

to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: January 28, 2003.

**Daryl L. Albiston,**

*Four Rivers Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 03-9370 Filed 4-16-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-03-1230-EA]

#### Temporary Closure of Public Lands—Recreation Special Events: New Mexico, Farmington Field Office

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

**ACTION:** Temporary closure of affected public lands in San Juan County.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office (BLM), announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under its administration in San Juan County. This action is taken to provide for public and participant safety and to protect adjacent natural and cultural resources during the conduct of permitted special recreation events.

**SUMMARY:** The State Director, New Mexico State Office, announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under BLM administration. This action is taken to provide for public and participant safety and to protect adjacent natural and cultural resources during the conduct of permitted special recreation events.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** March through December 2003. Events may be canceled or rescheduled at short notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Simmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Farmington Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1235 La Plata Hwy, Suite A, Farmington, New Mexico 87410, telephone: (505) 599-6345.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice applies to closures on and adjacent to permitted special events including but not limited to: Motorized Off Highway Vehicle events, Mountain Bike races, and Horse Endurance competitive event sites and routes. Competitive events are conducted along dirt roads, trails, washes, and areas approved for such use through the Special Recreation Permit application process. Events occur from March through December 2003. Closure period is from 6 a.m. event day until event finish or until the event has cleared

between affected Check Point locations; approximately 2 to 48 hour periods. The general public will be advised of each event and closure specifics via local newspapers and mailed public letters within seven (7) to thirty (30) days prior to the running of an event. Event maps and information will be posted at the Farmington Field Office.

Locations most commonly used for permitted events include, but are not limited to:

1. Glade Recreation Area—San Juan Co., T30-31N R12-13W.
2. Alien Run Mountain Bike Trail—San Juan Co.: T31N R10W.
3. The Rock Garden—San Juan Co.: T30-31N R9W.
4. Pinyon Mesa—San Juan Co.: T30N R13-14W.
5. Navajo Lake Horse Trails—San Juan Co.: T30N R7-8W.
6. The Dunes OHV Area—San Juan Co.: T29N R13W.
7. Head Canyon Motocross Track—San Juan Co.: T30N R13W.
8. Simon Canyon—San Juan Co.: T30-31N R8W.
9. Angel Peak Recreation Area—San Juan Co.: T26-27N R10W.

**Marking and effect of closure.** BLM lands to be temporarily closed to public use include the width and length of those roads, trails and routes identified as the route for the permitted event, identified by colored flagging, chalk arrows in the dirt, traffic cones, temporary barricades and/or directional arrows attached to wooden stakes; vehicle closures for the public in vendor areas and spectator viewing areas, identified with colored ribbon and signs; camping closures, except in such areas designated for camping by the BLM, identified with signs and colored ribbon and/or barricades, gates, cones, and fences. The authorized applicants or their representatives are required to post warning signs, control access to, and clearly mark the event routes and area during closure periods. Public uses generally affected by a Temporary Closure include: road and trail uses, camping, picnicking, parking, cross-country travel, and public land exploration.

Spectator and support vehicles may be driven in designated areas and routes only. Spectators may observe the races from specified locations as directed by event and agency officials.

Interested parties may obtain a map and schedule of each closure area at the contact address.

**Exceptions.** Closure restrictions do not apply to permittee, their employees, competitors, medical/rescue, law enforcement, Oil and Gas Industry employees doing day-to-day necessary

service, and BLM personnel monitoring the event.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 8364.1 and 43 CFR part 2930.

**Penalty.** Any person failing to comply with the closure orders may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

Dated: March 7, 2003.

**Linda Rundell,**

*New Mexico State Director.*

[FR Doc. 03-9379 Filed 4-16-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-BP-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-040-1320-DO]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment and Call for Coal or Other Resource Information

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for Federal coal resources in Haskell, Latimer, and LeFlore Counties, Oklahoma, and notice of scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oklahoma Field Office will prepare an amendment to the Oklahoma Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1994, as amended 1996) and complete an EA on the amendment for three potential competitive Federal coal lease sales covering lands in Haskell, Latimer, and LeFlore Counties, Oklahoma. The RMPA would evaluate three Lease Application Areas (LAAs) to determine whether they are suitable for further consideration for leasing. The LAAs total approximately 6,883 acres of previously unleased coal and are part of the Federal mineral estate. The RMPA will be prepared under guidance provided through BLM Planning Regulations. This notice is also to solicit coal and other resource information pursuant to 43 CFR 3420.1-2.

