

**APPENDIX R—COTTONWOOD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES OF INTENT**

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authorized by BLM in the ROD and will not constitute a general amendment of the IAP/EIS.

EPA is a cooperating agency because it potentially has a permitting decision to make on the disposal of wastewater from camps under an NPDES permit. The alternatives presented in the FEIS discuss the use of a general permit or an individual permit. The USACE as a cooperating agency will review the proposed project pursuant to relevant Federal jurisdiction.

**Henri R. Bisson,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-20036 Filed 9-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-087-1610-DO-034D]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Cottonwood Field Office

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the Cottonwood Field Office. The planning area for the RMP, which includes 140,143 acres of BLM-administered public lands, is located in Adams, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho. Preparation of this RMP and EIS will conform to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal regulations, and BLM management policies.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on the scope of the plan, including issues or concerns that should be considered, should be submitted in writing to the address listed below by November 15, 2004. However, collaboration with the public will continue throughout the planning process. Dates and locations for public meetings will be announced through local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.id.blm.gov/planning/ctnwdrmp/index.htm>), at least 15 days prior to the event.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Cottonwood Field Office. ATTN: RMP, House 1, Butte Drive Route 3, Box 181,

Cottonwood, ID 83522-9498, or fax to (208) 962-3275. All public comments, including names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Cottonwood Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 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, please state this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence. The BLM will honor such requests 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 CONTACT:** For further information or to have your name added to the Cottonwood RMP Mailing List, contact Carrie Christman at the Cottonwood Field Office (see address above), telephone (208) 962-3245.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Cottonwood RMP planning area is located in the southern part of the Idaho panhandle. The area is bordered to the west by the Oregon and Washington state lines, to the north by Benewah and Shoshone Counties, to the east by the Montana state line, and to the south by Lemhi and Valley Counties and the southern portion of Adams County. The Cottonwood Field Office planning area lies entirely within the ceded territory of the Nez Perce Tribe. The Nez Perce Reservation lies entirely within the planning area, and there are about 17,586 acres of BLM administered land within the reservation boundary. Management of BLM administered lands will involve trust and treaty resources.

The BLM-administered public lands within the Cottonwood Field Office planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions in the 1981 Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP) as amended. BLM will continue to manage these lands in accordance with the MFP and amendments until the RMP is completed and a Record of Decision is signed.

Preparation of an RMP for the Cottonwood Field Office is necessary to respond to changing resource conditions; respond to new issues; and provide a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the field office. The RMP will establish

new land use planning decisions to address issues identified through public scoping and, where appropriate, will incorporate decisions from the existing Chief Joseph MFP.

**Public Participation:** The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national interests. The public scoping process will hold identify planning issues and provide for public comment on the proposed planning criteria.

BLM has identified the following preliminary issue themes:

1. Vegetation management (including noxious weeds, riparian areas and Wetlands, and fuels and forest management).
2. Fire management.
3. Management of habitat for wildlife and special status species.
4. Management of transportation, public access, and recreational opportunities.
5. Land tenure adjustments.
6. Availability and management of public lands for commercial uses (minerals, forest products and livestock grazing).
7. Management of areas with special values.
8. Tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities.

These preliminary issue themes are not final and may be refined or added to through future public participation.

BLM has also identified some preliminary planning criteria to guide development of the plan, to avoid unnecessary data collection and analysis, and to ensure the plan is tailored to the issues. These criteria may be modified or other criteria identified during the public scoping process. The public is invited to comment on the following preliminary planning criteria.

1. The plan will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and current policies. This includes local, State, tribal, and Federal air quality standards; as well as water quality standards from the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans.
2. The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and Federal regulations.

3. All previously established Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed for wilderness values and character until Congress designates them as wilderness areas, or releases them for multiple use management.

4. The RMP will recognize all valid existing rights.

5. As part of this RMP process, BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and river corridors for suitability for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

July 6, 2004.

