

Carrizo Plain National Monument

Summary of Public Participation in RMP Scoping

April – June, 2007



1.0 Introduction

On January 17, 2001, President William J. Clinton issued a proclamation establishing the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The President further directed the Secretary of the Interior to manage this new monument through the Bureau of Land Management.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) includes 204,107 acres of public land in eastern San Luis Obispo County in central California. Managed by the Bakersfield Field Office, the monument encompasses approximately 35,000 acres of private land, 8,960 acres of state land, and nearly 100,000 acres of private mineral estate.

The Proclamation for the Establishment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument recognized the variety of valuable resources that warranted this designation. The CPNM includes the largest undeveloped remnant of the San Joaquin Valley grassland ecosystem, "... providing crucial habitat for the long-term conservation of the many endemic plant and animal species that still inhabit the area." The proclamation recognized 17 of the endangered, threatened, and sensitive species than can be found here. The geologic features of the San Andreas Fault, paleontological values, and its rich cultural resources were all identified as contributing factors to the President's Proclamation.

1.1 Purpose and need for the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan and this Scoping Report

BLM policy is to establish separate Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for National Monuments (BLM Manual 1601.06B3). Also, the National Monument Proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to "... prepare a management plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified in this proclamation." The Secretary in turn instructed the Director of the BLM to "... review relevant management plans for the Monument to ensure consistency with the proclamation." Furthermore, the Secretary acknowledged that the Bakersfield BLM office had already prepared a management plan for the area: "The management plan for the Carrizo Plain has been developed over the last three years and sets in place many important management goals. That plan should be amended to ensure its consistency with the Proclamation."

The public has helped to develop two previous plans that guide activities in Carrizo. The Caliente RMP was approved in May 1997 and provides general guidance on a landscape level. The Carrizo Plain National Monument also has an interagency activity plan. Following many years of work with The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), this plan was signed by BLM and TNC in November 1996, and by DFG in November 1999. In addition, in 2003, BLM completed public scoping for an RMP but a draft document was never issued. This current RMP being initiated is a new start to that effort, and will have an Environmental Impact Statement level of analysis.

The Carrizo National Monument RMP will reaffirm and reestablish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for the Carrizo that reflect current issues, knowledge,

and conditions. The planning effort will be comprehensive in nature, evaluating existing management plans and resolving or addressing issues within the national monument identified through agency, interagency, and public scoping efforts.

The RMP will analyze the current management situation and identify desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, management actions and allowable uses tied to these objectives. The plan will address and integrate all existing management plans and programs, including but not limited to fire management, livestock grazing, threatened and endangered species, recreation and visitor services, watershed management, and transportation. The plan will meet the stated requirements of the Monument Proclamation.

The purpose of the scoping effort (April 12-June 12, 2007) is to obtain input from the public to identify a range of issues and concerns to address in the RMP and EIS. This is the first stage of the planning process, and additional public input will be solicited through a request for public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS. The Draft RMP/EIS will include a reasonable range of alternatives that address public scoping issues, and meet the requirements of the monument proclamation and other laws and policies guiding management of BLM lands within the Carrizo Plain.

1.2 Description of Planning Area

The Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP process planning area encompasses all BLM lands within the boundary of the national monument. Formal management decisions will only apply to lands and programs under the jurisdiction of the BLM, not to private lands. Plan decisions will apply to lands that the BLM acquires in the future within the national monument boundary (upon acquisition).

California Department of Fish and Game Lands and Jurisdiction

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is a managing partner in the national monument and this planning process. However, formal plan decisions will not apply to lands managed by the DFG, or authorizations/permits/other actions under this agency's jurisdiction. A management plan for the DFG lands within the Carrizo Plain National Monument and adjoining areas (Chimineas Management Area) is in the initial stages of development by DFG. The BLM and DFG will closely cooperate during the completion of these two planning efforts. Also, this planning effort may result in recommendations regarding hunting and other actions under the jurisdiction of DFG. However, these recommendations will not be formal plan decisions -- the formal plan decisions will only affect actions and uses under the direct authority of the BLM.

2.0 Description of the scoping/public involvement process

A number of methods were used to publicize the Carrizo Plain Management Plan initiation and to encourage public input early in the planning process. This public involvement process, also known as "scoping," was used to identify a range of ideas,

concerns and suggestions to be considered during the planning process and in the Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared along with the plan update. It is summarized below.

2.1 Notices (news media, website, direct mail, flyers)

Notice of Intent

The initial Notice of Intent for the planning process was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2002 (volume 67, no. 79, pages 20152-20153). A Revised Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on March 2, 2007 (volume 72, no.41, pages 9578-9579) when the planning effort was changed from an Environmental Assessment to an Environmental Impact Statement level of analysis. Copies of these notices are in Appendix A.

Press Releases

Press releases were sent to local and major Central California news media and posted on the BLM California website. Copies of the press releases are in Appendix B.

Public Scoping Meetings

Website

An informational website was activated on April 12, 2007. It provided background information on the Carrizo Plain National Monument, an outline of the planning process, a schedule of upcoming scoping meetings, and an opportunity for people to email comments directly to the BLM offices. This site received approximately 354 hits by June 30, 2007.

In addition, 24 emails with scoping comments were received from the email address, cacarrizo.gov, on the BLM Website.

Telephone

A phone number was made available for comments or questions about the planning process: 661-391-6088. The number did not generate many calls. Several people called asking for directions to public meetings held in April and May and a few called inquiring about the scoping process and how to submit written comments. Several others called to submit address corrections to the mailing list database, used for our March 28 mailing, described below.

Mailing List Update Mailer

A postcard was sent to 577 people on March 28, 2007, that asked recipients if they would like to receive a copy of the draft RMP. A copy of this postcard is in Appendix C.

Planning Update Mail

The BLM produced special Planning Update mailers to announce the scoping effort. These were sent via direct mail on April 12, 2007. There were 557 people on the initial mailing list, and the remainder of the 900-item print run was distributed after the initial mailing as scoping session handouts and as people requested them. The Planning Update included background information on the Carrizo Plain, a description and timeline for the upcoming planning process, dates and locations of the public scoping meetings, and contact information for getting public comments to the BLM. It also contained a "Visioning Sheet" as an insert that people could fill out and mail back to the BLM with their comments. A copy of this mailer, with the "Visioning Sheet," is in Appendix D.

2.2 Public meetings

Three public scoping meetings were held in 2007, two in communities close to the Carrizo Plain and one in California Valley on the Carrizo just outside the Carrizo Plain National Monument's (CPNM) northern boundary. The meetings were held in San Luis Obispo on April 24, in Bakersfield on May 1, and in California Valley on May 5. The San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield meetings were held on weekdays, from 5:30-7:30 pm, while the California Valley meeting was held on a Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon. The Saturday meeting was in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the CPNM's Monument Advisory Committee, which began that afternoon after lunch. Attendance totaled 146 individuals, with the breakdown per meeting as follows:

_ San Luis Obispo:	63 people
_ Bakersfield:	37 people
_ California Valley:	46 people

The meetings were held to gather information from the public on the future management of the Carrizo Plain. Participants were asked questions on what they valued about these lands, what kinds of activities or uses were important to them, and how they envisioned the area being managed in the future.

Each of the meetings followed a similar format, beginning with an informal "open house" period of 15-20 minutes. Members of the public were greeted at the entrance, asked to sign in, and given name tags. Representatives of the Carrizo Plain Managing Partners (Department of Fish and Game and Nature Conservancy) attended all meetings. Representatives of the Monument Advisory Committee were also present at all meetings. Participants all wore tags with their name and affiliation (where applicable). Visitors were encouraged to look at various maps and photographic displays arranged around the room, and to ask questions; BLM staff mingled throughout and encouraged one-on-one dialogue. After a brief introduction by the Bakersfield Acting Field Manager, the CPNM Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation on the planning process, outlining what the plan hoped to achieve, the public's role in contributing to the plan direction and substance, etc.

After the presentation, BLM staff facilitated a question and answer period of roughly ten minutes. Members of the public were then split into small groups for discussion. These small groups were facilitated by BLM staff, with additional staff acting as "scribes" writing down public comments. The facilitators guided participants through three questions regarding creating an overall vision for the Carrizo Plain, identifying goals and common

values, and suggesting specific actions for achieving those goals. The groups worked for approximately 40 minutes, then reconvened with the larger group to summarize their discussions. Finally, the BLM Acting Field Manager closed the meeting by thanking the participants and briefly outlined the next steps in the planning process, highlighting the role and importance of continuing public involvement. This format was followed at all of the meetings.

The following organizations and agencies were represented among the people who signed in at public meetings (in alphabetical order):

- _ California Department of Fish and Game
- _ Rotary Club of Taft
- _ Sierra Club
- _ The Nature Conservancy
- _ The Wilderness Society

2.3 Additional outreach

In addition, staff from BLM, as well as a number of community members, attended a two-day "Planning Concepts Training Workshop" in January 2007 introducing the participants to the BLM planning process. While this meeting was not a formal part of the scoping process, community participants provided input on planning and management concerns for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Thirty-two people attended this training, including members of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy and the Rotary Club of Taft.

