

on the following dates at the specified locations and times:

Location	Date and time	Address of meeting	Contact person
Billings, Montana .....	March 18, 2003, 6–10 p.m .....	Holiday Inn Grand, Montana, 550 Midland Road, Billings, MT 59101.	Mary Apple, 406–896–5258.
Reno, Nevada .....	March 20, 2003, 6–10 p.m .....	Reno Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502.	JoLynn Worley, 775–861–6515.
Albuquerque, New Mexico .....	March 25, 2003, 6–10 p.m .....	Hilton of Albuquerque, 1901 University Blvd., NE., Albuquerque, NM 87102.	Kitty Mulkey, 505–438–7511.
Washington, DC .....	March 27, 2003, 1–5 p.m .....	Courtyard By Marriott, (General Scott Room) 1600 Rhode Island Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20036.	Tom Gorey, 202–452–5137.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail: Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, Attention: RIN 1004–AD42.

*Personal or messenger delivery:* 1620 L Street, NW., Room 401, Washington, DC 20036. *Direct internet response:* <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/news/regulatory/index.html> or go to BLM's external homepage at <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm> and click on the link.

You may also comment via email at the following address: [WOCComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@blm.gov). We intend this address for use by those who want to keep their electronic comments confidential. Please submit email comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: AD42" and your name and return address in your email message. You may examine documents pertinent to this proposal at the L Street address. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review on the Internet address above and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents 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 comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information relating to the grazing program or the substance of the

regulations to be proposed, contact Kenneth Visser at (202) 452–77434. For information relating to the rulemaking process, contact Cynthia Ellis at (202) 452–5012. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the above individuals.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In this issue of the **Federal Register**, BLM is also publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on the changes we are considering making to the regulations governing BLM's Grazing Administration Program. BLM is committed to making the changes to reflect the Secretary's "4C's" philosophy of "consultation, cooperation, and communication all in the service of conservation." Since the first set of grazing regulations was issued after passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 as amended (43 U.S.C. 315, 315a–315r), the regulations have been periodically modified, revised and updated. The last major revision effort culminated when BLM published and implemented comprehensive changes to the grazing regulations in 1995.

The changes BLM is considering would encourage partnerships in public land stewardship and establish new options for BLM and rangeland users in the administration and management of public lands. Our goals are to:

- (1) Enhance community-based conservation and citizen-centered stewardship;
- (2) Improve BLM business practices; and
- (3) Provide greater flexibility for the manager and the permittee.

#### Description of Information Requested

BLM is committed to carrying out the Secretary's objectives and the Rangeland Management Program established by the

Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 CFR 1740), the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901–1908), and the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 as amended (43 U.S.C. 315, 315a–315r). We specifically request comments on the topics we are considering for the proposed rule, as they relate to the EIS. These topics include, but are not limited to, the following (the listing is identical to that which appears in the advance notice of proposed rulemaking):

#### A. Definitions.

We are considering revising or creating definitions of the following terms: Active use; Authorized use; Base property; Grazing lease; Grazing permit; Grazing preference or Preference; Livestock kind or kind of livestock; Monitoring; Reserve common allotment.

B. We are considering changing regulations to clarify current requirements and to allow better rangeland management and permit administration. Changes we are considering include:

- Clarifying the permit renewal performance review requirements when grazing permits are pledged as security for loans.
- Clarifying who is qualified for public lands grazing use and who will receive preference for a grazing permit or lease.
- Clarifying the provisions addressing grazing preference transfers.
- Reinstating an earlier provision that BLM and the permit holder may share title to certain range improvements if the improvement was constructed under a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement.
- Clarifying that BLM will follow state law with respect to the acquisition of water rights.
- Examining whether BLM should authorize temporarily locked gates on public lands in order to protect private land and improve livestock operations.