

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2007
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Next BLM National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board Meeting Feb. 26 in Washington, D.C.

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on February 26, 2007, in Washington, D.C., to discuss issues relating to the management and protection of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time, at the Jefferson Hotel.

The Advisory Board provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The Bureau manages about 31,000 wild horses and burros that roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states.

The public may address the Advisory Board at the February 26 meeting at an appropriate point in the agenda, which is expected to be about 3 p.m., local time. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the meeting site (Jefferson Hotel, 1200 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-347-2200). Depending on the number of speakers, the Board may limit the length of presentations, set at three minutes for previous meetings.

The agenda of the meeting can be found in today's Federal Register. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting; those who would like to comment but are unable to attend may submit a written statement by February 21, 2007, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Comments may also be e-mailed to: Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov. Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message.

For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The Advisory Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 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 the public lands.

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For Immediate Release: January 9, 2007

Contacts: Mel Lloyd, 970-244-3097

Southwest Resource Advisory Council meeting January 19 at Canyons of the Ancients

DOLORES, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet January 19 at the Anasazi Heritage Center, BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, located at 27501 Highway 184 in Dolores.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, with a public comment period scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Agenda topics include:

- Cultural-Archaeological Protections within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- BLM Law Enforcement within the Monument
- BLM Colorado Recreation Strategy
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Resource Management Plan
- Public Lands Partnership Dominguez-Escalante Project

The Southwest RAC is one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public land interests, ranging from environmental to local government to commercial activity. For more information on Colorado RACs, go to http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/co_index.htm.

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For Immediate Release: January 9, 2007

Contacts: Ken Smith, (719) 269-8553

BLM Extends Public Comment Period for South Park Plan Amendment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Royal Gorge Field Office is extending the public comment period for the South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Plan until March 1, 2007.

The existing 1996 Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan directs the Agency to dispose of most of the 72,000 acres of BLM administered lands in Park County due to their scattered nature and in many cases, the lack of public access. Through the Land Tenure Plan Amendment the BLM is considering changing the existing Plan so that some of the public lands managed by BLM in Park County would be retained under their management.

The Agency held a public meeting December 13 in Fairplay to ask for comments on the alternatives that are being prepared for the Plan Amendment. The alternatives identify those lands to be retained in public ownership and those that will be available for disposal in the future.

According to BLM, Field Manager Roy Masinton, "After the public meeting, we received some

requests for more time for people to submit their comments. As a result, we are extending the comment period by 45 days. We have maps of the three draft alternatives available for viewing at the Park County Commissioners meeting room and the Fairplay Library.”

For questions or more information contact: Joe Vieira or Erik Brekke, at (719) 269-8500. To provide comments on the Plan Amendment write to Bureau of Land Management, ATTN: South Park Land Tenure Plan, 3170 E. Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212; or email to rgfo_comments@blm.gov. Anyone wanting to keep their name, address and comments confidential should contact the BLM office for information, prior to submitting their comments. No anonymous comments will be considered.

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For Immediate Release: January 3, 2007

Contacts:

Mel Lloyd, (970) 244-3097

Julie Stotler, (970) 240-5310

Temporary route closures implemented

MONTROSE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office has implemented temporary route closures to motorized and mechanized travel in various locations on BLM public lands near Montrose. Damage to cultural sites, cutting of trees, movement of rock and soil, and trampled vegetation have been documented on these unauthorized routes.

“The BLM has been entrusted by the public to protect their lands for the enjoyment of current and future generations,” Field Manager Barb Sharrow said. “Monitoring is telling us that inappropriate off-route travel is endangering both natural and cultural resources in several areas of the Uncompahgre Field Office, leaving us no choice but to act.”

The BLM coordinated with affected user groups prior to initiating these temporary route closures, which will remain in effect until the BLM completes a comprehensive Travel Management Plan for the areas. The first phase of these planning efforts is slated to begin in early 2007. Identified routes affected by these temporary closures are located north of Highway 90 near Temple Park, both north and south of Rim Road west of Montrose, and on Sims Mesa southwest of Montrose. Closures and restrictions will be clearly signed.

Penalties can be severe to those who knowingly and willfully violate any closure order. Maps of the closures are available for viewing at the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, located at 2505 S. Townsend Avenue in Montrose. For additional information, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler at (970) 240-5310.

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Editor’s Note: Maps of areas available upon request. Contact Julie Stotler at number listed above.

For Immediate Release: January 5, 2007
Contacts: David Boyd, 970-947-2832

Craig resident appointed to BLM's Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO—The Bureau of Land Management announced today that Craig resident Dona Shue has been appointed to the 15-member Northwest Resource Advisory Council, one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado.

Individuals serving on the RACs are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to represent a broad range of public land interests, including environmental, local government, and commercial activity. Shue will represent the interests of wild horse and burro groups for the Northwest Colorado RAC, which advises the Grand Junction, White River, Little Snake, Kremmling and Glenwood Springs BLM field offices.

“A large percentage of northwestern Colorado is managed by the BLM, and I am looking forward to having an influence on a variety of public lands issues by serving on the Northwest Colorado RAC,” Shue said.

Shue has lived in northwestern Colorado for the past 26 years. She is president of the High Plains Mustang Club and has successfully adopted and trained wild horses from BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. Shue has been an active member of the Northwest Colorado Stewardship, which has been working closely with the BLM's Little Snake Field Office in Craig on public lands management and planning. She is also the founder and past president of the Yampa Historical Preservation and Restoration Society.

“Dona has great experience and will add to the diverse viewpoints represented on the RAC,” said Jamie Connell, the designated BLM federal officer overseeing the Northwest Colorado RAC.

For more information on Colorado RACs, go to http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/co_index.htm.

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