

following public land issues: Wild and Scenic rivers, protection of riparian areas, soils, vegetation, water quality, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, historical and archaeological resources, scenic quality, recreation, commercial uses, access, and resource interpretation/education. The alternatives can be summarized as: (A) No Action or Existing Management; (B) Biodiversity Protection; (C) Resource Use; (D) Preferred, which is a balance between the other three.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the BLM would implement the CRMP in both the Taos and San Luis Resource Areas, along with the following Taos Resource Management Plan amendments: designation of the identified areas of the Lower Gorge and Copper Hill Units as Areas of Critical Concern for wildlife habitat and scenic quality values; exclusion of 58,765 acres from grazing; withdrawal of 73,820 acres from mineral entry; closure of 50,173 acres to mineral leasing; application of No Surface Occupancy standards for oil and gas development on 25,615 acres; closure of 65,432 acres to mineral material disposal; prohibition of land disposals, except for Color-of-Title sales (in the Dixon area) and three parcels identified for community needs; exclusion of rights of way from within the expanded Wild Rivers Recreation Area, the Lower Gorge Unit (with exceptions), and portions of the Copper Hill Unit. The BLM would also recommend the Rio Grande Bosque segment (as identified in Pub. L. 103-242) for Wild and Scenic River designation, with a Recreational classification, and the Rio Embudo for designation with a Wild classification. Finally under the Preferred Alternative, the agency would increase protection of riparian areas, vegetation, soils, water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic quality, while placing limits on recreational uses in the corridor and restricting vehicle access to some areas.

Public participation has occurred throughout the CRMP process. A Notice of Intent was published on November 14, 1994, in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 59, No. 218, 56528-29), and an amended notice was published on February 20, 1996 (Vol. 61, No. 34, 6383-84).

**Mike Ford,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-16819 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-076-1220-00]

#### Notice of Intent To Amend the Grand Junction Resource Area Management Plan

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to amend the Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan, 1987.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Junction Resource Area, is proposing to amend the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan, approved in January of 1987. The amendment will consider changes that would enhance and build upon existing management direction in the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Planning area. The effects of these changes have been analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA). The amendments have been developed as part of the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan, and will consider a number of new management actions affecting recreation, wilderness, vegetation, wildlife, and fire management.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The affected area includes 118,700 acres of public land in western Mesa County between the Colorado National Monument and the Utah state line. The Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan and EA has been developed by an ad-hoc committee of affected and interested publics along with Bureau of Land Management specialists with expertise in outdoor recreation, wilderness, archaeology, paleontology, range conservation, wildlife and fire management. There will be a thirty day public comment period on the plan, the EA, and a guidebook for Prescribed Natural Fire Planning and Implementation for the area beginning on July 18, 1997. During the public comment period, an open house will be held at the Bureau of Land Management office in Grand Junction, Colorado on August 7, 1997 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. The open house is being held to give an opportunity for the public to discuss the plan and proposed amendments one on one with various BLM specialists.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harley Metz, Ecologist, Grand Junction Resource Area, 2815 H Road, Grand

Junction, Colorado 81506; (970) 244-3076.

**Mark Morse,**

*Grand Junction District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-07-1060-00]

#### Intent To Gather Excess Wild Horses

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to gather excess wild horses.

**SUMMARY:** During the summer and fall of 1997, the Great Divide Resource Area plans to continue implementing the decisions made in Wyoming BLM Environmental Analysis WY-037-EA4-122, "Management Changes in the Wild Horse HMAs of the Great Divide Resource Area," Environmental Analysis WY-037-EA4-121, "Great Divide Wild Horse Capture Plan," and Environmental Analysis WY-037-EA1-039, "Management of Wild, Free Roaming Horses That Stray From HMAs". This will be accomplished by the removal of approximately 200 excess horses from the Cyclone Rim HMA, 150 excess horses outside HMAs north of Interstate 80 and 400 excess horses outside HMAs South of Interstate 80. The documents referenced above, as well as their supporting documents may be reviewed at the BLM Great Divide Resource Area office located at 1300 North, Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301. The referenced decisions determined the Appropriate Management levels for the HMAs in the Great Divide Resource Area. The planned actions have been reviewed for conformance with these decisions and the appropriate land use plan. Inventories conducted in February of 1997 identified the presence of excess horses in these areas. Actual dates and numbers of horses to be gathered will be dependent on weather, ability to place and move trap locations, wild horse health, and supplemental inventories to be conducted in conjunction with the gathering operations. If you wish to respond to this notice and also wish that your name or street address be withheld from public review or disclosure under the Freedom Of Information Act, you must state this clearly at the beginning of any written comment you submit. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** July 28, 1997, through December 19, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins District Office, Great Divide Resource Area, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Calton, Range Management Specialist, (307) 328-4210.

