

**Arizona**

## Arizona RAC

Deborah Stevens, Arizona State Office,  
BLM, 222 N. Central Avenue,  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602)  
417-9215

**California**

## Central California RAC

Larry Mercer, Bakersfield Field Office,  
BLM, 3801 Pegasus Avenue,  
Bakersfield, California 93308, (661)  
391-6000

## Northeastern California RAC

Jeff Fontana, Eagle Lake Field Office,  
BLM, 2950 Riverside Drive,  
Susanville, California 96130, (530)  
257-0456

## Northwestern California RAC

Jeff Fontana, Eagle Lake Field Office,  
BLM, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville,  
California 96130, (530) 257-0456

**Colorado**

## Front Range RAC

Ken Smith, Canon City Field Office,  
BLM, 3170 E. Main Street, Canon  
City, Colorado 81212, (719) 269-8513

## Southwest RAC; Northwest RAC

Larry Porter, Grand Junction Field  
Office, BLM, 2815 H Road, Grand  
Junction, Colorado 81506, (970) 244-  
3012

**Idaho**

## Upper Columbia RAC

Stephanie Snook, Upper Columbia-  
Salmon Clearwater Field Office, BLM,  
1808 North Third Street, Coeur  
d'Alene, Idaho 83814-3407, (208)  
769-5004

## Upper Snake RAC

David Howell, Upper Snake River  
District Office, BLM, 1405 Hollipark  
Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, (208)  
524-7559

## Lower Snake RAC

MJ Byrne, Lower Snake River District  
Office, BLM, 3948 Development  
Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705, (208)  
384-3393

**Montana and Dakotas**

## Eastern Montana RAC

Mark Jacobsen, Miles City Field Office,  
BLM, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles  
City, Montana 59301, (406) 233-2831

## Central Montana RAC

Kaylene Patten, Lewistown Field Office,  
BLM, Airport Road, PO Box 1160,

Lewistown, Montana 59457, (406)  
538-1957

## Western Montana RAC

Marilyn Krause, Butte Field Office,  
BLM, 106 North Parkmont, Butte,  
Montana 59701-3388, (406) 533-7617

## Dakotas RAC

Mary Ramsey, North Dakota Field  
Office, BLM, 2933 Third Avenue  
West, Dickinson, North Dakota  
58601-2619, (701) 227-7700

**Nevada**

Mojave-Southern RAC; Northeastern  
Great Basin RAC; Sierra Front  
Northwestern RAC

Debra Kolkman, Nevada State Office,  
BLM, 1340 Financial Boulevard,  
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147, (775) 289-  
1946

**New Mexico**

## New Mexico RAC

Theresa Herrera, New Mexico State  
Office, BLM, 1474 Rodeo Road, Sante  
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7517

**Oregon/Washington**

Eastern Washington RAC; John Day/  
Snake RAC; Southeast Oregon RAC

Pam Robbins, Medford District Office,  
BLM, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford,  
Oregon 97504, (541) 618-2456

**Utah**

## Utah RAC

Sherry Foot, Utah State Office, BLM,  
324 South State Street, Suite 301, P.O.  
Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah  
84145-0155 (801) 539-4195

**DATE:** All nominations should be  
received by the appropriate BLM State  
Office by *45 days from the publication  
date of this notice.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Alden Boetsch, U.S. Department of the  
Interior, Bureau of Land Management,  
Intergovernmental Affairs, MS-LS-406,  
Washington, DC, 20240; 202-452-0393.

Dated: February 27, 2003.

**Kathleen Clarke,**

*Director, Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-5468 Filed 3-6-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

**Notice of Availability of a Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement for  
the Black Rock Desert-High Rock  
Canyon Emigrant Trails National  
Conservation Area Resource  
Management Plan, Nevada**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of a Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)  
for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock  
Canyon Emigrant Trails National  
Conservation Area Resource  
Management Plan (RMP), Nevada.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section  
202 of the National Environmental  
Policy Act of 1969, a Draft Resource  
Management Plan/Environmental  
Impact Statement has been prepared for  
the Black Rock Desert-High Rock  
Canyon Emigrant Trails National  
Conservation Area.

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock  
Canyon Emigrant Trails National  
Conservation Area Act of 2000 (the Act)  
gave special designation to 1.2 million  
acres of public lands managed by the  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in  
northwestern Nevada, collectively  
known as "Black Rock-High Rock." The  
Act designated 815,000 acres as a  
National Conservation Area (NCA) and  
752,000 acres as 10 Wilderness Areas  
(378,000 of the Wilderness acres overlap  
the NCA). The NCA and associated  
Wilderness Areas were created  
specifically to protect one of the last  
nationally significant segments of the  
historic emigrant trails used by pioneers  
to travel from the eastern States to  
Oregon and California, and a landscape  
largely unchanged since the mid-1800s.  
Black Rock-High Rock contains an array  
of unique historic, cultural, educational,  
wildlife, riparian, and wilderness  
resources, threatened species, and  
recreational values. The Act also  
identified wilderness, grazing, and  
special recreation permit events as  
valuable existing land uses that are  
expected to continue.

