

the allowable threshold of detectable visual modification. The associated management objectives dictate the level of protection, which range from preservation with a VRM Class I designation to major modification with a VRM Class IV.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Rangeland management, minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology, economics, and wilderness.

At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary planning issues: (1) How should visual resources be managed to address areas of scenic quality in contrast to increasing development? (2) How should changes in the visual resource inventory be used to address modifications to the visual resource management classes? (3) What type of protective management prescriptions should be considered to address visual resources?

Proposed planning criteria include the following:

1. The RMP amendment/EA will comply with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies;
2. For program-specific guidance for decisions at the land use planning level, the process will follow the BLM's policies in the Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1;
3. Public participation and collaboration will be an integral part of the planning process;
4. The BLM will strive to make decisions in the plan compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and Federal agencies and local American Indian tribes, as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, Federal laws, and regulations applicable to public lands;
5. The RMP amendment/EA will recognize valid existing rights;
6. The RMP amendment/EA will incorporate, where applicable, management decisions brought forward from existing planning documents;
7. The BLM staff will work cooperatively and collaboratively with cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals;
8. The BLM and cooperating agencies will jointly develop alternatives for resolution of resource management issues and management concerns;

9. GIS and metadata information will meet Federal Geographic Data Committee standards, as required by Executive Order 12906 and all other applicable BLM data standards will be followed;

10. The planning process will provide for ongoing consultation with American Indian tribes to identify strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses;

11. Planning and management direction will focus on the relative values of resources and not the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or economic output;

12. The BLM will consider the quantity and quality of non-commodity resource values;

13. Where practicable and timely for the planning effort, the best available scientific information, research, and new technologies will be used;

14. Actions must comply with all applicable regulations and must be reasonable, achievable, and allow for flexibility while supporting adaptive management principles; and

15. The Economic Profile System will be used as one source of demographic and economic data for the planning process, which will provide baseline data and contribute to estimates of existing and projected social and economic conditions.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and e-mail addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

Linda S. C. Rundell,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 2011-14491 Filed 6-10-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNML00000 L16100000.DU0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Gila Lower Box Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Hidalgo and Grant Counties, New Mexico and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District Office, Las Cruces, New Mexico, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a possible amendment to the 1993 Mimbres Resource Management Plan (RMP), and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues and planning criteria.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EA. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until July 13, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las_Cruces_District_Office.html. To be included in the EA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EA.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the EA by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Las_Cruces_District_Office/LCDO_Planning.html.

- *E-mail:*

Jennifer_Montoya@nm.blm.gov.

- *Fax:* 575-525-4412.

- *Mail:* 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Las Cruces District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Jennifer Montoya, telephone 575-525-4316; address 1800 Marquess Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005; e-mail *Jennifer_Montoya@nm.blm.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Las Cruces District Office intends to prepare an EA and possible land use plan amendment for the Mimbres Planning Area, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria.

The BLM is currently considering expanding the boundary of the Gila Lower Box Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which would allow the BLM to provide special management to an area with significant scenic, cultural, and biological resources.

The public land proposed for management as an ACEC is currently not part of the ACEC and is managed in accordance with the 1993 Mimbres RMP. Therefore, the RMP may need to be amended to identify the public land as suitable for ACEC designation. The public land is a portion of and within the following areas:

New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 19 S, R. 19 W.

T. 19 S, R. 20 W.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EA. At present, the BLM

has identified the following preliminary issues:

1. How should the BLM design management to enhance the watershed?

2. What management is needed to address the significant cultural resources that occur in the watershed?

3. How should the BLM address land tenure in the area considering the RMP directs the Las Cruces District Office to acquire all State trust and private land in-holdings through exchange or purchase from willing sellers?

4. How should the BLM address increased interest in renewable energy development in the area?

5. How should the BLM address the eligibility of the Gila Lower Box as a Wild and Scenic River?

6. Which lands would be appropriate for ACEC designation and what management prescriptions should apply?

7. What potential impacts would this proposed action have on neighboring private landowners?

8. What effects would this proposed action have on recreation and tourism in the area?

9. What effects would this proposed action have on agricultural activities in the area?

10. Which species will benefit from an expanded ACEC?

Authorization of this proposal requires amendment of the 1993 Mimbres RMP. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, predicated on the findings of the EA. If a land use plan amendment is necessary, the BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your

personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7; 43 CFR 1610.2.

William Childress,

District Manager, Las Cruces.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNV9230000 L13100000.FI0000 241A; NVN-77187; 11-08807; MO#4500021279; TAS: 14x1109]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed reinstatement of terminated oil and gas lease.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2-3(a) and (b), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement from Makoil Inc., for competitive oil and gas lease NVN-77187 on land in Nye County, Nevada. The petition was timely filed and was accompanied by rental due since the lease terminated under the law. No valid leases have been issued affecting the lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Atanda Clark, BLM Nevada State Office, 775-861-6632, or e-mail:

Atanda_Clark@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rental and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre or fraction thereof per year and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all of the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral