



U.S. Department of the Interior

# BLM

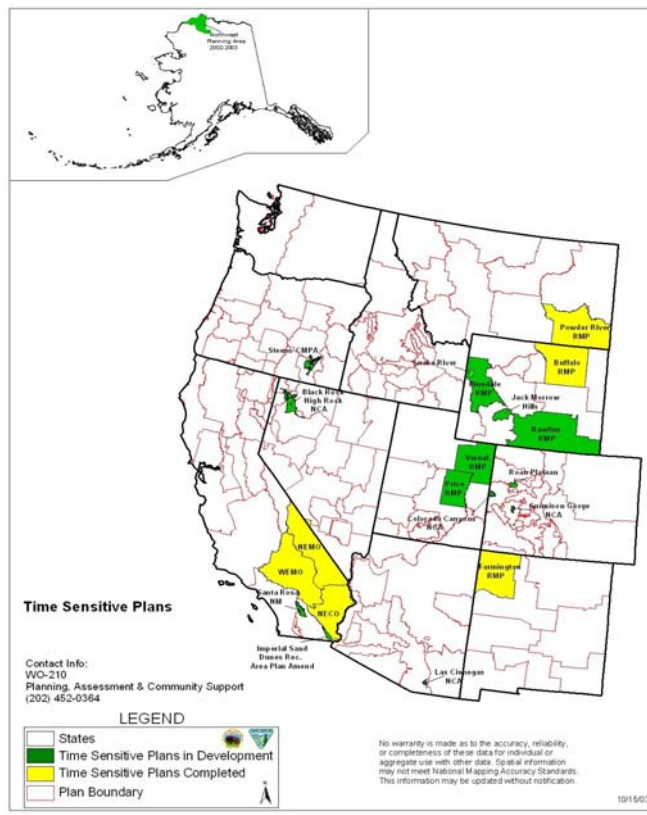
## Bureau of Land Management

# Time Sensitive Plans News

Issue 4 October 2003

### BLM completes Time Sensitive Plans in Arizona and New Mexico

BLM has completed the planning process for two more Time Sensitive Plans (TSP) since the last edition of the Time Sensitive Plans News, and continues to make progress on other TSPs. BLM issued the Final Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Records of Decision (ROD) for the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) in July and for the Farmington RMP in September. To date, 7 of the 21 Time Sensitive Plans have been completed. In addition to completing these plans, BLM issued a Draft RMP/EIS for the Steens Cooperative Management and Protection Area in Oregon, and released the Proposed RMP/Final EIS for Snake River in Wyoming and the Black Rock/High Rock National Conservation Area in Nevada. (See the TSP Status Report insert in this newsletter for updates and schedules for all TSPs.)



Time Sensitive Plans. Plans shaded in yellow have been completed.

### BLM approves Farmington Resource Management Plan

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, BLM signed a ROD approving a revised Farmington RMP for the San Juan Basin in New Mexico, bringing it into closer alignment with the President's National Energy Plan goals. The plan addresses five key issues: oil and gas leasing and development, land ownership adjustments, off-highway vehicle use, specially designated areas, and coal leasing suitability.

Virtually all of the Basin with high potential for oil and gas development has already been

#### What are "Time Sensitive Plans?"

Starting in FY 2001, BLM began its largest and most concentrated effort in land use planning in more than 15 years, with National, regional, and local expectations. Over the next 10 years, BLM plans to update its entire planning base, consisting of more than 160 land use plans. Establishing clear priorities is key to managing increasing workload demands and vital to the overall success of the planning initiative. Accordingly, the BLM has identified 21 high priority land use plans as TSPs. These plans are the most critical of the more than 80 land use planning efforts on-going in FY 2003. The TSPs were selected because they are related to development of energy resources, respond to nationally significant lawsuits or have legislatively mandated time frames.

# BLM approves Farmington Resource Management Plan (cont.)

leased by the BLM. Major decisions include allowing continued development of approximately 2.6 million acres of public land for oil and gas, including federally owned minerals beneath non-federal lands. Other decisions include the placement of seasonal timing restrictions on development in 483,807 acres of important deer and elk wintering habitat. It makes 340,118 acres of BLM-managed land available for exchange or in rare cases sale, while proposing acquisition of 178,237 acres to consolidate public land holdings and make other areas available for urban expansion.

