

**Public Input Requested**

Comments should address issues to be considered, if the planning criteria are adequate for the issues, feasible and reasonable alternatives to examine, and relevant information having a bearing on the EIS-level plan amendment.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

**John R. Christensen,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-5036 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[NM-030-1110-00; NMNM 95104]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare A Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment; Socorro Resource Area, New Mexico**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA)/RMP amendment and an invitation for public participation.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM will prepare an EA/RMP Amendment for the purpose of addressing impacts of implementing a proposed 20-year withdrawal of 5,607.52 acres of public land in Socorro County, New Mexico from settlement, sale, location and entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws. The public is invited to participate in this planning effort with the identification of additional issues and planning criteria. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is protection of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 30, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to the EA/RMP Amendment Team Leader, BLM, Socorro Resource Area Office, 198 Neel Ave., NW, Socorro, NM 87801.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lois Bell, BLM Socorro Resource Area at (505) 835-0412.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action is to amend the existing Socorro RMP to allow for the withdrawal of 5,607.52 acres of public land in the vicinity of Devil's Backbone in Socorro County, New Mexico described as:

**New Mexico Principal Meridian,**

T. 5 S., R. 3 W.,

Sec. 16, lots 5 to 8, inclusive, N $\frac{1}{2}$  and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Secs. 21, 28, 29 and 32.

T. 6 S., R. 3 W.,

Sec. 4, lots 3 and 4, inclusive, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 9, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 15, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Sec. 16;

Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,

E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 5 S., R. 4 W.,

Sec. 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The areas described aggregate 5,607.52 acres in Socorro County, New Mexico.

**Types of Issues Anticipated**

1. Does the existing Socorro RMP provide adequate protection for desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Devil's Backbone area?

2. Is a withdrawal necessary to properly protect desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Devil's Backbone area?

**Criteria to Guide Development of the Planning Action**

The following planning criteria were identified to help guide the resolution of issues.

**Non-Discretionary Criteria**

1. The proposed action must comply with laws, executive orders and regulations.

2. The proposed action must be reasonable and achievable with available technology.

**Discretionary Criteria**

1. Identify areas and resource values critical to desert bighorn sheep habitat in the area of Devil's Backbone.

2. Determine how critical wildlife habitat values should best be managed in the Devil's Backbone area.

**Disciplines To Be Represented on Interdisciplinary Team**

The plan amendment will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team consisting of an archaeologist, environmental coordinator, geologist, range land management specialist, realty specialist, recreation planner, surface protection specialist and a wildlife biologist.

**Kind and Extent of Public Participation To Be Provided**

A copy of this notice will be published in a local newspaper. Public participation will be in the form of written comments submitted to the Socorro Resource Area Office.

**Location and Availability of Documents Relative to the Planning Process**

All pertinent information is available in the BLM Socorro Resource Area Office, 198 Neel Avenue, Socorro, New Mexico 87801 and is available for public review weekdays during regular office hours, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

**Linda S.C. Rundell,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-5035 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Minerals Management Service****Notice of Consultation Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of consultation meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that MMS will hold a meeting to consult with industry before setting up criteria to implement a disqualification provision in the proposed rule on Postlease Operations Safety, published on February 13, 1998 (63 FR 7335). A new regulation has been proposed to provide criteria that MMS will consider, individually or collectively, in evaluating whether to disqualify operators with repeat poor safety performance. MMS may also disapprove or revoke a company's status as a designated operator.

**DATES:** MMS will hold the meeting on March 24, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Preregistration will be held at 7:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Sheraton Crown Hotel, 15700 JFK Blvd., Houston, Texas 77032, telephone: (713) 442-5100.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dough Slitor, Performance and Safety Branch at (703) 787-1591.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

**E.P. Danenberger,**

*Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-5087 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Reclamation****Proposed Rule Making for Offstream Storage of Colorado River Water and Interstate Redemption of Storage Credits in the Lower Division States**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft programmatic environmental assessment (DPEA); extension of deadline for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published a notice of availability of a DPEA on December 31,