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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

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LRSNCI530800 241A; 10-08807;  
MO#4500012623; TAS: 14X1109]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a  
Recreation Area Management Plan, a  
Comprehensive Transportation and  
Travel Management Plan for the Las  
Vegas Field Office, Nevada and  
Associated Environmental Impact  
Statement**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada, intends to prepare a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management (CTTM) Plan with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Las Vegas Field Office and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RAMP/CTTM with associated EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until March 29, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft RAMP/CTTM/EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Las Vegas RAMP/CTTM/EIS using any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>;
- *Fax:* 702-515-5023;
- *Mail:* BLM Las Vegas Field Office, RAMP/CTTA/EIS, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130-2301; and
- *E-mail:* [LVFO\\_RAMPS@blm.gov](mailto:LVFO_RAMPS@blm.gov).

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Southern Nevada District, Las Vegas Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact Marilyn Peterson, Project Manager, telephone 702-515-5054, or e-mail [LVFO\\_RAMPS@blm.gov](mailto:LVFO_RAMPS@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Las Vegas Resource Management Plan recommended the completion of the RAMP to provide more specific management direction. The CTTM will address transportation and travel issues in the Las Vegas Field Office. The RAMP will direct implementation of recreation and CTTM decisions. The planning area is located in Clark County, Nevada, and encompasses approximately 3,374,519 acres of public land. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. These issues include:

- How will cultural and natural resources be preserved for current and future generations?
- How to manage recreation in a manner that is compatible with the plans and needs of Native American tribes and other local, State, and Federal agencies?
- How will the RAMP/CTTM be responsive to continually changing conditions, stemming primarily from an increasing urban interface?
- How will visitors' activities be managed in a manner that protects the cultural and natural resources while providing reasonable access?
- What facilities and infrastructure will be needed to provide visitor services, information/interpretation, and administration of recreation opportunities?
- How will the RAMPS/CTTM integrate with other Federal, regional and local plans?
- How will CTTM designations be incorporated into long-term goals for recreation and other resource needs?
- What effect will rights-of-way authorizations and land sales have on recreation opportunities?

- Where can urban trails connect to Federal lands; and
- How should the Las Vegas Perimeter Open Space and Trail concept, located primarily on BLM lands, be considered?

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at public scoping meetings or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. To be most helpful, you should submit comments within the 60-day public comment period. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the entire comment—including 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. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will evaluate the identified issues, to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RAMP/CTTM/EIS as to why an issue is placed in category 2 or 3. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Renewable energy, lands and realty, minerals management, outdoor recreation, air resources, visual resources, vegetation, cultural resources, paleontology, botany, special status species, wildlife and fisheries, hydrology, sociology and economics.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7; 43 CFR 1610.2 and 8342.1–2.

**Robert B. Ross, Jr.,**

*Manager, Las Vegas Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 2011–1902 Filed 1–27–11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P**

## Public Open House Meetings – We need your input!

A series of local public open house meetings will be held during the 60-day scoping period to gather initial public input on the project.

Open house meetings will take place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at all locations. BLM and contractor staff will be available to answer questions, discuss issues, and assist in documenting comments.

Public comments must be provided to BLM by April 11, 2011 in order to be formally analyzed and included in the Scoping Report. Comments submitted after this date will be informally considered.

### Contact Information

Marilyn Peterson, BLM Project Lead  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
Fax: (702) 515-5023  
LVFO\_RAMPS@blm.gov

[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html)

Meeting	Date	Location
Searchlight	March 1 4:30-7:30 p.m.	Searchlight Community Center 200 Michael Wendell Way Searchlight, NV
Mesquite	March 2 4:30-7:30 p.m.	Mesquite Community and Senior Center 102 W. Old Mill Rd. Mesquite, NV
Las Vegas	March 3 4:30-7:30 p.m.	BLM Las Vegas Field Office 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr. Las Vegas, NV
Goodsprings	March 9 4:30-7:30 p.m.	Goodsprings Community Center 375 West San Pedro Ave. Goodsprings, NV
Overton	March 10 4:30-7:30 p.m.	Overton Community Center 320 N. Moapa Valley Blvd. Overton, NV

