

entire Marin Islands Refuge and State Ecological Reserve under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, and pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with other landowning agencies.

The Refuge supports one of the largest heron and egret colonies in northern California. The primary purpose of the Refuge is "to protect an important existing egret and heron rookery on West Marin Island and to increase colonial nesting bird use on East Marin Islands," as described in the 1992 Environmental Assessment.

### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to provide an integrated set of management actions consistent with the purposes for which the Refuge was established; the mandates of the Refuge System; and the vision, goals, and objectives defined in the CCP. The CCP identifies the Refuge's roles in support of the mission of the Refuge System and describes the Service's proposed management actions. The CCP must be consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife science and conservation, and legal mandates and Service policies. In addition to outlining refuge management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public.

### Alternatives

The Draft CCP/EA identifies and evaluates 3 alternatives for managing Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. Each alternative describes a combination of wildlife, habitat, and public use management prescriptions designed to achieve Refuge purposes. Of the alternatives described below, the Service believes Alternative C would best achieve the purposes of the Refuge, and is, therefore identified as the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative A, the no-action alternative, assumes no change from current management programs and is considered the baseline to compare other alternatives. Under this alternative, the focus of the Refuge would be to continue to maintain and restore native coastal scrub and oak woodland habitat for migratory birds. The Refuge would remain closed to the public other than existing, supervised volunteer opportunities and fishing in the Refuge's submerged area. Wildlife observation and photography would not be allowed on the Refuge's islands.

Alternative B would accelerate habitat restoration of the coastal scrub and oak woodland habitat to provide potential habitat for the migratory birds that nest

at the Refuge. The Refuge would remain closed to public access under this Alternative, but fishing from boats would continue. Impacts from trespassing would be reduced through increased law enforcement monitoring. Raven predation of the heron and egret colonies would be monitored to determine declines in the colonies' population.

Alternative C, the preferred alternative, would also include accelerated habitat restoration, increased law enforcement monitoring, fishing from boats, and raven predation monitoring. In addition, public use, environmental education, and cultural resource preservation would be provided. Guided tours would be established to provide wildlife observation, environmental education, and cultural resource interpretation opportunities. Off-refuge environmental education opportunities include school and community presentations. Cultural resources on the Refuge will be assessed and preserved according to regulatory requirements.

### Public Comments

After the review and comment period ends for this Draft CCP/EA, comments will be analyzed by the Service and addressed in the Final CCP/EA. All comments received from individuals, including names and addresses, become part of the official public record and may be released. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, and Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

**Ken McDermond,**

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. E6-11597 Filed 7-20-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-060-1610-DP]

### Notice of Availability of the Casper Draft Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Casper Resource Management Plan\Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP\EIS).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service (NPS), State of Wyoming, county governments, and conservation districts located in the planning area, has prepared a draft revision to the Casper RMP and associated environmental impact statement. By this notice, the BLM announces the availability of the Draft Casper RMP/EIS for public review and the opening of the period during which the public may submit their comments to the BLM. Consistent with Federal regulations, the BLM announces that a public hearing regarding coal leasing will be scheduled during the public review period and prior to the approval of the final RMP.

**DATES:** The Draft Casper RMP/EIS will be available for review for 90 calendar days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

All meetings or hearings and any other public involvement opportunities to submit comments on the Draft RMP\EIS will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, Casper RMP Web site announcements, or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the Draft RMP\EIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies and to interested parties. The document will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/casper>. Copies of the Draft RMP\EIS will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

- Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Linda Slone, Project Manager, BLM Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Requests for information may be sent electronically to [CRMP\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:CRMP_wymail@blm.gov) with "Attention: Casper RMP Information Request" in the subject line. Ms. Slone may also be reached at (307) 261-7520.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft RMP\EIS describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and

resources administered by the BLM Casper Field Office. The administrative area is located in east-central Wyoming and includes approximately 8.5 million acres of land in most of Natrona County, and all of Converse, Goshen, and Platte Counties. Public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County is administered by the BLM's Lander Field Office. Within the Casper administrative area, the BLM administers approximately 1.4 million acres of BLM-administered public land surface and 4.7 million acres of Federal mineral estate.

Cooperating agencies under NEPA in the preparation of the Draft RMP/EIS included the Environmental Protection Agency; National Park Service, Fort Laramie National Historic Site; State of Wyoming; Converse, Natrona, and Platte Counties; and Converse, Natrona, Lingle-Fort Laramie, North Platte Valley, and South Goshen Conservation Districts. The Draft RMP/EIS documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of five alternatives for management of BLM-administered public lands within the Casper Field Office. When completed, the revised RMP will fulfill the obligations set forth by the NEPA, the FLPMA, and associated Federal regulations. Because the Draft RMP/EIS addresses coal leasing and to meet requirements found at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.2, a hearing will be combined with a public meeting to be scheduled and announced during the comment period allotted in this notice. In 1985 the BLM approved the Platte River RMP that established management direction for the surface and mineral estates and associated resources administered by the BLM Casper Field Office, Wyoming. In September 2000 an evaluation of the Platte River RMP, predecessor to the Casper RMP, was completed. The evaluation concluded that the RMP needed revising to address changing conditions and demands on the area's resources.

Under the provisions found at 43 CFR 1610.2 the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register**, November 20, 2003, announcing that it would prepare a revised plan and associated EIS that would be used to review and analyze current conditions, consider new data, new or revised policies and circumstances affecting the entire or major portions of the geographic area addressed in the Platte River RMP. To reflect changes in administrative units, the BLM also established that the revised plan would henceforth be known as the Casper RMP. The Draft RMP/EIS describes the

physical, mineral, biological, heritage and visual, land, and socioeconomic resources in and around the planning area. The focus for impact analysis is based on resource issues and concerns identified during scoping and public involvement activities and opportunities. Potential impacts of concern regarding possible management direction and planning decisions (not in priority order) are:

- (1) Energy and mineral resource exploration and development;
- (2) Land ownership adjustments and access/transportation on BLM lands;
- (3) Fire management, including wildland-urban interface;
- (4) Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors;
- (5) Management and the cumulative effects of land uses and human activities on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species and their habitat;
- (6) Livestock grazing and management of vegetation, including impacts of invasive, nonnative species;
- (7) Air and water quality; and
- (8) Management of cultural, including National Historic Trails and paleontological resources, recreation and off-highway vehicle management, and visual resource management.

Four alternatives and a Preferred Alternative were developed and are analyzed in detail:

1. *Alternative A.* Continuation of Existing Management Direction or the "No Action" Alternative continues to balance the use and development of resources.
2. *Alternative B.* Emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources with constraints on resource uses.
3. *Alternative C.* Provides physical, biological, and heritage resource conservation similar to current management while allowing for more recreation experiences.
4. *Alternative D.* Emphasizes resource uses (e.g., energy and mineral development, recreation, and forest products).
5. *Alternative E.* Preferred Alternative conserves physical, biological, and heritage resources while emphasizing moderate constraints.

There are currently two areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), Jackson Canyon and Salt Creek Hazardous ACECs, totaling approximately 249,350 acres of mixed Federal surface and private land ownership as established in the Platte River RMP (1985). There are five potential ACECs proposed in the draft Casper RMP. These are:

- *Alcova Fossil Area*—(7,073 acres; mostly federal surface) Values of

concern include rare fossil tracks and additional fossils from two geological periods;

- *Black-tailed Prairie Dog Complex*—(22,937 acres; mostly non-federal surface) Values of concern include protection of habitat and other species dependent on prairie dog colonies;
- *Cedar Ridge*—(21,742 acres; over 60 percent Federal surface) Values of concern include historic cultural resources, including traditional ceremonial sites in use by the Shoshone, Arapaho and other tribes;
- *North Platte River*—(85,392 acres; mostly non-Federal surface) Values of concern include fisheries and wildlife habitats and high recreational and scenic values; and
- *South Bighorns/Red Wall*—(369,325 acres; over 55 percent Federal surface) Values of concern include crucial wildlife habitat, cultural resources, intact vegetation communities and outstanding scenery.

Alternative E proposes to maintain ACEC status for Jackson Canyon; remove ACEC status for Salt Creek Hazardous Area; and add the following to be managed as ACECs in the future: Alcova Fossil Area. The following areas would be established as special management areas (SMAs): Bates Hole, Salt Creek, Sand Hills, South Bighorns/Red Wall, and Wind River Basin.

*Agency Preferred Alternative:* BLM's preferred alternative is Alternative E.

The Casper Draft RMP/EIS considers, and is in conformance with, BLM's National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Initiative. The National Energy Policy is also considered. The potential for energy development in the planning area is high, both north and west of Casper, Wyoming. Based on the high potential within the area administered by the Casper Field Office, the Draft RMP/EIS considers oil and gas, coal, and wind energy development in support of the National Energy Plan.

