

This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national concerns. This Notice formally initiates the public scoping process to identify planning issues and to review preliminary planning criteria.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process. Public scoping comments and resource information submissions will be most effective if submitted within 90 days of publication of this notice. Public meetings, public comment periods, and comment closing dates will be announced through local news media, and newsletters.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to "RMP COMMENTS", BLM, Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA, 95023. Fax: 831-630-5055. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Hollister Field Office. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Hollister Field Office during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the RMP/EIS.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. 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 CONTACT: George E. Hill, Assistant Field Manager, BLM, Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA, 95023, phone: 831-630-5036. To have your name added to our mailing list, contact Lesly Smith, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM, Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA, 95023, phone: 831-630-5015.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Opportunities to participate will occur throughout the planning process. To ensure local community participation and input, public scoping meetings will be held, at a minimum, in three towns strategically located in or near the planning area. Early participation by all interested parties is encouraged and will help guide the planning process and determine the future management of public lands. All activities where the public is invited to attend will be

announced at least 15 days prior to the event in local news media. 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 their views. Written comments will be accepted throughout the planning process at the address shown above. Additional formal opportunities for public participation and comment will be provided upon publication of the draft RMP Revision and draft EIS.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. The preliminary issues are: Management of public land resources at the watershed level; off-highway vehicle management and designations; management of ecosystems and riparian areas to maintain and improve properly functioning conditions; implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Policy; fluid and solid mineral development; effects of urban interface and meeting the needs of local and regional communities; land tenure adjustments; status of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and consideration of lands for special management designation; identification of resource values on recently acquired public lands; sustaining traditional practices of Native American cultures; and providing recreation opportunities to meet the recreation demand.

Preliminary management concerns include: Management of current and future special status species; addressing impacts to human health and resources from past mining activities; addressing resource management impacts to air quality in non-attainment areas; reducing impacts to watershed resources and water quality; disproportionate impacts to disadvantaged communities resulting from execution of land management decisions (Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898); the potential for the spread of noxious weeds; and the management of designated streams (Clean Water Act, section 303-(d)).

These preliminary issues will be further redefined by direct input through active public participation. The public is encouraged to help identify issues, questions, 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. The interdisciplinary team involved in the planning process will include specialists with expertise in minerals and geology, forestry, range, fire and fuels, outdoor recreation, archaeology,

paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, air quality, sociology and economics.

Planning criteria will be developed during public scoping to help guide the planning effort. Preliminary planning criteria being considered for the Hollister planning effort require that BLM: Recognize valid existing rights; comply with existing law, executive orders, regulation, and BLM policy and program guidance; seek public input; consider adjoining non-public lands when making management decisions to minimize land use conflicts; consider planning jurisdictions of other federal agencies, and state, local and tribal governments; develop reasonable and sound alternatives; use current scientific data to evaluate appropriate management strategies; analyze socioeconomic effects of alternatives along with the environmental effects; carry forward valid analysis from existing documents and incorporate the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines and the Hollister Oil and Gas RMP amendment. The Hollister Field Office is presently managed under the Hollister RMP (1984, as amended). Information and decisions from the existing Hollister RMP will be reviewed and incorporated in this plan revision to the extent possible. Management will continue under the Hollister RMP until the revised RMP is approved.

Dated: January 28, 2004.

Robert E. Beehler,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 04-6999 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1610-DO]

Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan, Known as the Churchill County Plan, and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an amendment to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City Field Office (CCFO) Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), known as the Churchill County Plan, and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the BLM has revised the

NOI, published in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 2003, to prepare an amendment to the CRMP with an associated EIS for the CCFO to address energy resources, fire management, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and designations, and Churchill County open-space needs. The NOI has been corrected to change the United States Navy's status in the process from a joint interest in the plan amendment to a cooperating agency for the EIS. The Navy's intent to revise its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) has been postponed to a later date. In addition, the plan amendment now includes an analysis of a proposal to develop a geothermal power plant east of Fallon, NV. The planning area is primarily limited to Churchill County, Nevada, for all issues with the exception of energy resources, which will be addressed for all lands managed by the CCFO. The BLM will continue to work collaboratively and cooperatively with interested parties to identify management decisions that may address local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This notice reinitiates the public scoping process. Comments can be submitted in writing to the address listed below, and will be accepted throughout the preparation of the Draft CRMP/EIS. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and scoping documents at least 15 days prior to the event. At a minimum, another public meeting will be held in Fallon, Nevada. Formal opportunities for public participation also will be provided through comment on the draft and final documents.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to BLM Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701; Fax (775) 885-6147. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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 written comment. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, write to the above address or call Gary Ryan (Project Manager) at (775) 426-4011 or Terri Knutson (BLM Environmental Planner) at (775) 885-6156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 22, 2003 the BLM published the *Notice of Intent To Prepare a Combined Amendment to the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan and a Revision to the Naval Air Station Fallon Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Known as the Churchill County Plan, and Associated Environmental Impact Statement* in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 68, No. 140, Pg. 43368-43369). Through the scoping process and after several meetings with planning partners and the Navy, the Navy determined that revision of its INRMP would not be a part of this plan amendment. In addition, the BLM received a proposal from Nevada Geothermal Specialists LLC (NGS) for the development of a geothermal power plant located approximately ten miles east of Fallon, NV. In the interest of cost and time savings, BLM determined that the analysis of the power plant will be included in the Churchill County Plan and EIS.

Dated: February 6, 2004.

Elayn Briggs,

Associate Field Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 04-7001 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ 050-04-1610-DO; 1610]

Arizona: Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the BLM Yuma Field Office

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the public lands located within the boundaries of the Yuma Field Office. The revised Yuma RMP will replace portions of the existing Yuma District Resource Management Plan (1987), portions of the

Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (1988), and portions of the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983). Public scoping meetings to identify relevant issues will be announced in advance through BLM's Web site and in local news media.

DATES: The scoping comment period commences with the publication of this notice and will continue for at least 60 days. Public meetings will be held during the spring of 2004. Public notice will be provided specifying when the meetings will occur and will include notification of when the scoping period will close.

ADDRESSES: Yuma Resource Management Plan—Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd., Yuma, AZ 85365. Use the above mailing address to mail or hand deliver written comments; additionally, comments can be faxed to (928) 317-3250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Micki Bailey, Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd., Yuma, AZ 85365, telephone (928) 317-3215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Yuma Field Office, Yuma, Arizona, intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the public lands within the boundaries of the Yuma Field Office. The RMP/EIS will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), other laws, regulations, and BLM management policies. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The first phase of the planning process is scoping which includes the identification of issues that should be addressed in the planning process and development of planning criteria.

The Yuma Field Office area encompasses 1.2 million acres along the lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California, extending eastward into Arizona. The public lands are configured in an area 155 miles long and up to 90 miles wide. This area extends northward along the lower Colorado River from the Southern International Boundary at San Luis, Arizona, to north of Blythe, California, and Ehrenberg, Arizona. The Yuma Field Office boundary extends eastward to the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness