



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street – PO Box 2-B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352-1522
(208) 732-7200

In Reply Refer To: 1675

April 21, 2003

Dear Public Lands User:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Shoshone Land Use Plans Proposed Amendments and a [proposed Decision Record](#). For your convenience, we have also made these documents available through the Idaho State Office BLM web site:
www.id.blm.gov/planning/shoshone_lupa2/index.htm.

The proposed action is to amend four of the Shoshone Field Office - BLM's current land use plans to (a) provide a consistent framework for evaluating and implementing land tenure adjustment and lands program actions, and (b) designate three new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). These amendments would apply to approximately 1.44 million acres of public lands administered by the Shoshone Field Office in south-central Idaho and about 840 acres of contiguous public lands managed by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM.

The proposed action would amend the following land use plans used by the Shoshone Field Office: the Magic Management Framework Plan (MFP), Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills MFP, Sun Valley MFP, and Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP). One of the proposed ACEC designations would also amend the Jarbidge RMP, which provides management guidance for public lands administered by the Four Rivers Field Office - BLM. Other management direction in these five existing land use plans would remain unchanged.

The proposed amendment is very similar to the BLM's preferred alternative (Alternative 3) that was described and analyzed in the Draft Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans/Environmental Assessment (EA), distributed in June 2002. Alternative 3 was modified slightly following consideration of public, tribal, and agency input received during a 60-day comment period on the Draft Amendments/EA. Changes to Alternative 3 are summarized on page 2 of the enclosed document, and corrections/additions to the Environmental Assessment are listed on pages 49-50. None of the changes to the Environmental Assessment modify the content of the Finding of No Significant Impact that was approved by the Upper Snake River District Manager on June 18, 2002, and distributed along with the Draft Amendments/Environmental Assessment.

Persons or organizations who participated in the plan amendments process and have an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by the approval of the proposed plan amendment, may protest approval of the amendment to the BLM Director. Letters of protest to the BLM Director must be filed within 30 days of the BLM's published Notice of Availability in the *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) and meet the content requirements established in 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(2). (Protest procedures are described in greater detail in an attachment to this letter.) Protests, including the names and street addresses of protestors, will be available for public review at 1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1050, Washington, D.C., during regular business hours on Monday through Friday, except holidays. Copies of protest letters received will also be available for public review at the Shoshone Field Office (400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho) during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) on Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual protestors may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written protest. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Following resolution of any protests and/or consistency issues raised by the Governor of Idaho, the BLM Idaho State Director will sign the Decision Record, approving the amendments. The Shoshone Field Office will distribute the Shoshone Land Use Plans Amendments and signed Decision Record.

If you have questions about the proposed amendments, please contact me by phone at (208) 732-7286 or by e-mail at ID_Shoshone_LUPA@blm.gov. Thank you for your interest in public lands management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Baker', written over a horizontal line.

Bill Baker
Field Manager

Attachment (1)
Enclosures (2)

Protest Procedures

If you participated in the plan amendment process and have an interest that is, or may be, adversely affected by the approval of the proposed plan amendment, you may protest approval of the amendment to the BLM Director (see 43 CFR 1610.5-2). Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration of your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations that participated in the planning process leading to the Shoshone Land Use Plans Proposed Amendments may protest. A protest may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process.

The period for filing a plan protest begins when a Notice of Availability of the Proposed Amendments is published in the *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho). The protest period is 30 calendar days; there is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered “timely,” your protest must be filed within 30 days of the published Notice of Availability.

Protests shall be in writing and shall be filed with:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

For those choosing to use overnight mail delivery, the overnight mail address is:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: (202) 452-5045

Protests filed late, or not sent to the Director at one of the above addresses, shall be rejected.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Shoshone Land Use Plans Proposed Amendments being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document.

4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect.