

Tuesday, September 19, 2000:

Welcome	Al Pierson
Approval of July Board Minutes	Nat Messer
Strategic Plan: Board Comments & Recommendations	Nat Messer
Break	
Burro Strategic Plan: Board Comments/Recommendations	Nat Messer
Working Lunch	
Draft Report to Congress: Board Comments/Recommendations	Nat Messer
Adoption Process Standardization	Tom Pogacnik
Break	
Long term Management Strategy	Cribley/Bryant
Public Comment	Nat Messer
Adjourn	Nat Messer

Wednesday, September 20, 2000:

Population Viability Report: Board Comments/Recommendations	Nat Messer
Break	
Drought/Emergency Gathers	Tom Pogacnik
Close Out/Recommendations	Nat Messer
Adjourn	Nat Messer
Tour to Mantle Training Facility	BLM-Wyoming

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal advisory committee management regulations [41 CFR 101-6.1015(b)], require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the Advisory Board on September 19, 2000 at the appropriate point in the agenda. This opportunity is anticipated to occur at 4:00 p.m. local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon on September 19, 2000, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address the specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and

explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, speakers should submit two copies of their written comments where feasible. The BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, the BLM will make them available in their entirety, including your name and address (or your e-mail address if you file electronically). However, if you do not want the BLM to release your name and address (or e-mail address) in response to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. BLM will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. BLM will release all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, in their entirety, including names and addresses (or e-mail addresses).

Electronic Access and Filing Address

Speakers may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: Janet_Nordin@blm.gov. Please include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Dated: August 11, 2000.

Henri R. Bisson,

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

[FR Doc. 00-20995 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Land Management

[C0-150-00-1210-PA-242A]

Notice of Intent to Amend the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact; Statement and Prepare a National Conservation Area Management Plan and Environmental Impact; Statement for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, Colorado.

ACTION: Notice; Intent to amend the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and invite public comment for the preparation of management plan for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Wilderness.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of the Bureau of Land Management's intent to amend its Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan governing the management of public land within the Uncompahgre Field Office Area in southwest Colorado, in particular, those lands within and adjacent to the newly designated Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness, formerly managed as the Gunnison Gorge Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This notice also initiates the public scoping process for the

preparation of the Gunnison Gorge NCA/Wilderness plan to examine proposed issues and planning criteria. This scoping process will also include an evaluation of the existing Resource Management Plan in the context of NCA management.

ADDRESSES: For further information and/or to have your name added to the NCA/Wilderness Plan mailing list, contact Karen Tucker, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401; Telephone (970) 240-5309; Fax. (970) 240-5367.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness Plan will replace the existing Recreation Area Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado (RAMP, 1985) and Addition to the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP Add., 1988) and amend the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS, 1987). Existing decisions in those documents which are still valid will be carried forward into the new NCA Management Plan. The Uncompahgre RMP/EIS and Gunnison Gorge Recreation Area Management Plans are located in the Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Colorado.

The NCA planning area includes the 57,725 acres Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and 17,700 acres Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area included within the NCA boundary. Other BLM lands immediately adjacent to the NCA, Wilderness Area, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park will also be included within the planning area boundary. These lands include, but are not limited to the former Tri-State lands, approximately 5,000 acres located at the northwest end of the NCA, public lands in the Peach Valley and Flat Top area on the NCA's west and south border, and public lands on the east side of the Gunnison River in the Red Canyon and Fruitland Mesa areas.

Public and focus groups meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. Meeting locations will be rotated between the towns of Montrose, Delta, Olathe, Hotchkiss, Crawford, and Paonia in order to ensure local community participation and input. An interactive NCA web site will provide additional opportunities for public comment and participation. Written comments will also be accepted throughout the planning process at the address shown above. A newsletter will be sent out to all interested individuals

and groups requesting comments on the planning proposal. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, in the newsletter, and on the BLM NCA web site. Additional public participation opportunities will be provided for comment on the alternatives and upon publishing the Draft NCA/EIS.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM office in Montrose, Colorado. Some of the issues that have been identified in the initial phases of the NCA Plan process include: Water quantity and quality, water rights, landscape health, riparian and aquatic habitat protection, threatened and endangered specie habitat protection, wildlife habitat quality and fragmentation, declining biodiversity, reintroduction of native species, and noxious weed control. Other factors to be considered include recreation and resource use, protection of wilderness, riparian, and scenic values, the level and intensity of recreation management, including allocation of commercial and private river and upland use, upgrade and new construction of recreation facilities, cultural resource protection and interpretation, grazing of livestock, management of the mineral estate on adjacent areas not withdrawn from mineral entry and location, public access, transportation and utility corridors, off highway vehicle designations, and woodland product harvest.

The following disciplines will be represented on the BLM planning team: Wilderness, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, range management, forestry, geology, realty, soils, and hydrology. Planning criteria include: policy, legal, and regulatory constraints, The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (P. L. 106-76, October 21, 1999), the Wilderness Act, public land health standards, as well as other requirements to maintain scenic values, recreational values and meet public recreation demands, determine the level of management intensity required, determine the need for land or easement acquisition, and set management objectives to protect the priority resources within the NCA and Wilderness.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 designated the 57, 25 acre Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Wilderness Area (17,700 acres) which are managed by the Bureau

of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) in Montrose, Colorado. The Act also upgraded the former Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument (which is contiguous to the NCA) to National Park status and expanded the National Park with the transfer of approximately 7,000 acres of former BLM managed land to the National Park Service. A National Conservation Area or NCA is the designation given by the U.S. Congress to special lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management to permanently protect and conserve identified resource values of national interest. The 1999 Act directs the BLM to develop a "comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Conservation Area" within four years of the designation date.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

Allan J. Belt,

Uncompahgre Field Office Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ General Management Plan, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190 as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement assessing the potential impacts of the proposed General Management Plan for Lassen Volcanic National Park, located in northeastern California. The park currently contains approximately 79,000 acres of designated Wilderness. The subject document identifies and analyzes four alternatives (and appropriate mitigation strategies) for the management and use of Lassen Volcanic National Park over the next 15 years.

Proposed Plan and Alternatives: The draft environmental impact statement includes three "action" alternatives and one "no action" (existing conditions) alternative.

Alternative A: No Action, assumes that physical facilities would remain largely unchanged and that staffing and operational funding would remain relatively constant over the planning period.

Alternative B: Resource Preservation and Basic Visitor Service, provides a program for preserving, and where