2.4 Cooperating agencies and elected officials

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was approached by BLM regarding "cooperating agency" status. While the USFWS has expressed interest, to date it has not established a formal relationship. The California Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy are, together with BLM, the Managing Partners of the CPNM and are an integral part of the planning process in that capacity. Kern County and San Luis Obispo County, the two counties within which the CPNM lies, have members representing them on the Monument Advisory Council. Also, the State Historic Preservation Office was notified of the planning process and formal consultation will be ongoing. Congressional Representatives Kevin McCarthy and Lois Capps were contacted with schedules of the Public Scoping Meeting dates and places.

2.5 Collaboration with Native Americans

A Charter Agreement for the Advisory Committee was previously established to be inclusive of all Native American groups consisting of Chumash, Salinan and Yokuts affiliations having regional cultural ties to the land in the monument. The Native Americans will be consulted throughout the planning process.

Members of this Committee were invited to the two-day "Planning Concepts Training Workshop" in January, 2007. A letter inviting participation in the planning process was sent on June 19, 2007, to other Native Americans which consisted of the Santa Ynez

Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Rancheria, and Tule River Reservation. Personal telephone invitations were also extended. Consultation will continue throughout the RMP process. A copy of the letter is in Appendix E.

2.6 Written comments

An official scoping comment period was open from April 12 to June 12, 2007. A total of 3,470 responses were received, which are broken down below.

- 103 “Visioning Sheets” were received, including 9 “Visioning Sheets” accompanied by supplemental letters.

3,367 letters and emails with written comments were also received. Of these,

- 71 letters were received in hardcopy format via fax, private express mailing services and the US Postal Service, or electronically via email.
- 257 postcards contained a form letter prepared by an interested group and signed, with contact information, by members of the public.
- 3,039 responses were a form letter that appeared on an interested group’s website. It had an invitation for members of the public to fill in their contact information and to submit the letter electronically via email. (Some respondents added significant personal comments to the form letter. Those emails were counted as “letter” responses.)

The comments in the form of letters, “Visioning Sheets” and postcards came from the following areas:

Location	Comments	Postcards	Total
Carrizo Plain itself	11		11
Near the Plain	92	224	316
SF Bay Area & LA Basin	18		18
Other California	36	33	69
Out of state	13		13
Not identified	4		4
Total	174	257	431

The geographic origins of the 3,039 email form letter responses were not analyzed. However a list of those names, email addresses and comments is in the administrative record.

Members of the public identifying themselves with 13 organizations submitted “Visioning Sheets” but, because the documents were not submitted with official letterheads, it was not clear whether the views were of the organization or of the individual respondent. These were considered/summarized as individual, rather than organization, responses.

Official letters of comment were received from 18 organizations:

(Group letter)

Californians for Western Wilderness
California Wilderness Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Defenders of Wildlife
Los Padres ForestWatch
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club CA/NV Desert Committee
Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter
The Wilderness Society
Western Watersheds Project

(Joint letter)

Sierra Club Kern Kaweah Chapter
Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter

Audubon California
California Native Plant Society, San Luis Obispo Chapter
Center for Biological Diversity
Howard County Bird Club
Southern Sierra Archaeological Society
Ventura Audubon Society

2.7 2002 scoping process

Although the RMP process was re-initiated with an EIS level of analysis in 2007, all scoping comments from the initial 2002 scoping period have been carried forward to ensure that the plan addresses the full range of public issues and concerns. Below is a summation of the 2002 process and comments received.

The scoping process began in 2002, with three public meetings listed below:

Date (2002)	Time	Location	Members of Public In Attendance
Tuesday, July 9	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Bakersfield, CA	16
Wednesday, July 10	6 p.m. to 8 pm	California Valley, CA (near the Monument)	17
Thursday, July 11	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	San Luis Obispo, CA	16
Total in attendance			49

These meetings were announced in the Central California media and by sending notification by mail to over 600 people who had expressed interest in the Carrizo Plain. The BLM was contacted by more than 20 people asking for more information or to be included on the mailing list.

Information packets containing Website information, the Presidential Proclamation January 19, 2001, that established the monument, a map of the CPNM, and background material on the CPNM were given to those who attended the meetings.

The BLM received 9 letters with Scoping Comments, including letters from the following groups:

Californians for Western Wilderness
California Wilderness Coalition
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County
Society for American Archaeology
The Sierra Club CA/NV Regional Wilderness Committee
The Sierra Club Washington DC Office

These comments have been reviewed and incorporated into the scoping summary.

3.0 Carrizo Comments Summary

3.1 Methodology

This report summarizes comments received in the five public meetings and from roughly 100 “Visioning Sheets,” individual letters and emails, and form letters and postcards. In the following pages, “comments” or “points” refer to a discrete statement or portion of a letter, email or “Visioning Sheet” pertaining to a specific issue. Generally each written letter, sheet or email contained many different points. Comments received at public meetings were recorded as closely to how they were stated as possible, but are not direct quotes.

Our intent with this report is to provide a review and summary of the range of comments received. The exact number of comments received on each topic has not been quantified, as this scoping process does not constitute a “vote.” The BLM considers all comments in the planning process, even if only made by a few people or one individual, provided the comment is relevant (substantive and within the scope of the plan).

3.2 Results

3.3 Public Comments

3.3.1 Undeveloped Character

Commenters identified the Carrizo Plain’s relatively undeveloped character as a central priority they wish to see continued. They expressed their appreciation for the uniqueness of the area and their desire to see it unchanged. Words frequently used to describe the area include: open, expansive, undeveloped, wild, remote, pristine, a sense of freedom, and a chance for solitude and quiet. Often people emphasized how unusual it is so find these qualities, as so much of California is heavily developed with urban sprawl. Some examples of these comments follow:

“I value the openness and lack of commercialism – we humans need to work at understanding the Carrizo Plain, it feels free and rugged. Let’s keep it that way.”

“Quietness, remoteness, naturalness, and habitat for rare and endangered species. As we become more urbanized and life becomes more hectic, it is essential to preserve the few remaining wild places.”

“What I value most about the CPNM: Its paucity of human activity; its broad, breathtaking, panoramic views; and its value as a resource for those of all ages who are interested in studying and learning about history, natural resources, and environmental interactions in a real-time, on-site, living, ‘natural’ laboratory.”

Many highlighted the importance of scenic and visual resources, often singling out the dramatic views of an undeveloped stretch of California grassland landscape as their most highly valued aspect of the Plain. Some suggested that the Carrizo gives them a sense of what the entire San Joaquin Valley might have looked like before arrival of European settlers, particularly as it is perhaps the last large tract of land in the Valley that has never been irrigated. The lush displays of spring wildflowers (several quoting John Muir’s reference to the “bee pastures” of the Central Valley), unusual visibility of the geologic forces at work along the San Andreas Fault, and views of the surrounding mountain ranges were all cited as particularly unique visual aspects of the Carrizo. In addition, the ability to escape from city lights was often highlighted:

“This is an excellent place to observe the night skies, with and without telescope, without the intrusion of traffic and city lights.”

A repeating theme from people’s comments was “keep it like it is,” preferring a management approach with minimal development that encourages low-impact uses. Commenters also noted the area’s propensity toward variability, both between seasons and from year to year; a few quoted the local saying of, “You can’t manage the Carrizo, it manages you.” These comments urged that management incorporate a dynamic range of actions and approaches that could accommodate the full extent of physical and biological variability over time.

3.3.2 Resources Conservation and Management

Protection and Restoration of Biological Diversity/Ecosystems

One of the foremost areas of focus for commenters concerns protection of the native ecosystems of the Carrizo Plain. Individuals and organizations noted the extraordinary wealth of biological diversity that is found seasonally or year-round, including numerous rare, endemic, and/or threatened or endangered species, and felt that protection of these species and habitats should be the primary priority for the monument. One organization articulated it this way:

“Our vision for the CPNM is for the BLM to maintain, restore, and enhance the Carrizo Plain as a national monument that maintains its ecological value and a full representative of the former San Joaquin Valley ecosystem and the associated diversity of species.”

In particular, commenters emphasized the importance of maintaining and restoring native habitats, including annual and perennial grasslands, shrub savannahs, vernal pools, and alkali wetlands:

“We encourage the BLM to proactively use its management authority to conserve all native biodiversity within the National Monument. In many cases, this can be achieved with the protection and conservation of the National Monument’s remote and undeveloped character and maintenance of connectivity to other conserved lands.”

“My vision for the next 20 years is a management plan to encourage the comeback of native plants and animals so my grandchildren can see a native grassland.”

In addition, areas that provide specific habitats for migration routes, nesting or brood-rearing, calving and fawning, and winter stop-over ranges for various species should be identified and managed to maximize their ecological integrity. Habitat fragmentation should be avoided whenever possible, and the area’s role as a wildlife corridor, linking the coast, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Sierras, should be considered when making management decisions.

Some commenters emphasized the need for special attention to be given to state or federally listed threatened and endangered species, such as the San Joaquin kit fox, the California condor, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the giant kangaroo rat, the San Joaquin antelope squirrel, the long-nosed fairy shrimp, and the vernal pool fairy shrimp. Botanic species of concern include the California jewelflower, the Hoover’s woollystar, and San Joaquin woolly-threads. Other species noted by commenters include numerous bird species, the migratory sandhill cranes which utilize the area during the winter season, and the reintroduced pronghorn antelope and tule elk that roam the grasslands.

