

considered for fluid mineral leasing within the JMH planning area, including the core area. While some development or activities could occur in specific portions of the planning area with appropriate mitigation measures, alternative 2 would not allow development in areas with competing resource uses and would close or designate portions of the planning area to restrict land uses.

*Alternative 3—Conservation:*

Alternative 3 provides opportunities to use and develop the planning area while ensuring resource protection. This alternative would allow development and activities to occur throughout the planning area, but emphasizes the protection of sensitive resources through appropriate mitigation. Mitigation requirements necessary to ensure the protection of sensitive resources would be determined through an adaptive management approach to resource use and protection. Additional lands would be considered for fluid mineral leasing in the JMH planning area, including the core area. Boundaries of existing ACECs would be expanded as necessary to protect sensitive resources.

*Agency-Preferred Alternative:* The BLM's preferred alternative is the Proposed Plan.

*Proposed Decisions that would amend the land use plan:* The Green River RMP (1997) would be amended to include management activities at the level analyzed in the FEIS and to adopt the new conditions of use. The Proposed Plan also changes oil and gas leasing allocation decisions, as these decisions were deferred from the Green River RMP. An amendment to the RMP would provide complete and concise descriptions of applicable management practices for oil and gas development.

The resource management planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review of proposed land use plan decisions during a 30-day protest period of the JMH CAP FEIS. Any person who participated in the planning process for the JMH CAP EIS and has an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected, may protest the JMH CAP FEIS proposed land use plan decisions to the BLM Director.

Ultimately, the BLM State Director's decision whether to adopt, reject or modify the proposed RMP amendment will be documented in a Record of Decision issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as codified at 43 CFR part 1610. Decisions regarding site-specific implementation activities will be subject to further NEPA analysis and

appeal, as provided by applicable regulations.

**How To Submit a Protest**

Publication of this FEIS affords the public the opportunity to protest the JMH CAP. Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the State Director's proposed amendment to the Green River RMP may be found at 43 CFR 1610.5. Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest in, or may be adversely affected by, the approval of the proposed Plan Amendment may protest such approval. A protest may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process. The protest must be in writing and must be filed with the Director within 30 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA for this FEIS in the **Federal Register**. The protest must contain:

- i. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest;
- ii. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
- iii. A statement of the part, or parts, of the plan or amendment being protested;
- iv. A copy of all documents addressing the issue, or issues, that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue, or issues, were discussed for the record; and
- v. A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

The Director's decision on the protest will be in writing and will set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Director's decision is the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

*Protest Filing Addresses:* Written protests filed by Surface mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035. Overnight mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director, Protest Coordinator (WO-210), 1620 L Street, NW., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036. Electronic mail and facsimile protests will be considered only if the protesting party provides BLM with the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Until the BLM receives the original letter of protest, it will consider the electronic or facsimile version as an advance copy. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance

notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to [Bhudgens@blm.gov](mailto:Bhudgens@blm.gov). Only original protest letters that meet content, delivery, and deadline requirements as described above will be considered valid protests.

Dated: June 23, 2004.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern San Diego County, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321), as amended; and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Eastern San Diego County and a Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of land and resource management decisions in the Eastern San Diego County Planning Area.

**DATES:** BLM will accept written and electronic comments on the scope of the RMP until October 12, 2004 and received by October 22, 2004, and electronic comments received by October 12, 2004. Additional opportunities for public involvement, including a schedule of public meetings, will be announced separately from this notice in local newspapers.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by the following methods: Written: Lynnette Elser, Eastern San Diego County Resource Management Plan and EIS, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Electronic: [lelser@ca.blm.gov](mailto:lelser@ca.blm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information, including information on how to comment, you may contact Lynnette Elser, Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA or phone (760) 768-4400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish BLM to withhold your name or street address, except for the city or town, from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. We will honor requests 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 available for public inspection in their entirety.

*Background Information:* The Eastern San Diego County Planning Area encompasses 98,902 acres of land administered by the BLM in Eastern San Diego County, California. BLM lands within the Planning Area are administered by the El Centro Field Office and are immediately west of the California Desert Conservation Area. Land management within the Planning Area is currently guided by the Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan, completed in 1981. There are two Wilderness Areas (Carrizo Gorge and Sawtooth Mountain) within the Planning Area. There are also four Wilderness Study Areas. Two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Table Mountain and McCain Valley) are designated. Lark Canyon Off-Road Vehicle Area is managed for vehicular recreation. Remaining areas are managed in accordance with Multiple Use Classes.

