



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
2930 (UTW011)

JUL 01 2015

RE: Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO) is starting the planning process to amend the 1990 Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) and prepare an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) which addresses target shooting on the east side of the Lake Mountains in Utah County, Utah. A map of the area is enclosed. The existing RMP decisions related to management of recreational target shooting and resources affected by this activity are no longer adequate in this area. SLFO is seeking public input to help identify issues, impacts and alternatives that should be addressed in this amendment.

The official scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the RMP amendment and associated EA in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2015¹. The public scoping period ends on August 20, 2015.

How to provide comments: Scoping comments may be submitted by any of the following methods. Please indicate "Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment" in the subject or title.

- ePlanning web site:
https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do
Navigate via the "Map Search" or click on "Text Search" and navigate via Utah>Salt Lake Field Office>EA>Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment.
- ENBB web site: <https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/index.php> (sort by Salt Lake Field Office>Environmental Assessment and then scroll down to the project)
- Email: blm_ut_sl_comments@blm.gov
- Fax: (801) 977-4397 Attn: JuLee Palette
- Mail: BLM Salt Lake Field Office, Attn: JuLee Palette, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at the address shown in the letterhead
- Attend a public scoping meeting on August 4th or 5th, more information follows
- Come to the BLM Salt Lake Field Office, at the address shown in the letterhead

During the scoping period, the SLFO will host two (2) public scoping meetings that will follow an "open house" format. A public hearing will not be held. A court reporter will be available for individuals to make oral statements to be included in the record and utilized to identify issues to be considered and to develop alternatives. At the open houses, preliminary information and

¹ This notice is available online at: Federal Register/Vol. 80, No. 113/Friday, June 12, 2015/Notices.
<https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-14296>

maps about the RMP amendment and associated EA will be available for review and SLFO personnel will be present to answer questions. Meetings will start at 6 pm and end at 8 pm. Please attend any time during the scheduled time period to review the information assembled and to provide us with your comments. There is no need to be present or stay during the entire time period or attend both open houses. The open houses will be held in:

1. Saratoga Springs August 4, 2015 Tuesday 6 pm – 8 pm
Location: Talons Cove Golf Club – Reception Room
2220 South Talons Cove Drive, Saratoga Springs UT 84045
2. Sandy August 5, 2015 Wednesday 6 pm – 8 pm
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Sandy – Ballroom
277 West Sego Lily Drive, Sandy UT 84070

Project Information: The Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment will focus solely on target shooting and related issues and impacted resources within the planning area. In 2012, the SLFO implemented a temporary shooting closure on 900 acres of public land on the southeast side of the Lake Mountains. This was renewed in 2014. While this closure has and continues to be effective in improving public safety and reducing the risk of damage to public land resources and neighboring properties, it is only temporary; it expires in December 2016 and cannot be continuously renewed. Outside the closure area, new and increased impacts and threats are now occurring in the areas into which the displaced target shooters have moved. With the implementation of the SLFO's temporary target shooting closure in 2012, several local residents and agencies took their own actions to address target shooting issues. SLFO and Utah County are also working together to develop a shooting range at Soldier Pass.

Public involvement is a critical and key component of the plan amendment process. SLFO will work closely with interested private landowners; local city, county and state governments; tribal members; members of the target shooting community; environmental and cultural resource preservation organizations; senators and congressional representatives; and individuals and members of the general recreating public. Relationships with many of these stakeholders were developed already with the implementation of the 2012 and 2014 temporary shooting closures.

In association with these agencies, groups and individuals, three initial alternatives are under consideration. Additional alternatives may be developed through the planning process. To initiate scoping comments and meeting discussions, the following are provided as starting points only:

- Alternative A (No Action): Allow the current 900 acre temporary closure to lapse and implement no other target shooting restrictions
- Alternative B: Make the current 900 acre temporary closure permanent
- Alternative C: Expand the current closure and/or implement other target shooting restrictions

The anticipated timeline for the plan amendment and associated EA includes:

- Public scoping period: June 2015 through August 2015.
- Prepare Draft Plan Amendment and associated EA: Fall/Winter 2015.
- 30-day public comment period on Draft Plan Amendment and associated EA: Winter 2015.

- Prepare Proposed Plan Amendment, EA, and FONSI: Winter 2015/Spring 2016.
- 30-day Protest Period on Proposed Plan Amendment and associated EA: Spring/Summer 2016.
- 60-day Governor's Consistency Review: Summer 2016.
- Issue Decision Record/RMP Amendment: Winter 2016.

To ensure your comments will be considered, you must submit them in writing to the SLFO by the close of business (4:30 pm) on the last day of the public scoping period (August 20, 2015). SLFO will provide an additional opportunity for public participation during the review of the Draft Plan Amendment and associated EA.

Please include your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information with your comment. The BLM will not consider anonymous input. Please 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.

For further information about the plan amendment and EA, please contact JuLee Palette, Outdoor Recreation Planner, or Pamela Schuller, Environmental Coordinator at (801) 977-4300. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact these individuals during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with one of these individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Thank you for your interest in the SLFO's Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment. I invite you to remain involved throughout the plan amendment and EA process.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Hotze
Field Manager
BLM Salt Lake Field Office

Enclosure:

Map of Eastern Lake Mountains Target Shooting Plan Amendment