

# **SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION**

## **Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office**

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to revise the South Coast Resource Management Plan (RMP). The South Coast RMP provides guidance for the management of approximately 300,000 acres of BLM administered public lands in portions of five Southern California counties: San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and Los Angeles.

The BLM invites the public to participate in this planning effort. Citizens are requested to help identify issues or concerns and to provide input on BLM's proposed planning criteria.

### **Where is the Planning Area?**

The South Coast planning area includes the BLM administered public lands and federal mineral estate in the coastal portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties. These public lands encompass over 300 parcels of public land totaling 130,000 acres and an additional 167,000 acres of non-federal surface with federal mineral estate scattered throughout Los Angeles, Orange, southwestern San Bernardino, western Riverside, and western San Diego Counties. To facilitate planning and subsequent management, the South Coast Planning Area is divided into four management areas: 1) the San Diego County Management Area, 2) the Riverside-San Bernardino County Management Area, 3) the Beauty Mountain Management Area, and 4) the Los Angeles-Orange County Management Area. The boundaries of the South Coast Resource Area have not changed since 1994 and the planning area will remain the same for this proposed plan revision.

### **What are the Issues?**

Since completion of the South Coast RMP in 1994, new circumstances have prompted the need for a revision to the plan. These circumstances include continued and accelerating population growth and urban development in Southern California, the creation of multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plans in San Diego and Riverside Counties, designation of the Otay Mountain Wilderness, land acquisitions to support habitat conservation by the BLM and other agencies, and the changing needs and interests of the public. Important actions required under BLM policy and planning requirements include land use allocations and designations of areas requiring special management. Examples of these allocations and designations would be Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Special Recreation Management Areas, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) management areas, utility corridors, grazing allotments, wildlife management areas, and land disposal categories.

### **What are the Planning Criteria and Goals?**

Development of alternatives will be based on the following proposed planning criteria:

- Promote long-term recovery and viability of native flora and fauna.
- Would not unduly burden Bureau resources and funding capability, including maintenance activities.
- Would consider the ability to manage and implement approved actions relative to the urban/wildland interface, the public/private interface, and border related national security concerns.
- Seek to achieve common goals set forth in Habitat Conservation Plans.
- Selection of the preferred alternative shall be conducted in close coordination with the local jurisdictions to promote land management consistency, effectiveness, and cost efficiency across jurisdictional boundaries.

## **What are the Objectives of the Plan Revision?**

The Proposed Plan Revision would result in an agency preferred alternative that would include:

- Land tenure designations for all public lands in the planning area that determine whether public lands are available for disposal (through sale or exchange).
- A management framework that will guide activity-level plans such as the Otay Mountain Wilderness Plan and Recreation Area Management Plans.
- Designation of all public lands in the planning area, including newly acquired lands, as either Open, Limited, or Closed to off-highway vehicles (OHV).
- An approved network of roads and trails on all public lands in the planning area that are designated as either Open, Limited, or Closed to OHV use.
- A Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact that documents that the proposed action would have no significant impact to the human environment.

## **How Can You Participate?**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.2) requires that the public be given an opportunity to participate and comment on proposed BLM plans and management decisions. Citizens are requested to help identify issues or concerns and to provide input on BLM's proposed planning criteria. Public scoping meetings held in December 2007 will allow the public a chance to review the BLM's proposed planning criteria and issues. Public comments on planning criteria and issues should be sent to the BLM no later than January 11, 2008. These comments will be used to develop the plan revision alternatives, including an agency preferred alternative. The BLM will release a draft revised plan which will be followed by another 90 day public comment period. A final proposed plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) will be released which will include a 30 day protest period followed by a Record of Decision.

During the Plan Revision Scoping process, you are asked to comment on the following:

- Within the Planning Area, are there additional issues relating to the proposed planning criteria?
- Are there additional planning criteria relevant to the planning objectives?
- Are inventory data (such as inventoried roads, land ownership, or species locations) complete and adequate for the planning process?

The BLM will accept comments throughout the planning process, but comments on the scope of the plan, planning criteria, and inventory data, are needed at the outset of the process to ensure inclusion in the development of alternatives.

The public is invited to attend public scoping meetings and open house sessions, but can also access planning information on the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast web site ([www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html)), or by visiting the BLM offices in Palm Springs and Rancho Bernardo. For more information please contact:

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