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Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

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Bureau of Land Management - Southern Nevada District Office

## Las Vegas Travel and Recreation Implementation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



The Bureau of Land Management's Las Vegas Field Office is developing a travel and recreation implementation plan, consisting of Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMPs) and Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management plans (CTTM) to identify the actions that are necessary to manage a variety of recreational activities and implement recreation programs throughout the field office. The plans will address transportation and travel issues, including actions related to route evaluation, permits and use restrictions, fees, and facilities and services in the planning area. The planning area is located in Clark County, Nevada and encompasses approximately 3.4 million acres of public land. Along with the travel and recreation implementation plan, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be developed to understand the effects of land management actions on public land users and natural resources.

### What is a RAMP?

A RAMP is a document that identifies goals and actions for recreation in a specific area. While the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan provides the overall guidance for recreation, the RAMPs will identify the actions that are necessary to manage a variety of recreational activities and implement recreation programs for each recreation area.

The travel and recreation implementation plan process will identify specific recreation actions and decisions, including:

- Route evaluation for individual motorized and non-motorized routes in Travel Management Areas
- Visitor services and facilities to be provided
- Locations for competitive races and events
- Updates to the Special Recreation Permit process
- Enforcement and monitoring of recreation activities
- Development of educational and interpretive information and materials
- Use restrictions and fees
- Potential partnerships

### What is CTTM?

BLM uses CTTM to address transportation and travel management by:

- Proactively managing public access and natural resources on BLM lands;
- Evaluating the effects that all forms of motorized and non-motorized travel have on public lands, natural resources, and recreational users;
- Considering various aspects of road and trail system planning and management, including route designation.

CTTM will address all uses of routes, including recreational, traditional, casual, agricultural, commercial, and educational uses.

In addition to motor vehicle use, the CTTM also encompasses non-motorized travel (foot, horseback and other livestock), mechanized vehicles (such as bicycles), and motorized and non-motorized boats.



## How to Participate in Scoping

The travel and recreation implementation plan process includes a 60-day public scoping period. The purpose of scoping is to gather public input on issues and management concerns that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, alternatives, and the planning process. There are many ways to participate in the scoping process:

- Attend an open house meeting
- Submit written comments at a meeting
- Submit verbal comments to a court reporter at a meeting
- Fill out a comment form
- Mail or fax a letter to BLM (contact information on the back of this newsletter)
- Submit comments through email to: [LVFO\\_RAMPS@blm.gov](mailto:LVFO_RAMPS@blm.gov)



## The Planning Process

The travel and recreation implementation plan process started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on January 28, 2011. The NOI initiated the 60-day scoping period, which ends on April 11, 2011.



BLM will identify management issues and opportunities in close coordination with cooperating agencies, stakeholders, and the public through a 60-day **scoping** period.

Next, BLM will **develop reasonable alternatives** that address the issues identified during scoping and offer a distinct choice among potential management strategies. The 'No Action' alternative is always included, which is the continuation of current management practices.

After a series of Alternatives Workshops, BLM will prepare the **Draft EIS** and gather comments during the 60-day public comment period. Changes will be made as needed, and BLM will prepare the **Final EIS**, which will be followed by a 30-day public review period. After the review period, BLM will sign the **Record of Decision**.

The NOI, Scoping Report, and other documents developed throughout the planning process will be available to the public on the project website at: [www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html)

## How does this process fit in with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan Revision?

The RAMPs will be developed in conjunction with the current Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision for the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices, which started in January 2010. The RMP Revision will identify broad recreation guidance and objectives for BLM lands within the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices, including:

- Designation of recreation management areas;
- Establishment of recreation and visitor service objectives for each recreation area;
- Identification of allowable uses for each recreation area; and
- Overall route designations (open, closed, designated).

Close coordination between the development of the RAMPs and the RMP Revision will ensure that the recommendations in the RAMPs do not conflict with the management objectives and land use decisions in the RMP Revision.



## Las Vegas Travel and Recreation Implementation Plan Process

An integral component of the planning process is public involvement. Throughout the project, stakeholders will have multiple opportunities to participate and share their insights and comments.