Thirteen Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) management units are created and the bulk of the planning area will limit OHVs to maintained roads, designated trails and other areas considered suitable for cross-country travel. A total of 137 areas encompassing 649,901 acres are designated for special management prescriptions, including a requirement for directional drilling for recovery of natural gas under Negro Canyon to protect semi-primitive recreational opportunities and wildlife resources.

The ROD also commits the BLM to continue support of air quality monitoring, modeling, and future mitigation of emissions from natural gas



Natural gas liquids storage tank in winter, San Juan Basin, New Mexico

compressors. It also implements a policy to reduce noise impacts from compressors and outlines a series of mitigation measures designed to minimize the environmental impacts related to oil and gas development.

The signing of the ROD is the culmination of a planning process that began in September 2000. A Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were released for public review and comment on June 28, 2002. Public comments were then incorporated into a Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement that was distributed on April 4, 2003.

## ROD for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area signed

BLM signed an approved Resource Management Plan for BLM's Las Cienegas National Conservation Area on July 25, 2003. The Approved RMP and Record of Decision sets in place land use decisions and management actions for the 42,000-acre area, designated by Congress in December of 2000, and also sets management goals for the larger Sonoita Valley Acquisition Planning District (SVAPD), which encompasses the



Wind carved rock towers in northern New Mexico's Bisti Badlands



## ROD for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area signed (cont.)

NCA. The approved RMP and Record of Decision was developed with broad public participation through a six-year collaborative planning process with the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership, a group comprising federal, state and local government representatives, as well as representatives from user groups, conservation groups and the public. The decisions in the RMP are designed to achieve or maintain desired future conditions for upland and riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat, cultural and visual resources, as well as provide for livestock grazing and recreational opportunities.

Among the significant resources within the NCA are five of the rarest habitats in the American Southwest - Cienegas, cottonwood-willow riparian areas, sacaton grasslands, mesquite bosques and semidesert grasslands. The NCA also provides habitat for several endangered species, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and two proposed wild and scenic river segments.



Las Cienegas NCA, in southeastern Pima County and northeastern Santa Cruz County, Arizona

## Other Planning News

### E-Gov for Planning and NEPA Update

The E-Gov for Planning and NEPA Project (ePlanning) continues to move forward with five pilot projects (Northwest National Petroleum Preserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan, Phoenix North RMP, Phoenix South RMP, Grazing Regulations EIS, and the USFS Southern California Land Use Plan). Among other benefits, ePlanning is making the planning process for these activities more accessible, increasing opportunities for collaboration and facilitating fulfillment of the Secretary's 4 C's Initiative.

The ePlanning application consists of four general modules: content creation and management, comment analysis, publication, and administration. Project managers are currently completing prototype modules and testing them, and the software application is scheduled to be deployed in November 2004. For more information on ePlanning, contact Project Manager Carl Zulick, [Carl\\_Zulick@blm.gov](mailto:Carl_Zulick@blm.gov).



Las Cienegas NCA, Arizona

# Status Report for the TSPs – October 2003

## (1) ALASKA: National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA)

The Northern Field Office is preparing to issue the Proposed Integrated Activity Plan/Final EIS in November 2003.

**Plan Contact:** Mike Kleven, 907-474-2317

## (2) ARIZONA: Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA)

The Las Cienegas NCA Final RMP/ROD was issued in July 2003.

**Plan Contact:** Karen Simms, 520-258-7210

## (3,4,5) CALIFORNIA: NECO, NEMO, and WEMO Amendments

The California Desert District Field Office / Barstow Field Office published and distributed the RODs for the Northeast Colorado (NECO) and Northeast Mojave (NEMO) EIS-level amendments in December 2002. The Barstow Field Office published the Decision Record for the Western Mojave (WEMO) route amendment in June 2003.

