

NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE ■ 1800 MARQUESS ■ LAS CRUCES, NM 88005

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Public Input Sought for Resource Management Plans for Sierra, Otero, and Doña Ana Counties

BLM to Host Three Public Open House Meetings on Preliminary Alternatives

LAS CRUCES, NM—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will host three ‘open house’ meetings to ask for input from the public on preliminary alternatives for the future management of public land in Sierra, Otero, and Doña Ana Counties in New Mexico. The BLM will use the information gathered from these meetings to modify the range of alternatives that will be considered in two resource management plans and an associated environmental impact statement.

“We look forward to discussing these preliminary alternatives and receiving input from the public,” said Ed Roberson, BLM, Las Cruces District Office Manager. “Our hope is that the range of management options covered in the preliminary alternatives, fit within the public’s vision for the future management of public lands.”

The three-county planning area is about 6.65 million acres. Of that, 2.88 *million* acres are BLM-administered public land; *an additional 5.01 million acres have BLM-administered Federal minerals*. This area is currently managed using the guidance of two resource management plans—one prepared in 1986 and the other in 1993.

The purpose of resource management plans is to provide a framework for managing public land and for allocating resources over a planning period of 15 to 20 years. During the life of a plan, it’s evaluated periodically to see if it remains adequate and continues to meet legislative and policy requirements, and land use and resource needs. If it does not meet current requirements and needs, the plan is revised or amended. This involves the preparation of a new plan to replace the existing resource management plan.

To date, the BLM has developed the planning criteria (guidelines to follow during the planning process), identified issues through public scoping, completed the Scoping Report, collected baseline data to understand the existing condition of the environment, and developed preliminary alternatives based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

We are hosting three public open house meetings on the preliminary alternatives. Meetings will take place from 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. in the locations listed below. Please call the District Office (505.525.4300) for specific questions or our toll free line (877.877.0918) to request to be added to our mailing list

December 12

Las Cruces

Doña Ana County
Government Center,

845 N. Motel Blvd

December 13	Alamogordo	Otero County Courthouse, 1000 New York Ave.
December 14	Truth or Consequences	Civic Center, 400 W. 4 th St.

Each open house will include informational displays and selected maps to depict alternative management strategies for various uses of public land. BLM staff will be available to listen to comments and answer questions.

After the public workshops on the preliminary alternatives, we will modify the alternatives, as necessary, and proceed with analyzing the effects that each alternative would have on the environment. The results of these analyses will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Once the Draft RMPs/EIS is ready for publication, BLM will announce the availability of the Draft RMPs/EIS for public review and comment. During the 90-day review period, we will accept written comments and will conduct public meetings to accept your comments on the adequacy of the Draft RMPs/EIS.

Completion of the draft plans and EIS is anticipated in mid 2007. The draft will be released to the public for a 90-day review period, during which time we will conduct public meetings to gather comments on the draft document.

For more information or updates on the planning effort, log onto the project web site at http://www.nm.blm.gov/lcfo/tri_county/tricounty.html.

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