This notice formally initiates the public scoping phase to identify issues and review preliminary planning criteria that will help guide the preparation of the RMPA/EA. The BLM will encourage public participation and will begin by conducting two public

scoping meetings near the LAAs to solicit input from all concerned parties. The dates, times, and locations for these meetings will be announced in local and regional newspapers. Coal companies, other mineral extraction companies, state and local governments, and the general public are encouraged to submit information to the BLM to assist in the determination of coal development potential and possible conflicts with other resources.

**DATES:** The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice. Meetings and comment closing dates will be announced through local media, a newsletter, and the BLM Web site: <http://www.nm.blm.gov>. At least 15 days public notice in local news media will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to "RMPA/EA COMMENTS," BLM, Oklahoma Field Office, 7906 East 33rd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145-1352, Fax: (918) 621-4130. Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Oklahoma Field Office during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the RMPA/EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety. The current RMP and all other documents relevant to this planning effort are also available for public review at the Oklahoma Field Office at the address dates and times listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact: Doug Cook, Co-Team Leader, BLM, Oklahoma Field Office, 7906 East 33rd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145-1352, phone (918) 621-4124 or Keith Tyler, Co-Team Leader, BLM, Oklahoma Field Office, 221 North Service Road, Moore, Oklahoma 73160-4946, phone (405) 790-1015.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In February and June of 2002, BLM received three applications from Farrell-Cooper Mining Company for three competitive coal lease sales for land in Haskell, Latimer, and LeFlore Counties. The sizes and locations of these three

LAAs are as follows: (1) Liberty West, 640 acres, in parts of sections 1 and 12, T. 10 N., R. 12 E. in Haskell County; (2) McCurtain, 2,380 acres, in parts of sections 8-11, 14-17, T. 8 N., R. 22 E. in Haskell County; and (3) Bull Hill, 3,863.17 acres, in parts of sections 9-12, T. 5 N., R. 20 E., and in parts of sections 1-3 and 7-10, T. 5 N., R. 21 E. in Latimer County and in parts of sections 4-6, T. 5 N., R. 23 E., sections 31-34, T. 6 N., R. 24 E.; sections 33-36, T. 6 N., R. 23 E. and sections 1-3, T. 5 N., R. 22 E. in LeFlore County. The total 6,883.17 acres of Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM and the surface is privately owned.

Opportunities for the public to be informed and participate will occur throughout the planning process. To ensure local community participation and input, public scoping meetings will be held in two towns strategically located near the LAAs. Early participation by all interested parties is encouraged and will help guide the planning process and decision. The summary and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participants who wish to clarify their views. The results of scoping will be sent to all of those interested parties on the mailing list for this project in a newsletter or scoping report. BLM personnel have identified preliminary issues and management concerns. Preliminary issues include the following: Access and traffic; public interest/benefits regarding the extraction of the coal; identification of resource values on the private lands; and water quality. Preliminary management concerns include the following: Special status species of plants and animals; maintaining government-to-government relationships with tribal governments; effects of disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities resulting from the potential execution of the decision to lease the coal (Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898); potential for spread of noxious weeds; protection of designated streams (Clean Water Act, section 303-d), and application of unsuitability criteria. The public is encouraged to help identify any additional issues, questions, and concerns during the initial scoping phase. Industry and other interested parties are asked to provide any information that will be useful in meeting the Federal Coal Management Program defined in 43 CFR part 3420, including the application of coal planning screens.

Information resulting from this call for information will be used to determine potential for coal

development and likelihood of conflict with other resources. Lands already considered in the Oklahoma RMP, adopted in January 1994 and as amended in 1996, need not be addressed.