**Plan contacts:** Dick Crowe (NECO; California Desert), 909-697-5216; Edyth Seehafer (NEMO; Barstow), 760-252-6021; Bill Haigh (WEMO; Barstow), 760-252-6080

## (6) CALIFORNIA: Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Plan

The El Centro Field Office released the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in May 2003. A ROD is currently scheduled to be released in December 2003.

**Plan contact:** Lynette Elser, 760-337-4420

## (7) CALIFORNIA: Santa Rosa / San Jacinto National Monument (NM)

The Palm Springs Field Office released the Draft RMP/EIS in March 2003. The Proposed Plan/Final EIS is currently scheduled to be published in October 2003.

**Plan contact:** Melissa Bristow, 760-251-4800



Cliffs of the Roan Plateau, northwest Colorado

## (8) COLORADO: Colorado Canyons NCA

The Grand Junction Field Office is currently preparing the Draft RMP/EIS, which is scheduled to be published later this month.

**Plan contact:** Jane Ross, 970-244-3000

## (9) COLORADO: Roan Plateau

The Glenwood Springs Field Office expects to release a Draft RMP/EIS for public comment in November 2003. The ROD is scheduled for completion in September 2004.

**Plan contact:** Greg Goodenow, 970-947-2900

## (10) COLORADO: Gunnison Gorge

The Uncompahgre Field Office released a Draft RMP/EIS in March 2003. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is scheduled to be published in late October, followed by a ROD in March 2003.

**Plan contact:** Bill Bottomly, 970-240-5337

## (11) MONTANA: Billings / Powder River

The Miles City Field Office issued the ROD for the Proposed RMP/EIS in April 2003.

**Plan contact:** Mary Bloom, 406-233-3649

## **(12) NEW MEXICO: Farmington RMP Revision**

New Mexico issued the Farmington Final RMP/ROD in September 2003.

*Plan contact: Jim Ramakka, 505-599-6307*

## **(13) NEVADA: Black Rock/High Rock NCA**

The Winnemucca Field Office issued the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in September 2003. The ROD is scheduled to be released in November 2003.

*Plan contact: Ester Hutchison, 775-623-1500*

## **(14) OREGON: Steens Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA)**

The Burns District Office issued the Draft RMP/EIS in September 2003. The ROD is scheduled to be released in October 2004.

*Plan contact: Gary Foulkes, 541-573-4541*

## **(15) UTAH: Price RMP Revision**

The Price Field Office is currently working on the Draft RMP/EIS. Publication of the Draft plan is expected in December 2003. The ROD will be released in September 2004.

*Plan contact: Floyd Johnson, 435-636-3600*



Burning Man before being burned,  
Black Rock/High Rock NCA, Nevada

## **(16) UTAH: Vernal RMP Revision**

The Vernal Field Office is currently developing a Draft RMP/EIS for the Vernal RMP Revision. Publication of the Draft RMP/EIS is expected in November 2003, with a ROD date of October 2004.

*Plan contact: Dave W. Moore, 435-781-4467*

## **(17) WYOMING: Buffalo/Powder River Amendment**

The Buffalo Field Office issued the ROD for the Proposed RMP/EIS in April 2003.

*Plan contact: Paul Beels, 307-684-1168*

## **(18) WYOMING : Jack Morrow Hills CAP/RMP Amendment**

The Draft Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP)/RMP Amendment was published in February 2003. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is scheduled to be released in November 2003, and the ROD is expected in February 2004.

*Plan contact: Renee Dana, 307-352-0227*

## **(19) WYOMING: Snake River RMP**

The Pinedale Field Office published the Proposed RMP/EIS in September 2003. The ROD is expected to be signed in December 2003.

*Plan contact: Kellie Roadifer, 307-367-5309*

## **(20) WYOMING: Pinedale RMP Revision**

The Pinedale Field Office is currently formulating alternatives and will release the Draft RMP/EIS in late fall to early winter 2003/4.

*Plan contact: Kellie Roadifer, 307-367-5309*

## **(21) WYOMING: Great Divide/Rawlins RMP Revision**

The Pinedale Field Office is currently preparing for the release of the Draft RMP/EIS in late fall to early winter 2003/4.

*Plan contact: John Spehar, 307-328-4264*