

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GMP/EIS) for New River Gorge National River, West Virginia. Consistent with National Park Service laws, regulations, and policies, and the purpose of the National River, the Draft GMP/EIS describes and analyzes five alternatives, including the no action alternative, to guide the management of the National River over the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives incorporate various management prescriptions to ensure protection, access and enjoyment of the park's resources.

Alternative 1 is the no action alternative, which would continue current management and trends, with no major changes in direction.

Alternative 2 emphasizes the substantial differences among subareas of the gorge, improving them to reflect their differing character, resources, and visitor experiences. Management actions would build upon the cultural resource, interpretive, and recreational opportunities of the north and south ends of the park, while retaining a primitive and remote feeling in the middle of the park.

Alternative 3 would unify the park by providing a north-south through park hike and bike trail, enhancing existing scenic roads, and building new access and facilities in the middle of the park to balance opportunities for visitors throughout the park.

Alternative 4 recognizes river gateways and the rim to river experiences that take visitors to them as the primary access points and orientation venues in the park. River gateways would be enhanced to tell gorge stories while providing improved river, trail, and recreational access. The NPS and gateway communities would work cooperatively to enhance rim to river experiences.

Alternative 5 is the National Park Service's preferred alternative. Alternative 5 would preserve areas for primitive recreational experiences from end to end of the park. Interspersed with these primitive areas would be cultural and interpretive resource focal areas where visitors could explore communities and other places that once populated the gorge, experience the river, and enjoy a variety of recreational experiences. A north-south through park connector composed of improved scenic roads and trails would enable visitors to travel the length of the park, visit these areas, and access the backcountry. Partnerships with gateway communities and improved rim to river experiences would foster links to the park as a whole and to specific cultural and interpretive resource areas within the park.

The Draft GMP/EIS evaluates potential environmental consequences of implementing the five alternatives. It describes the affected natural, cultural, scenic, and socioeconomic environments within and near the park and analyzes potential impacts on park resources and values. Seventeen resource topics are addressed, including physiography, geology, and soils; floodplains; water quality; vegetation; aquatic wildlife; terrestrial wildlife; rare, threatened, and endangered species; scenic resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; historic structures; ethnographic resources; regional and local economy; communities; visitor use and visitor experience; park access; and park operations.

**DATES:** The National Park Service will accept comments on the Draft GMP/EIS from the public for 60 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Public meetings will be held in Hinton, Beckley, and Fayetteville, West Virginia to solicit comments on the Draft GMP/EIS during the public review period. The dates, times, and locations will be announced on the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/neri>; on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/neri>; in local papers; and can also be obtained by contacting the park at (304) 465-0508.

**ADDRESSES:** The Draft GMP/EIS will be available for public review and comment online at the NPS PEPC Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/neri>), and at the park's Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/neri>). Printed copies (in limited quantity) and CDs can be requested by calling (304) 465-0508. Printed hardcopies can be viewed at the following locations:

New River Gorge National River—Headquarters, 104 Main Street, Glen Jean, WV 25846.

New River Gorge National River—Canyon Rim Visitor Center, 162 Visitor Center Road (off US 19, north of the New River Gorge Bridge), Lansing, WV 25862.

New River Gorge National River—Sandstone Visitor Center, Meadow Creek Road, Sandstone, WV 25958.

Raleigh County Public Library, 221 N. Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV 25801.

Summers County Public Library, 201 Temple Street, Hinton, WV 25951.

Oak Hill Public Library, 611 Main Street, Oak Hill, WV 25901.