**Kurt J. Kotter,**  
*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-16724 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-035-1110-00]

#### Revised Notice of Intent To Amend the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (RMP)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Revision of the original Notice of Intent to amend the Medicine Lodge RMP, and to prepare the supporting environmental assessment.

**SUMMARY:** In November, 1996, the BLM received requests from Fremont and Jefferson Counties to modify the terms and conditions of their existing rights-of-way for the Egin-Hamer Road. On December 19, 1996, the BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to consider amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. The scoping process officially ended on January 31, 1997. The right-of-way modifications proposed by the Counties would eliminate the existing seasonal closure from December 1 through March 31 and allow the road to remain open year-round, subject to terms and conditions appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Modifying the seasonal limitations of the rights-of-way would require amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. An environmental assessment will be prepared to analyze the effects of the proposed right-of-way modifications and land use plan amendment.

Based on formal scoping a new alternative was developed following collaboration among the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, BLM and both Counties. The new alternative to be analyzed is based upon (a) eliminating the current seasonal road closure as the Counties desire, (b) seasonally restricting human entry to existing main roads only within approximately 200,000 acres of BLM-administered land on both sides of the Egin-Hamer Road and (c) terms and conditions

appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Securing a seasonal, area-wide closure on federal, state and private lands would require a combined effort by the BLM, Idaho Department of Lands and the Counties involved. County ordinances would be needed to enforce a closure on private lands. The contention is that such an alternative would allow year-round use of the road for the general public without increasing the net disturbance to wintering elk. Seasonal closure of land adjacent to the Egin-Hamer Road would also require amending the current land use plan and will, therefore, be considered in this Proposed Amendment/EA.

**DATES:** Although the scoping period has officially ended, several open houses are scheduled. Should unanticipated events require rescheduling any or all of the open houses, the changes will be noticed in local newspapers and letters to interested parties no less than 1 week prior to the revised date(s). Public open houses are scheduled to be held at the following locations and times:

(1) 7/17/97 (Thursday)—Fremont County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

(2) 7/18/97 (Friday)—Jefferson County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

(3) 7/21/97 (Monday)—Clark County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The open houses will allow the Counties, IDF&G and BLM to collectively provide information about the proposal to the public and to answer questions about the Counties' proposal prior to BLM completing and mailing the Proposed Amendment/EA. When completed (current time frame of August, 1997) the BLM will mail the Proposed Amendment/EA to members of the interested public for a 30-day review and comment period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Gardetto, Bureau of Land Management, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. (208) 524-7545.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1988, rights-of-way were issued to Fremont County and Jefferson County for use along the Egin-Hamer Road. The 10-mile gravel road connects the communities of Egin and Hamer in southeastern Idaho (T.7N., R.38E., Boise Meridian). As early as 1983 concerns about effects of vehicle travel on wintering elk populations prompted an eventual amendment to the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan. The September 1987 amendment closed the area to vehicle use from December 1 through March 31 of each year. The current seasonal closure of the Egin-Hamer Road, itself, was incorporated as one of the terms

and conditions to the rights-of-way issued to the Counties.

Dated: June 19, 1997.

**Joe Kraayenbrink,**

*Area Manager, Medicine Lodge Resource Area.*

[FR Doc. 97-16888 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-07-1820-00-1784]

#### Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; Resource Advisory Council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet on Thursday, July 10, 1997, in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will not comply with the 15-day minimum notification period required by the Code of Federal Regulations at Title 41, Part 101-6.1015(b)(1). The notification period was not met because of difficulty in securing a meeting facility.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401; telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The July 10, 1997, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Railroad Depot, 728 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte, Colorado. The agenda will include discussions on the proposed Gunnison sage grouse conservation plan and follow-up discussion on the Hartman Rocks motocross issue. Time will be provided for public comments.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Montrose District Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the