

Under various alternatives, BLM would recommend that Congress designate the Colville River a wild, scenic, or recreation river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. BLM is also proposing that it work with nearby Colville River land owners, including the State and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to create a Bird Conservation Area under the Partners in Flight Program. Finally, in some alternatives BLM is proposing a plan, or plans, to guide future studies of caribou and waterfowl populations in the Teshekpuk Lake area.

Section 810 of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act requires BLM to evaluate the effects of the alternative plans presented in this IAP/EIS on subsistence activities in the planning area, and to hold public hearings if it finds that any alternative might significantly restrict subsistence activities. Appendix D of the document indicates that alternatives D and E may significantly restrict subsistence activities, therefore, BLM is holding the public hearings whose dates are given below.

**DATES:** Written comments on the draft IAP/EIS must be submitted or postmarked no later than February 10, 1998. Oral and/or written comments may also be presented at seven public hearings to be held:

January 12, 1998, 7:30 pm, Atqasuk Community Hall, Atqasuk, Alaska  
 January 13, 1998, 7:30 pm, North Slope Assembly Chambers, Barrow, Alaska  
 January 14, 1998, 7:30 pm, Kisik Community Center, Nuiqsit, Alaska  
 January 15, 1998, 7:30 pm, Anaktuvuk Pass Community Hall, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska  
 January 21, 1998, 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Marston Theater, Loussac Library, Anchorage, Alaska  
 January 22, 1998, 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Carlson Center, Conference Room, Fairbanks, Alaska  
 January 26, 1998, 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm, Washington Capital Hilton, Federal Room, 16th and K Street NW, Washington, DC

Any changes to the hearing schedule will be accompanied by appropriate public notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the document should be addressed to: NPR-A Planning Team, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (930), 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. Comments can also be sent to the NPR-A home page (<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gene Terland (907-271-3344; [gterland@ak.blm.gov](mailto:gterland@ak.blm.gov)) or Jim Ducker

(907-271-3369; [jducker@ak.blm.gov](mailto:jducker@ak.blm.gov)). They can be reached by mail at the Bureau of Land Management (930), Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage Alaska 99513-7599.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Authority for developing this document is derived from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM leased tracts in the NPR-A in 1982 and 1983 (all now expired), but halted a lease sale in 1984 when no acceptable bids were made. Recently, interest in a lease sale has increased as oil and gas infrastructure moved west. Soon a development at the Alpine Field, in the Colville River delta, will bring a pipeline to within 10 miles of the eastern boundary of the planning area. None of the federal lands in the planning area are currently available to oil and gas leasing because existing NEPA documentation is dated and inadequate to meet current standards. Should BLM undertake a leasing program, this IAP/EIS will form the basic NEPA documentation to authorize leasing, and it will determine those lands that are available and those that are unavailable for leasing.

Public participation has occurred throughout the period since the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published on February 13, 1997. In addition to holding scoping meetings in Nuiqsit, Atqasuk, Barrow, Fairbanks and Anchorage several publicly attended workshops have addressed important issues within the planning area. The planning area provides particularly important habitat for caribou, waterfowl and other species and many of the local residents of the area rely on harvesting these resources for subsistence purposes. Ensuring adequate protection of these resources has been one of the driving forces behind workshops to seek input from a variety of public sources with expertise in related fields. Additional information from these workshops has also been helpful in developing this draft document.

The BLM has worked very closely with the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska in developing this draft IAP/EIS. Representatives of both organizations have directly participated in meetings that led to the development of the alternatives presented here, although BLM is solely responsible for the form the alternatives took. The Mineral Management Service of the Department of the Interior has also

assisted BLM in developing the document.

Copies of the draft IAP/EIS will be available for public review at the following locations: Tuzzy Public Library, Barrow, AK; City of Nuiqsut, Nuiqsut, AK; City of Atqasuk, Atqasuk, AK; City of Anaktuvuk, Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass, AK; and City of Wainwright, Wainwright, AK.

**Tom Allen,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-1990-00]

#### Record of Decision, Phelps Dodge Little Rock Mine Project, Environmental Impact Statement, Grant County, New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM Las Cruces District Office has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Phelps Dodge Little Rock Mine Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The ROD was signed by the District Manager approving the proposed mine project and incorporating environmental protection measures in the EIS.

The EIS analyzed the impacts of the re-establishment of the Little Rock Mine. The Little Rock Mine is an open-pit copper mine located approximately 7 miles south of Silver City, New Mexico. The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and reclamation of the proposed mine pit, including the diversion of stream water in California Gulch, and the creation of a pit lake after mining operations have ceased. Approximately 100 million tons of leachable ore could be removed from the proposed pit. Up to 160,000 tons of ore per day would be mined and processed over a 2- to 4-year period.

The proposed project will also require the construction of a haul road that will allow transportation of ore from the mine site to the processing facilities located at the Tyrone Mine facility. Overburden or other inert, nonmineralized materials will be stockpiled for potential use in reclamation. Project construction will employ the existing workforce at Tyrone.

**ADDRESSES:** Linda S. C. Rundell, District Manager, BLM, Las Cruces District

Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Juan S. Padilla, Team Coordinator at (505) 525-4376.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Parties adversely affected by the ROD have 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to file a Notice of Appeal (43 CFR part 4) in the office which issued this decision. The Notice of Appeal should be addressed to the BLM Las Cruces District Manager (see **ADDRESSES** section above). A petition for a stay of the decision must be filed in accordance with the above cited regulations.

Copies of the ROD can be obtained from the Las Cruces District Office at 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005, and the BLM New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, or by calling (505) 525-4376, and requesting a copy of the document. Additionally, a copy of the ROD will be mailed to individuals, agencies, or companies on the mailing list. Reading copies are available at public and university libraries in Las Cruces, Silver City, Deming, Lordsburg, Socorro, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dated: December 4, 1997.

**Linda S.C. Rundell,**  
*District Manager.*

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will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Debra Kovar at the Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID, 83352, (208) 886-7201.

**DATE AND TIME:** Date is January 22, 1998, starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Pocatello Resource Area Office at 1111 N 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho. Public comments will be received from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact Debra Kovar, Shoshone Resource Area Office, P. O. Box 2-B, Shoshone, ID 83352, (208) 886-7201.

Dated: December 5, 1997.

**Tom Dyer,**  
*Area Manager.*

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valid existing rights and requirements of applicable laws. Opening this land to mineral entry is in conformance with the Yuma District Resource Management Plan, as amended and approved February 1987. Appropriation of the above-described land under the mining laws or mineral leasing laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by state law where not in conflict with Federal laws. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts. All applications and offers received prior to 9 a.m. on January 12, 1998 will be considered as simultaneously filed as of that time and date. Those applications and offers received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing. A drawing will be held in accordance with 43 CFR 1821.2-3 if necessary.

The above-described land will remain closed to all other forms of appropriation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Taylor, Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406-9071, (520) 505-1200.

Dated: December 2, 1997.

**Mary Jo Yoas,**  
*Supervisor, Lands and Minerals Operations.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-990-1020-01]

#### Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Resource Advisory Council meeting location and time.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) council meeting of the Upper Snake River Districts Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a discussion on implementation of the healthy rangeland standard and guidelines, briefing on the Draft Dairy Syncline EIS and to prepare comments for the Upper Columbia Basin—EIS. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ070-1990-00-241A; AZA 23217-A]

#### Arizona: Reconveyed Mineral Estate Opened to Entry (Mohave County)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The mineral estate in the following-described land was reconveyed to the U.S. in an exchange under the provisions of sec. 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, on October 10, 1988. This order will open the lands to entry under the mining laws and the mineral leasing laws.

#### Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 14 N., R. 19 W.,

Sec. 7, lots 1 to 4 inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Containing 636.52 acres.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At 9 a.m. on January 12, 1998 the land will be opened to entry under the mining laws and the mineral leasing laws, subject to

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains from Kern County, CA in the Possession of California State University-Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA

**AGENCY:** National Park Service.

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003 (d), of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects in the possession of California State University-Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by California State University-Bakersfield professional staff