**K. Lynn Bennett,**

*Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 04-19607 Filed 9-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### **Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada, Resource Management Plan (RMP)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Nevada**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Record of Decision (ROD).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policies, and the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-554), the BLM announces the availability of the RMP/ROD for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Planning Area, located in northwestern Nevada. The Nevada and California State Directors will sign the RMP/ROD, which becomes effective immediately.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada RMP/ROD are available upon request from the Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5100 E Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921, or via the Internet at <http://www.blackrockhighrock.org>. Copies of the RMP/ROD are also available for public inspection at the following repositories: University of Nevada-Reno

Getchell Library, Reno, NV; Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, NV; BLM-Nevada Carson City Field Office, Carson City, NV; BLM-Nevada State Office, Reno, NV; Public Library, Gerlach, NV; Public Library, Reno, NV; Pershing County Public Library, Lovelock, NV; Lyon County Library, Dayton, NV; Lyon County Library, Fernley, NV; BLM-California Surprise Field Office, Cedarville, CA; Modoc County Library, Cedarville, CA; Modoc County Library, Alturas CA; BLM-California State Office, Sacramento, CA; and BLM-California Eagle Lake Field Office, Susanville, CA. Persons who are not able to inspect the RMP/ROD either on-line or at one of the locations provided may request one of a limited number of printed copies or compact discs (CDs) by contacting the NCA Planning Staff at the Winnemucca Field Office by e-mail at [wfoweb@nv.blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@nv.blm.gov), by telephone at (775) 623-1500, or by fax at (775) 623-1503. Requests should be directed to the NCA Planning Staff, clearly state that it is a request for a printed copy or CD of the Black Rock-High Rock RMP/ROD, and include the name, mailing address and phone number of the requesting party.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David C. Cooper, NCA Manager, BLM Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921, (775) 623-1500, [wfoweb@nv.blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@nv.blm.gov) ("Attn: NCA Manager" in subject line of message).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The RMP/ROD was developed with broad public participation through a 3-year collaborative planning process. This RMP/ROD addresses management on approximately 1.2 million acres of public land in the planning area. The RMP/ROD is designed to achieve or maintain objectives that were identified in the legislation that created the NCA and wilderness areas or developed through the planning process. The RMP/ROD includes a series of management actions to meet the desired resource conditions for upland and riparian vegetation, wildlife habitats, cultural and visual resources, livestock grazing and recreation.

The approved RMP is essentially the same as Alternative D in the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS), published in September 2003. BLM received eight protests to the PRMP/FEIS. No inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies or programs were identified during the Governor's consistency review of the PRMP/FEIS. As a result, only minor editorial modifications were made in preparing

the RMP/ROD. These modifications corrected technical errors that were noted during review of the PRMP/FEIS and provided further clarification for some of the decisions.

Dated: May 10, 2004.

**Terry A. Reed,**

*Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 04-19606 Filed 9-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-086-1610-DO-006D]

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Coeur d'Alene Field Office**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the Coeur d'Alene Field Office. The planning area for the RMP, which includes 96,745 acres of BLM-administered public land, is located in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone Counties, Idaho. Preparation of this RMP and EIS will conform with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal Regulations, and BLM management policies.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on the scope of the plan, including issues or concerns that should be considered, should be submitted in writing to the address listed below by November 15, 2004. However, collaboration with the public will continue throughout the planning process. Dates and locations for public meetings will be announced through local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.id.blm.gov/planning/cdarmp/index.htm>), at least 15 days prior to the event.

**ADDRESSES:** Please mail written comments to the BLM, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Attn: RMP, 1808 North Third Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-3407, or fax to (208) 769-5050. All public comments, including names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Coeur d'Alene Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30

*Summary:* EPA was supportive of the selection of the Drainage Impaired Land Retirement Alternative, but expressed environmental concerns about treatment methods to remove selenium from drainage water and potential impacts to air quality. EPA requested additional analysis and monitoring commitments prior to implementation of any alternative and expressed continued objections if an out of valley alternative.