Invasive species were highlighted as a serious threat to the area, particularly to the grassland habitats and species that depend on them:

“Collaborative research should be conducted to test various techniques to reduce non-native invasive annual grass species and to encourage growth of native grasses. Possible management techniques might include grazing, prescribed burning, and re-vegetation. Native grasses may encourage more grassland bird nesting, provide food for wildlife throughout the summer months, and survive better since they are adapted to the arid environment of the Carrizo Plain.”

Control or eradication of non-native pigs was also mentioned by commenters at public meetings, due to the damage they can cause across habitats.

Commenters expressed concern that fences restrict the movement of native grazers, such as pronghorn antelope and tule elk, and suggested inventorying the fencelines and modifying or removing those that may be harmful to these species.

One organization specifically identified the prospect of global climate change as one of the leading threats to species and habitats worldwide, and suggested the following:

“It is imperative that the BLM consider the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of actions and develop a management plan that avoids and minimizes the impacts of those actions. In particular, the plan must avoid and minimize the environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming caused by actions prescribed in the plan. At the same time, the plan must take into account how climate change affects the project’s environmental setting and other environmental impacts, such as water supply, soil erosion, and biological resources, and prescribe actions to minimize and mitigate the impacts of global warming on the National Monument, the wildlife and habitats.”

People and organizations stressed the importance of continuing scientific research throughout the monument, both because of its unique status as one of the few large parcels of San Joaquin Valley ecosystems that remains undeveloped and un-irrigated, and also to best guide management of the monument itself.

Wilderness Characteristics

Commenters, including those utilizing form letters and postcards, urged the BLM to inventory and manage areas with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness qualities. While most recognize that court cases and a Department of Interior settlement agreement bring into question BLM’s legal authority to formally establish additional Wilderness Study Areas, they expressed a preference that the BLM be proactive with its inventory and planning in case this policy changes. A typical comment follows:

“Areas with wilderness characteristics need to be managed to maintain wilderness quality. The BLM should continue to manage the Caliente Wilderness Study Area and other areas with wilderness characteristics, including previously identified areas in the Caliente and Temblor ranges, in a manner which maintains their wilderness characteristics.”

Some noted that inventorying lands with wilderness characteristics would also provide important data on existing large blocks of habitat, which could be applied to habitat restoration efforts to match the historic range of habitat variability in the area. Management for wilderness characteristics could also help protect cultural resources and scenic values in the landscape, and provide opportunities for primitive-type outdoor recreation, which are not easy to find in coastal California.

Commenters suggested that the BLM work with the various citizen groups who have previously identified units with wilderness characteristics, to help articulate management options for these areas in the planning process. In addition, some organizations advocated that the BLM propose protective management prescriptions or other kinds of protective status for certain areas within the CPNM.

Cultural and Historic Resources

Commenters called attention to the long and rich human history in the CPNM, as evidenced by a wide range of cultural and historic resources. These include the Painted Rock and other paintings, as well as bedrock mortar milling features, village middens,

and extensive pictographs created by the Chumash tribe, and ranches established by early European settlers in the area. One organization noted the following:

“The cultural resources are unique. The Native American painted sites are world class. Painted Rock is one of the most spectacular rock art sites in the world. The historic resources are good examples of early farming practices and a way of life that no longer exists.”

Commenters indicated they want to see archeological resources preserved, as well as restoration of ranch complexes with historic value. One individual suggested the following:

“I think it is very important to set aside a small area or areas within the CPNM that are devoted to cattle grazing and dryland grain farming. I believe the areas would preserve their historical significance and provide a valuable tool for continued research into the interactions between agriculture and the environment—both historical and current—and would provide education opportunities for future generations.”

In addition, commenters noted the sacredness of the Carrizo area to the Chumash tribe, and suggested that the BLM work closely with the tribe to make management decisions.

Fire as a Management Tool

People and organizations noted that many of the native plants and wildlife species on the CPNM are evolutionarily adapted to low intensity fires, and recommend the development of fire management policies and prescriptions which would provide for the use of naturally occurring fire to help restore the area’s species and ecosystems, as well as utilization of prescribed fire to help control invasive exotics. Some urged caution when working with prescribed burns, and requested that data from any burns done be collected and used to adjust burning protocols in the future.

Commenters also identified a need for implementing fuel reduction programs, so that fires do not intensify beyond the ecosystem’s capacity to recover, and also for defining adaptive management responses to fires within the CPNM, and developing emergency fire rehabilitation protocols consistent with the protection of the Monument’s resources. Some worried about the ecological impacts of fire fighting efforts:

“As for wildland fires, the BLM should, to the maximum extent possible, adopt a ‘let it burn’ policy. Fire crews with air tankers and heavy equipment can sometimes do more biological damage than the actual fire. Active fire suppression should be to protect structures.”

Water Management

Commenters noted the importance of maintaining or increasing access to water for wildlife and/or livestock. Some suggested maintaining existing guzzlers or adding additional ones to keep water available in this arid environment.

“Water usage should include specific guidelines to continue the presence of surface water as much as possible. This is important to all of the species on the Plain.”

Others felt that water developments should be inventoried to establish whether they are actually used or useful, and if not, they should be removed, and no new water developments should be established.

Some organizations cautioned the BLM to take appropriate steps to protect the CPNM’s water rights, including participating in any general stream adjudication affecting the Monument, and monitoring any new or proposed water developments in nearby areas that could affect the Monument’s water supply. They also recommended implementing aggressive nonpoint source management practices and a monitoring program to protect water quality.

3.3.3 Recreation and Visitor Use

Access/Travel Management

Commenters advocated for more controlled public access, particularly regarding concern about impacts from roads and off-road vehicles:

“Visitor use and impact on the Monument should be minimized so as to protect the critical habitat of the endangered and threatened plant and animal species. Accordingly, the number of existing roads should be reduced so as to prevent habitat fragmentation. The landscape must be protected from dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles.”

“There are a number of locations where off-road vehicle use is occurring contrary to the Monument proclamation and the current management plan. The BLM should document off-road vehicle use, analyze its impacts, and develop a plan to address these impacts, including signage, law enforcement, and restoration.”

Some comments focused on closing and restoring redundant roads, especially those crossing through sensitive resources:

“BLM should reduce the road network in the Monument to those routes that are necessary for the public to enjoy the primary features mentioned in the Proclamation, and routes for necessary administrative travel. Usually BLM public lands are laced with ORV tracks created without authorization by people driving ATVs or Jeeps—many of the redundant and highly vulnerable to erosion. Too many unplanned roads often fragment wildlife habitat and scar the landscape.”

“The CPNM is a rural, isolated, and undeveloped area—therein lies its charm. My hope is that it will remain rural and isolated long into the future. To that end, there should be no new roads constructed unless absolutely necessary for a specific public purpose, beneficial to the Monument, and agreed upon by ALL of the managing partners and the public. There should be no paving of existing roads, and roads that are not absolutely necessary should be closed and restored.”

However, others requested that certain dirt roads be paved to improve access and safety, particularly the Soda Lake Road:

“Fix the problem with Soda Lake Road. I know the idea has always been to reduce traffic through the Monument but this is just an illusion. A dirt road stops no one. The unpaved ‘S’ curve is an extreme hazard. This area also produces a tremendous amount of dust. I have seen 18-wheelers and tour buses drive at high speed through this area. This is really not fair to the good folks from Taft who are working hard to be supportive of the Monument. Pave the road or at least fix the problem.”

“Keep improving Soda Lake Road in order to keep it an all-year, all-weather access.”

Some people suggested developing a transit system for the CPNM, such as requiring all cars to park outside the boundaries and having a shuttlebus system through the monument; one person put it this way:

“Within 50 years, there will need to be some sort of transit system to the Monument due to the finite supply of petroleum and global climate change.”

Hunting

Commenters raised questions about the impacts of hunting on non-game species within the monument. While most comments on the topic are supportive of hunting remaining a permitted activity, they also encourage the BLM to permit only responsible hunting and firearm use and to limit hunting to game species in season.

Of particular concern are the effects of lead bullets on non-game species; animals are not affected by being shot directly, but rather from lead poisoning after inadvertently eating the lead shot:

“Lead poisoning can be a problem in wetlands where water birds can pick up lead while feeding on the muddy bottom, and also in uplands where carrion-feeders such as California condor may ingest lead from carcasses.”

Lead poisoning has been identified as a major cause of population decline for the endangered California condor, as well as other raptor species, and has been a major obstacle in this species’ recovery. For these reasons, commenters advocated for the prohibition of lead bullets from the CPNM:

“No lead shot of bullets should be allowed on the CPNM. Condor experts are now saying that lead bullets are the impediment to condors surviving and reproducing successfully in the wild. Legitimate hunters hunting game species in season should not have a problem with buying non-lead or thickly copper-jacketed bullets, or with using steel shot for bird hunting.”

Some people specified that non-game or “varmint” hunting should not be allowed in the CPNM, as these species are part of the ecosystem and should not be singled out; these commenters urged limiting hunting to game species in season:

“There are no varmints’ on the CPNM. Each and every native species has a role to play in a healthy ecosystem. Also, varmint hunters could easily mistake an antelope ground squirrel for a California ground squirrel, or a burrowing owl for a ground squirrel, or a kit fox for a coyote.”