The preferred method to comment is to submit comments electronically through the NPS PEPC Web site at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/neri>. You may also send written comments to Superintendent Don Striker, New River Gorge National River, 104 Main St., Glen Jean, WV 25846. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Striker, Superintendent, New River Gorge National River, 104 Main Street, Glen Jean, WV 25846, (304) 465-0508.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Through the Draft GMP/EIS planning process, the NPS was able to develop a unified approach to managing the major changes in and adjacent to the park since the 1982 General Management Plan was prepared, to focus on protecting park natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to identify opportunities to facilitate appropriate forms of visitor education, interpretation and use. Twelve related legislative mandates have been added since the enabling legislation was signed into law in 1978, including several boundary changes. The most recent legislation mandates the continuation of hunting within the park. The Draft GMP/EIS includes a recommendation for additional boundary changes as well as a wilderness eligibility assessment for all National Park Service lands and waters within the current park boundary.

**Mary Pearson-Cooper,**

*Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-444 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-YP-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Restoration Design Energy Project 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 (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona State Office intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support possible amendments to several BLM-Arizona Resource Management Plans (RMP) to identify sites and/or areas managed by the BLM that may be suitable for the development of renewable energy and to establish appropriate design criteria for such projects. By this notice, BLM-Arizona State Office is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and possible plan amendments. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until March 1, 2010. The dates and locations 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/az/st/en.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Restoration Design Energy Project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* [http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra\\_solar.htm](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.htm);
- *E-mail:* Include your name, any organization you represent, and return address in the e-mail message to: [az\\_arra\\_rdep@blm.gov](mailto:az_arra_rdep@blm.gov);
- *Fax:* Attn: Teri Raml, (602) 417-9454; and
- *Mail or other delivery service:*

Please be sure to include your name, any organization you represent, and a return address to: Restoration Design Energy Project, Attention: Teri Raml, BLM-Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM-Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Teri Raml, Project Manager, telephone (602) 417-9388; address One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004; or by e-mail [teri\\_raml@blm.gov](mailto:teri_raml@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Restoration Design

Energy Project is to foster environmentally responsible production of renewable energy by amending plans, as necessary, to identify sites or areas that are already disturbed or that may be in need of some level of remediation or restoration, and which may be suitable for siting of renewable energy projects, as well as allocate such sites or areas for this purpose. Possible plan amendments may also include decisions about acquisition, disposal, or retention of sites or areas. The BLM will establish management direction for lands acquired for the purposes of this Project or will extend the applicable land use plan decisions to these lands, provided there are no unresolved management issues associated with the newly acquired lands. The environmental analysis will address, at each site or area, both existing remediation needs and any potential for renewable energy generation, and may also identify project design criteria to address environmental issues particular to the site or area identified. Implementation of the Project will help meet community energy needs, create economic opportunities, and provide good value to the taxpayer for the use of public lands. To accomplish this, some or all of the BLM's RMPs throughout Arizona may need to be amended. Plans that may be amended include the following: the Yuma Field Office RMP—2010; the Agua Fria and Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP—2010; the Arizona Strip Field Office RMP—2008; the Lake Havasu Field Office RMP—2007; the Kingman Resource Area RMP—1995; the Safford District RMP—1991; the Phoenix RMP—1988; the Lower Gila South RMP—1988 as amended 2005; and the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan—1983 as amended 2005.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Title II, Sec. 211) establishes a goal that at least 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy production capacity be approved on public lands by 2015. Additionally, Secretarial Order 3285 directs agencies within the Department of the Interior to encourage the development of environmentally responsible renewable energy generation. The Project is consistent with the Congressional direction, Department of the Interior policies, and is unique in that it offers an alternative process for site selection that includes the identification of lands in need of remediation that have renewable energy generation potential. At the initiation of the Project, the BLM-Arizona State Office requested individual field offices and members of the public to identify previously utilized sites that might be suitable for