Since the publication of the NOI in the **Federal Register**, open houses, surveys, and mailings have been conducted to solicit comments and input. The Casper Field Office has been coordinating with various county governments, conservation districts, and the State of Wyoming throughout the development of the Draft RMP/EIS. Tribal governments with interests in the Casper area were also contacted. Starting November 20, 2003, the date that BLM's NOI was published in the **Federal Register**, the BLM has solicited for and received in excess of 500 comments from interested parties. In addition, a series of public meetings were held to provide the public with an opportunity to acquire information

about the RMP revision process, as well as provide the public with an opportunity to submit comments. Public meetings were held in: Wheatland, Wyoming, November 10, 2003; Torrington, Wyoming, November 11, 2003; Douglas, Wyoming, November 12, 2003; and Casper, Wyoming, November 13, 2003. All comments presented throughout the process have been considered. Background information and maps used in developing the Draft RMP/EIS are available for public viewing at the Casper Field Office.

#### How To Submit Comments

The BLM encourages you to review the Casper Draft RMP/EIS, attend public meetings or hearings, and submit your comments. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

1. The Casper RMP Revision Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/> is designed to allow commenters to submit comments electronically by resource subject directly onto a comment form posted on the Web site;
2. Comments may be uploaded in an electronic file directly to the above Web site;
3. Written comments may be mailed directly, or delivered to, the BLM at: Casper RMP/EIS, Bureau of Land Management Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604-2968.
4. Comments may be sent by facsimile to (307) 261-7587; or
5. Written comments may be submitted during the public meetings and hearings that will be held at a later date.

BLM will only accept comments on the Casper RMP and DEIS if they are submitted in the methods described above. To be given consideration by BLM all DEIS comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address. Whenever possible, please include reference to either the page or section in the document to which the comment applies. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage the public to submit comments in an electronic format through either the Web site or electronic mail.

Our practice is to make comments, including the names and street addresses of each respondent, available for public review at the BLM office listed above during business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold

your name or street address or both from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: April 21, 2006.

**Donald A. Simpson,**

*Acting Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. E6-11583 Filed 7-20-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[OR 120 5882 CD99; HAG# 6-161]

##### Notice of Public Meeting, Coos Bay Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coos Bay District Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting as identified in Section 205(f)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106-393.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM Coos Bay District RAC is scheduled to meet on August 3, 2006 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the BLM Coos Bay District Office. The BLM Office is located at 1300 Airport Lane in North Bend, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting will be for the RAC to recommend funding for Title II projects, as identified under Public Law 106-393. There will be an opportunity for the public to address the RAC at approximately 11 a.m. at this meeting. The RAC may also meet on August 10, 2006 for the same purpose. The need for this meeting will be dependent upon the progress made in making recommendations at the August 3, 2006 meeting. The scheduled meeting time and location for the August 10, 2006 meeting will be the same as for the meeting scheduled on August 3, 2006.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Johnson, Coos Bay District Manager, at (541) 756-0100 or Glenn Harkleroad, District Restoration Coordinator, at (541) 751-4361 or [glenn\\_harkleroad@or.blm.gov](mailto:glenn_harkleroad@or.blm.gov). The mailing address for the BLM Coos Bay District Office is 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, Oregon 97459.

Dated: July 10, 2006.

**Mark E. Johnson,**

*Coos Bay District Manager.*

[FR Doc. E6-11566 Filed 7-20-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-060-06-1430; UTU-81536]

##### Notice of Realty Action; Cancellation; Noncompetitive Lease of Public Land; Grand County, UT

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action; Cancellation.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the cancellation of the Notice of Realty Action published in the **Federal Register** on March 14, 2006.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary von Koch, Realty Specialist, Moab Field Office, 435-259-2128.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The decision to cancel the Notice of Realty Action is based on the comments received during the 45-day comment period. Interested parties pointed out uncertainties with allocation of water rights that are critical for the proposed agricultural lease, they objected to BLM's determination that no competitive interests exist, and stated that the separation of public and State Trust lands for a separate use from the private lands will create haphazard inholdings and access problems for private landowners and grazing permittees. BLM has determined that cancellation of the NORA and continued management of the parcels for existing uses, pending exchange with State Trust, is in the public interest.

Dated: June 27, 2006.

**A. Lynn Jackson,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Resources.*

[FR Doc. 06-6388 Filed 7-20-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-M**

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### National Park Service

##### Construction of New Utah Museum of Natural History, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Salt Lake County, UT

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement