

Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief, Endangered Species Division, Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the above address. Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, to the address above.

Bryan Arroyo,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 01-12172 Filed 5-14-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Reopening of Comment Period: Draft Policy on National Wildlife Refuge System: Mission, Goals, and Purposes (Notice); Draft Appropriate Refuge Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Notice); Draft Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Notice); and Draft Wilderness Stewardship Policy Pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Notice)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; further reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the comment period on the **Federal Register** notice dated January 16, 2001, that invites the public to comment on the following draft policies: National Wildlife Refuge System: Mission, Goals, and Purposes; Appropriate Refuge Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; and Wilderness Stewardship Policy Pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964.

DATES: Submit comments by or before June 14, 2001. Note that you must

resubmit comments sent to us between April 19, 2001 and before May 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in the following ways: in writing to Acting Chief, Division of Conservation Planning and Policy, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 670, Arlington, Virginia 22203; by FAX to (703) 358-2248; or by e-mail to one of the following addresses:

Mission_And_Goals

Policy_Comments@fws.gov;

Appropriate_Uses_Policy_

Comments@fws.gov;

Wildlife_Dependent_Recreational_

_Uses_Policy_Comments@fws.gov; or

Wilderness_Policy_Comments@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barry Stieglitz, Acting Chief, Division of Conservation Planning and Policy, National Wildlife Refuge System (703) 358-1744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a **Federal Register** notice dated January 16, 2001 (66 FR 3668) we published draft policies for: National Wildlife Refuge System: Mission, Goals, and Purposes; Appropriate Refuge Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; Wildlife-Dependent Recreational Uses Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; and Wilderness Stewardship Policy Pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964. These policies, affecting management and use of the National Wildlife Refuge System, represent the culmination of our initial policy development in response to the landmark National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

In a subsequent **Federal Register** notice dated March 15, 2001 (66 FR 15136) we extended the comment period until April 19, 2001 to ensure that the public had an adequate opportunity to review and comment on our draft policy.

To allow for continued discussion with the States on these policies, we are reopening the comment period for an additional 30 days.

Dated: April 30, 2001.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-12215 Filed 5-14-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-7122ES-839G; NNMN 104467]

Notice of Realty Action—Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in San Juan County, New Mexico has been examined and found suitable for classification for lease/conveyance to Farmington Municipal School under the provisions of the R&PP Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Farmington School proposes to use the land for an elementary, a middle school, and a satellite transportation yard.

T. 29 N., R. 12 W.,

Sec. 2, lot 7;

Sec. 10, lot 1;

Sec. 11, lot 4.

Containing 116.14 acres, more or less.

Comment Dates: On or before June 29, 2001. Interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed classification/conveyance of the lands to the Bureau of Land Management at the following address. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, this realty action becomes the final determination of the Department of the Interior and 60 days from date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information related to this action, including the environmental assessment, is available for review at the Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease or conveyance under the R&PP Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The segregative effect will terminate upon issuance of the patent to Farmington Municipal School, or two (2) years from the date of this publication, whichever occurs first.

The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Reservation to the United States of a right-of-way for ditches and canals in accordance with 43 U.S.C. 945.

2. Reservation to the United States of all minerals.

3. All valid existing rights, e.g. rights-of-way and leases of record.

4. Provisions that if the patentee or its successor attempts to transfer title to or control over the land to another or the land is devoted to a use other than that for which the land was conveyed, without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, or prohibits or restricts, directly or indirectly, or permits its agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors, including without limitation, lessees, sublessees and permittees, to prohibit or restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of any part of the patented lands or any of the facilities whereon by any person because of such person's race, creed, color, or national origin, title shall revert to the United States.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Lease/conveyance is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest.

Dated: April 30, 2001.

Joel E. Farrell,

Assistant Field Manager for Resources.

[FR Doc. 01-12154 Filed 5-14-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-1610-00]

Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for McGregor Range in Otero County, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for McGregor Range, New Mexico and Notice of Scoping Meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the BLM, Las Cruces Field Office will direct preparation of an RMPA/EIS by URS Corporation, a qualified consultant. The RMPA/EIS will address BLM's

management of the withdrawn public land within McGregor Range in Otero County, New Mexico. The RMPA/EIS shall identify areas for limited, restricted, or exclusive uses; levels of resource production; allowable resource uses; resource condition objectives; program constraints; and general management direction.

The BLM will conduct two public scoping meetings to solicit input from the public. The dates, times, and locations for these meetings are as follows:

Date	Location
Wednesday, June 20, 2001, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Otero County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, Room 253, 1000 New York Ave., Alamogordo, New Mexico.
Thursday, June 21, 2001, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	BLM—Las Cruces Field Of- fice, 1800 Marquess Las Cruces, New Mexico.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through July 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Tom Phillips, BLM, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Phillips, Team Leader, at (505) 525-4377 or Amy Lueders, Field Manager at (505) 525-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1999 Congress passed the Military Lands Withdrawal Act (PL 106-65) which withdrew large tracts of public land for military purposes. PL 106-65 included the withdrawal of approximately 608,000 acres on McGregor Range in Southern New Mexico. The legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior to manage the natural resources on McGregor Range under FLPMA and to develop a management plan within two years of the law's enactment. The planning area will include withdrawn public land on McGregor Range in Otero County, encompassing approximately 608,000 acres administered by BLM. The BLM, will work in concert with the U.S. Army, Ft. Bliss, which will participate as a cooperating agency for the development of the RMPA/EIS.

It is anticipated that the RMPA/EIS process will require 18 months to complete and will include public and agency scoping, coordination and consultation with Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, public review and public hearings on the published draft RMPA/draft EIS, a published proposed RMPA/final EIS, published Record of Decision, and Plan Amendment.

Publication of the Record of Decision is anticipated in November, 2002.

The BLM Interdisciplinary team that will be developing this RMPA/EIS will include specialists with expertise in: soils, geology, vegetation, wildlife, livestock grazing, recreation, cultural/paleontology, and fire ecology.

BLM public information and scoping will include notification to the public and Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies of the proposed action; identification by the public of the range of issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS; development of planning criteria; and the solicitation of assistance from the public to identify reasonable alternatives. In addition, the public will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project at scheduled public scoping meetings (see SUMMARY section of this notice).

Written comments should address: (1) Issues to be considered, (2) if the planning criteria are adequate for the issues, (3) feasible and reasonable alternatives to examine, and (4) relevant information having a bearing on the RMPA/EIS. BLM will maintain a mailing list of parties and persons interested in being kept informed about the progress of the RMPA/EIS. Documents relevant to this planning effort will be available for public review at the BLM Las Cruces Field Office located at 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

A range of reasonable alternatives, including an alternative considering no action as required by NEPA, will be developed and analyzed in the EIS. Through scoping, the public will assist in developing alternatives. The results of scoping will be sent to all those on the mailing list for this project in a newsletter or scoping report. Following an in-depth analysis of the impacts associated with the alternatives analyzed, one alternative will be selected as the agency-preferred alternative. The agency-preferred alternative will be identified in a draft RMPA/draft EIS scheduled to be released in the fall of 2001. Once the draft is released additional public review will be announced through the media and a **Federal Register** notice.

Anticipated Issues and Concerns

The anticipated Issues/Concerns include the following:

1. *Soil and Water:* Stream Channel Conditions; Water Quality; Water Quantity/Supply.
2. *Vegetation:* Management of Grassland Habitat; Noxious/Invasive Weeds.