SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) have prepared a Draft Joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/BLM Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and BIA Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the BLM Oklahoma Field Office, BIA Southern Plains Region, and BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region, and by this Notice is announcing the opening of the public comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM and BIA must receive written comments on the Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP within 90 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability for the Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP in the Federal Register. The BLM and BIA will announce future public meetings, hearings, or other public participation activities at least 15 days in advance, through public notices, media releases, and/or direct mailings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting may be afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal extension. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the withdrawal extension application must submit a written request to the BLM District Manager, Southern Nevada District Office at the address in the ADDRESSES section, by February 19, 2019. If the authorized officer determines that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the date, time, and place will be published in the Federal Register, local newspapers, and posted on the BLM website at: https://www.blm.gov/media/press-releases at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The withdrawal extension application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2310.4.

Brian C. Amme,
Acting Nevada State Director.

ADDRESSES: Section. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting may be afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal extension. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the withdrawal extension application must submit a written request to the BLM District Manager, Southern Nevada District Office at the address in the ADDRESSES section, by February 19, 2019. If the authorized officer determines that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the date, time, and place will be published in the Federal Register, local newspapers, and posted on the BLM website at: https://www.blm.gov/media/press-releases at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The withdrawal extension application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2310.4.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[LLNM004400. L16100000.D00000. LXXS06900000 18XL1109AF]


AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.
coal or other minerals in Osage County. The BIA decision area also includes approximately 457,500 surface acres and 632,000 mineral estate acres for the BIA Southern Plains Regional Office. This includes lands and mineral estate in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Richardson County, Nebraska.

The BLM is the lead agency in developing the land use plan, while the BIA is a co-lead partner in this joint, integrated planning effort. The Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP provides a land use plan that will replace the BLM’s current 1994 Oklahoma RMP, the 1991 Kansas RMP, and the 1996 Texas RMP, as amended. RMP revision and consolidation is necessary due to the numerous changes, including renewable energy, recreation, special status species, visual resources, and wildlife habitat that have occurred across the BLM Oklahoma Field Office planning area since publication. New resource data are available for consideration, and new policies, guidelines, and laws have been established.

Land use planning and NEPA regulations require the BLM and BIA to formulate a reasonable range of alternatives to consider different management scenarios and different means of addressing resource or resource-use conflicts. Established planning criteria, as outlined in 43 CFR part 1610, guide the alternatives-development process. This pursuit provides the BLM, BIA, and the public with an understanding of the various ways in which challenges associated with resources and resource uses might be resolved. This draft land use plan offers the BLM State Director for New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas; the BIA Eastern Oklahoma Regional Director; and the BIA Southern Plains Regional Director a reasonable range of alternatives from which to make informed decisions. The four alternatives analyzed in the Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP are generally described as follows:

- Alternative A (No Action) is a continuation of existing land use management actions under the current Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas RMPs and associated amendments;
- Alternative B (Agency Preferred) represents a balanced mix of land use management actions intended to address current and future land use management issues, including provisions for energy development, recreational opportunities, and conservation of natural resources;
- Alternative C represents land use management strategies intended primarily to preserve and protect ecosystem health and resource values across the planning area; and
- Alternative D represents land use management strategies intended primarily to develop resources and promote economic development across the decision area, such as livestock grazing, energy and mineral development, and recreation.

The BLM is considering areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) during this planning process, and has proposed one ACEC in the Draft RMP to protect certain resource values. Pertinent information regarding this ACEC, including proposed designation acreage, resource-use limitations, if designated, and the alternatives affected are summarized below.

**Cross Bar Management Area ACEC:**
Alternative C proposes a 10.500-acre ACEC for the Cross Bar Management Area. This ACEC would be managed to protect important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance. The resource use limitations which would occur if this ACEC is formally designated are as follows:

- Closed to off-highway vehicle use and mechanized travel, except for the main access road and administrative use;
- Non-mechanized trail use limited to designated trails;
- No surface occupancy stipulation for fluid minerals development;
- Closed to mineral material disposal and non-energy leasable mineral development;
- Managed as a right-of-way exclusion zone;
- Visual resources would be managed as visual resource management class II and III (camping areas);
- Vegetation management would emphasize high-priority habitats identified in state wildlife action plans;
- Maintain cover for wildlife and migratory birds;
- Reduce impacts on paleontological resources from ground disturbance and access; and
- Available for livestock grazing.

The land use planning process was initiated on July 26, 2013, through a Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register (78 FR 45266), notifying the public of a formal scoping period.

