision related to livestock grazing for lands within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that are administered by the NPS. The RODs and Approved RMPs do not change management for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to meet the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion on November 1, 2019 that determined that the Approved RMPs are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species consulted on and are not likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The BLM also consulted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to meet the requirements of Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The SHPO concurred with BLM’s finding of no adverse effect to cultural resources, as outlined in a letter dated September 6, 2019.

The formal public scoping process for the RMPs and EIS began on January 16, 2018, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (83 FR 2181). The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft RMPs/EIS was published on August 17, 2018 and initiated a 90-day public comment period. A revised document was released and a Notice of Error was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2018. The public comment period was extended for an additional 15 days and ended on November 30, 2018.

On August 23, 2019, the BLM published a NOA for the Proposed RMPs/Final EIS, initiating a 30-day protest period, a 60-day Governor’s consistency review, and a 60-day public comment period for certain recreational shooting closures under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019. During the initial protest period for the Proposed RMPs, the BLM became aware of a portion of public comments submitted on the Draft EIS that were not incorporated into the Proposed RMPs/ Final EIS. The BLM updated the Proposed RMPs/EIS and issued a notice of error in the Federal Register on October 18, 2019, which re-opened the public protest period for an additional 30 days. In total, the BLM received 431 protest submissions. All protests were resolved prior to the issuance of the RODs. For a full description of the issues raised during the protest period and how they were addressed, please refer to the BLM Protest Resolution Report, which is available online at https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-mapa/public-participation/protest-resolution-reports.

The Governor of Utah reviewed the Proposed RMPs/Final EIS to identify inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies, or programs; the BLM addressed the Governor’s input in the RODs/Approved RMPs. As a result of internal review, the protest period, target shooting comment period, government-to-government consultation, Section 106 (NHPA) and Section 7 (ESA) consultation, and Governor’s consistency review, the BLM made minor modifications to the Approved RMPs to clarify management actions. All changes are described in the Modifications and Clarifications (Sections 3.1.2) of the GSENM and KEPA RODs, respectively.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6 40 CFR 1506.10 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Casey Hammond,
Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.