*EIS No. 20060259, ERP No. F-BLM-J02042-UT*, Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project, Proposal to Produce and Transport Natural Gas in the Atchee Wash Oil and Gas Production Region, Resource Development Group, Right-of-Way Grant, U.S. COE Section 404 Permit and Endangered Species Act Permit, Uintah County, UT.

*Summary:* No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

*EIS No. 20060263, ERP No. F-BIA-F65058-MI*, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians (the Tribe), Proposes Fee-to-Trust Transfer and Casino Project, Calhoun County, MI.

*Summary:* EPA's previous concerns have been resolved; therefore, EPA does not object to the proposed action.

*EIS No. 20060332, ERP No. FC-NOA-E86002-00*, Amendment 26 to the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, Proposed Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program to Reduce Overcapacity in the Commercial Red Snapper Fishery.

*Summary:* EPA does not object to the proposed action.

*EIS No. 20060228, ERP No. FS-COE-B32009-MA*, Boston Harbor Inner Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project, Updated Information, Boston Harbor, Mystic River and Chelsea River, MA.

*Summary:* EPA does not object to the proposed project.

Dated: August 22, 2006.

**Robert W. Hargrove**,  
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. E6-14150 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6678-5]

### Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nea/>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 08/14/2006 Through 08/17/2006 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

*EIS No. 20060344, Final EIS, AFS, AZ*, Deep Lake Allotment Project, Proposes to Re-authorize Grazing, Mormon Lake Ranger District, Coconino National District, Coconino County, AZ, Wait Period Ends: 09/25/2006, Contact: Katherine Sanchez Meador 928-526-0866.

*EIS No. 20060345, Draft EIS, AFS, WA*, Buckhorn Access Project, To Utilize the Marias Creek Route to Construct and Reconstruct Roads, Funding, NPDES Permit and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, Tonasket Ranger District, Okanogan County, WA, Comment Period Ends: 10/10/2006, Contact: Jan Flatten 509-826-3277.

*EIS No. 20060346, Final EIS, SFW, CA*, San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Implementation, Sweetwater Marsh and South San Diego Bay Units, San Diego County, CA, Wait Period Ends: 09/25/2006, Contact: Victoria Touchstone 760-431-9440 Ext. 349.

*EIS No. 20060347, Draft EIS, BLM, ID*, Cottonwood Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Adams Counties, ID, Comment Period Ends: 11/22/2006, Contact: Chuck Dillon 208-962-3686.

*EIS No. 20060348, Draft EIS, NPS, MN*, Disposition of Bureau of Mines Property, Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus, Implementation, Hennepin County, MN, Comment Period Ends: 10/09/2006, Contact: Kim M. Berns 651-290-3030 Ext. 244.

*EIS No. 20060349, Draft EIS, DOE, FL*, Orlando Gasification Project (DOE/EIS-0383) To Provide Cost-Shared Funding for Construction and Operation of Facilities at Orlando Utilities Commission's Station Energy Center near Orlando, FL, Comment Period Ends: 10/10/2006, Contact: Richard A. Hargis 412-386-6065.

*EIS No. 20060350, Final EIS, BLM, AK*, Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island and Aleutian Islands, AK, Wait Period Ends: 09/25/2006, Contact: Robert Lloyd 907-267-1246.

*EIS No. 20060351, Final EIS, FRC, 00*, Carthage to Perryville Project, Construction and Operation of a Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities, CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission, Located in various counties and

parishes in eastern Texas and northern Louisiana, Wait Period Ends: 09/25/2006, Contact: Todd Selmak 1-866-208-3372.

Dated: August 22, 2006.

**Ken Mittelholtz**,

*Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. E6-14145 Filed 8-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8213-2]

### EPA Science Advisory Board; Notification of a Public Telephone Conference of the Science Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a public telephone conference of the Chartered Board to review three draft SAB Panel Reports.