Commenters also questioned the appropriateness of target shooting, generally feeling that this activity would be inconsistent with the intent of resource protection at the CPNM:

“Finally, the BLM should maintain its current policy of directing target shooters to facilities outside the Monument. Target shooting can lead to accumulation of litter, soil contamination by lead, and wildfires.”

Recreation Development and Facilities

In terms of recreation facilities and development, there were some requests for more extensive offerings than the monument currently has, including more trails, shade structures, infrastructure to support RV camping, and generally more facilities. Some expressed an interest in having the visitor center and restrooms open all year round. A few typical comments include:

“I want the Carrizo to remain much as it is today, with only a few changes. First, let it remain wild, stark, apart from civilization. Then, improve turnouts, signage, sanitation, kiosks, and interpretive trails so visitors have plenty to do without their entering pastures or wild places.”

“A few more camping areas—small, not gigantic off-monument facilities.”

“It should be easier for people to visit. More parking for horse trailers and perhaps some designated trails. Improve campsites and make the horse camp functional.”

In contrast, some commenters preferred to keep visitor facilities as minimal as possible, suggesting that campgrounds remain primitive and limited in number, and that other tourist facilities should remain outside the monument.

“Visitor use of the monument must not interfere with the goal of preserving the ecosystem, or preserving the open and primitive character of the land.”

“Visitor amenities and services should be adapted to the character and unique qualities of the Monument. Physical visitor-serving improvements (e.g., trails, signage, roads, parking areas, picnic areas, interpretive kiosks, buildings) should be sited and designed to minimize adverse impacts and to be subordinate to and compatible with the natural landscape settings in which they are located.”

Recreation Use Levels

Increasing visitation levels caused concern with some commenters, urging proactive management or strategies to avoid the area being “loved to death”; the following comment is an example:

“Thus RMP should address the inevitable increase in visitor use of the Monument. While this use increases awareness of and appreciation for the area, it can also have negative impacts on the ecosystem. Therefore BLM should take a smart approach to managing visitor use, while maintaining the undeveloped character of the Monument.”

Some suggested considering user fees as a way to deal with rising visitor expectations for services.

Interpretation and Education

Commenters mentioned a need for more interpretive and informational materials, including better maps, visitor information, etc. Some suggested trained docents who could educate visitors, viewing scopes, and interpretive signs added along trails. More interpretive and education programs were generally encouraged, particularly for school children, and possibly make facilities available for bird groups, art workshops, or a lecture series. One person suggested adding a new interpretive center in Taft, and another made the following observation:

“The management plan should anticipate the challenges of managing periodic bursts of increased numbers of visitors. Over the years, a variety of events have occurred that draw large numbers of visitors to the area: for example, the appearance of unusual migratory or cryptic species, profuse wildflower blooms, outdoor recreational activities, high rainfall, or unusual geological events. With increasing monument visibility and more people, such events have the potential to draw even larger numbers of seasonal visitors. A visitor education facility with staff adequate to handle groups of 50-150+ short-term visitors at one time should be added to the existing Goodwin Education Center.”

In contrast, some preferred to see minimal interpretation outside of the existing visitor center, preferring to leave the landscape and trails in as undeveloped a state as possible.

In addition, some commenters encouraged the BLM to seek more cooperation with nearby universities on research projects, to augment scientific study at the Monument:

“BLM and other partners’ policies should actively encourage field camps, mapping, academic thesis work, and other pure and applied research efforts.”

3.3.4 Other Public and Commercial Uses

Grazing and Range Management

One area of management where there is significant public disagreement is the grazing program within the CPNM. Some commenters support continued grazing on the Monument, as a means for controlling invasive species and continuing a historic use of the landscape:

“Over the past 6 years grazing has been almost nonexistent [on the CPNM], and when used it has been in a reactive manner. I believe grazing can be used much

more effectively in a proactive program. I would like to see the managing partners physically go and observe firsthand, on site, several of the numerous managed grazing programs already in operation on government properties. I have recently read several articles citing endangered species and native vegetation enhancements along with other merits of grazing state grasslands in California.”

“We see the monument as a renewable resource and we see grazing as just as much, if not more, of its heritage than the backpacking, RV’ing, and other recreations that are pursued here. Seasonal livestock grazing has been practiced there for decades and we believe that it is an essential part of maintaining the ecosystem.”

Some people stressed the importance of working with the ranchers and allowing flexibility in managing this use:

“The use of grazing and/or prescribed burning is to be flexibly determined by the monument manager for the enhancement of habitat for indigenous species. The decisions are to depend upon conditions, best possible science, and past experience.”

Others expressed a desire for grazing to be considered “subordinate” to natural resources protection, and only used as a management tool if it could be shown to actively benefit native species (rather than harming or simply being neutral for native species):

“The BLM should permit livestock grazing only if it can be demonstrated, based on high quality and accepted science, to be consistent with the Proclamation’s requirements to protect native species and ecosystems.”

Commenters in this group offered suggestions for how grazing management might be modified or limited to improve its compatibility with the area’s ecosystems, such as using high intensity short-term grazing management, herding the animals rather than fencing, and the use of seasonal or fold-down fences. As mentioned earlier, the effects of fences on the movement of species like elk and pronghorn was a concern:

“All unnecessary fencing and grazing infrastructure should be removed ASAP as they negatively affect the movement of pronghorn and are a blight on the landscape.”

Some commenters advocated for converting the traditional grazing leases on the Monument to free use permits:

“The traditional grazing leases on the CPNM should be retired now—as part of this RMP planning process... If we accept that ALL grazing decisions on the Monument are only to benefit native species (that’s what the current RMP says and that is what the public was promised), then there is no place for traditional leases on the CPNM... Any and all grazing on the CPNM should be done through free-use permits that allow annual decisions and control of grazing by the Managing Partners.”

A third group of commenters prefer to see no livestock grazing at all on the CPNM:

“Grazing has been part of man’s livelihood for thousands of years. Unfortunately it also causes an environmental imbalance. Whilst the grazing plan of the CPNM has been instigated to reduce the problems of overgrazing, it would hopefully be the long term plan to eventually remove all livestock grazing within the boundaries of the CPNM. This is especially desirable if the current large numbers of rare and endangered fauna are still concentrated on the CPNM.”

“It should revert back to what it was before it became a grazing heaven for vast numbers of cattle and sheep starting in the 1800s.”

Minerals

Individuals, as well as organizations, favored barring any oil and gas leasing or drilling, out of concern for possible environmental damage that could result:

“Oil drilling will yield nothing but destruction to the land.”

“We recognize that part of the Monument is split estate land, where the subsurface mineral rights are not owned by the government. The Draft RMP should analyze the potential impacts if privately owned mineral rights are developed.”

“Oil and gas drilling can have a tremendously negative impact on the natural landscape, plants, and animals. The BLM needs to address the potential impacts of oil and gas drilling on split estates and work to buy out privately owned mineral rights and/or trade mineral rights within the Monument for rights of comparable value outside of the Monument.”

One energy company wrote a comment letter, expressing interest in pursuing oil and gas development in the CPNM, hoping to utilize technological advances to improve economic viability and keep environmental impacts to a minimum.

3.3.5 Community Issues

Community Involvement and Participation

Some of the commenters advised coordinating planning and management with surrounding or “gateway” communities, particularly with regard to the possible development of accommodations or other visitor facilities outside the Monument:

“The National Monument should be managed in the context of the surrounding California communities as well as for the national interest. For example, locating visitor services in surrounding communities builds ownership within those communities for the long-term protection of the Carrizo Plain and surrounding region and creates economic opportunities for citizens. It will also demonstrate to visitors the relationship of the region’s natural landscapes to communities, so that they do not view the National Monument as an enclosed land mass separate from the people who live nearby.”

“CPNM is already participating in Taft’s activities. There could be similar outreach to Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Bakersfield. Need local newspaper coverage!”

“Any increase in use of the CPNM could increase tourism in the surrounding towns. But first there would need to be something to draw people into town, such as gasoline, restaurants, and stores to buy camping supplies. From what we know, right now there is little to be found in these towns—you pretty much have to bring everything you need for camping or visiting the Carrizo from home. So the people and businesses of the towns would have to invest a little in infrastructure to benefit from any increased traffic and tourism.”

Some organizations specifically recommended doing a full socio-economic analysis of the region and surrounding communities in the RMP, including examining historic trends in county income and employment.

3.3.6 Administrative

Land Tenure, Realty, Private Property

Commenters advocated that the BLM acquire or otherwise control (conservation easements were suggested) all private lands inside the monument boundaries. Various organizations recognized the success of the BLM’s working with willing sellers to acquire inholdings, and suggested identifying a strategy for continuing this approach. Others requested that the BLM continue to recognize and protect inholdings, coordinating management of public and private holdings on a cooperative basis so that “all could be part of the Carrizo,” but land holders rights would be respected

Property owners in the area mentioned problems with visitors trespassing over private property to access the Monument (particularly from Highway 166), and would like to see clearer indications of the boundaries between public and private land, both on the ground and perhaps on the BLM’s website.