Designating Black Rock-High Rock as  
an NCA and Wilderness Areas placed  
new emphasis and requirements on  
resource uses in the area. The DEIS/  
RMP has been developed to address  
these changes. This DEIS/RMP does not  
evaluate the designation of the NCA and  
Wilderness Areas, but rather develops  
several resource management  
alternatives that fully comply with the  
NCA Act and the Wilderness Act and  
other applicable laws, regulations and

policies, and analyzes the environmental consequences associated with implementation of each alternative. Additionally, approximately 15,000 acres in the south playa, 16,000 acres in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) Area, and 3,000 acres included in wilderness access and boundary roads and road corridors located outside the NCA that are not included in the designation are evaluated in the DEIS/RMP due to their being contiguous lands with similar planning issues. These designated and adjacent areas, totaling approximately 1,221,000 acres of public lands, are referred to as the planning area.

In addition to other existing laws, regulations and policies, the NCA Act and the Wilderness Act govern land and resource use decisions in 97.4% of the planning area. As a result, the range of alternatives presented in this planning document and the impacts anticipated from their implementation are more constrained than is typical of BLM management plans.

Current management is guided by four Management Framework Plans (MFPs): The Sonoma-Gerlach, Paradise-Denio, Tulead-Homecamp, and Cowhead-Massacre MFPs. The No Action Alternative in the DEIS/RMP would continue management under these MFPs consistent with the requirements of the NCA Act of 2000 as amended and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Draft RMP/EIS will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced in 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by any one of several methods. Comments can be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, Attention: NCA Plan, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921. Comments can be posted through the Internet at <http://www.BlackRockHighRock.org/> by clicking on "Submit Your Input" and completing the online form. Comments will be accepted at public meetings in March 2003. Finally, comments can be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field 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 written comment. 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 review in their entirety. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are available for review online at the Web site <http://www.BlackRockHighRock.org/>, at the BLM NV Winnemucca Field Office at the above address, and at the following repositories: U of Nevada-Reno Gatchell Library, Humboldt County Library, BLM NV Carson City Field Office, BLM NV State Office, Gerlach NV Library, Reno NV Public Library, Pershing County NV Public Library, Lyon County NV Library—Dayton NV, BLM CA Surprise Field Office, Modoc County CA Library—Cedarville CA, Modoc County Library—Alturas CA, BLM CA State Office, and BLM CA Eagle Lake Field Office. Persons who are not able to review the DEIS in either of these ways may request one of a limited number of printed copies or compact discs (CDs) by contacting the NCA Planning Staff at the Winnemucca Field Office. In addition, you can e-mail a request for a copy of the DEIS to [wfoweb@nv.blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@nv.blm.gov), call in a request to (775) 623-1500, or fax a request to (775) 623-1503. Please be sure to direct the request to the NCA Planning Staff, clearly state that it is a request for a printed copy or CD of the Black Rock-High Rock DEIS, and include your name, mailing address and phone number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David C. Cooper, NCA Manager, BLM Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921, (775) 623-1500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DEIS/RMP have been developed through a collaborative planning process involving two BLM State Offices and two BLM Field Offices, other federal agencies, the State of Nevada Black Rock Planning Team, area Tribal Government representatives, representatives of the local communities of Cedarville, California and Empire-Gerlach, Nevada, Modoc County, California, Humboldt County, Nevada, Pershing County, Nevada, and many diverse interests represented on a Resource Advisory Council Subgroup formed specifically to participate with BLM in the planning process. In addition, a planning Web site was created at <http://www.BlackRockHighRock.org/> to keep

interested members of the public informed and involved during the planning process. A total of 49 meetings involving participation of other federal agencies, State and Tribal representatives, and interested publics have been conducted in northern California and northern Nevada.

**Alternative Descriptions and Impacts Expected from Each:**

**No Action—Continuation of Current Management:** This alternative entails continuation of those management activities that already occur in the planning area that are consistent with the requirements of the NCA Act and the Wilderness Act. Changes to these management practices would be made for the sole purpose of compliance with the NCA Act and other applicable laws and regulations. Natural resources and visitation would be managed in accordance with existing law, regulation and policy.

**Impacts—**The only impacts expected are those that would occur as a result of continuing current management practices in or adjacent to the planning area. The No Action Alternative is the baseline that the other alternatives are compared to, to determine impacts.

