



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE ■ 1474 RODEO RD ■ SANTA FE NM 87505

Hans Stuart ■ Public Affairs Chief ■ 505.438.7510

For Immediate Release
December 11, 2003

For Additional Information
Howard Parman 505.627.0212
Tim Kreager 505.627.0272

Activity Plan Initiated for the Overflow Wetlands

The Bureau of Land Management has approved an activity plan for the Overflow Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern on December 8, to protect the wetlands' unique biological and scenic values. The wetlands include about 7,014 surface acres and 3,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Located approximately 16 miles east of Roswell, NM, in Chaves County, south of US Highway 380, the wetlands are adjacent to the Bottomless Lakes State Park.

Plan projects proposed on public lands within the wetlands include noxious and invasive weed control, salt cedar removal and mesquite control on the uplands. Use of off-highway vehicles will be limited to designated roads and trails on the lands within the wetlands. A trail for wildlife viewing and a ¼-mile trail for the physically impaired are also planned. In addition, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and BLM will be closing a black-tailed prairie dog colony within the wetland to hunting.

Any person who feels adversely affected by the plan may file a written appeal to BLM's final decision. Appeals must be sent to the Roswell Field Office, 2909 West Second Street, Roswell, NM 88201-2019, no later than January 7, 2004.

Additional copies of the Activity Plan and the Environmental Assessment are available at the Roswell Field Office. The documents are also available on the Roswell Field Office web site: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/rfo/index.htm>. Contact Tim Kreager or Howard Parman for further information at the above address or 505-627-0272

-BLM-

