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Dated: January 15, 2003.

Craig Manson,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUP) and Environmental Assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona (AZ) State Office intends to prepare an Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment to incorporate current fire management policy and to prepare an Environmental Assessment that will amend seven land use plans. These plans are: Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1992), Kingman RMP (1995), Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1983), Lower Gila South RMP (1988), Phoenix RMP (1989), Safford RMP (1992 and 1994) and Yuma RMP (1986 and 1987). The purpose of the Arizona Statewide LUP Amendment is to establish consistent methods of managing Arizona wildland fire across the state and among the various agencies and groups who participate in wildland fire fighting, ecology, and management, while at the same time allowing appropriate and fire-safe enjoyment of BLM-administered lands in Arizona. The amendment will result in a consistent approach to incorporating the National Fire Policy in land use plans.

This planning activity encompasses approximately 12 million surface acres of public land. The action is being conducted under the authority of BLM Planning Regulation 43 CFR, 1610 and will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM management policies. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns by involving other federal agencies, Native American tribes, conservation groups, recreationists, the public, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process.

This plan amendment will analyze fires and fuels management actions and their impacts on the human environment for the seven BLM field offices in one document in order to ensure consistency and collaboration of the interested publics. An EA-level analysis and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are anticipated, followed with an approved plan amendment and Decision Record (DR).

DATES: The public comment period commences with the publication of this notice. Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period and will tentatively be held in February and March of 2003. In order to ensure local community participation and input, BLM will rotate public meetings among towns in the planning area, which include the metro-Phoenix, Kingman, Lake Havasu, Yuma, Tucson, and Safford, Arizona; and St. George, Utah. BLM encourages early participation by all those interested so that they can determine the future management of the public lands. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend, and meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.az.blm.gov>). The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participant who wishes to clarify the views they expressed. Written comments will be accepted throughout the planning process. In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the EA.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: AZ LUP Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Amendment Planning, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North Central, Phoenix, AZ 85002-2203. Use

the above address to mail or hand-deliver written comments; additionally, comments can be faxed to (928) 692-4414. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Arizona State Office at the above address during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. Documents relevant to the planning effort may be examined during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at the BLM Arizona State Office at the above address. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Sherry Hirst, Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Avenue, Kingman, AZ 86401, telephone (928) 692-4435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During the planning process, the BLM will consider appropriate management response to wildland fires as well as how prescribed fire can be used to help achieve resource objectives and to reduce dangerous accumulations of hazardous fuels. The amendment will emphasize appropriate response to wildland fires based on a consideration of firefighter and public safety, threats to private property, anticipated suppression costs, resource values at risk, resource benefits, the return of fire as a process to ecosystems, public attitudes and behavior regarding wildland fire hazards, and political and social concerns. Other issues that will be addressed include: hazardous fuels as an issue, and the use of prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, and/or chemical treatment(s) to reduce and/or manage hazardous fuels; hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and associated issues, and the various tools to approach these issues; appropriate management response, including managing natural fire starts for resource benefit; a statewide programmatic emergency fire rehabilitation plan; and air quality analysis.

Each year, the BLM responds to wildland fires that burn thousands of acres of land for which BLM has fire protection responsibility. The BLM has wildland fire protection responsibility on more than 12 million acres of public land in Arizona. By agreement, the BLM also protects approximately 9 million acres of other federal and state agency lands in Arizona.

Recent fire history statistics demonstrate the connection between past fire management practices and threats to human life and safety, risk of severe wildland fire, and disruption of critical ecological processes. The deaths of 34 firefighters during the 1994 fire season emphasized the danger that fuels accumulation poses to firefighters, and led to the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program. The effect of severe wildland fire on resource values is an additional concern to resource-management agencies. In 2002, wildland fires raged across Arizona, with over 600,000 of acres impacted, the largest number of acres to be impacted by wildland fire in the states history. Nationally, more acres burned in 2002 than in any other year in the last half-century.

BLM personnel, other agencies, individuals and user groups have identified preliminary issues and management concerns. Additional issues and modifications to known issues will be identified during public scoping. The major issues identified so far include management of public land resources including natural resource management; cultural resource management and protection; recreation/visitor use and safety; management of grazing, and other uses; as well as integration of public land management with the local community, tribal groups, and other agency needs and plans.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, BLM will place the suggested issues in one of three categories and provide an explanation for each issue placed into category two or three:

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.

The public is encouraged to help identify planning issues and concerns during the scoping phase.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include but not limited to rangeland management, outdoor recreation, fire, archaeology, wildlife, wilderness,

hydrology, soils, sociology, and economics.

Frank B. Miller,

*Acting Deputy State Director Resources,
Arizona BLM State Office.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-160-1220-PG]

Notice of Public Meeting, Central California Resources Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for Central California will meet as indicated below. **DATES:** The meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, January 31, February 1 in the Arletta Douglas Room of the Holbrooke Hotel, 212 West Main Street, Grass Valley, California beginning at 8 a.m. both days. The agenda calls for an orientation session on Friday, and a field trip to the Yuba Goldfields on Saturday with a return to the meeting room for discussion. There will be a public comment period beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Mercer, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308, telephone 661-391-6010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12 member Central California Resource Advisory Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of public land issues associated with public land management in Central California. At this meeting, topics to be discussed include:

Facilitated orientation and future planning for Council members.

The Yuba Goldfields area on the Yuba River, including issues of public access. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council, and a time will be allocated for hearing public comments.

Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and the 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 indicated above.

Dated: January 14, 2003.

Larry Mercer,

Public Affairs Officer.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Proposed Agency Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 21, 2003.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. International Trade Commission intends to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget for extension of the currently approved DataWeb user registration form (OMB No.: 3117-0190) in connection with the ITC DataWeb Public Access Project. The user registration forms are required to accurately analyze usage and data reports generated by user sectors and to save user product and country lists for user reference during future logins. Comments concerning the proposed information collection are requested in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d).

DATES: To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received not later than 60 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Signed comments should be submitted to Marilyn Abbott, Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the proposed forms and draft Supporting Statement to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget will be posted on the Commission's World Wide Web site at <http://www.usitc.gov> or may be obtained from Peg MacKnight, Office of Operations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436 (telephone no. 202-205-3431). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting our TTD terminal, (telephone no. 202-205-1810).