Environmental Safety and Health

There were comments identifying the need for public safety emergency response to vehicle accidents or vehicles that might get “stuck” within the CPNM. One person suggested the following:

“I would like to see adequate law enforcement coverage to ensure worker and visitor safety. It would be nice if visitors could contact help via radio repeater or via cell phone, rather than have to hike to some unmarked spot with cell service to summon help. The biggest thing is SAFETY—what about call boxes or visitor access to the radio frequencies?”

Concerns about air pollution, either drifting in from urbanized areas or caused locally by dusty roads, was also mentioned as a health and safety issue.

Administration and Management

Comments focused on the need for adequate staff and patrols to protect the natural resources of the CPNM, particularly relating to law enforcement against illegal off-road vehicle trespass, hunting, and trash dumping. However, one commenter also encouraged the BLM to keep enforcement low-key:

“Less heavy-handed attitudes from law ‘enforcement’ personnel; visitors at Carrizo should not be forced to prove that they are not criminals.”

Commenters wished to see the BLM’s management partners at the CPNM involved in the planning process, and one requested that BLM more clearly explain the role of its Advisory Council in shaping the vision for the RMP. Another cautioned against creating Action Plans in the RMP process that will not be implemented, and recommended indicating the priority of implementation for Action Plans, in case of a lack of funds or other impediments to the RMP.

3.4 Key Themes and Priorities

Through this scoping process, several themes and priorities emerged. They are summarized below:

3.4.1 Undeveloped Character

Comments showed a strong consensus opinion that people value the undeveloped, open character of the Carrizo Plain landscape and wish to see it maintained through the next twenty years. The qualities that contribute to this undeveloped character include perceptions that the area is wild, relatively remote, expansive, and not crowded. Many indicated that protecting this character is central to their concerns about the area.

3.4.2 Resource Conservation and Management

Ecosystem protection and restoration is a top concern among the public comments received in this scoping process. People stressed the importance of maintaining and restoring native habitats on the Carrizo, particularly as an exemplar of mostly-lost San Joaquin Valley species and ecosystems. Controlling exotic species and avoiding habitat fragmentation both represent important aspects of the public’s ecosystem concerns.

3.4.3 Wilderness Values

A specific method of landscape protection that was raised as a priority is managing areas with wilderness characteristics to maintain those qualities; it would help to reduce habitat fragmentation, protect a wide range of natural and cultural resources, and allow for greater ecological resilience to habitat variability across both space and time.

3.4.4 Access and Travel Management

Scoping revealed some disagreement about how best to maintain the access to and the road system within the CPNM. Some desire the existing network to be maintained or improved, to allow year-round, all-weather access, and perhaps to improve road safety. Opposing this sentiment were comments calling for stricter controls on access,

particularly with concern for off-road vehicle uses. People mentioned closing and restoring redundant or unnecessary roads, and preferred leaving some of the existing roads unpaved to help maintain the Carrizo's undeveloped character.

3.4.5 Hunting

There was a strong consensus of concern about the impacts on hunting on non-game species within the CPNM. While most are supportive of hunting remaining a permitted activity, they also encourage the BLM to permit only responsible hunting and firearm use and to limit hunting to game species in season. Of particular concern are the effects of lead bullets on non-game species; animals are not affected by being shot directly, but rather from lead poisoning after inadvertently eating the lead.

3.4.6 Recreation Development and Facilities

There was also a range of opinions concerning the appropriate degree of development for Carrizo Plain recreation facilities and sites. Some people want to see campgrounds and other recreation sites within the CPNM remain few in number and relatively primitive in nature; others preferred improved facilities, either for greater comfort (shade structures were particularly mentioned as being needed) and/or to encourage visitors to stay overnight and experience a more personal connection with the landscape. Increasing visitation levels caused concern with quite a few commenters, urging proactive management or strategies to avoid the area being "loved to death."

3.4.7 Grazing and Range Management

One area of management where there is significant public disagreement is the grazing program within the CPNM. Some commenters support continued grazing on the Monument, as a means for controlling invasive species and continuing a historic use of the landscape. Others expressed a desire for grazing to be considered "subordinate" to natural resources protection, and only used as a management tool if it could be shown to actively benefit native species (rather than harming or simply being neutral for native species). Specifically they preferred to see "free use" permits utilized rather than traditional grazing permits, to allow greater responsiveness to changing range conditions from year to year. And a third group of people preferred to see livestock grazing eliminated or phased out entirely from the Carrizo Plain.

3.4.8 Cultural and Historic Resources

Commenters called attention to the long and rich human history in the CPNM, as evidenced by a wide range of cultural and historic resources. Many commenters want to see archeological resources preserved, as well as restoration of ranch complexes with historic value. In addition, several people noted the sacredness of the Carrizo area to the Chumash tribe, and suggested that the BLM work closely with the tribe to make management decisions.

3.4.9 Minerals

Individuals and organizations favored barring any oil and gas leasing or drilling out of concern for possible environmental damage. Commenters suggested BLM buy out

leases in the CPNM or trade them for leases outside the monument. One energy company wrote a comment letter, expressing interest in pursuing oil and gas development in the CPNM, hoping to utilize technological advances to improve economic viability and keep environmental impacts to a minimum.

4.0 Appendices

Appendix A-1: Notice of Intent

[Federal Register: April 24, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 79)]
[Notices]
[Page 20152-20153]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr24ap02-113]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA 169-02-1610-DO]

Carrizo Plain National Monument

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management; Bakersfield Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to (1) prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument, designated January 17, 2001, and (2) amend the Caliente RMP, approved on May 5, 1997. This action will require a single Environmental Assessment (EA). The planning area is located in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Kern Counties, in California.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP and RMP amendment with an associated EA for the Bakersfield Field Office. This planning activity encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of public land. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the monument proclamation, and BLM management policies. The **Carrizo Plain** National Monument RMP will be created by combining the existing **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan with pertinent decisions within the Caliente RMP, and amending those decisions as needed to bring them into conformance with the monument proclamation. Those decisions within the Caliente RMP that pertain only to **Carrizo** will then be removed from the Caliente RMP by amendment. Both the Caliente RMP and the **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan were prepared by the BLM in collaboration with a broad cross-section of interested parties. The BLM will again work collaboratively with interested parties to review the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The environmental review process includes an evaluation of the pertinent RMP decisions in the context of the needs and interests of the public and protection of the objects of historic and scientific interest specified in the proclamation.

DATES: This notice initiates the planning process. General scoping will last a minimum of 60 days. The Draft **Carrizo** RMP and Draft Caliente RMP Amendment/EA are expected to be completed in December 2002. A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register, beginning a 60 day public comment period. Public meetings will be held during the 60 day comment period. A decision on the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument RMP and Caliente RMP Plan Amendment is expected by May 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to **Carrizo Plain** National Monument RMP, Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308; Fax 661 391-6040. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Bakersfield Field Office located in Bakersfield, California. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bakersfield Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may

Appendix A-1: Notice of Intent

be published as part of the EA. 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: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Chris Ryan, Telephone 661 391-6107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The **Carrizo Plain** National Monument is currently managed under the recently completed **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan and the Caliente RMP. Together, these existing plans provide a comprehensive management program which is believed to be appropriate for the new monument. While BLM will review this existing management program in light of current issues associated with the new monument, a full scale planning effort is not considered necessary. However, BLM will evaluate any public comments as to the adequacy of the existing management program prior to making a final determination on the scope of the monument plan and related NEPA document. (1) The new **Carrizo** RMP will be comprised of those goals, decisions, and allocations within the Caliente RMP that pertain to the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument, combined with the primary goals and decisions identified within the **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan. Activity plan direction from the **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan will be carried forward and appended to the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument RMP. Modification of existing land use planning decisions is not anticipated except where necessary to conform to the monument proclamation. (2) The Caliente RMP will be amended by removing those decisions and allocations that pertain only to public lands within the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument, and clarifying that the remaining direction excludes the monument from that point forward. This will eliminate any overlap and potential conflict between the two land use plans.

Public Participation: Public meetings will be held during the EA public comment period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meeting locations will be rotated among the towns of San Luis

[[Page 20153]]

Obispo, California Valley, and Bakersfield, California. Participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument and the Bakersfield Field Office public lands. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site (www.ca.blm.gov) at least 15 days prior to the event. Any notes generated and the 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. In addition to public meetings, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided through comment upon publication of the draft **Carrizo** RMP, and Caliente RMP Plan Amendment/EA. In addition, written comments will be accepted throughout the entire planning process.

Background Information: On January 17, 2001, the President signed a proclamation creating the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument. The monument encompasses approximately 204,000 acres of public lands primarily in San Luis Obispo County, with smaller portions within Kern and Santa Barbara Counties, all in California. Located midway between the cities of Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, the monument links Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge to the southeast with privately conserved lands and the Los Padres National Forest to the northwest. The Caliente RMP was completed in 1997 and encompassed all BLM managed public lands within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kings, Tulare, and

western Kern counties. Public involvement in preparation of the Caliente RMP was solicited through announcements in the Federal Register, the mailing of a notice to 1,300 people and organizations, six scoping meetings, the mailing of a draft plan to 1,000 interested publics, and 6 public open houses. The **Carrizo Plain** Natural Area Management Plan was completed between 1996 and 1999. This plan was jointly prepared and signed by The Nature Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and BLM, following public involvement that included a mailing to 1,000 people and organizations, 7 public meetings, and an additional mailing to a list of 200 people and organizations before the final plan was compiled. Neither plan has been amended previously, and both continue to provide clear and broadly supported direction for public lands now within the **Carrizo Plain** National Monument.