**DATES:** The SAB will meet via telephone conference on September 21, 2006, and if necessary continue on September 22, 2006, to review three SAB draft reports: (1) *Review of 2005 Agency Draft entitled Expansion and Upgrade of the RadNet Air Monitoring Network, Vol. 1&2, Concept and Plan*; (2) *SAB Advisory on EPA's Second Generation Model*; and (3) *Peer Review of the "All-Ages Lead Model (AALM) Version 1.05*. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) on September 21, 2006. If additional time is needed to complete any of these reviews, the meeting will be reconvened at 1 p.m. (Eastern Time), Friday, September 22, 2006.

*Location:* Telephone conference call only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing to obtain general information concerning this telephone conference should contact Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board (1400F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; via telephone/voice mail: (202) 343-9982; fax: (202) 233-0643; or e-mail at: [miller.tom@epa.gov](mailto:miller.tom@epa.gov). General information concerning the EPA Science Advisory Board can be found on the EPA Web Site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.



resources, and protecting natural and cultural resources and refuge visitors.

Under this alternative, the refuge will continue to seek acquisition of lands within the present acquisition boundary. Lands acquired as part of the refuge will be made available for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education opportunities, where appropriate. Lands that provide high-quality habitat and connectivity to existing refuge lands will be priority acquisitions. Equally important acquisition tools to be used include: transfer lands, partnerships with conservation organizations, conservation easements with adjacent landowners, and leases/cooperative agreements with state agencies.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. During the draft comprehensive conservation plan/environmental assessment comment period, the Service received several comments, which were incorporated, when appropriate, and responded to in the comprehensive conservation plan.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 22, 2006.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**  
*Acting Regional Director.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 29, 2006.

[FR Doc. 06-7381 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-02-2640-HO-UTZA]

#### Notice of Temporary Closure of the Manning Canyon Area

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

**ACTION:** Extension of Notice of Temporary Closure, Manning Canyon Area.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Notice of Temporary Closure for the Manning Canyon area, first published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 2002 page 66000, volume 67, number 209, is hereby extended until rehabilitation, and range, habitat, and

watershed restoration are successful. The area described is hereby closed to all motorized vehicle and mechanized vehicle use to protect the rehabilitation efforts of the Manning Canyon hazardous mine tailings remediation project. The opening date for the West Manning Canyon and Lewiston roads will be determined by mutual agreement with Utah County. The public lands affected by this closure are all public lands within the following described area which is approximately 2,971 acres in size:

#### Manning Canyon Hazardous Material Cleanup Site

T. 6 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake Meridian,  
Section 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
Section 14, all,  
Section 15, all,  
Section 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , all public lands east of and including the north-south road,  
Section 23, all,  
Section 24, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  
Section 26, all public lands east of the West Manning Canyon Road,  
Section 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , north of the West Manning Canyon Road.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Ingwell, BLM Hazardous Material Specialist, Salt Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119; (801) 977-4300, or e-mail him at [tim\\_ingwell@ut.blm.gov](mailto:tim_ingwell@ut.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This closure of the public lands to motorized vehicle and mechanized use will serve to protect the rehabilitation of the lands following the cleanup of hazardous material in Manning Canyon. The hazardous material consists of numerous mine tailings piles containing large concentrations of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic. As a result of the cleanup of these hazardous mine tailings, large areas were re-contoured and reseeded and a repository was created to contain the tailings. These areas require protection until the rehabilitation actions are determined to be successful. A map depicting the closure area is available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office.

The authority for establishing this restriction is found at 43 CFR 8364.1(a) and 43 CFR 8341.2. This restriction does not apply to:

- (1) Any federal, state or local government officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force while in the performance of an official duty.
- (2) Any Bureau of Land Management employee, agent, contractor, or cooperater while in the performance of an official duty.

(3) Any federal, state, local, or contract law enforcement officer, while in the performance of their official duties, or while enforcing this closure notice.

Violation of this closure is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360-0.7 as further defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: July 23, 2006.

