

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-55
FOR RELEASE: September 26, 2006
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BLM Selects Doran Sanchez as Chief of Communications for Nevada

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has selected Doran Sanchez as the new Chief of Communications for Nevada. He succeeds Jo Simpson who retired earlier this year.

Doran has served as the Public Affairs Specialist for the BLM's California Desert District (CDD) since February 1990. During this time he represented BLM on three broad-based interagency councils and has dealt with many complex public and land management issues, projects, and programs.

"Doran has proven his communication skills serving as a Public Affairs Specialist and has extensive experience dealing with similar issues that we face in Nevada.," said Ron Wenker, BLM Nevada State Director. "We are pleased to have him on board at our State Office headquarters in Reno."

Sanchez also has been actively involved in the Bureau's wild horse and burro adoption program throughout his 17 years with BLM in southern California, which included a detail in Nevada while serving on BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Emergency Adoption Marketing Team in 2000.

"However, Doran is no stranger to Nevada," added Wenker. "He grew up in McDermitt and graduated from McDermitt High School in 1969. So he is familiar with Nevada and some of our land management issues."

After graduation Sanchez joined the Navy and served four years in the Navy Medical Corps. He then moved to Texas where he earned two degrees in journalism. His professional experience includes six years as a reporter, editor and photojournalist and three years as a regional marketing director.

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NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-50
FOR RELEASE: September 5, 2006
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BLM Extends Comment Period
on Southern Nevada Groundwater EIS

Reno, Nev.—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will extend the public comment period for scoping on the proposed Clark, Lincoln and White Pine counties groundwater development project at the request of several public groups. The 30-day extension will close on Tues., Oct. 17. Written comments will be accepted; no public meetings will be hosted by the BLM.

The rescoping is to gather comments specifically on the changes to the Southern Nevada Water Authority right-of-way request, which will be used to prepare a draft environmental impact statement.

Scoping on the project was reopened on July 19 for 60 days because substantive changes have been

made since the original scoping period last year. Changes made to the proposal since the original scoping period in 2005, include the conveyance of about 36,000 acre feet per year of water for the Lincoln County Water District, the cancellation of proposed groundwater development in the Tikaboo Valley North Basin, and shifts in alignment and location of well fields and facilities.

Additional information about the project and the report from the original scoping period held April – August 2005 is available at www.nv.blm.gov, or by calling Penny Woods at the BLM Nevada State Office, 775-861-6466.

Written comments may be mailed to Penny Woods, BLM, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006 or faxed to 775-861-6689.

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NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-49
FOR RELEASE: September 5, 2006
CONTACT: Maxine Shane at (775) 861-6586

Affordable Housing Policy Issued;
Discount Rates Revised for Clark County

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently issued revised Nevada Guidance on Policy and Procedures for Affordable Housing Disposals, including updated discount rates for lands to be used for affordable housing in Clark County.

"Nevada is unique in that the Southern Nevada Public Land Policy Act specifically allows the BLM, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to sell land in the State of Nevada at less than fair market value as long as that land is used for affordable housing purposes," said Ron Wenker, BLM's Nevada State Director. "This guidance focuses mainly on updating the discount percentages for median income categories which can be applied to the fair market value of the public lands in Clark County being offered for sale under the provisions of the Act."

The updated discount rates for Clark County will result in land being discounted at 90 to 95 percent of fair market value. The fair market value for the land is determined by a qualified appraiser and reviewed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Appraisal Services Directorate, for the BLM.

HUD and BLM will work together to establish discount rates for lands in other Nevada counties if separate rates are needed when nominations are received for affordable housing in those areas. Wenker points out that calculations in other jurisdictions in Nevada's 17 counties may well produce different discount rates.

Eligible lands are made available initially only to state and local governmental entities, including local public housing authorities. The State of Nevada or any other appropriate Nevada local governmental entity may submit a written nomination to local BLM offices to purchase eligible land for affordable housing. The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act provides for subsequent conveyances by those governmental entities for affordable housing under the Act. Nominations have been received from Clark County and Carson City.

Affordable housing is designed to serve low-income families as set forth in the Cranston-Gonzalez

National Affordable Housing Act. "Low-income families" means families whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area as determined by HUD. Housing may be for either single family or multiple-family residential developments.

The Nevada Guidance is posted on the BLM Nevada website (www.nv.blm.gov) under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act link. Once on the Act link, click on the affordable housing button to the left. Local governmental agency personnel interested in affordable housing in Nevada and wishing more detail may call the BLM lands personnel in Elko, Winnemucca, Carson City, Ely, Las Vegas, Battle Mountain, Tonopah or Reno.

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For Immediate Release: Contacts:

August 28, 2006 BLM – Kermit Witherbee, (202) 452-0385

MMS – Herb Black, (303) 231-3769

BLM and MMS Meeting in Reno Thursday
to Receive Comments on Proposed Regulations for Geothermal Energy

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a public meeting in Reno this Thursday, August 31, to receive comments from the public and industry on proposed regulations relating to geothermal resource leasing and geothermal resources unit agreements on public lands.

The proposed regulations would implement provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which mandated comprehensive changes in leasing and royalty policies that encourage geothermal energy development.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 31 at the Summit Sierra (formerly the Hilton Hotel), 2500 East Second Street in Reno from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. local (Pacific) time. The meeting will begin with the BLM and the MMS giving an overview of revisions proposed to their respective geothermal rules.

Geothermal resources are developed both for direct use (steam to heat buildings and for use in greenhouses and aquaculture) and for generation of electric power. Almost half of the Nation's production of geothermal energy occurs on Federal land, much of it in California and Nevada. Other states with geothermal activity include Utah, New Mexico and Oregon. Geothermal energy accounts for 17 percent of the electricity generated from renewable sources in the U.S.