Elaine Marquis-Brong,
Director, National Landscape Conservation System, Bureau of Land
Management.

[FR Doc. 02-9593 Filed 4-24-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

Appendix A-2: Revised Notice of Intent

[Federal Register: March 2, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 41)]
[Notices]
[Page 9578-9579]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr02mr07-83]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-169-07-1610-DO]

Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan
and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the **Carrizo** Plain
National Monument, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: This notice is a revision of the April 24, 2002 Notice of
Intent (Federal Register Volume 67, Number 79, pages 20152-20153). In
compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA),
the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Code of
Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby
given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to initiate a
new scoping process for a Resource Management Plan and Environmental
Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Previously, the BLM announced that an
Environmental Assessment would be prepared in connection with the RMP
for the **Carrizo** Plain National Monument. By this notice, the BLM is
announcing public scoping meetings.

DATES: Specific dates and locations of public meetings will be
announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media and on
BLM's Web site, <http://www.ca.blm.gov>. We will provide additional
formal opportunities for public participation upon publication of the
Draft RMP/EIS, expected to be ready for public review and comment
sometime in 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be sent to: Monument
Manager, **Carrizo** Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office,
3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308. Scoping comments
previously submitted following publication of the 2002 Notice of Intent
are still valid and will be considered together with comments received
pursuant to this revised notice. Commentors do not need to resubmit
comments but may provide additional comments or clarifications of those
previously made.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monument Manager, **Carrizo** Plain
National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive,
Bakersfield, Calif. 93308 or telephone (661) 391-6000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With the recent appointment of the new
Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, the BLM is resuming
work with the public on developing a draft RMP to guide future
management of the Monument.

BLM has decided to prepare an EIS to support the plan, based on
public requests and BLM's interest in expanding public involvement in
the planning process. The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to
develop the RMP in order to consider the vary of resource issues and
concerns identified during scoping.

In cooperation with the Monument Advisory Committee, the BLM and
its Monument managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the

Appendix A-2: Revised Notice of Intent

California Department of Fish and Game, will be conducting additional public scoping meetings to gather input on issues to be addressed in the draft RMP and EIS. To be most helpful, you should submit formal scoping comments within 30 days after the last public meeting. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. The BLM will honor such 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, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

The **Carrizo** Plain, the largest undeveloped remnant of the once vast San Joaquin Valley ecosystem, was designated a national monument in 2001 in recognition of its special resource values, including threatened and endangered species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. It also contains nationally significant geological features, such as one of the best exposed examples of the 10-million year old San Andreas Fault, as well as one of the most significant cultural sites in California, at Painted Rock. In the spring, the Plain exhibits a lavish wildflower display of goldfields, purple

[[Page 9579]]

owls, lupine, and the rare California jewel flower.

Dated: November 27, 2006.

Ron Huntsinger,
Field Manager, Bakersfield Field Office.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on February 26, 2007.

[FR Doc. E7-3640 Filed 3-1-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

News Release

For Release: July 26, 2006

Contact: John Dearing (916) 978-4622 or Dave Christy (916) 985-4474
CA-SO-06-11

Carrizo Plain National Monument Planning to Resume

With the recent appointment of the new Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is ready to resume work with the public on a draft resource management plan (RMP) to guide the monument's future, according to BLM State Director Mike Pool.

The committee, a nine-member panel appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, will advise BLM on development of the plan, said Pool. "We're very pleased to have the new committee in place and we look forward to their help in crafting a land use plan that both recognizes the special values that led to the monument's designation and provides for an appropriate level of public use and enjoyment."

BLM has decided to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the plan, based on "public requests and our interest in expanding public involvement in the planning process," he said.

In cooperation with the committee, the BLM and its monument managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game, will be conducting additional public scoping meetings later this fall to gather input on issues to be addressed in the draft RMP and EIS, expected to be ready for public review and comment sometime in 2007. Prior scoping comments received will also be addressed to ensure the documents are responsive to all public issues and concerns.

The Carrizo Plain, the largest undeveloped remnant of the once vast San Joaquin Valley ecosystem, was designated a national monument in 2001 in recognition of its special resource values, including threatened and endangered species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. It also contains nationally significant geological features, such as one of the best exposed examples of the 10-million year old San Andreas Fault, as well as one of the most significant cultural sites in California at Painted Rock. In the spring, the Plain exhibits a lavish wildflower display of goldfields, purple owls, lupine, and the rare California jewelflower.

Carrizo Plain Advisory Committee members are: Ellen Cypher, PhD, plant ecologist and research ecologist, Bakersfield; Neil Havlik, PhD, natural resources manager, San Luis Obispo; Raymond Hatch, former mayor, Taft; Michael Khus-Zarate, an educator and member of the Carrizo Plain Native American Advisory Council, Fresno; Dale Kuhnle, rancher, Santa Margarita; Jim Patterson, San Luis Obispo County supervisor, Atascadero; Robert Pavlik, environmental planner, San Luis Obispo; Carl Twisselman, rancher and member of the BLM Central California Resource Advisory Council, McKittrick; and Raymond Watson, Kern County supervisor, Bakersfield.

Further information on the [Carrizo Plain](#) can be obtained from BLM's Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, Calif., 93308 or (661) 391-6000.

-BLM-

California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

News Release

For Release: March 2, 2007

Contact: David Christy (916) 985-4474

CA-CC-07-24

BLM Resumes Planning Process for Carrizo Plain

The Bureau of Land Management has announced it will begin a public process to develop a plan for the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

"With the recent re-appointment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, BLM is resuming work with the public on a draft resource management plan to guide the monument's future," said Patty Gradek, acting manager of BLM's Bakersfield Field Office.

BLM has decided to prepare an environmental impact statement rather than an environmental assessment to support the plan, based on public requests and BLM's interest in expanding public involvement in the planning process. A Notice of Intent to resume planning work was published in today's Federal Register at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

In cooperation with the committee, the BLM and its managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game, will conduct public scoping meetings later this fall to gather input on issues to be addressed in the draft RMP and EIS, expected to be ready for public review and comment sometime in 2007.

Specific dates and locations of public meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media and on BLM's web site, www.ca.blm.gov.

The Carrizo Plain, the largest undeveloped remnant of the once vast San Joaquin Valley ecosystem, was designated a national monument in 2001 in recognition of its special resource values, including threatened and endangered species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard.

It also contains nationally significant geological features, such as one of the best exposed examples of the 10-million year old San Andreas Fault, as well as one of the most significant cultural sites in California at Painted Rock. In the spring, the Plain exhibits a lavish wildflower display of native plants such as goldfields, purple owls, lupine, and the rare California jewel flower.

For further information, contact Acting Monument Manager Johna Hurl, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, Calif., 93308 or telephone (661) 391-6000.

For Release: April 4, 2007
Contact: David Christy, (916) 985-4474
CA-CC-07-30

BLM Schedules Scoping Meetings for Carrizo Plain Plan

The Bureau of Land Management will conduct scoping meetings in Central California to gather input on issues to be addressed in the Carrizo Plain National Monument draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The meetings will be held in cooperation with the Monument Advisory Committee, and BLM's monument managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game.

"Developing the management plan offers both the BLM and the community a unique opportunity to produce a comprehensive long-range plan – one that will address current needs and guide us into the future," said Patty Gradek, acting manager for the BLM Bakersfield Field Office.

Public scoping meetings will be held:

- April 24 at the San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St. The library is less than one mile east of Highway 101 off the Osos exit. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
- May 1 at the BLM Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive. The office is approximately one mile east of Highway 99 off the Porterville/Sequoia exit turn-off on Highway 65. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
- May 5 at the California Valley Community Services District building on Soda Lake Road. The center is located approximately three miles south of Highway 58 adjacent to the California Valley Fire Station 42. This meeting is being held in conjunction with a Carrizo Monument Advisory Committee meeting. The planning effort will be discussed (with time for public scoping input) from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be available for \$8. The MAC meeting will then continue from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. focusing on other agenda topics related to the national monument

Written scoping comments should be sent by June 12 to: Monument Manager Johna Hurl, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308.

BLM held a series of scoping meetings in 2002 when the planning process was initiated. Comments submitted during that process will be considered with comments received in the current process. If you previously submitted comments, you may provide additional comments or clarifications of those previously made.

As the next step in the planning process, BLM will develop a draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Under the current schedule, the draft will be available for public review in early 2008. Public meetings will be held to gather comments on the draft. The draft and public comments will be used to develop a final Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2008.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact Johna Hurl at (661) 391-6093.

-BLM-

[USA.GOV](#) | [No Fear Act](#) | [DOI](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [About BLM](#) | [Notices](#) | [Get Adobe Reader®](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Kids Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)

For Release: April 16, 2007
Contact: David Christy, (916) 985-4474
CA-CC-07-34

Carrizo Scoping Meeting Location Changed

The April 24 scoping meeting in San Luis Obispo to gather input on issues to be addressed in the Carrizo Plain National Monument draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement has been moved based on increased public interest.

