



NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St. – Las Cruces, NM 88005
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer – 505/525-4488

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For Additional Information:
Jim Stovall, 505/525-4309

BLM Seeks Comments at TorC Public Meeting Part of Watershed Planning for Sierra, Dona Ana Counties

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES -- The U.S. Bureau of Land Management will host a public meeting April 29 to hear comments about and invite participation in establishing priority watersheds in Sierra and Dona Ana Counties, according to Amy Lueders, BLM-Las Cruces field office manager.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. April 29 at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center, 400 W. Fourth St.

“The meeting is a part of follow-on planning required by the Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/EIS), which established standards for public land health, especially as it pertains to livestock grazing,” according to Jim Stovall, BLM-Las Cruces lead natural resource specialist.

The RMPA/EIS, published in January 2001 by the Secretary of the Interior, lists the lower Rio Grande as a “priority area-of-interest” watershed that includes about 650,000 acres of public land in southeast Sierra and extreme northeast Dona Ana Counties between Truth or Consequences and Hatch.

The public land in Sierra County is east of the Rio Grande. The land in Dona Ana County is east of the Rio Grande and north of the College Ranch and the Jornada Experimental Station, according to Phil Smith, BLM range management specialist.

“We’re trying very hard to make sure that land users in particular and all interested parties have a say in how these watersheds are established and managed. We’re really hoping for a big turnout,” Stovall said.

Information about the RMPA/EIS, planning for the watershed and the April 29 meeting are available by calling Stovall, 525-4309, or Smith, 525-4372.