The intent of the current Resource Management Plan and EIS preparation process is to analyze and update land and resource management objectives within the Planning Area. The Resource Management Plan will consider: impacts posed by rapid population and community growth, the need to make resource decisions that are scientifically sound, legally defensible and sustainable resource decisions, the need to provide access to significant energy sources and communication sites, the need for utility corridors, the need for continuation of grazing activities, the need to maximize use of public lands in species recovery and habitat conservation, and the need to provide adequate facilities for safe recreation and visitation on the public lands.

Issues to be addressed in the Resource Management Plan will include recreation, off-highway vehicle use, routes-of-travel designations, wildlife, botanical resources, endangered species, cultural resources, Native American concerns, visual resources, livestock grazing, wilderness, fire management,

and mining. Existing wilderness study areas designations will be evaluated. Boundaries and existence of currently designated wilderness areas will not be changed. Compatibility with management plans proposed by other public land management entities for adjacent lands will be considered.

The Resource Management Plan and EIS will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team with specialists for recreation, wilderness, botany, biology, archeology, wildlife, range management, realty, visual resources, geology and mining, range management and planning.

The approved Resource Management Plan will replace the existing East San Diego County Framework Management Plan as the document guiding land and resource management decisions on BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area.

**Lynnette Elser,**

*Acting Field Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-1330-EO]

#### Notice of a 30-Day Public Comment Period on the Establishment of the Mechanically Mineable Trona Area, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice solicits public comment as to whether the area of Sweetwater County, Wyoming, described below meets the criteria set forth below for a Mechanically Mineable Trona Area (MMTA).

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted to the below address no later than August 13, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to: Assistant Field Manager, Minerals and Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ted Murphy, Assistant Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, at (307) 352-0321.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** An MMTA generally defines an area underlain by trona (sodium) deposits of the proper depth, thickness, and quality to support extraction by mining techniques that require an underground workforce. The lands described below

are proposed to be included within the MMTA:

#### Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 14 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 4 to 7 inclusive;  
Sec. 18.
- T. 14 N., R. 109 W.,  
Sec. 1;  
Sec. 12 and 13.
- T. 15 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 2 to 10 inclusive;  
Sec. 15 to 22 inclusive;  
Sec. 27 to 34 inclusive.
- T. 15 N., R. 109 W.,  
Sec. 1 and 2;  
Sec. 11 to 14 inclusive;  
Sec. 23 to 25 inclusive;  
Sec. 36.
- T. 16 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 3 to 10 inclusive;  
Sec. 15 to 22 inclusive;  
Sec. 26 to 35 inclusive.
- T. 16 N., R. 109 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 30 inclusive;  
Sec. 35 and 36.
- T. 16 N., R. 110 W.,  
Sec. 1 and 2;  
Sec. 11 to 15 inclusive;  
Sec. 22 to 27 inclusive.
- T. 17 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 5 to 9 inclusive;  
Sec. 16 to 22 inclusive;  
Sec. 26 to 35 inclusive.
- T. 17 N., R. 109 W.,  
All.
- T. 17 N., R. 110 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 6 inclusive;  
Sec. 8 to 17 inclusive;  
Sec. 22 to 27 inclusive;  
Sec. 35 and 36.
- T. 17 N., R. 111 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 3 inclusive.
- T. 18 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 6 and 7;  
Sec. 18 to 20 inclusive;  
Sec. 29 to 32 inclusive.
- T. 18 N., R. 109 W.,  
All.
- T. 18 N., R. 110 W.,  
All.
- T. 18 N., R. 111 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 4 inclusive;  
Sec. 5, lots 1 and 2, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, and SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
Sec. 8, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 9 to 16 inclusive;  
Sec. 17, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 20, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 21 to 28 inclusive;  
Sec. 29, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 32, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
Sec. 33 to 36 inclusive.
- T. 19 N., R. 108 W.,  
Sec. 5 and 6.
- T. 19 N., R. 109 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 10 inclusive;  
Sec. 16 to 22 inclusive;  
Sec. 26 to 36 inclusive.
- T. 19 N., R. 110 W.,  
All.
- T. 19 N., R. 111 W.,  
Sec. 1 to 4 inclusive;  
Sec. 9 to 16 inclusive;  
Sec. 21 to 28 inclusive;  
Sec. 33 to 36 inclusive.
- T. 20 N., R. 108 W.,