



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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

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BLM Arizona Releases Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lower Sonoran Field Office and Sonoran Desert National Monument

PHOENIX, AZ – Today the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) that affects 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 manages these lands, including the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Once approved, the RMP will guide management for a variety of resources and resource uses such as livestock grazing, hunting, target shooting, off-highway travel, wilderness characteristics, wildlife, national trails, and utility-scale renewable energy, mining and land use activities. The public is encouraged to review the proposed plan which is available online at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/son_des.html or on a CD available at the Phoenix District and Arizona State Offices.

A Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency for the Lower Sonoran and Sonoran Desert National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement initiating a 30-day protest period ending on Monday, July 16, 2012.

This public review process provides an opportunity for administrative review and filing of a protest. Protests may be filed by any person or organization that has an interest that may be adversely affected by the approval of the Resource Management Plan on issues that were brought up during the planning process. All protests must be in writing and sent to the BLM Washington Office to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail
BLM Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 71383
Washington, D.C. 20024-1383

Overnight Mail:
BLM Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM
Washington, D.C. 20003

Protests must be postmarked by July 16, 2012 to be considered.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. 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.