

Juan-San Miguel Resource Management Plan governing the management of public land within portions of the BLM's Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area in southwest Colorado. Notice is also given of a series of public meetings which will be held to discuss issues to be addressed in a Multi-Objective Plan for the San Miguel River Basin. Proposed planning criteria and anticipated planning issues are also included herein.

ADDRESSES: For further information contact Karen Tucker, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area, 2505 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401; Telephone (970) 249-6047; Fax. (970) 249-8484.

To have your name added to the Multi-Objective Plan mailing list, please contact Linda Luther at the Telluride Institute, P. O. Box 1770, Telluride, Colorado 81435; Telephone (970) 728-4402; Fax (970) 728-4638.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Multi-Objective Planning process is a basin-wide, ecosystem-based effort which has been undertaken by the San Miguel River Coalition, an organization of over 50 partners representing local, county, state, federal government and land managing agencies; commodity, interest, and environmental groups; commercial and private recreation users; and a diverse group of interested and affected individuals. The goal of this public planning effort is to develop an ecosystem-based plan which provides direction for the cooperative management, protection, and responsible use of the outstanding scenic, riparian, geologic, wildlife, historic, recreation, and other natural resources of the San Miguel River Basin.

The planning area includes the entire San Miguel River watershed from its headwaters above the Town of Telluride to its confluence with the Dolores River near Uravan, Colorado. The watershed encompasses approximately 997,000 acres, including Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Colorado, and private lands within Montrose and San Miguel Counties and the Towns of Telluride, Placerville, Sawpit, Norwood, Naturita, Nucla, and Uravan.

Included within the planning area is the BLM San Miguel River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) which consists of approximately 33,000 acres of public land along 38 miles of the San Miguel River corridor from Deep Creek to Piñon. BLM's management goals for these areas are to protect the ACEC's unique, high quality riparian vegetative communities, as well as the area's

significant geologic, cultural, wildlife, and scenic resources while providing a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Public meetings of the Multi-Objective Planning coalition will be held every two months for an approximate eighteen month period beginning with an August 7 meeting in Norwood, Colorado. The all-day meeting at the Norwood Schools All Purpose Room will be a workshop forum from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by a community open house from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Meeting locations will be rotated between the towns of Telluride, Naturita, Nucla, Norwood and Montrose in order to ensure local community participation and input. Written comments will also be accepted throughout the planning process at the addresses shown above.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM office in Montrose, Colorado. Some of the issues that have been identified in the initial phases of the Multi-Objective Plan process include: Water rights, water quantity and quality, growth and development, lifestyles and community preservation, and commodity and resource issues. Additional environmental issues include landscape health, riparian and aquatic habitat protection, wildlife habitat quality and fragmentation, declining biodiversity, reintroduction of native species, and noxious weed control. Other factors to be considered include recreation and resource use vs. riparian and scenic values, the level and intensity of recreation management, including possible allocation of commercial river and upland use, grazing of livestock, management of the mineral estate, transportation and utility corridors, off highway vehicle designations, and forest product disposal.

The following disciplines will be represented on the BLM planning team: recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and range management, forestry, geology, realty, soils, and hydrology. Planning criteria include: policy, legal, and regulatory constraints, as well as, requirements to maintain riparian vegetation quality, maintain scenic values, maintain recreational values and meet recreation demands, determine the level of management intensity required, determine the need for land or easement acquisition, and set management objectives to protect the priority resources within the proposed ACEC.

Dated: July 17, 1995.

Mark W. Stiles,
District Manager.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) Document on the Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit To Allow Incidental Take of the Threatened Desert Tortoise by Clark County, Nevada

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that a decision has been made to issue an incidental take permit to allow incidental take of the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in Clark County, Nevada and that the Record of Decision is available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dolores Savignano, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1500 North Decatur Boulevard, #01, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108 or Carlos Mendoza, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Building C, Room 125, Reno, Nevada 89502.

Individuals wishing copies of this ROD should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) offices listed above. Copies of the ROD have been sent to all agencies and individuals who previously received copies of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and to all others who have already requested copies.

DECISION: The Service's decision is to issue an incidental take permit, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for incidental take of desert tortoises to the County of Clark, the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Mesquite, and Boulder City, and Nevada Department of Transportation resulting in implementation of the Preferred Alternative, the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan (CCDCP), as it is described in the Final EIS for Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of Desert Tortoises by Clark County, Nevada. This decision is based on a thorough review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: Implementation of the CCDCP has been selected as the Preferred Alternative based on consideration of a number of environmental and social factors. These factors include: (1) Proposed mitigation in the CCDCP will benefit desert tortoise