The BLM manages 261 million surface acres located mostly in 12 Western States, including Alaska – more land than any other Federal agency. With a budget of about \$1.8 billion, the Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the U.S. Managing these lands gives the BLM a central role in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Acting as steward of numerous energy resources – coal, oil and gas, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, and biomass energy resources – is part of the agency's multiple-use mission to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-48
FOR RELEASE: August 16, 2006
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WILD HORSES AND BURROS GET HI-TECH ON WORLD WIDE WEB

Wild horses and burros are catching up with the times. Palominos, sorrels, bays and grays are just some of the colors in a rainbow of equines now running across the World Wide Web right to your home computer. The National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley now has pictures of the animals being offered for immediate adoption this weekend. Burro pairs, fillies, stud colts, mares and geldings are among the wide variety of horses being offered. Website viewers will be greeted with pictures and descriptions of their potential new family members, as well as basic adoption information.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Center will be open August 18-20 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for adoptions in conjunction with the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo. The Expo is August 18-20 and will showcase wild horses and burros. Attendees can view various events such as training demonstrations and exhibitions as well as visit vendors. The BLM will have a booth with information about adopting wild horses and burros as well as maps to the Center.

Pre-selected animals at the Center can be adopted for \$125 each to qualified individuals on a first come, first serve basis. Each animal has been vaccinated against a variety of diseases, including rabies and West Nile virus. Adopters will receive complete health care records so they can begin health care regimens with their own veterinarians. Adopters should be prepared to transport the animal home the same day it is adopted unless special arrangements with the Center are made. Stock trailers with side-swinging gates are preferred for animal transportation. Drop ramps are not acceptable. Adopters are asked to bring a halter and lead rope appropriate for the size and type of animals adopted.

If interest is expressed in other specific animals at the facility, visitors may set up an appointment on a weekday so that time can be scheduled to have a staff member drive them through the larger pens in the facility. Potential adopters must be pre-approved and may either print an adoption application and bring the completed form to the facility, or fill one out at the Center.

Visit <http://www.blm.gov/adoptahorse/onsitegallery.php?horseCategory=61> to view adoptable animals. To download an adoption application or learn more about the adoption program, visit www.nv.blm.gov or call the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at (775) 475-2222.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 10, 2006
CONTACT: Joan Moody at 202-208-6416,
or Maxine Shane at 775-722-9796 (cell)/ 775-861-6588

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR KEMPTHORNE MAKES AVAILABLE
\$48 MILLION FOR LAKE TAHOE PROTECTION

LAKE TAHOE—At the Lake Tahoe Forum today at Nevada State Park's Sand Harbor, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced approval of more than \$48 million to help protect and restore the Lake Tahoe Basin.

"Today I'm pleased to authorize more than \$48 million under Round 7 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to continue to restore the health of this beautiful lake," Secretary Kempthorne said. "This process and this event today are great examples of the President's cooperative conservation initiative--partners from all levels of government, both political parties, the private sector, environmental agencies, tribes, businesses and volunteer groups all working together in a spirit of collaboration to do the right thing for our environment and for this community."

In his remarks at the annual forum, Kempthorne unveiled the expenditures of \$44.4 million for capital projects and \$3.8 million for projects such as air and water quality improvement and the management of forest and ecological communities.

Secretary Kempthorne noted that restoration projects at Lake Tahoe are aimed at controlling urban runoff, land erosion and drainage problems that have caused the lake's water visibility to decline in recent years. Water quality improvement and erosion control will receive \$25.8 million including \$10 million that will go to local governments for erosion control. Water restoration and habitat improvement will receive \$7 million--\$2.3 million of which will go for continuing restoration of natural ecological processes at Blackwood Creek, for example.

"Today's funds will, among other things, improve the health of the surrounding forests and reduce hazardous fuels that could cause a fire that would adversely affect the ecosystem surrounding the lake," he said. "The funds will also go towards science and research to improve water and air quality."

An appropriations bill in 2003 directed that \$300 million be spent over eight years for federal environmental restoration projects at Lake Tahoe. With today's approval, total funding from the Department of the Interior amounts to more than \$128.6 million.

Much of the money for projects comes to the Lake Tahoe Basin from funding under authority of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, as amended, to implement the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. The funds for the recommended Lake Tahoe projects are generated by land sales conducted by the Bureau of Land Management in the Las Vegas Valley. Federal agencies receiving capital projects funding today are the Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highways Administration and U.S. Forest Service.

Secretary Kempthorne joined Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign as well as other federal, state, tribal and local leaders at the Lake Tahoe Forum, an annual event since 1997. The meeting featured a comprehensive discussion of progress and plans for protecting and preserving Lake Tahoe. The Lake Tahoe Forum was organized this year by Senator Ensign's office.

Highlights of projects in the \$48 million announced today include:

Fuels Reduction and Forest Health--\$10.3 million

\$4 million to conduct hazardous fuels reduction and forest ecosystem health treatments for the South Shore area of the Lake Tahoe Basin. These fuel reduction treatments would focus on the urban-wildland interface.

\$1.65 million for continued urban forest restoration on national forest lands within and near developed communities of Lake Tahoe Basin lands acquired under the Burton-Santini Act.

Watershed Restoration and Habitat Improvement--\$7 million

\$2.3 million for continuing restoration of Blackwood Creek

\$876,000 for restoration of the Lake Valley Reach of the Upper Truckee River

Water Quality Improvement/Erosion Control--\$25.8 million

\$10 million for erosion control grants to local governments

\$2.55 million to help Nevada Beach Day Use Area and Campground meet the mandated water quality protection Best Management Practice Requirements.

Adaptive Management—to establish a collaborative framework for monitoring Lake Tahoe--\$1.2 million
Science and Research--\$3.7 million.

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