



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Cruces District Office  
1800 Marquess  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005  
[www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)



In Reply Refer To:

1610 (L0310)

Dear Interested Public:

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the *Mimbres Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA)/Environmental Assessment (EA) For Grant County*. The final document and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are now available on our Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website: <http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/planning.html>.

The RMPA/EA was prepared by the BLM in consultation with various government agencies and organizations, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. The purpose of the RMPA is to amend the Mimbres RMP to designate selected public land as suitable for disposal.

The need for action lies in the difficulty in managing small, scattered tracts of land that are not currently identified for disposal in the Mimbres RMP. The RMPA would change the land tenure designation from retention to disposal in order to allow for future exchange and/or sale of the selected public land. The tracts identified in this RMPA/EA are primarily used for mining. By changing the land tenure designation for these parcels in the Mimbres RMP from retention to disposal, the land would be exchanged or sold and other lands of higher resource value would be acquired to benefit the public. Freeport McMoRan Mining Company has expressed interest in acquiring these lands but an actual exchange proposal would have to be analyzed through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The RMPA/EA and FONSI are open for a 30-day protest period beginning June 2, 2010.

Any person who participated in the planning process for this RMPA/EA, and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected, may protest approval of this RMPA and land use planning decisions contained within it (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2) during this 30-day period. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to the RMPA may protest. The protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to the publication of this RMPA. These issues may have been raised by the protesting party or others. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish

to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at (202) 452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail:  
Director (210)  
Attention: Brenda Williams  
P.O. Box 66538  
Washington, D.C. 20035

Overnight Mail:  
Director (210)  
Attention: Brenda Williams  
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**All protests must be postmarked on or before July 2, 2010.**

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill Childress

Bill Childress  
District Manager

L0310:JMontoya:cp:6/1/2010:x4375:MimbresRMPA\_EA.GrantCo.DearRdrLtr