The issue of Federal coal leasing and development will include:

1. Determining areas acceptable for further coal leasing consideration with standard stipulations;

2. Determining areas acceptable for consideration with special stipulations; and

3. Determining areas unacceptable for further coal leasing consideration. Any individual, business entity, or public body may participate in this process by providing coal or other resource information under this call. Planning criteria will be developed during the initial public scoping early in the process to help guide the planning effort. Preliminary planning criteria being considered by BLM for the planning effort include the following: Recognize valid existing rights; comply with existing law, executive orders, regulations, and BLM policy and program guidance; seek public input; consider adjoining lands to minimize land use conflict when making decisions; consider planning jurisdictions of other Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal governments; develop reasonable and sound alternatives; use current scientific data to evaluate appropriate strategies; analyze socioeconomic effects of alternatives along with the environmental effects; and consider public welfare and safety.

Written comments should address one or more of the following: (1) Issues to be considered, (2) whether the planning criteria are adequate for the issues, (3) feasible and reasonable alternatives to examine, or (4) relevant coal or other resource information having a bearing on the RMPA/EA.

Following the initial scoping phase, BLM will prepare an inventory to determine the existing condition of the environment in the three areas. The resources to be inventoried include air quality, geology, energy and mineral resources, soils, water resources, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, noxious weeds, land use, access, visual resources, noise, social and economic conditions, environmental justice, hazardous materials, and cultural and paleontological resources. A range of reasonable alternatives, including an alternative considering no action as required by NEPA, will be developed and analyzed. Through the comments received during the initial scoping, the

public will assist in developing the alternatives. It is anticipated that the RMPA/EA process will require approximately 14 months to complete, resulting in a Decision Record and RMPA being published in spring of 2004.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

**Timothy R. Spisak,**

*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. 03-9374 Filed 4-16-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

#### Call for Nominations for the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for three members to the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The Board provides advice concerning management, protection, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on the public lands administered by the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture, through the Forest Service.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted to the address listed below under **ADDRESSES** no later than May 15, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** National Wild Horse and Burro Program, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006, Attn: Janet Nordin; FAX 775-861-6711.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sally Hampton, Acting Group Manager—Wild Horse and Burro Group, (202) 452-0379. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact Ms. Hampton at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Individuals may also nominate themselves for Board membership. All nomination letters should include the name, address, profession, relevant biographic data, and reference sources for each nominee, and should be sent to

the address listed under **ADDRESSES**, above. Nominations for the following categories of interest are needed: Wild Horse and Burro Research Natural Resources Management Livestock Management

The specific category that the nominee will represent should be identified in the letter of nomination. Board membership must be balanced in terms of categories of interest represented. Each member must be a person who, as a result of training and experience, has knowledge or special expertise that qualifies him or her to provide advice from among the categories of interest listed above. Members will be appointed to a term of 3 years.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, Members of the Board cannot be employed by either Federal or State government.

Members will serve without salary, but will be reimbursed for travel and *per diem* expenses at current rates for government employees.

The Board will meet no less than two times annually. The Director, Bureau of Land Management may call additional meetings in connection with special needs for advice.

Dated: April 11, 2003.

**Aaron Horton,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

[FR Doc. 03-9462 Filed 4-16-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-190.50-1610-DO]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the Hollister Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Fort Ord Public Lands Project in Monterey County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Amendment to the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fort Ord Public Lands Project in Monterey County, California.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an amendment to the Hollister RMP for the Fort Ord Public Lands Project. Fort Ord is the site of a former United States military base in Monterey County,

California that was closed pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510. Since 1992, the BLM has worked with the community in Monterey County to help facilitate the reuse of the former Fort Ord military base. The plan amendment would incorporate management prescriptions for the Fort Ord Project within the broader framework of the Hollister RMP. The plan amendment will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM management policies. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted for 60 days following the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Public Participation:** Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, open houses will be held in locations most closely affiliated with the BLM lands at Fort Ord. Probable locations include Monterey/Pacific Grove, Salinas, and Seaside/Marina. Information concerning the planning process, including any public participation opportunities, will be announced by BLM through news releases, direct mailings or other applicable means of public notification. Current information about the Fort Ord planning process is also maintained on BLM's Web site (<http://www.ca.blm.gov/hollister>).

**ADDRESSES:** Scoping comments should be sent to Eric Morgan, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, California, 95023; Fax 831.394.8346. BLM will maintain a record of public documents related to the development of the RMP Amendment at the Hollister Field Office at the address listed above. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Hollister Field Office located in Hollister, California during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual