United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, California  93308-6873

May 7, 2014
8300P
CA-16.30

Dear Keyesville Public Land User:

On April 9th, the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a second public workshop to discuss the management of public lands in the area near Keyesville, California. The workshop was attended by 35 members of the public. Participants included members of Backcountry Horsemen, Stewards of the Sequoia, Bakersfield Trailblazers, several property owners, mining interests, and general recreational users.

The focus of the workshop was to discuss planning direction and the planning process for developing an activity plan for Keyesville. Time was also provided for the public to ask questions and voice concerns. There was some discussion about the planning process, and the one to two year timeframe needed to complete a plan. There were also questions about how much flexibility BLM has in making decisions.

I have included with this letter several summaries that may help clarify these questions. A one page summary of the Keyesville planning process describes the steps we will follow. Also included is a brief summary of some of the laws and requirements that apply to BLM, and which may be applicable to this planning process. Our plan must conform to all laws, regulations, and policies. A description of some of the Cultural Resource program requirements is also enclosed. Following that are supplementary rules from the Proposed Bakersfield Resource Management Plan (RMP). Some of these rules apply only to certain areas; note that not all of these rules apply to Keyesville.

We also briefly discussed the question of which Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) to address first. There seemed to be some interest in both the French Gulch and Wallow Rock RMZs. After conferring with staff, I have decided to start with the Wallow Rock RMZ. This should be the easiest area to address, and will serve as a warm up for the remaining areas. The Wallow Rock RMZ covers those parts of Keyesville South that are more than 100 feet from the river.

The next workshop will be held on Saturday May 17th. We will meet at 9:00AM at the Kern River Valley Veterans/Senior Center at 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd, Lake Isabella CA. The focus of this workshop will be to discuss and solicit suggestions for how the Wallow Rock RMZ should be managed. We will break for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, and then reconvene in the field at the Wallow Rock RMZ. We plan on wrapping up by 3:00PM.

If you are not interested in receiving notices or results of our Keyesville workshops, please contact Steve Larson by mail at this address, by phone at (661) 391-6099, or by email at slarson@blm.gov. Questions or comments may be submitted using that same contact information. Thank you again for your interest in Keyesville!

Sincerely,

/s/ Gabe Garcia
Gabriel Garcia
Bakersfield Field Office Manager

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