



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## For Additional Information

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### **Available for Public Review: McGregor Range Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment**

Las Cruces - Members of the public are invited to review and comment on a draft Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) McGregor Range, covering 600,000 acres of withdrawn public lands in southern Otero County, NM.

A 90-day comment period started with the publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* on January 31, 2005. Comments will be accepted until May 2, 2005. Comments will be accepted via email, fax and mail.

- Email: [LCFO\\_RMP@nm.blm.gov](mailto:LCFO_RMP@nm.blm.gov)
- Fax: 505.525.4412
- Mail: BLM-Attn: Tom Phillips  
1800 Marquess St.  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

**Please include a subject line for all comments:** "Comments on Draft McGregor RMPA/EIS."

The BLM will also host two public meetings to discuss the document and accept comments:

- 1) March 8, 6-8 p.m. – Las Cruces, BLM Field Office, 1800 Marquess St.
- 2) March 9, 6-8 p.m. – Alamogordo, Otero County Courthouse, 1000 New York Ave.

The draft amendment describes four alternative strategies for management on withdrawn public lands on McGregor Range. The BLM's preferred alternative in the draft would modify management of several resources. Some of the suggested modifications include establishing two utility right-of-way corridors; creation of right-of-way exclusion areas (where rights-of-way will not be allowed); and designation of a new Area of Critical Environmental Concern for the Escondida cultural site. Grazing management will continue on 14 pastures.

With the passing of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act in 1999, Congress reauthorized the withdrawal of public lands on McGregor Range for military use and required BLM to develop a new land use plan for the area. The Las Cruces Field Office continues to manage wildlife habitat, recreation, cattle grazing, and other public land uses on the withdrawn lands.