DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
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Notice of Meeting, Rio Grande Natural Area Commission

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.


DATES: The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on December 17, 2013.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kyle Sullivan, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Front Range District Office, 3028 Main Street, Cañon City, CO 81212. Phone: (303) 239–3861. Email: ksullivan@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rio Grande Natural Area Commission was established in the Rio Grande Natural Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460rrr–2). The nine-member commission advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, concerning the preparation and implementation of a management plan for non-Federal land in the Rio Grande Natural Area, as directed by law. Planned agenda topics for this meeting include finalizing recommendations for the draft management plan and an update on the livestock trespass hearing. The public may offer oral comments at 10:15 a.m. or written statements, which may be submitted for the commission’s consideration. Please send written comments to Kyle Sullivan at the address above by December 3, 2013.

Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Summary minutes for the commission meeting will be maintained in the San Luis Valley Field Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within 30 days following the meeting. Meeting minutes and agenda are also available at: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/svfo.html.

John Mehlof, BLM Colorado Acting State Director.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Superintendent Brian Carlstrom, Biscayne National Park, 9700 SW 328 Street, Homestead, FL 33033–5634 or by telephone at (305) 230–1144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS released the Draft EIS to the public in August 2011. Electronic copies of the Draft EIS can also be found online at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BISC.

During the public comment period, over 18,000 pieces of correspondence were received, which contained over 20,000 comments. A key component of the agency-preferred alternative in the Draft GMP/EIS was inclusion of a marine reserve zone. The marine reserve zone was proposed as an area in the park where fishing of any kind would be prohibited in order to allow a portion of the Park’s coral reef ecosystem to recover and to offer visitors a high-quality visitor experience associated with a healthy, intact coral reef ecosystem. During the August 2011 public comment period, a number of substantive comments were received that identified both positive and negative impacts related to the establishment of the marine reserve zone. In particular, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), with whom the National Park Service consults regarding fishing management actions in the Park, raised a number of significant issues about the NPS preferred alternative, including the marine reserve zone. The position of the State of Florida was that any consideration of a marine reserve zone could only occur after measurable management objectives have been clearly defined and less restrictive management measures have been appropriately implemented and evaluated in close coordination with agencies and stakeholders.

Based on the comments received, the NPS undertook an evaluative process to consider a number of management actions that could be deployed to achieve the goal of providing a diversified visitor use experience, while protecting the Park’s natural and cultural resources. Two new alternatives (alternatives 6 and 7) were developed in consultation with the FWC and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These alternatives contain many of the same elements as