

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

[NM-092-9922-03]

Notice of Intent To Amend the Texas Resource Management Plan**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Amend to Texas Resource Management Plan (RMP), Invitation for public involvement and notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The BLM, Amarillo Field Office, is initiating preparation of a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for BLM managed Federal lands and minerals in Potter County, Texas. Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 will be followed in the preparation of this plan amendment. The public is invited to participate in this land use planning effort. Written comments and suggested issues to address will be accepted through May 17, 1999. An informal public scoping meeting will be held on May 4, 1999 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the BLM Amarillo Field Office, room 447, 801 South Fillmore, Amarillo, Texas.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through May 17, 1999.**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests to be included on the mailing list should be sent to: Field Office Manager, Amarillo Field Office, 801 South Fillmore, Suite 500, Amarillo, Texas 79101.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information contact Brian Mills, RMPA Team Leader, 221 North Service Road, Moore, Oklahoma 73160, or telephone (405) 794-9624.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The transfer of the Helium Operations Office from the Department of the Interior's now defunct Bureau of Mines to the BLM resulted in the need to amend the existing Texas RMP. The Texas RMP did not address the approximately 11,000 acres of Federal surface estate and 50,000 acres of Federal mineral estate managed by the Amarillo Field Office in Potter County. The anticipated issues to be addressed by this RMPA effort include:

(1) Transfer of all BLM managed Federal surface estate in Potter County,

to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

(2) A determination of suitability for granting a right-of-way for transmission of electricity across Federal surface estate. These planning issues are presented for public comment and are subject to change as the result of such public comment. The planning team will seek public involvement throughout the planning amendment process. BLM public information and scoping will include notification to the public, Federal, state, tribal and local agencies of the proposed action. A complete record of all phases of the planning process will be available for public review and comment. The final RMPA documents will be available upon request.

Dated: March 16, 1999.

M.J. Chávez,*State Director.*

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

[UT-040-99-1150-00]

St. George Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1550.2), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), St. George Field Office provides notice of the availability of the approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the St. George Field Office. The approved RMP/ROD was signed by the Utah State Director on March 15, 1999. This approved RMP/ROD supersedes the existing Virgin River Management Framework Plan and other related documents for managing BLM-administered lands, with exception to some off-highway vehicle, mountain bike, and other restrictions/closures carried forth from past **Federal Register** notices. The St. George Field Office is responsible for management of BLM-administered lands and minerals in all of Washington County, Utah. This county encompasses the southwestern corner of Utah. The St. George Field Office is administratively responsible

for 671,545 acres of surface and subsurface lands.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the approved RMP/ROD will be available upon request at the end of April when they are delivered by the printing contractor to the St. George Field Office. You may contact Lauren Mermejo at the St. George Field Office if you would like a copy of this document at: 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah, 84790. The telephone number is (435) 688-3216.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Crisp, St. George Field Office Manager, at the above address. He can be reached by telephone at (435) 688-3201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The St. George Field Office approved RMP/ROD is essentially the same as the Dixie Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) that was completed in September, 1995. (The name of the field office was changed from the Dixie Resource Area to the St. George Field Office in early 1999; however, the administrative boundaries remain the same.) The **Federal Register** notice for the PRMP/DEIS was dated September 17, 1998, Volume 63, Number 180, Pages 49711-49712. No changes to the proposed decisions have been made. However, some clarifying language has been included as a result of the protest letters received on the PRMP/FEIS, as well as internal corrections. Two new decisions that were added to the approved RMP/ROD include (1) a decision to conduct activities within desert tortoise habitat in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion for the Mojave desert tortoise (ES/6-UT-98-F-005, August 12, 1998), and (2) a decision to continue to allow for low-impact motorcycle trials events in the Pahoon Gulch area, with specific constraints. The Director's office has issued final decisions, dismissing or resolving, each of the nineteen protests received, thus allowing for immediate implementation of the approved RMP.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Through this planning effort parts or all of the following five river segments are recommended as suitable for congressional designation: Deep Creek/Crystal Creek, North Fork of the Virgin River above Zion National Park, Oak Creek/Kolob Creek, that portion of LaVerkin Creek/Smith Creek from above Zion National Park to the north boundary of the private parcel of Section 18, T. 40 S., R. 12 W., and that portion of the Virgin River contained