

amendment and associated EA, including alternatives, and to guide the planning process. Preliminary issues include: How would the land tenure classification change affect Native American spiritual and traditional uses, wildlife, and visual resources? Preliminary planning criteria include: (1) Completing the plan in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other relevant Federal laws, Executive Orders, and management policies of the BLM; (2) Incorporating existing planning decisions that are still valid into the new amendment; (3) Recognizing valid existing rights; (4) Conducting tribal consultation in accordance with policy and considering tribal concerns, including potential impacts to cultural resources and tribal rights; and (5) Including, at a minimum, an alternative that continues existing land tenure classification (Z-1) and one that changes the classification to Z-3 and allows for disposal, including whether the disposal would impact access to surrounding public lands that provide recreational opportunities.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

The BLM will use the NEPA public participation requirements to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

The BLM will consult with tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by this action the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the EA as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

The BLM will identify issues to be addressed in the RMP amendment and

associated EA and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the RMP amendment and associated EA,
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action, or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this RMP amendment.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the EA as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is encouraged to identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the RMP amendment and associated EA.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the RMP amendment and associated EA in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified, including recreational access. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Rangeland management, outdoor recreation, visual resource management, archeology, paleontology, wildlife, botany, hazardous materials, and lands and realty.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Theresa M. Hanley,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2019-25466 Filed 11-22-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Facility, Riverside County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance 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) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, Palm Springs, California, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Facility. The applicant, the Coachella Valley Water District, has requested a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to operate and maintain a groundwater replenishment facility on

approximately 690 acres of public lands managed by the BLM. All the facilities are existing; no new construction is proposed. The project site is located within the California Desert Conservation Area. 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 EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until December 26, 2019. 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 website at: <https://bit.ly/2kx76jY>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all scoping comments must be submitted in writing and received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period. Additional opportunities for public participation will be available upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to this EIS by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://bit.ly/2kx76jY>
- **Email:** blm_ca_whitewaterrecharge@blm.gov
- **Fax:** 541-618-2400
- **Mail:** ATTN: Whitewater Replenishment Facility Project, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs CA 92262

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined during regular business hours at: Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Miriam Liberatore, Project Manager, telephone 541-618-2412; address Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504; email blm_ca_whitewaterrecharge@blm.gov. Contact Ms. Liberatore to have your name added to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Ms. Liberatore during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant, Coachella Valley Water District, has requested a ROW authorization to operate and maintain a groundwater replenishment facility with a maximum capacity of 511,000 acre-feet per year, and associated operations

and maintenance areas. A portion of the facility is sited on approximately 690 acres of public lands managed by the BLM. All the facilities are existing; no new construction is proposed. The project site is located within the California Desert Conservation Area.

This Notice informs the public that the BLM intends to prepare an EIS for the Project, and announces the beginning of the public scoping process for this effort. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine the size and scope of analysis needed, additional issues to study, and mitigation measures that should be considered in the analysis of the proposed action.

Preliminary issues for the project have been identified by the BLM, other Federal agencies, the State, local agencies, and other stakeholders. Issues include air quality, special status wildlife and vegetation species, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality.

Alternatives will include the proposed action, a no action alternative, and at least one more alternative designed to reduce environmental impacts.

Written comments may be submitted to the BLM at a scoping meeting or via one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section earlier. Input must be received by the close of the 30-day public scoping period.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 306108 as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3)). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

Danielle Chi,

BLM California Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 2019–25465 Filed 11–22–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Public Meeting, Boise District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (FLREA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Boise District RAC will meet Thursday, January 9, 2020. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end no later than 5:00 p.m. The public comment period will take place from noon until 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Boise District RAC will meet at the BLM Boise District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lara Douglas, District Manager, Boise District, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705. Telephone: (208) 384–3300. Email: ledouglas@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact Ms. Douglas by calling the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at (800) 877–8339. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with Ms. Douglas. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with

public land management in Idaho. The meeting agenda will include discussions of Four Rivers, Bruneau and Owyhee Field Office grazing, recreation, and fuels projects. The meeting will also include a discussion about forming a subcommittee dedicated to recreational shooting issues on public lands and a presentation by Idaho Department of Fish and Game on Sage-grouse population status in southwest Idaho. The final agenda will be posted to the Boise District RAC website one week prior to the meeting at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/Idaho/boise-district-RAC>.

RAC meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4–1.

Lara Douglas,

BLM Boise District Manager.

[FR Doc. 2019–25509 Filed 11–22–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–GG–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Temporary Closure of Public Land in Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Temporary closures on public lands.

SUMMARY: The Las Vegas Field Office announces the temporary closures of certain public lands under its administration. The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) race area in Laughlin, Nevada, is used by OHV recreationists, and the temporary closures are needed to limit their access to the race area and to minimize the risk of potential collisions with spectators and racers. The closures will occur during two events: The 2019 Rage at the River and the 2020 Laughlin Desert Classic Off-Highway Vehicle Races.

DATES: The temporary closure for the 2019 Rage at the River will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on December 14, 2019, and