The meeting has been moved from the San Luis Obispo Library to the Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. From Highway 101, exit toward Morro Bay/Hearst Castle. Turn right at Toro Street, right on CA-1 and left at Santa Rosa. The center is at the corner of Mills and Santa Rosa streets. The meeting will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"Based on the level of public interest we have seen, we moved the meeting to a larger facility," said Patty Gradek, acting manager for the BLM Bakersfield Field Office.

The meetings will be held in cooperation with the Monument Advisory Committee, and BLM's monument managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game.

In addition to the San Luis Obispo meeting, public scoping meetings will be held:

- May 1 at the BLM Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive. The office is approximately one mile east of Highway 99 off the Porterville/Sequoia exit turn-off on Highway 65. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
- May 5 at the California Valley Community Services District building on Soda Lake Road. The center is located approximately three miles south of Highway 58 adjacent to the California Valley Fire Station 42. This meeting is being held in conjunction with a Carrizo Monument Advisory Committee meeting. The planning effort will be discussed (with time for public scoping input) from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be available for \$8. The MAC meeting will then continue from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. focusing on other agenda topics related to the national monument

Written scoping comments should be sent by June 12 to: Monument Manager Johna Hurl, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308.

BLM held a series of scoping meetings in 2002 when the planning process was initiated. Comments submitted during that process will be considered with comments received in the current process. If you previously submitted comments, you may provide additional comments or clarifications of those previously made.

As the next step in the planning process, BLM will develop a draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Under the current schedule, the draft will be available for public review in early 2008. Public meetings will be held to gather comments on the draft. The draft and public comments will be used to develop a final Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2008.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact Johna Hurl at (661) 391-6093.

-30-

Dear Interested Party;

We are initiating the development of the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan/Environment Impact Statement. We are updating our mailing list and would greatly appreciate if you would check the box (s) that is specific to your special interest. Please make any necessary corrections to your name and address.

Please mark your preference:

- o I wish to receive the Carrizo Plaintalk Newsletter.
- o I wish to receive information in regards to Friends of the Carrizo (Non-profit 501 3c)
- o I wish to receive a copy of the draft RMP.
- o I do not wish to receive a copy of the draft RMP. I will utilize the CPNM Web site for reference. (www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield)

Please return this post card to BLM - CPNM, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308 by April 30, 2007. If we do not hear from you by this date, you will be deleted from our mailing list. If you would like to notify us directly by phone, please call Carlotta Allen at (661) 391-6088 or email her at carlotta_allen@ca.blm.gov.

Planning Update

Carrizo Plain National Monument Resource Management Plan Spring 2007

BLM

Welcome

Welcome to the planning process for the Carrizo Plain National Monument!

So far, it has been a dry year in the Carrizo Plain, and we missed the normal springtime profusion of wildflowers. Even so, it is a wild and beautiful place at this time of year and this is an ideal time to reflect on the past and plan for Carrizo's future. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), our managing partners (the California Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy), and the Carrizo Plain Monument Advisory Committee are all working together to develop a revised management plan, called a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. This updated plan will guide management and stewardship of the monument for many years to come.

Developing the RMP offers the BLM and the entire Carrizo community — those who live here, who visit, and who care about the Carrizo — a unique opportunity to produce a comprehensive long-range plan to address current needs and guide us into the future. To create this blueprint, we want to listen to and work closely with all interests. We cordially invite you to participate in this planning process. You can start by filling out the attached Visioning Worksheet and attending any of the public scoping meetings in late April – early May.

Scoping Meetings Schedule page 5



Giancarlo Sadoti photo

7 Mile Shrike

Please share your ideas about ways we can improve and protect the Carrizo Plain National Monument and have a positive influence on neighboring communities and the larger region. During the past several years, the BLM has heard many concerns and ideas expressed by local community members and visitors about such topics as visitor services and facilities, protection of endangered species habitat, and the desire for more educational programs – just to name a few. We'll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process.

I am pleased to announce that Johna Hurl has been selected as the Manager for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. She has served as the Acting Manager and the Assistant Monument Manager in past years and has done an outstanding job working with the public, our managing partners, and the Carrizo staff. She has a strong natural resources background and great passion for Carrizo and its important resources. I know she will do an excellent job as we plan for the future of the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

So please join us in charting the future of this magnificent area and help preserve its legacy for future generations to enjoy. I want to thank you for your interest in the monument.

Patty Gradek
Acting Bakersfield Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management

Inside This Issue

- Why we are developing a plan
- Opportunities for public involvement
- How the process works
- How this effort relates to previous planning for Carrizo

Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate

Bakersfield Field Office





Soda Lake with a view to the Southeast

Conserving a Very Special Place

Lying next to the San Joaquin Valley in eastern San Luis Obispo County, the Carrizo Plain contains the largest relatively intact representation of a once vast rich ecosystem. The Carrizo includes the largest remaining contiguous habitats for many endangered, threatened and rare species of animals such as the San Joaquin kit fox, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the San Joaquin antelope squirrel and the giant kangaroo rat.

The area also provides habitat for many rare or endangered plant species including the California jewelflower, Hoover's woolly-star and San Joaquin woollythreads. The area is home to reintroduced herds of pronghorn antelope and the Tule elk, native ungulates that had been hunted to extinction by settlers in the late 1800s. Both sandhill cranes and mountain plovers flock here by the thousands to use the Carrizo Plain as either a roosting place or as their winter home.

The area is also rich with evidence of its prehistoric and historic past. Painted Rock, a sacred, ceremonial site of the Chumash People, rises majestically from the grassland while remnants of homesteads, farms and mining operations dot the remainder of the plain.

The area provides an unparalleled laboratory for researchers to study the geology of the San Andreas Fault, and the native habitat of endangered and endemic wildlife and plants. Visitors to the 250,000 acre area are amazed that this vast undeveloped valley exists just 100 air miles north of Los Angeles.

Winter and spring are prime use seasons when people come to learn about the area's ecology and view some of California's most spectacular wildflower displays. Other visitors access the area to hunt, hike, camp or just relax.

The BLM, the California Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy and other interests have been working together since the first acquisition of land within the area in 1987 to conserve the Carrizo Plain and place its lands under public ownership. Approximately 215,000 acres of land have been acquired by partnership efforts. On January 17, 2001, the President of the United States signed a proclamation recognizing the national significance of the area and the need for special protection by designating the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Building on Previous Planning Efforts

The public has helped develop two plans that currently guide management of the Carrizo. The Caliente Resource Management Plan was approved in May 1997, and provides general guidance on a landscape level. The three managing partners in the Carrizo – the BLM, the California Department of Fish and Game, and The Nature Conservancy — completed the Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan in the late 1990s.

These plans, together with the proclamation directive, will form the basis for developing the RMP.

Completing the Plan How the Process Works

The RMP will build upon the vision of the earlier planning and management successes. The process will also take into account the changes that have occurred in the area's environment, in the types of uses and numbers of visitors, and improved scientific information regarding area ecosystem management. The existing planning framework provides a good foundation, and many of the management decisions and programs will be carried forward and integrated into the current plan update. However, we want your ideas and suggestions about how we might best update the plan to meet current and future challenges and community priorities.

Some of the key topics that we have heard about from the public over the last several years include:

- conservation of endangered species habitat,
- protecting cultural resources,
- maintaining a sustainable environment while accommodating visitors and public uses,
- fire management,
- public access,
- working cooperatively with private property owners, and
- economic opportunities, just to name a few !

See Completing, page 4

Much of the background information and many of the decisions in these plans are still relevant. The plan being developed will build on these past efforts and carry forward and reanalyze timely and relevant decisions – while factoring in the additional direction provided by the National Monument Proclamation.

Because of the extensive planning that had already been conducted for the Carrizo Plain, the BLM originally began preparation of an update of these efforts through an Environmental Assessment level of analysis. However, based on public requests and BLM's interest in expanding involvement in the process, we have decided to expand the effort to a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The BLM received more than 60 comments during scoping in the Environmental Assessment process. These comments will be carried forward into the EIS process.



Parry's Mallow and Goldfields

Partners in Planning

How You Can Get Involved

A great plan requires public involvement in the process. We want to hear from you. There will be a number of opportunities for you to participate throughout the process. The first phase of the public involvement process, called “scoping,” is designed to help identify a management vision and highlight what topics the public feels are most important to future management of the Carrizo.

Completing

From page 3

We’ll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process. It is important to identify key concerns and topics early, so they can be incorporated into the RMP/EIS process.

In developing the plan, we will be guided by certain legal parameters, along with consideration of environmental and social conditions which will shape the area’s future. Some laws that are relevant to our plan include the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. The Monument Proclamation will also provide an overarching vision and guidance. With this guidance, we will work together to determine which BLM management policies and practices are working well, and what improvements can best help to develop the plan to address current conditions, community and visitor priorities, and future trends.

As the next step in the planning process, BLM will develop a draft RMP/EIS. Under the current schedule, the draft will be available for public review in early 2008. Public meetings will be held to gather comments on the draft. The draft and public comments will be used to develop a proposed RMP and Final EIS later in the year. The last step is a Record of Decision approving the final RMP, scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2008.