development of renewable energy for consideration for inclusion in the Project. Examples of submitted sites include gravel pits, mine sites, landfills, isolated parcels that have been disturbed, and abandoned unauthorized airstrips. Sites and/or areas proposed for the Project will be analyzed according to the BLM's planning regulations at 43 CFR part 1600, and proposed planning amendments will be analyzed in the EIS. This analysis will take into consideration: (1) 42 proposed sites covering approximately 26,000 acres; (2) knowledge of existing and proposed energy transmission options; (3) concentrations of existing and proposed energy generation; (4) technical factors; and (5) environmental factors. The sites submitted so far include BLM-administered, State, municipal, and private lands. While the BLM planning process will primarily address management of those lands and interests in lands administered by the BLM, the analysis in the EIS may be broader in scope. Additional restoration design concepts, which may be incorporated into the possible design criteria applicable to particular sites or areas, are expected to be developed through scoping. Suitable sites for application of this approach to reuse of land may also continue to be identified over time, and may be considered in this or subsequent planning initiatives, depending on when they are identified.

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 EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: (1) Site or area suitability for renewable energy generation and scale of possible generation; (2) site or area proximity to the existing electrical transmission grid and the feasibility of integrating new electric generation projects with the grid; (3) site or area proximity to population and electric use (load) centers; (4) determining the appropriate renewable energy generation technologies for implementation on a site-by-site and/or area-by-area basis; and (5) the possible need for environmental remediation of project sites or areas based on previous uses and levels of disturbance and possible contamination of the sites or areas, as well as how addressing the possible need for remediation may be incorporated into design criteria that may be applicable to projects proposed for a particular site or area.

The EIS will use existing data for the analysis to support the planning decisions (e.g., allocation, disposal, or

retention decisions) that may be made as a result of this initiative. When individual project proposals for renewable development are received, any site-specific analysis could be tiered to the EIS for this Project to avoid unnecessary duplication of analysis.

Authorization of the project may require amendment of some or all of the BLM RMPs throughout Arizona, as listed above. 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 EIS. If land use plan amendments are 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 and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. 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 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Helen Hankins,**  
BLM Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-404 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-32-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### 2010 Meetings of the Big Cypress National Preserve Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, National Park Service, ORV Advisory Committee.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, 5 U.S.C. App 1, 10), notice is hereby given of the meetings of the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Advisory Committee for 2010.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 3:30–8 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida. Written comments and requests for agenda items may be submitted electronically on the Web site <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm>. Alternatively, comments and requests may be sent to: Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141-1000, Attn: ORV Advisory Committee.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida 34141-1000; 239-695-1103, or go to the Web site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=352&projectId=20437>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee was established (**Federal Register**, August 1, 2007, pp. 42108–42109) pursuant to the Preserve's 2000 *Recreational Off-road Vehicle Management Plan* and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C. Appendix) to examine issues and make recommendations regarding the management of off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the Preserve. The agendas for these meetings will be published by press release and on the <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=352&projectId=20437> Web site. The meetings will be open to the public, and time will be reserved for public comment. Oral comments will be summarized for the record. If individuals wish to have their

comments recorded verbatim, they must submit them in writing.

**Pedro Ramos,**  
Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve.

[FR Doc. 2010-445 Filed 1-12-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before December 19, 2009. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded by United States Postal Service, to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW., 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St., NW., 8th floor, Washington, DC 20005; or by fax, 202-371-6447. Written or faxed comments should be submitted by January 28, 2010.

**Alexandra Lord,**  
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks Program.

#### California

##### Monterey County

USS MACON (airship remains), Address Restricted, Big Sur, 09001274.

#### Colorado

##### Las Animas County

Latuda, Frank, House, 431 W. Colorado Ave., Trinidad, 09001275.

##### Montrose County

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Stock Car No. 5620, 82800Q 83rd Rd., Cimarron Visitor Center, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Cimarron, 09001276.

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Stock Car No. 5679D, 82800Q 83rd Rd., Cimarron Visitor Center, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Cimarron, 09001277.

#### Florida

##### Alachua County

Jones, A. Quinn, House, 1013 NW. 7th Ave., Gainesville, 09001278.

#### Idaho

##### Canyon County

Hat, The, 2112 Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, 09001279.