

Federal Register: January 2018

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior: BLM published a notice announcing the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Approved Monument Management Plan (MMP) for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve located in south-central Idaho. [83 FR 537 (January 4, 2018)]

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior: The BLM announced it is beginning the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues for developing a separate Monument Management Plan (MMP) for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek Unit and Shash Jaa Unit, with a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for both monument units. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM website. All comments must be received prior to March 19, 2018 or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. [83 FR 2181 (January 16, 2018)]

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior: The BLM announced the beginning of the public scoping process for the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and Federal lands previously included in the Monument that were excluded from the boundaries by Executive Proclamation 9682. The RMPs will replace the existing GSENM Management Plan that was completed in 1999. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM website. All comments must be received prior to March 19, 2018 or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. [83 FR 2179 (January 16, 2018)]

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior: The BLM issued a notice for information collection on the Oil Shale Management which applies to the exploration, development, and utilization of oil shale resources on the BLM-managed public lands. Currently, the only oil shale leases issued by the BLM are for research, development, and demonstration (R, D and D) leases, but the BLM regulations provide a framework for commercial oil shale leasing and also include provisions for conversion of R, D and D leases to commercial leases. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 2, 2018. [83 FR 4512 (January 31, 2018)]

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior: In accordance with its authority and responsibility under the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, BOEM is announcing the availability of maps depicting geographic areas located in the Pacific Ocean that could be used for the description of potential energy and mineral lease sales in the geographic areas they represent. [83 FR 685 (January 5, 2018)]

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior: BOEM is announcing the availability of and requesting comments on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil (OCS) and Gas Leasing Program. BOEM is also announcing its decision to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2019-2024 Program and the initiation of the formal scoping process. Comments should be submitted by March 9, 2018. [83 FR 829 (January 8, 2018)]

Department of Energy (DOE): The DOE is issuing a final rule that authorizes the Secretary of Energy to order emergency measures, following a Presidential declaration of a grid security emergency, to protect or restore the reliability of critical electric infrastructure or defense critical electric infrastructure during the emergency. [83 FR 1174 (January 10, 2018)]

Department of Energy (DOE): The DOE's Office of Science announced a meeting of the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) to provide advice on the many complex scientific and technical issues that arise in the development and implementation of the fusion energy sciences program. The meeting will take place at the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center in Gaithersburg, MD on February 1, 2018 at 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and February 2, 2018 at 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The meeting is open to the public and remote attendance is possible via ZOOM. [83 FR 1246 (January 10, 2018)]

Department of Energy (DOE): The DOE renewed the National Petroleum Council for a two-year period. The Council will continue to provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to oil and natural gas, and the oil and natural gas industries. [83 FR 2626 (January 18, 2018)]

Electricity Advisory Committee, Energy: The Electricity Advisory Committee issued a notice on an open meeting beginning

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 concerning rates, tariffs, and market design for energy storage; mutual assistance agreements; and emergency response and resilience in recovery efforts. [83 FR 3338 (January 24, 2018)]

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): EPA announced dates of 2018 meetings for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board. The teleconference-only meetings will be February 21; March 21; April 18; May 16; June 20; July 18; September 19; October 17; November 21; and December 19. Two in-person meetings with a teleconference line also available are on January 22 at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, NM at 1:00 p.m. (MT) and on August 6, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, LA at 1:00 p.m. (CT). [83 FR 1258 (January 10, 2018)]

Executive Office of the President: The Executive Office of the President issued a proclamation (Proclamation 9693) to impose a tariff on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cell imports primarily used by solar panels. [83 FR 3541 (January 25, 2018)]

Forest Service, USDA: The Forest Service is proposing to revise its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures with the goal of increasing efficiency of environmental analysis. The agency is seeking public comments on ways it can achieve the goals of increased efficiency of environmental analysis. Comments must be received in writing by February 2, 2018. [83 FR 302 (January 3, 2017)]

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for financial assistance for applicants in order to enhance collaboration, coordination, public engagement, and use of best available science needed to make efficient use of Gulf restoration funds resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2018. [83 FR 4206 (January 30, 2018)]

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce: NOAA's Office for Coastal Management is accepting public comment for 30 days regarding the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan revision. The Jacques Cousteau Reserve takes an integrated approach to management, linking research and education, coastal training, and stewardship functions. View the Jacques Cousteau Reserve Management Plan revision at https://jcnerr.org/JCNERR_MNGMTPLAN_2018to2023.pdf and provide comments to the Reserve's Assistant Manager, Lisa Auermuller (auermull@marine.rutgers.edu). [83 FR 1027 (January 9, 2018)]

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce: NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) gave notice of a public meeting beginning Tuesday, January 30, 2018 to discuss and provide advice on Federal ocean exploration programs. [83 FR 2966 (January 22, 2018)]

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce: The NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology's Economics and Social Analysis Division issued a notice for proposed information collection on the assessment of the social and economic impacts from hurricanes and other climate related natural disasters on commercial and recreational fishing industries in the eastern, gulf coast and Caribbean territories of the United States. Written comments must be submitted on or before March 26, 2018. [83 FR 3132 (January 23, 2018)]

National Park Service (NPS), Interior: On January 4, the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, certified that he intends to renew the National Park System Advisory Board, in accordance with section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. By January 17, ten of the twelve board members resigned their postings citing failure to gain a meeting with Secretary Zinke. [83 FR 2464 (January 17, 2018)]

National Science Foundation (NSF): The NSF published a request for information seeking public input on establishing space weather research priorities to address Action 5.5.1 in the National Space Weather Action Plan that will help guide the science and technology priorities of federal agencies. [83 FR 688 (January 5, 2018)]

National Science Foundation (NSF): The NSF announced a meeting to study data, programs, policies, and other information, and to provide advice and recommendations concerning broadening participation in science and engineering. The meeting will take place on February 1, 2018 at 1:00 to 5:30 PM, and February 2, 2018 at 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. [83 FR 837 (January 8, 2018)]

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior: The USGS issued a notice of information collection on The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) – Volunteered Geographic Information Project. TNMCorps uses crowdsourcing – new technologies and internet services to georeference structure points and share this information with others on map-based internet platforms—to produce volunteered geographic information (VGI). Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 2, 2018. [83 FR 4511 (January 31, 2018)]
