



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
8550 (L0310)

JUL 26 2013

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Cruces District Office (LCDO), invites you to participate in a public process to gather input on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for an application for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct a competitive footrace along the Baylor Pass Trail in the Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The LCDO has developed a Preliminary EA for this project to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, to ensure that environmental impacts associated with the proposed race are identified, analyzed, and considered during the application process. The EA will serve as the basis for the BLM's decision on whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Decision Record (DR) for the project.

The BLM invites you to review and comment on the Preliminary EA. Based on the analysis in the Preliminary EA, the BLM has selected Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, as the preferred alternative. Under this alternative, the SRP application would be denied, based on conflicts with management of the Organ Mountains and Organ Needles Wilderness Study Areas. Recreational use of the Baylor Pass Trail would continue for individuals and non-commercial, non-competitive groups.

The Preliminary EA and the preferred alternative are subject to change based on new information provided through the public review and comment process. The Preliminary EA can be found on the BLM's website at: http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las_Cruces_District_Office.html. Hard copies of the Preliminary EA are available at the Las Cruces District Office, 1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, NM 88005.

You can make a difference by providing us with your ideas, comments, or concerns about the proposed project. The 30-day comment period for the Preliminary EA will end September 4, 2013. There are four ways in which you can submit your comments on the proposed project:

- Mail written comments to John Thacker, Project Manager, at the Las Cruces District Office, 1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, NM 88005
- Drop off written comments at the Las Cruces District Office
- Submit comments via email to blm_nm_lcdo_comments@blm.gov
- Submit comments via fax to (575) 525-4412

Please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information may be publicly available at any time. While you can request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we can do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Childress", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

For Bill Childress
District Manager