

Dated: March 25, 1996.

Annetta L. Cheek,

Chief, Regulatory Management Team.

[FR Doc. 96-7591 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

[CA-065-06-1990-01]

Environmental Statements; California Desert Conservation Area, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an open pit, heap leach gold mine on portions of public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area, Kern County, CA; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for addressing impacts of the proposed gold mine development in Kern County, CA. The BLM invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. **DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held on:

Date: April 16, 1996—Tuesday
Time: 6:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
Place: Rosamond High School,
2925 Rosamond Blvd,
Rosamond, CA 93560,
Glennan Gymnasium

Date: April 17, 1996—Wednesday
Time: 6:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
Place: Mojave High School,
15732 "O" St.,
Mojave, CA 93501,
Mustang Gymnasium

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments may be sent to: BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area Manager, 300 S. Richmond, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, Attn: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Golden Queen is proposing to construct and operate the Soledad Mountain Project, an open pit precious metals (gold and silver) mining and cyanide leaching processing operation at the Soledad Mountain project area located approximately five miles southwest of the town of Mojave in Kern County, California.

The proposed action includes: construction of facilities; mining and processing of precious metals ores at the rate of three to four million tons per year for a period of ten to sixteen years; stockpiling of overburden materials; sales of overburden materials as aggregate and construction materials; and reclamation of the project site.

The project area is approximately 1,228 acres, of which 959 acres are private land and 269 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is approximately 782 acres on private lands and 153 acres on public lands. The proposed mining operation includes twelve interconnected open pit mining areas within the ultimate pit boundary of the proposed open pit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen, BLM EIS Coordinator at (619) 384-5421.

Dated: March 21, 1996.

Lee Delaney,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-7495 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

[OR-015-96-1610-00: G6-0088]

Management Framework Plans; Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: High Desert Management Framework Proposed Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Abert Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, section 202(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and 43 CFR Part 1610, the Lakeview District has completed a proposed plan amendment and final environmental impact statement (PA/FEIS) covering a proposal to designate the Lake Abert and the surrounding vicinity as an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC).

The proposed PA/FEIS addresses the management of resources within approximately 123,000 acres of public land and 101,700 acres of reserved mineral estate administered by the BLM located approximately 30 miles north of the town of Lakeview in central Lake County, Oregon. The proposed ACEC includes approximately 49,900 acres of public lands administered by the BLM.

DATES: The public review/protest period for the proposed PA/FEIS will officially begin when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability of the proposed PA/FEIS in the Federal Register, which is expected on or about March 29, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Whitman, BLM, Lakeview District Office, P.O. Box 151, Lakeview, Oregon

97630 (Telephone: 541-947-6110).

Those wishing to provide comments should submit them in writing to Scott Florence at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The document presents management goals, objectives, and seven management alternatives for BLM-administered lands within the planning area. The alternatives range from no action (no change in present management), to designating portions of the planning area as an ACEC with somewhat restrictive management, to designating the entire planning area as an ACEC with very restrictive management. Alternative 7 is the agency preferred plan and involves designating about 49,900 acres of public lands as an ACEC. The area was evaluated and found to meet the ACEC designation criteria and require special management for four resource values: wildlife, visual, cultural, and ecological processes. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, mining location, and rights-of-way location would be restricted within the ACEC. Livestock grazing would be restricted within that portion of Abert Rim wilderness study area (WSA) falling within the ACEC, as well as within most riparian zones, and ecologically sensitive areas. Mineral leasing would be closed within approximately 18,000 acres of the ACEC with the remainder of the area being restricted.

A draft plan amendment and environmental impact statement was issued for a 90-day review period in May 1995. The review period ended on August 16, 1995. A total of 37 comment letters were received during the review period. An interdisciplinary planning team assessed these comments and utilized them in making changes in the proposed PA/FEIS. The final document has been prepared in an abbreviated format. Major sections of the draft are not repeated in the final. Copies of the draft are available for reference by contacting the point of contact listed above.

Those individuals, organizations, native American tribes, and agencies with a known interest in the plan have been sent a copy of the proposed PA/FEIS. Persons desiring a copy of the document should contact the point of contact listed above. Reading copies of the document are available at the Lake, Klamath, and Harney County, Oregon, libraries and at the following BLM locations: Office of External Affairs, Main Interior Building, Room 5600, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington DC 20240, and Public Room, Oregon State Office, 1515 SW 5th, Portland, Oregon 97201.

Administrative Remedies

Approval of this plan amendment constitutes official ACEC designation and will be documented in a public Record of Decision (ROD) which will be made available to all parties who received a copy of the proposed PA/FEIS. The BLM planning process provides an opportunity for an administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM Director, if you believe the approval of the proposed plan amendment would be in error under 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing such a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view:

(1) A protesting party may raise only those issues which he/she submitted for the record during the planning process.

(2) There is no provision within BLM's regulations allowing for an extension of time to file a protest, nor will one be granted. To be considered timely, a protest must be postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment/protest period. It is recommended that your protest be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

(3) Protests must be submitted in writing to: Director (480), Bureau of Land Management, Resource Planning Team, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

(4) To be considered complete, a protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) The name, address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.

(b) A statement of the issue(s) being protested.

(c) A statement of the part(s) of the proposed plan amendment being protested, referencing specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. * * * within the document.

(d) A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue(s) were discussed by you for the record.

(e) A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect. A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the State Director's decision, without presenting support data/information, will be dismissed.

Dated: March 15, 1996.

Edwin J. Singleton,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-7510 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

[OR-050-1020-00: GP6-0101]

Notice of Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District.

ACTION: Meeting of John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council; LaGrande, Oregon; May 1-3, 1996.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council and Council Subgroups will be held on May 1, 1996 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, on May 2, 1996 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on May 3, 1996 from 8:00 am to 12 noon at the La Grande Ranger District, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande, Oregon. Public comments will be received by the Council from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 1, 1996. Topics to be discussed include the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing, and proposed land exchanges in the John Day-Snake Region. A field trip to discuss riparian and watershed management will be held on May 2, 1996. Transportation will not be provided for the public to the field training site on May 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. Hancock, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 N.E. Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call 541-416-6700.

Dated: March 20, 1996.

James L. Hancock,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-7511 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

[CO-030-06-1610-00-1784]

Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; Resource Advisory Council Meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (SW RAC) will meet on Thursday, April 11, 1996, at the Delta County Courthouse in Delta, Colorado, and on Thursday, May 9, 1996, at the Log Cabin in Norwood, Colorado.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Thursday, April 11, 1996, and on Thursday, May 9, 1996. Both meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; Telephone 970-249-7791; TDD 970-249-4639.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The April 11, 1996, meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 234, Delta County Courthouse, 5th & Palmer, Delta, Colorado. The agenda for the morning will include an update on the development of standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing (S&Gs), a presentation on the environmental analysis, land use planning, and public participation components of the S&G process, and time will be provided to address additional issues identified by advisory council members or members of the public attending the meeting. The afternoon session will consist of a field trip to demonstrate how the S&Gs will be used in the management of the public lands. The public is invited to attend both the morning session and the field trip. Field trip participants must provide their own lunch, water, and transportation (four wheel drive or high clearance vehicles are necessary).

The May 9, 1996, meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Log Cabin, 1120 Lucerne, Norwood, Colorado. The morning agenda will focus on collaborative planning efforts, and time will be provided to address additional issues identified by advisory council members or members of the public attending the meeting. The afternoon session will consist of a field trip to key locations within the San Miguel River Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Special Recreation Management Area. The public is invited to attend both the morning session and the field trip. Field trip participants must provide their own lunch, water, and transportation.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to make oral statements, a per-person time limit may be established by the Montrose District Manager.

Summary minutes for the Council meeting will be maintained in the Montrose District Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.