

Company	Activity	Date issued
ARCO Alaska, Inc	Exploration	October 19, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosa Meehan or Mr. John W. Bridges, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rule and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities" (58 FR 60402).

Dated: December 17, 1998.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-34325 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-99-1320-01; COC 62540]

Colorado; Notice of Invitation for coal Exploration License Application, Ark Land Company

Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3410, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Ark Land Company in a program for the exploration of unleased coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following described lands located in Gunnison County, Colorado:

T. 14 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, all;

Sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains approximately 2,240 acres. The application for coal exploration license is available for public inspection during normal business hours under serial number COC 62540 at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, and at the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Written Notice of Intent to Participate should be addressed to the attention of the following persons and must be

received by them within 30 days after publication of this Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register**:

Karen Purvis, Solid Minerals Team, Resource Services, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215

and
Wendell Koontz, Ark Land Company, P.O. Box 591, Somerset, Colorado 81434

Any party electing to participate in this program must share all costs on a pro rata basis with Ark Land Company and with any other party or parties who elect to participate.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Karen Purvis,

Solid Minerals Team Resource Services.

[FR Doc. 98-34198 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-09-1220-00: GP9-0065]

Restrictions on Public Lands in Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern

AGENCY: Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of closures and restrictions of use within Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

SUMMARY: The Vale District is initiating certain closures and restrictions as part of the implementation of the approved 1995 Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plan. The closures and restrictions are consistent with decisions of the ACEC management plan, and implementation is necessary to protect and enhance the identified relevant and important ACEC values of high quality scenery, California bighorn sheep habitat and special status plant species. The approved ACEC management plan complies with all applicable subparts of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1610 (Resource Management Planning) and meets all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Persons exempt from the closures and restrictions include any authorized Federal, State or local officers, or any member of an organized rescue or fire-

fighting unit in performance of official duties recognized by the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, or any person authorized by the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District.

In accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, and regulations under Title 43, CFR, part 8340, the Dago Gulch Road south of the northern gate in T. 26 S., R. 45 E., section 19 is designated closed to motorized and mechanical vehicles.

Pursuant to Closure and Restriction Orders under Title 43 CFR, part 8364.1, the following acts are prohibited on all public lands within the boundaries of the Leslie Gulch ACEC:

1. Motorized and Mechanized Vehicles. Operating a motorized or mechanized vehicle within the ACEC other than on designated roads, parking areas and campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

2. Camping/Campfires.

(a) Camping outside designated campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

(b) Use of open fires outside of designated campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

3. Recreational Domestic Livestock. Using or possessing a horse or other domestic livestock for any purpose.

4. Minerals and Vegetation. Collection of living or dead vegetation or any mineral or petrified wood without authorization.

5. Rock Climbing.

(a) Placement of permanent anchoring devices.

(b) Altering of natural features.

(c) Leaving temporary hardware on natural features or at climbing locations for longer than needed for immediate use.

(d) Competitive or commercial rock climbing activities.

The lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management for which this order applies are within the Maheuer Resource Area. The approved management plan and boundary of the Leslie Gulch ACEC can be viewed at the Vale District office. This order remains in effect until further notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 28, 1998.

PENALTY: Any person failing to comply with this closure and restriction order may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy L. Masinton, Malheur Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918, Telephone (541) 473-3144.

Roy L. Masinton,

Malheur Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-34180 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-067-1990; CA-40204]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Proposed Expansion of an Existing Gold Mining/Processing Operation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Newmont Gold Company (NGC), operator of the Mesquite gold mine located in Imperial County, California, has proposed to expand mining operations by a plan modification submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro field office, on November 30, 1998. Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the BLM will direct the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) by a third party contractor on the impacts of an expansion of this gold mining/processing operation. Comments are being requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, to determine the scope of the issues (including alternatives) that need to be analyzed, and to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant. Supporting documentation should be included with comments recommending that the EIS address specific environmental issues. Public scoping meetings will be held (see below).

DATES: For scoping meetings and comments: Three public scoping meetings will be held during 1999 on the following dates and locations: January 26, from 7-10 pm, at the Best Western Yuma Inn Suites, Palm Canyon Room, 1450 Castle Dome Ave., Yuma, Az. ph (520) 783-8341; January 27, from 7-10 pm, at the El Centro Community Center, 375 South First Street, El Centro, Ca. ph (760) 337-4555; and January 28, from 7-10 pm, at San Diego State University, Aztec Center-Backdoor Room, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, Ca. ph (619) 594-5278. Written

comments must be postmarked no later than Monday, February 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, ATTN: Geologist.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Marty, Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, (760) 337-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Mesquite Mine began operations under an approved plan of operations during 1985. Since this time, several expansions and plan modifications have occurred, which are summarized within the approved Mesquite Mine consolidated plan of operations dated October, 1995. According to the Code of Federal Regulations found at Title 43 CFR 3809.1-7, a significant modification of an approved plan must be reviewed and approved by the authorized officer (i.e., BLM) in the same manner as the initial plan. Pursuant to Title 43 CFR 3809.1-7, Newmont has submitted a plan of operations for their proposed mine expansion for approval by the Bureau of Land Management.

This plan modification is now under review by the BLM and other Federal, State and local agencies. The public may review this document at the BLM, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, or at the Imperial County Planning Department, 939 Main Street, Suite B-1, El Centro, CA 92243.

The expansion would allow the company to continue extracting and processing economical gold deposits, delineated by drilling programs initiated during 1988 and continuing to date. Current ore reserves would be depleted by the end of year 2000, while expansion would increase the mine life a projected seven years into year 2006. The plan modification proposes to process approximately 60 million tons of ore and 180 million tons of waste rock by the expansion of two existing pits: the Big Chief and Rainbow open pits. The pit expansions would encompass approximately 300 acres of Federal, State and private (patented) land, of which 150 acres would be new land disturbance. The plan amendment also describes expansion of an existing heap leach facility on approximately 70 acres of private land to accommodate the new leach material; alternative methods for storage of waste rock, either in existing mined-out open pits, at new or expanded out-of-pit storage areas, or

a combination of both; and construction of ancillary facilities including roads, fencing and drainage diversions.

Dated: December 18, 1998.

Thomas Zale,

Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-34248 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Meeting Notice

SUMMARY: The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Boise to discuss implementation of standards and guidelines for administering livestock grazing, the 1999 Payette River Recreation Fee Demonstration Project, and other issues.

DATES: February 9, 1999. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM. Public comment periods will be held at 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the Lower Snake River District Office, located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry Rose, Lower Snake River District Office (208-384-3393).

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Katherine Kitchell,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-34190 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV 910 0777 30]

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting Location and Time

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Councils' 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 meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda for the February 4, 1999 meeting includes: approval of minutes of the previous meeting, Standards and Guidelines for wild horses, pinyon-juniper, mining and recreation, Wilderness Study Areas, 3809 draft mining regulations update,