

Decision). The matter has been stayed during settlement negotiations. The Ninth Circuit stayed litigation regarding similar challenges to the Lakeview RMP in *Oregon Natural Desert Association v. Gammon*, No. 07–35728 (9th Cir.), pending resolution of the Southeastern Oregon RMP case, and to allow for settlement negotiations between the parties. The BLM is preparing RMP Amendments/EISs consistent with the 2008 holding of the Ninth Circuit.

The two RMP Amendments/EISs plan to address the following issues:

- Consideration of information from updates of resource information related to wilderness characteristics;
- Development of a range of allocation alternatives with respect to ORV use, travel, and transportation; and
- Development of grazing management alternative(s).

The purpose of the public scoping processes is to determine other relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analyses, including alternatives, and guide the planning processes.

The BLM has also identified some preliminary planning criteria to guide development of the RMP Amendments, to avoid unnecessary data collection and analysis, and to ensure the RMP Amendments are tailored to the issues. These criteria may be modified and/or other criteria may be identified during the public scoping process. Preliminary planning criteria include compliance with all legal mandates of the FLPMA, the NEPA, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, the BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR part 1600, and other relevant laws. The following planning criteria will also guide the planning processes:

- The principles of multiple-use and sustained yield will be observed;
- A systematic interdisciplinary approach to integrate, physical, biological, economic, and other sciences will be used;
- Priority will be given to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern;
- The best available data regarding natural resources will be used, to the extent possible;
- Present and potential uses of public lands will be considered;
- The relative scarcity of values and availability of alternative means and sites for recognizing those values will be considered;
- Long term benefits to the public against short term benefits will be weighed;
- Tribal, Federal, and state pollution laws, standards and implementation

plans will be complied with, to the extent possible; and

- Consistency and coordination with other programs, plans and policies will be sought.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments either prior to the close of the 90-day scoping period or within 30 days after the last public meeting. 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. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the RMP Amendments, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan amendment;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of the plan amendments.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP Amendments/EISs as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the RMP Amendments. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the RMP Amendments in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. At a minimum, specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning processes: Rangeland management, wilderness, travel management, recreation, and wildlife.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7; 43 CFR 1610.2.

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Carol Benkosky,

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[FR Doc. 2010–7986 Filed 4–7–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–33–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice Re-opening the Comment Period for the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Clear Creek Management Area, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a re-opening of the comment period on the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA). The original notice was published in the **Federal Register** on December 4, 2009 [74 FR 0232] and provided for a comment period to end on March 5, 2010. The BLM is re-opening the comment period to end April 19, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sky Murphy, BLM Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, California 95023, (831) 630–5039.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original Notice of Availability provided for comments on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS to be received through March 5, 2010. The BLM is re-opening the comment period in response to and in light of the land use restrictions considered in the plan. Comments on the Draft RMP and EIS will now be accepted through April 19, 2010.

Karen Montgomery,

Acting Deputy State Director for Natural Resources.

[FR Doc. 2010–7999 Filed 4–7–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P