**Glenn A. Carpenter,**  
*Field Office Manager.*

[FR Doc. 06-7371 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1310-DB]

#### Notice of Retraction of a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of retraction.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inadvertently published a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 (FR 71 45576). BLM will publish this Notice of Availability at a later date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Simons, Project Lead, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

**Robert A. Bennett,**  
*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 06-7369 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID420 1610 DP 034D]

#### Notice of Availability of the Cottonwood, ID, Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and

the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Cottonwood Field Office and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

**DATES:** To assure that they will be considered, BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMP/EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings, and on the BLM Web site (<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>).

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Web Site: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>
- E-mail: [comments@cottonwoodrmp.com](mailto:comments@cottonwoodrmp.com)
- Mail: *Attn:* RMP, BLM Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood ID 83522-9498

• Fax: (208) 962-3275

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Christman at the Cottonwood Field Office (see above address), telephone (208) 962-3245.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Cottonwood RMP planning area is located in the southern portion of the Idaho panhandle. The BLM administers scattered parcels of lands totaling 143,830 acres within the following Idaho counties: Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Adams. The Cottonwood Field Office planning area lies within the ceded territory of the Nez Perce Tribe. The Nez Perce Reservation lies within the planning area, and there are about 17,586 acres of BLM-administered land within the reservation boundary. Management of the BLM administered lands will involve trust and treaty resources.

The BLM-administered public lands within the planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions of the 1981 Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP) as amended. BLM will continue to manage these lands in accordance with the MFP and amendments until the Cottonwood RMP is completed and the Record of Decision is signed.

The Cottonwood RMP will provide future broad-scale management direction for land use allocations and allowable uses on public lands within the planning area. In the Draft EIS, four alternatives were analyzed, including a no action alternative. These alternatives were developed through issue identification during the scoping process. Such issues include: Watershed management, forestry, fuels treatments, recreation, land tenure, special designations, invasive plant species, travel management and special status species. The agency preferred alternative is alternative B.

The preferred alternative proposes the designation of five new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and the continuation of six ACEC/Research Natural Areas (RNAs) totaling 34,528 acres and ranging in size from 18 acres to 16,199 acres. Two existing ACECs totaling 3,986 acres would be dropped under the preferred alternative. Resource use limitations that apply to the proposed ACECs include no surface occupancy for mineral extraction activities and some restrictions on timber harvesting, livestock grazing, and road construction (See Table 1).

TABLE 1.—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Area name	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres	Preferred alternative direction
Wapshilla Ridge (Existing RNA/ ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands and BLM Idaho Watch List plant (Idaho RNA cell for ba-salts).	1, 2	401 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 401 acres.
Lower and Middle Cottonwood Islands (Existing RNA/ ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA, riparian, Palouse prairie remnant, Clearwater River islands.	3	43 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 43 acres.
Captain John Creek (Existing RNA/ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for canyon grasslands, Douglas fir, and riparian (Idaho cell). Captain John Creek provides habitat for listed steelhead and spring/summer chinook Salmon, and Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.	1	1,321 exist-ing.	Continue as RNA/ACEC 1,321 acres.
Long Gulch (Existing RNA/ ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	4	47 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 47 acres.
Lucile Caves (Existing RNA/ ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA, Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock, Idaho BLM sensitive plants, wildlife and snails; limestone cave and spring; geology.	4	404 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 136 acres/
Skookumchuck (Existing RNA/ ACEC—1989).	Natural processes, designated RNA for Federally listed MacFarlane's four-o'clock.	4	18 existing	Continue as RNA/ACEC 18 acres.
Craig Mountain (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, scenic, cultural, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's silene; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.	2	3,956 exist-ing.	Discontinue ACEC.
Elk City/American Hill Lake (Existing ACEC—1989).	Natural hazards, designated ACEC because of concerns for safety and public welfare.	5, 6	30 existing	Discontinue ACEC.
Lower Lolo Creek (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; National historic trail.	7, 8, 9	3,678 exist-ing.	Continue as ACEC 3,678 acres.
Lower Salmon River (Con-fluence to White Bird Creek) (Existing ACEC—1989).	Designated ACEC, cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and Spalding's silene; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural processes.	3, 4	15,702 ex-isting.	Continue as ACEC 16,199 acres.
Upper Lolo Creek .....	Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles and plants, cultural, scenic.	7, 10	1,625 pro-posed.	Do not add ACEC.

TABLE 1.—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—Continued

Area name	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres	Preferred alternative direction
Partridge/Elkhorn .....	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife.	14	576 proposed.	Do not add ACEC.
Little Salmon .....	Natural processes, old growth ponderosa pine, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife.	14	590 proposed.	Do not add ACEC.
Upper Salmon River (White Bird Creek to French Creek).	Cultural, scenic, Federally listed fish, bald eagle, and MacFarlane's four-o'clock; Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; geology, natural processes.	4	5,759 proposed.	Add as ACEC 5,759 acres.
East Fork of American River ....	Listed fish, Idaho BLM sensitive wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and plants; natural processes; riparian and wetlands; and old growth Engelmann spruce.	3, 11, 12	570 proposed.	Add as ACEC 570 acres.
American River Historic Sites District.	Cultural resources, historic mining .....	13	6,356 proposed.	Add as ACEC 6,356 acres.

Use Limitations:

- 1 = Timber harvest only to support stand health.
- 2 = Exclude livestock grazing.
- 3 = Prohibit soil or vegetation disturbance not supporting improved condition (long term).
- 4 = No actions resulting in long-term adverse impacts to listed plants.
- 5 = Closed to OHV use.
- 6 = No ground disturbing activities other than rehab.
- 7 = No construction of hydroelectric facilities.
- 8 = No new road construction within 300' of Lolo Creek or on slopes exceeding 50%.
- 9 = Custodial timber management.
- 10 = Timber harvest activities on slopes over 50% utilize aerial or high lead systems.
- 11 = Decommission temporary roads within 3 years of construction.
- 12 = No road construction within Riparian Conservation Areas.
- 13 = Use mining plan of operations.
- 14 = Minimize road construction.

Additionally, BLM would recommend the continuation of the mineral withdrawal of the Lower Salmon River corridor. The preferred alternative recommends four suitable segments of river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system; one segment (totaling 24 miles) is suitable for inclusion under the scenic classification, three segments (totaling 5.34 miles) are suitable for inclusion under the recreational classification. Resource use limitations that apply to the suitable river segments include no surface occupancy for mineral extraction activities. The 750 acre portion of the Frank Church/River of No Return Wilderness will continue to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics under all alternatives. Two previously designated Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) (totaling 10,872 acres) will continue to be managed under the BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. 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. A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS is available for review via the Internet Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/cottonwood/>. You may also obtain a copy on CD-ROM, or paper copy at the BLM Cottonwood Field Office at the address listed above, or by contacting Carrie Christman at (208) 962-3245.

Dated: June 7, 2006.  
**Bud Cribley**,  
*Acting State Director, Idaho.*  
 [FR Doc. E6-14542 Filed 8-31-06; 8:45 am]  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[AK-910-06-1739-NSSI]**

**Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Group**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, North Slope Science Initiative, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public 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, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Science

Technical Group (STG) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held October 11-12, 2006, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting will be held at the Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, in the Kobuk Conference Room. On October 11, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The public comment period starts at 3 p.m. On October 12, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the same location.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Taylor, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (910), Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. Telephone (907) 271-3131, or e-mail [kenton\\_taylor@ak.blm.gov](mailto:kenton_taylor@ak.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Group provides advice and recommendations to the North Slope Science Oversight Group (OG) regarding priority needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring and research activities that lead to informed land management decisions. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

- Onshore oil and gas development monitoring requirements.
- Offshore oil and gas development monitoring requirements.

