

were completed. The BLM has conducted various scientific studies on the biological resources of the plan area in cooperation with the North Slope Borough, the State of Alaska and other federal agencies. Information gained since the completion of the Northeast plan has led the BLM to conclude that it is appropriate to consider amending it with two specific objectives in mind: (1) To consider changing the current prescriptive stipulations on existing and future leases into a mixture of prescriptive and performance-based stipulations; and, (2) to evaluate additional lands for exploration and development opportunities that could provide access to new oil discoveries, while remaining sensitive to biological and subsistence values.

Description of the Area: The planning area is composed of those BLM-administered lands, subject to valid existing rights, in the northeastern portion of NPR-A. The northeastern portion of NPR-A is described as beginning on the NPR-A boundary on the township line between T. 3 S., R. 5 W. and T. 3 S., R. 6 W., Umiat Meridian (U.M.), and thence northerly along the township lines to the northeast corner of T. 2 N., R. 6 W., U.M., thence westerly along the township line to the right bank of the Ikpikpuk River, thence northerly along the right bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the northern boundary of NPR-A, thence in a generally easterly and southerly direction following the boundary of NPR-A to the point of beginning. This area consists of approximately 4.6 million acres. A large scale map of the plan area (which also serves as the Call map) showing boundaries of the area on a township-by-township basis is available from the Alaska State Office, BLM, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, telephone (907) 271-3369.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 3131.1 and 3131.2, relevant information related to possible oil and gas leasing is requested for the plan area. Oil and gas companies are specifically requested to nominate within the plan area, areas that they would like to have considered for oil and gas leasing. Nominations must be depicted on the Call map by outlining the area(s) of interest along township lines. Nominators are asked to submit a list of townships nominated to facilitate correct interpretation of their nominations on the Call map. Although the identities of those submitting nominations for oil and gas leasing become a matter of public record, the individual nominations will be held confidential consistent with applicable law.

Nominators also are requested to rank townships nominated for oil and gas leasing according to priority of interest [(e.g., priority 1 (high), 2 (medium), or 3 (low)]. Townships nominated that do not indicate priorities will be considered priority 3. Nominators are encouraged to be specific in indicating townships by priority. Blanket priorities on large areas are not useful in the analysis of industry interest. The telephone number and name of a person to contact in the nominator's organization for additional information should be included in the response.

The regulations at 43 CFR part 3130 limit the size of an oil and gas lease tract within the NPR-A boundaries to no more than 60,000 acres (43 CFR 3130.4-1). Although nominations are to be submitted along township lines, comments are also being sought on the preferred size of tracts for leasing in this area, not to exceed 60,000 acres.

Tentative Schedule: Approximate dates for actions and decisions in the planning process for this proposal are:

Comments Due on Notice, and Request—September 30, 2003
 Scoping meetings (precise dates to be announced later)—September 2003
 Draft IAP/EIS available for comment—April 2004
 Public meetings/hearings—April–May 2004
 Comments due on Draft IAP/EIS—May 31, 2004
 Final IAP/EIS available for public review—October 31, 2004
 Record of Decision—November 30, 2004

Dated: May 16, 2003.

Henri R. Bisson,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-03-840-1610-241A]

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Monument) Advisory Committee

(Committee), will meet as directed below.

DATE: The meeting will be held July 29, 2003 at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado at 9 a.m. The public comment period will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m. and the meeting will adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager or Stephen Kandell, Monument Planner, Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323; Telephone (970) 882-4811.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The eleven member committee provides counsel and advice to the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, concerning development and implementation of a management plan developed in accordance with FLMPA, for public lands within the Monument. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

- (1) Committee member introductions
- (2) Overview and status of the Monument planning process
- (3) Monument schedule and budget
- (4) Lunch in the field
- (5) Public comment period
- (6) Advisory Committee meeting strategy
- (7) Agenda for next meeting

All meetings will be open to the public and will include a time set aside for public comment. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at any meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of all Committee meetings will be maintained at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days of the meeting. In addition, minutes and other information concerning the Committee can be obtained from the Monument Web site at: <http://www.co.blm.gov/canm/index.html> which will be updated following each Committee meeting.

Dated: June 16, 2003.

LouAnn Jacobson,

Manager, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

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