Seventy-two cooperating agencies expressed interest in collaborating with the BLM and BIA during the NEPA process, and the following agencies signed a formal cooperating agency agreement:

1. Adair County Commissioners, OK
2. Barton County Commissioners, KS
3. Bureau of Reclamation Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
4. Brazos River Authority
5. Caddo County Commissioners, OK
6. Choctaw County Commissioners, OK
7. Citizen Potawatomi Nation
8. Clay County, TX
9. Cleveland County Commissioners, OK
10. Coal County Commissioners, OK
11. Cotton County Commissioners, OK
12. Creek County Commissioners, OK
13. Denton County Commissioners, TX
14. Douglas County Commissioners, KS
15. Hamilton County Commissioners, KS
16. Hughes County Commissioners, KS
17. Kansas Corporation Commission
18. Kansas Water Office
19. Latimer County Commissioners, OK
20. Lincoln County Commissioners, OK
21. Love County Commissioners, OK
22. Marion County Commissioners, TX
23. Montague County Commissioners, TX
24. Moore County Commissioners, TX
25. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
26. Scurry County Commissioners, TX
27. Wichita County, TX
28. Kansas Corporation Commission
29. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 2
30. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma by and through the Oklahoma Climatological Survey
31. Young County Commissioners, TX
32. Sequoyah County Commissioners, OK
33. Sumner County Commissioners, KS
34. Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
35. Red River Authority of Texas
36. Muscogee (Creek) Nation
37. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
38. Texas General Land Office
39. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Mid-Continent Region
40. Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
41. Oklahoma Department of Mines
42. Okfuskee County Commissioners, OK
43. Oklahoma Geologic Survey
44. Osage Nation
45. Payne County Commissioners, OK
46. Pontotoc County Commissioners, OK
47. Pushmataha County Commissioners, OK
48. Tulsa County Commissioners, OK
49. Collin County Commissioners Court
50. Natural Resources Conservation Service Meade Service Center
51. Garza County Commissioners, TX
52. United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
The BLM and BIA held 17 scoping meetings between November 2013 and January 2014, throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, with stakeholders, interest groups, and the public. During the scoping period, the public provided the BLM Oklahoma Field Office with input on relevant issues to consider in the planning process. Additional information was collected during three additional workshops, one each in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas with the public and cooperating agencies. Based on these issues, conflicts, information, and the BLM and BIA goals and objectives for this planning effort, the BLM–BIA Interdisciplinary Team formulated action alternatives for consideration and analysis in the Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP. Following the close of the public comment period, the BLM and BIA will use any substantive public comments to revise the Draft Joint EIS/BLM RMP and BIA IRMP in preparation for its release to the public as the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS). The BLM and BIA will respond to each substantive comment received during the public review and comment period by making appropriate revisions to the document, or by explaining why the comment did not warrant a change. Notice of the Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register. Please note that public comments and other submitted information, including names, street addresses, and email addresses of persons submitting comments will be available for public review and disclosure by using one of the methods listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be included in the analysis, all comments must be received before the close of the 90-day public comment period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Before including your address, phone number, email address, and/or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Aden L. Seidlitz,**
*Acting BLM New Mexico State Director.*

**Eddie Streater,**
*BIA Eastern Oklahoma Regional Director.*

**James Schock,**
*BIA Southern Plains Regional Director.*

**Call for Nominations for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee, Utah**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this Notice is to request public nominations for 15 members to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee (GSENM MAC). The GSENM MAC provides information and advice regarding the development and implementation of management plans for the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons Units and, as appropriate, management of the Monument. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) will accept public nominations for 30 days from the date this Notice is posted.

**DATES:** A completed application and accompanying nomination/recommendation letters must be received at the address listed below no later than December 19, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters Office, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah 84741; Attention: MAC Nominations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Crutchfield, Public Affairs Officer, GSENM Headquarters Office, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, Utah 84741; phone (435) 644–1209, or email: lcrutchf@blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of the Interior established the GSENM MAC pursuant to section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1739) and Presidential Proclamation 9682 in conformity with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2). The 15 appointed members of the GSENM MAC perform several primary tasks: (1) Provide information and advice on the development of management plans for the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons Units and, as appropriate, management of the Monument; (2) Assist BLM in developing recommendations for implementation of ecosystem approaches to management by advising BLM in establishing goals and objectives within the Monument; (3) Advise BLM regarding ongoing local efforts to develop and achieve collaborative approaches to management of the Monument; (4) Consult and make recommendations on issues such as protocols for specific projects; e.g., vegetation restoration methods and treatments, livestock grazing, standards for excavation and curation of artifacts and objects; (5) Advise BLM on opportunities to enhance and expand existing partnerships and volunteer efforts; (6) Advise BLM on opportunities to enhance and expand existing educational outreach efforts; (7) Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary’s Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary’s Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories; (8) Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777; Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866; Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and