

of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issues raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, **Federal Register** notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

A **Federal Register** notice was published on June 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 105) Page 29736 to announce the public meeting dates and comment period schedules.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Lee Delaney,
Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20139 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1990-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Soledad Mountain Project, CA

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the County of Kern, State of California are extending the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Soledad Mountain Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public and private lands in Kern County, California.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement must

be postmarked no later than August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California, 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator (760) 385-5421.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings were held on: June 24 and June 25 at Rosamond and Mojave, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Draft EIR/EIS is to present BLM and Kern County's comparative analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the physical, biological, social and economic resources of the area. The Proposed Action is a mining proposal to extract minerals from the subsurface, process the ore using chemical leaching methods and place the waste rock adjacent to the processing and mining areas. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include variations on the duration of operations and placement of waste rock. After careful consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issued raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, federal register notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

Five alternatives to the Proposed Action are analyzed in detail: (1) No

Action, (2) Increased Mining and Processing Rate, (3) Decreased Mining and Processing Rate, (4) Reduced Project Size, and (5) Partial Backfilling.

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A **Federal Register** notice was published on June 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 105) Page 29736 to announce the public meeting dates and comment period schedules.

Lee Delaney,

Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20201 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1990-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1220-00]

Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for the Bakersfield District will meet in Bridgeport, California.

DATES: August 15-16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Bridgeport Elementary School, 205 Kingsley Street.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12 member Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. The Council will meet on Friday and Saturday, August 15-16, 1997, beginning at 8:00 a.m. both days. Agenda items include election of officers, a plan to set priorities for the expenditure of range improvement funds, an update on the proposal to trade federal oil leases for the Headwaters forest, a discussion of RS-2477 rights of way, reports on the role of fire in native plant and deer herd management, an update on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Healthy Rangelands initiative, and an update on the status of proposed recreation fees for BLM lands. There will be a field trip Friday afternoon to Bodie State Historic Park. A public

comment period begins at 1 p.m., Saturday, August 16, at which time the public may discuss any public land issue. Written comments will be accepted during the meeting or at the address below. The entire meeting is open to the public. Anyone wishing to take part in the field trip must provide their own transportation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Mercer, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308, telephone 805-391-6010.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

John Skibinski,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20204 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-400-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-956-97-1420-00]

Colorado: Filing of Plats of Survey

July 22, 1997.

The plats of survey of the following described land, will be officially filed in the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Lakewood, Colorado, effective 10:00 am., July 22, 1997. All inquiries should be sent to the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

The plat (in 11 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of certain mineral claims in section 3 and the survey of a portion of the Hayes Building Lot, and the Metes-and-Bounds survey of Irregular Lot Lines in section 3, T. 4 S., R. 73 W., Sixth Principal Meridian, Group 690, Colorado, was accepted June 25, 1997.

The plat (in 10 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of certain mineral surveys, or portions thereof, in sections 17, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29, T. 36 N., R. 11 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, Group 862, Colorado, was accepted July 10, 1997.

These surveys were requested by the Forest Service for administrative purposes.

The plat representing the remainder of a portion of the Sangre De Cristo Grant boundary, the dependent resurvey of a portion of the Eighth Standard Parallel North (north boundary), and a portion of the subdivisional lines, the metes and bounds survey of the upper rim of the right bank of the Rio Grande River, and the subdivision of fractional section 4, Township 32 N., R. 11 E., New Mexico Principal Meridian, Group

1106, Colorado, was accepted June 24, 1997.

The plat representing the entire record of the investigative retracement and metes-and-bounds survey in section 15, T. 49 N., R. 2 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian, Group 1157, Colorado, was accepted July 16, 1997.

The plat representing the entire survey record of the dependent resurvey of Mineral Survey Number 5303, New Fisherman Placer, and the metes-and-bounds survey of a parcel of land within the boundaries of M.S. 5303, New Fisherman Placer, described as Parcel A., New Mexico Principal Meridian, Group 1165, Colorado, was accepted July 14, 1997.

The supplemental plat, correcting the acreage of Tract 48, which excludes that portion of H.E.S. 117, contained in the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 40, in unsurveyed T. 2 S., R. 75 W., Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, was accepted June 25, 1997.

These surveys were requested by BLM for administrative purposes.

Darryl A. Wilson,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Colorado.

[FR Doc. 97-20203 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-921-1430-01; WYW 141567]

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), proposes to withdraw 1,430.92 acres of public land in Fremont County, to protect and preserve capital investments associated with critical bighorn sheep winter range which have been acquired by exchange or are in the process of being acquired through exchange. The winter range is located in northwestern Wyoming. This notice closes the land for up to 2 years from surface entry and mining. The land will remain open to mineral leasing.

DATES: Comments and requests for a meeting should be received on or before October 29, 1997.

ADDRESSEES: Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Wyoming State Director, BLM, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara Gertsch, BLM Wyoming State

Office, 307-775-6115, or Bill Bartlett, Lander Resource Area, 307-332-8402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 2, 1997, a petition was approved allowing the BLM to file an application to withdraw the following described public land from settlement, sale, location, or entry (except for disposal by exchange), under the general land laws, including the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 40 N., R. 105 W.,

Sec. 17, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 20, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 21, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 41 N., R. 106 W.,

Sec. 17, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (except for 8.88 acres), W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 19, lot 1, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 1,430.92 acres in Fremont County.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect and preserve significant capital investments associated with the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep winter range that have been acquired through exchange, or are in the process of being acquired through exchange, pending further study and development of appropriate, and possibly longer-term, actions to protect and manage the resources.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the undersigned officer of the BLM.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the Wyoming State Director within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied or cancelled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that