

Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Written comments should be sent to BLM Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701; Fax (775) 885-6147; email address tknutson@nv.blm.gov. For additional information, write to the above address or call Terri Knutson (BLM Environmental Planner) at (775) 885-6156 or Ken Nelson (BLM Realty Specialist) at (775) 885-6114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM Carson City Field Office received separate water supply and transmission rights-of-way applications from the Fish Springs Ranch, LLC and Intermountain Water Supply, LTD, two independent water companies, proposing projects in Washoe County, Nevada. The BLM determined that due to the same timing, geography, and similarity of the types of actions, the two proposals would be analyzed in one EIS, together known as the North Valleys Water Projects. Each company is proposing to construct and operate water supply and transmission projects to meet present and future water demands of the Stead/Silver Lake/Lemmon Valley areas (North Valleys) in Washoe County. The proposed Projects consist of groundwater production wells, pump station(s), transmission pipeline(s) and terminal water storage tank(s) to convey water. The Fish Springs Ranch LLC proposed pipeline (carrying approximately 8000 acre-feet per year) would begin at the Fish Springs Ranch, and proceed south approximately 33 miles to the North Valleys. The Intermountain Water Supply, LTD proposed pipeline (carrying approximately 3500 acre-feet per year) would begin in Dry Valley, proceed east a short distance before tying into the same general route south to the North Valleys, a total of approximately 24 miles.

The EIS will assess the impacts of the two proposed rights-of-way actions and

the No Action alternatives and may consider alternative locations or alignments of the water project facilities, as appropriate. The EIS will address issues brought forth through scoping and will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of specialists. Key issues likely to be considered in analyzing each alternative include groundwater hydrology; groundwater quality; threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; land use; and socioeconomic effects of the project. Federal, state, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the decisions to be made on the proposed project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request, or be requested by the BLM, to participate as a cooperating agency.

Dated: July 22, 2003.

John O. Singlaub,
Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 03-23447 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-930-1310-AG]

Notice of Extension of the Scoping Period for Amending the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Request for Information, and Call for Nominations and Comments

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of scoping period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces an extension of the scoping period for the Amendment of the Northeast (NE) National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

DATES: Written comments on issues relating to the future land use, planning, and management of the northeast portion of NPR-A must be submitted or postmarked no later than October 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the document should be addressed to: NE NPR-A Amendment Planning Team, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (930), 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Curt Wilson, (907) 271-5546;

c1wilson@ak.blm.gov or by mail at 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513-7599 or Craig McCaa (907) 271-2231; craig_mccaa@ak.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM published a Notice of Intent for the Amendment to the NE NPR-AIAP on June 26, 2003 that contained a closing date of September 30 for scoping comments. Since that time the BLM has received requests from the North Slope communities nearest to the planning area that the comment period be extended. This extension responds to those requests. Scoping meetings will be held in Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass, Barrow, Anchorage and Fairbanks. Times and locations of the meetings will be advertised locally.

Dated: August 12, 2003.

Peter Ditton,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 03-23446 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-1610-DO]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area as directed in the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-282). The planning area encompasses approximately 48,438 acres of public land within Clark County, Nevada. 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), Public Law 107-282, and BLM policies. The public scoping process will identify planning issues and develop planning criteria, including evaluation of the existing Resource Management Plan (RMP). The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to develop and analyze management alternatives, taking

into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments and concerns on issues can be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be most useful if BLM receives them within 30-days. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/vegas> at least 15 days prior to the event. The minutes and 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.

Public Participation: Public meetings will be held throughout the scoping, plan development, and EIS process. Interested state, local, and tribal governments are invited to participate. Public scoping meetings will be held in Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City, Nevada. An outreach plan, including a public mailing list will be utilized and expanded to achieve the maximum possible early awareness and participation. In addition to the scoping process and on-going public participation plan, a formal opportunity to participate will occur upon publication of the draft RMP/EIS.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the BLM, Charles H. Carroll, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130, telephone (702) 515-5291. Documents pertinent to this RMP may be examined at the Las Vegas Field Office at the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Charles H. Carroll, Las Vegas Field Office Environmental Protection Specialist and Team Lead for the BLM at Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130, telephone (702) 515-5291.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The geographic area covered by the plan includes only those lands established as the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by Public Law 107-282, which is approximately 48,438 acres. A map is available for review at the Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the RMP and EIS in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include specialists with expertise in public outreach, planning/NEPA, cultural resources, paleontology, wilderness management, desert ecology,

special status species, recreation, public interpretation, visual resource management, and urban interface. Other areas of expertise will be added as necessary.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that will be addressed in the planning effort include:

1. How will the cultural, natural, and wilderness resources be interpreted for visitors to the planning area and non-visitors who may have an interest in learning more about the resources?
2. How will the cultural, natural, and wilderness resources of the Sloan Canyon NCA and the North McCullough Wilderness Area be preserved for the current and future generations?
3. How will the management of the Sloan Canyon NCA be integrated in a manner that is compatible with the plans and needs of Native American tribes, the City of Henderson, Clark County, and other Local, State, and Federal agencies?
4. How will the Sloan Canyon NCA Resource Management Plan be responsive to continually changing conditions, stemming primarily from an increasing urban interface?
5. How will the Sloan Canyon NCA Resource Management Plan ensure the long-term protection of the area's resources while providing appropriate scientific research opportunities?
6. How will visitors' activities and uses be managed in a manner that preserves the cultural, natural and wilderness resources while providing reasonable access to and enjoyment of the Sloan Canyon NCA?
7. What facilities and infrastructure will be needed to provide visitor services, information, and administration of the Sloan Canyon NCA?

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Las Vegas Field Office during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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.

Dated: August 15, 2003.

Angie Lara,

Acting Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-932-5420-EU-L024; AA-085086, AA-085087, AA-085088, & AA-085089]

Notice of Applications for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying Eight Rivers and Nine Lakes in Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The State of Alaska has submitted four applications for recordable disclaimer of interest pursuant to section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the regulations contained in 43 CFR part 1864. A recordable disclaimer of interest, if issued, will confirm the United States has no valid interest in the subject lands. This notice is intended to notify the public of the pending applications and the State's grounds supporting it.

DATES: Comments on these pending applications should be submitted by December 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Chief, Branch of Lands and Realty, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, No. 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Haskins, Branch of Lands and Realty at 907-271-3351 or visit the