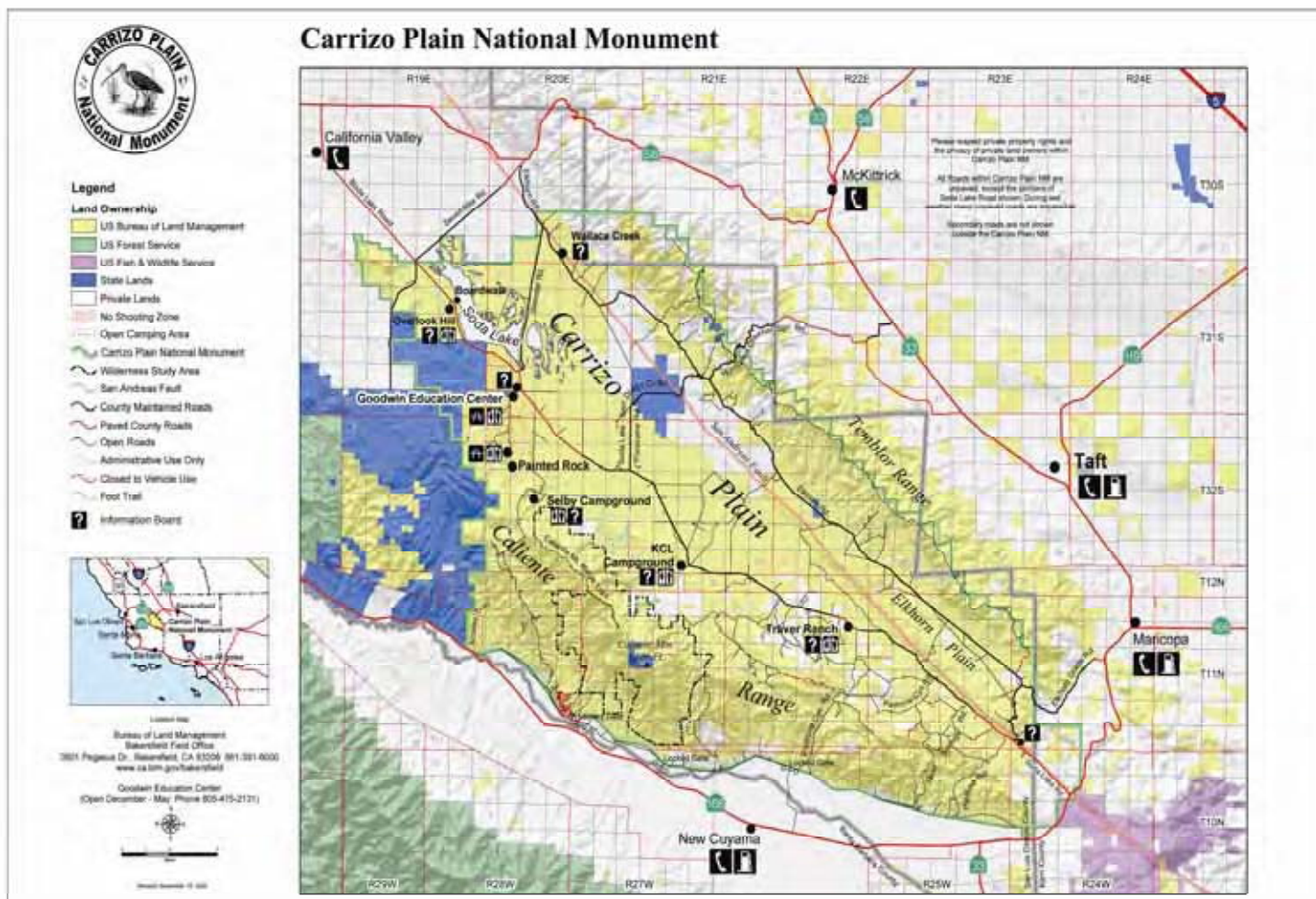
Your early participation during scoping will be key to helping us get the process off in the right direction

You can get involved in a number of ways.

1. Start by filling out the Visioning Worksheet and send it back to us by June 12, 2007.
2. Attend one of the public scoping meetings in late April-early May, 2007.
3. Contact us by phone or via the website any-time during the process.
4. Comment on the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement – likely available for public review in early in 2008.
5. Participate in the second set of public meetings in early 2008 to discuss the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.



San Andreas Fault



Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings will be held:

- **NEW LOCATION** April 24 at the Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
- May 1 at the BLM Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive. The office is about one mile east of Highway 99. Take Seventh Standard Road to Pegasus Drive. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
- May 5 at the California Valley Community Services District building on Soda Lake Road. The center is located approximately three miles south of Highway 58 adjacent to the California Valley Fire Station 42. This meeting is being held in conjunction with a Carrizo Monument Advisory Committee meeting.

The planning effort will be discussed (with time for public scoping input) from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be available for \$8. The Monument Advisory Committee meeting will then continue from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. focusing on other agenda topics related to the national monument.

Written scoping comments should be sent by June 12 to: Monument Manager Johna Hurl, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308. Phone at (661) 391-6093 or email: Johna_Hurl@ca.blm.gov

BLM held scoping meetings in 2002 when the planning process was initiated. Comments submitted during that process will be considered with comments received in the current process. If you previously submitted comments, you may provide additional comments or clarifications of those previously made.

TELL US YOUR VISION
Carrizo Plain National Monument Management Plan Visioning Worksheet

Before diving into the nuts and bolts of the planning process, we want to develop a broad “vision” for the future of the Carrizo Plain National Monument that reflects the values of the community – the people who live here, who visit and who care about the Carrizo Plain. The plan will guide the area’s management practices for many years, so we need a clear understanding of where we are going and what we want to accomplish. Please take a few minutes to fill out this brief worksheet to help us develop a vision for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. You may add more pages if you wish. Please return by June 12, 2007.

NAME:
ORGANIZATION (if any):
ADDRESS:
PHONE (optional):
EMAIL (optional):

Please do not add my name to the Carrizo Plan mailing list. (check box) []

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION OF THE MONUMENT FOR THE FUTURE?

What do you value most about the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and why? (add additional sheets if necessary)

What changes would you like to see? _____

What is your vision for the future of the Carrizo Plain National Monument? What do you want it to look like in 20 years? Or even in 50 years when our grandchildren come here?

ENVIRONMENT

What are your key concerns about the environment within the Carrizo Plain? Please be specific. _____

VISITOR SERVICES

What improvements should be made to better accommodate visitors (e.g., environmental education programs, trails, etc.)? Please be specific. _____

How often do you visit the Carrizo Plain National Monument?
_____ several times a year _____ once a year _____ once every few years _____ I've never visited

WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is tied into the local economies, recreational activities, culture and social activities of its neighbors. We want to know what you think about having the Monument as a neighbor to your community.

If you live in the region surrounding the Carrizo Plain National Monument, please let us know . . . what are the greatest benefits of living near the area? _____

What is the greatest drawback? _____

What could be done to improve the Carrizo Plain National Monument's effects on surrounding communities (e.g., the local economy, tourism, traffic, etc.)? Please be specific. _____

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? (attach additional sheets if needed) _____

Fold here

Place stamp here

**Carrizo Plain Monument Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

Tape here



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837

June 19, 2007

8160(P)
CA-169

Dear Interested Party:

The Native American Advisory Committee meeting for the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) is scheduled for June 30th and July 1st, 2007 at the Washburn Ranch in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Please find enclosed map that depicts the location of the Washburn Ranch Administrative Center. We would like to extend an invitation to those that would like to attend the annual session held on Saturday and Sunday. Should you prefer to stay overnight at the ranch to attend the Sunday session, please feel free to do so.

We invite you to bring food or beverages to share with the group as we are planning to have a potluck dinner on the Saturday evening. We will provide the eating utensils, cooking ware, glasses/cups and coffee. We encourage you to bring your own lunch and breakfast, water, sleeping bag, personal items, hiking boots/shoes, and light jacket for the evenings. You are welcome to stay in the ranch house overnight or stay in your own camper should you prefer. Please be aware that we do not have electrical, water, or disposal hook-ups for your camper.

We have enclosed for your information the minutes from the last meeting held on March 10, 2007 at CSU Fresno. If you have any questions about the Fresno meeting, please make note of it for the up coming meeting on the weekend of June 30th.

Discussion Topics:

- Summer Solstice Ceremony at Painted Rock
- Wildlife update--Fish and Game and BLM
- Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) scoping session
- RMP scoping comments
- Grazing Management in the Monument
- National Historic Landmark (NHL) status
- Update on Liz's thesis study at Painted Rock
- Project update for Summer and Fall
- Research projects ongoing and planned
- Additional items of discussion may be added if time permits

Agenda for Saturday:

- 10:30 a.m. •arrive at Washburn Ranch
- 11:00 a.m. •open meeting and introductions
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. •luncheon
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. •continue meeting and adjourn at 4 p.m.
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. •field trip
- 6:30 p.m. •Dinner

Appendix E: Native American Letter

Agenda for Sunday:

7:30 a.m. •breakfast
8:30 -11:00 a.m. •finish meeting discussions
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. •Lunch and pack gear

If you have any questions before the meeting, please call Michael Khus-Zarate (Committee Chair) at (559) 277-2161 or Duane Christian at (661) 391-6080. We look forward to visiting with you on the Carrizo Plain the weekend of June 30th.

Sincerely,

Johna Hurl, Manager
Carrizo Plain National Monument

Enclosure:
Map (1p)
Minutes 3-10-07 (4 pp)

Attached:
Mailing List