

*Advisory Committee Act (FACA)* of 1972.

**DATES:** All nominations must be received no later than October 14, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John F. Payne, Ph.D, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (AK-910), c/o Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, phone (907) 271-3431, or [jpayne@blm.gov](mailto:jpayne@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Science Technical Advisory Panel is to advise the North Slope Science Oversight Group on issues such as identifying and prioritizing inventory, monitoring and research needs, and providing other scientific information as requested by the Oversight Group. The Oversight Group consists of the Alaska Regional Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulations, and Enforcement, and National Marine Fisheries Service; the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska State Director; the Commissioners of the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources; the Mayor of the North Slope Borough; and the President of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Advisory members of the Oversight Group are the Regional Executive of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Alaska Director of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and the Regional Directors of the National Weather Service and U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The Science Technical Advisory Panel will consist of a representative group of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Alaska Native entities, conservation organizations, and academia, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. The members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following disciplines: North Slope traditional and local knowledge, landscape ecology, petroleum engineering, civil engineering, geology, botany, hydrology, limnology, habitat biology, wildlife biology, biometrics, sociology, cultural anthropology, economics, ornithology, oceanography, fisheries biology, and climatology.

The duties of the Science Panel are solely advisory to the Oversight Group, which will give direction to the Science Technical Advisory Panel regarding priorities for decisions needed for the Department of the Interior's

management. Duties could include the following:

- a. Advise the Oversight Group on science planning and relevant research and monitoring projects;
- b. Advise the Oversight Group on scientific information relevant to the Oversight Group's mission;
- c. Review selected reports to advise the Oversight Group on their content and relevance;
- d. Review ongoing scientific programs of North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) member organizations on the North Slope at the request of the member organizations to promote compatibility in methodologies and compilation of data;
- e. Advise the Oversight Group on how to ensure that scientific products generated through NSSI activities are of the highest technical quality;
- f. Periodically review the North Slope Science Plan and provide recommendations for changes to the Oversight Group;
- g. Provide recommendations for proposed NSSI funded inventory, monitoring and research activities to the Oversight Group;
- h. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group; and
- i. Coordinate with groups and committees appointed or requested by the Oversight Group to provide science advice, as needed.

The Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative will serve as the Designated Federal Officer of the Science Technical Advisory Panel.

#### **Qualifications and Procedures Required for Nomination**

All membership will consist of professionals with advanced degrees and a minimum of 5 years of work experience in Alaska in their field of expertise, preferably in the North Slope region. Professionals will be selected from among those disciplines and entities described above. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel. Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. At the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, Science Technical Advisory Panel members may be reappointed. Under current Administration policy, federally registered lobbyists may not serve on the panel.

#### **How To Nominate**

Individuals may nominate themselves to the Science Technical Advisory Panel. You may obtain nomination forms from the Executive Director of the North Slope Science Initiative (see address above), or from [http://](http://www.northslope.org)

[www.northslope.org](http://www.northslope.org). To make a nomination, or self nominate, you must submit a completed nomination form with a letter of reference that describes the nominee's qualifications to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel. The professional discipline the nominee would like to represent should be identified in the letter of nomination and in the nomination form. Nominees may be scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Alaska Native entities, conservation organizations, and academia. Nominees selected to serve on the Science Technical Advisory Panel will serve only in their professional capacity and will not serve to represent any group, agency or entity with whom they may be affiliated.

The Executive Director will collect the nomination forms and letters of reference and distribute them to the Oversight Group of the NSSI. The Oversight Group will submit their recommendations through the Bureau of Land Management to the Secretary of the Interior who has the responsibility for making the appointments.

Members of the Science Technical Advisory Panel will serve without monetary compensation. Members will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses.

#### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the Science Technical Advisory Panel is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities, and in compliance with Sections 348, *Energy Policy Act of 2005* (Pub. L. 109-58).

**Julia Dougan,**

*Acting State Director.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[LLCA9300000 L14300000 EU0000; CACA 52334, CACA 52759, CACA 52764]

### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the Caliente Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Assessment**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended, and the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*

(FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bakersfield Field Office, Bakersfield, California, intends to prepare an amendment to the 1997 Caliente Resource Management Plan (RMP) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify three parcels of public land totaling 83.02 acres for possible direct sale. By this notice the BLM 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 EA. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until October 14, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media. In order to be included in the EA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the EA.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Tim Smith, BLM Bakersfield Field Manager, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308. Documents pertinent to this notice will be available for public review at this address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** And/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Diane Simpson, Realty Specialist, BLM Bakersfield Field Office, telephone (661) 391-6125; address 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308. 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 for the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM has received requests from the City of Maricopa, the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, and ARC Vineyards, LLC to purchase the following public lands, respectively, by direct sale, under the authority of Section 203 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1713):

Parcel 1, requested by the City of Maricopa, is described as:

**San Bernardino Meridian**

T. 11 N., R. 23 W.,  
Sec. 7, lot 3 in the NW1/4.

The area described contains 15.81 acres in Kern County.

Parcel 2, requested by the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, is described as:

**Mount Diablo Meridian**

T. 17 S., R. 28 E.,  
Sec. 4, lots 3 and 4.

The area described contains 61.28 acres in Tulare County.

Parcel 3, requested by ARC Vineyards, LLC, is described as:

**San Bernardino Meridian**

T. 9 N., R. 33 W.,  
Sec. 20, lot 1.

The area described contains 5.93 acres in Santa Barbara County.

Parcels one and two are located in the Valley Management Area and the South Sierra Management Area, respectively, of the Caliente RMP. The Caliente RMP identifies parcels one and two for land tenure adjustment through land exchanges to consolidate natural resource values. Under the Caliente RMP, public lands identified for land tenure adjustment may also be disposed of by sale, but sales were to be considered infrequently and limited to those small parcels where the value would not warrant inclusion of the parcel in a land exchange process. Parcel three is located in the Coast Management Area of the Caliente RMP, but does not appear on the RMP maps as public land due to an error in mapping. The Caliente RMP provides that newly recognized public lands would be managed consistent with adjacent public lands, if any, and may be suitable for land tenure adjustment. All public lands in the Coast Management Area were identified as possibly being suitable for management by other agencies (e.g., for conservation purposes) or land tenure adjustment in the Caliente RMP. This plan amendment will be limited to an analysis of whether the public lands described above meet the Section 203 sales criteria of FLPMA. The proposed amendment would allow for the sale of the lands described above, regardless of their potential value in any land exchange to consolidate natural resource values. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify specific issues related to the proposed amendment and associated environmental analysis. The BLM anticipates that the EA will consider both a plan amendment and the subsequent sale of the land and has identified the following preliminary issues of concern: Mineral resources, special status species, and cultural resources. The BLM anticipates that the EA will include input from the

disciplines of geology, biology and archaeology as a minimum.

The planning process begins with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will follow its planning regulations (43 CFR 1600) in processing this plan amendment.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2(c).

**Thomas Pogacnik,**

*Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLUT0300000 L17110000 DT0000 24 1A]

#### Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Tropic To Hatch (Garkane) 138 kV Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement and the Approved Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tropic to Hatch (Garkane) 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Approved Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan (MMP) Amendment located in Garfield County, Utah. The Utah State Director signed the ROD on September 8, 2011, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved MMP Amendment effective immediately. The ROD also indicates the BLM's intent to issue a right-of-way to Garkane Energy, Inc. (Applicant) to construct and maintain the transmission line.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ROD/ Approved MMP Amendment are available upon request from the BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Office, 190 East Center