



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Lower Sonoran Field Office • 21605 North 7th Ave. • Phoenix, AZ 85027

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BLM Arizona Seeks Public Input on a Draft Resource Management Plan for the Lower Sonoran Field Office and the Sonoran Desert National Monument

PHOENIX, AZ – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released today a new Draft Resource Management Plan for nearly 1.4 million acres of public lands located southwest of Phoenix in parts of Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, Gila and Yuma Counties, Arizona. The BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO) manages these lands, including the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

The BLM published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Lower Sonoran Field Office and Sonoran Desert National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that kicks off a 90-day public review and comment period that ends on **November 25, 2011**

Those interested in a wide range of resource issues, such as livestock grazing, hunting, target shooting, off highway travel and access management, wilderness characteristics, wildlife, and utility-scale renewable energy and utility corridors are encouraged to review the draft plan and participate in this public process. The Draft RMP/EIS is available for review online, at: www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning.html

During the public participation process, the BLM will hold eight public meetings at convenient locations throughout the planning area to receive public comments. Exact dates, times and locations will be announced at least 15 days in advance in local media and on the BLM website. Public comments may be provided at those meetings and through the project web site at: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/son_des.html

Written comments may be submitted via facsimile at 623-580-5580 or mailed to:

Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix District Office
ATTN: LS-SDNM Draft RMP/EIS
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

Comments received or postmarked by **November 25, 2011** will be considered.

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The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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