**Alternative A—Emphasis on Natural Processes:** This alternative emphasizes providing visitors with a self-directed opportunity to experience what the emigrants and other early visitors to the area experienced in the mid 1800s. Visitors would experience the area as an unspoiled, cross-section of the northwestern Great Basin where natural processes have been allowed to continue with specific restrictions on visitor activities to protect both visitors and resources. The focus of resource management would minimize intervention into natural processes to allow for their continued progression, provided degradation was not occurring. Specific management would be developed if degradation were to occur.

**Impacts—**The impacts from this alternative are similar to the no action alternative with few visitor services provided, but more opportunities for self-discovery. Minor impacts to natural resources are anticipated from increased, primarily self-directed visitation. This alternative could reduce the anticipated rate of increase in visitation due to difficulty in accessing the area.

**Alternative B—Emphasis on Response to Change (Preferred Alternative):** This alternative also emphasizes providing visitors with a self-directed opportunity to experience what the emigrants and other early visitors to the area experienced in the mid 1800s. It is distinguished from Alternative A in that

it employs a management approach that would more readily identify and accommodate changing conditions over time by allowing the application of management decisions responsive to these changing conditions. This alternative has the flexibility to respond to increasing visitation and resource deterioration that could occur over the long term. A visitor center would be developed outside the NCA.

**Impacts**—The impacts from this alternative are less spontaneity for visitor use, but more visitor services than alternative A. These visitor services will have minimal impacts on visual quality and feeling of remoteness. Alternative B is preferred because it provides for a management approach that is balanced between No Action (little regulation of use) and Alternative C (emphasis on visitation and interpretation including possible construction of a visitor center inside the NCA), while offering the best means of responding to changing conditions and public needs over the life of the RMP.

**Alternative C—Emphasis on Visitation and Interpretation:** Emphasis focuses on more active visitor support in this alternative. Resource management activities allow for necessary intervention at varying levels in geographic areas to enable both the natural and historic context to be experienced while ensuring that resource protection is not compromised. A visitor center would be developed in or near the NCA.

**Impacts**—This alternative has a slightly higher impact on visual quality and the feeling of remoteness than alternative B. This alternative could also result in increases in visitation due to the increased visitor services and easier access to the area.

Dated: December 11, 2002.

**Terry A. Reed,**

*Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office,  
Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-5304 Filed 3-6-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-AG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-075-03-1330-EO]

#### **Notice of Availability of Supplemental Mine and Reclamation Plan, North Rasmussen Ridge Mine, and Associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Caribou County, ID**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for the Supplemental Mine and Reclamation Plan for the North Rasmussen Ridge phosphate mine, Caribou County, Idaho. The Environmental Impact Statement was prepared to assess the impacts of implementing the Supplemental Mine and Reclamation Plan, and to disclose those impacts to the public and the lead agency decision-maker. The DEIS analyzes the potential impacts related to the expansion of mining at Agrium's North Rasmussen Ridge Mine in southeast Idaho. The Proposed Action includes developing two mine pits and a haul road. Use of existing support and transportation systems would continue. Existing operations at the Central Rasmussen Ridge Mine were approved in a 1997 Record of Decision. This environmental analysis reviews potential impacts from selenium and updates the previous impact analyses for other resources. Alternatives to the Proposed Action are also analyzed and site-specific mitigation measures developed.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to the Pocatello Field Office Manager, BLM, 1111 N. 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83201, or e-mailed to [ID\\_Nrasmussen\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:ID_Nrasmussen_EIS@blm.gov). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. 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. 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 CONTACT:** To request a copy of the document, please call (208) 478-6353, or write or e-mail Mr. Wendell Johnson, BLM Pocatello Field Office, 1111 North 8th Avenue,

Pocatello, Idaho 83201, or e-mail [ID\\_NRasmussen\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:ID_NRasmussen_EIS@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The agency Preferred Alternative is the Proposed Action because it disturbs the least acreage of the action alternatives and all waste material is backfilled to the pits. In addition to the Proposed Action of continuing mining along the strike of the ore while backfilling previously mined-out pits, two additional alternatives are being considered. Alternative 1 is similar to the proposed alternative, but includes impermeable capped backfilled wastes. Alternative 2 is described as the No-Action Alternative and would not allow mineral extraction to occur on the approved leases.

The BLM believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 60-day comment period for the draft EIS so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the BLM at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

**Phil Damon,**

*Field Office Manager.*

[FR Doc. 03-5303 Filed 3-6-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-090-5882-PH-EE01; GP3-0101]

#### **Eugene District BLM Resource Advisory Committee Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Meeting notice for the Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committees