

Alternative in the ROD based on concerns for impacts on water quality from acid generating material. The Board further recognized that while concerns regarding impacts from alkaline conditions may be legitimate, those concerns were not sufficiently stated in the ROD or the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) so as to serve as the principal basis for complete rejection of the alternative (145 IBLA at 374). The Board remanded that portion of the ROD and directed BLM to reconsider the backfill alternative.

The BLM has conducted the analysis directed by the Board, summarized in a memorandum dated January 25, 1999, from the Moab Field Office to the Utah State Director. While the FEIS and ROD contained analyses of multiple complex geochemical and geohydrologic technical issues, the re-analysis of data summarized in this memorandum confirmed BLM's concerns expressed in the FEIS and ROD that potential alkaline conditions in the post-mining pit lakes could mobilize and transport metal oxyanions from mine waste material utilized as pit backfill material into underlying groundwater at the mine site. The data indicates that such mobilization and transport has a significant likelihood of adversely impacting groundwater quality and violating acceptable water quality standards.

As reflected in the FEIS and ROD, the BLM retains the authority to further analyze backfilling if the results of required life-of-the-mine waste rock sampling and hydrologic testing reveals additional adverse impacts not foreseen or predicted in the EIS, and/or indicates that the potential impact of metal oxyanion mobilization and transport associated with backfilling is overestimated. Any additional consideration of backfilling, and potential changes in environmental consequences resulting from such action, would be subject to additional analysis under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Based on the re-analysis of data as directed by IBLA and the conclusion that BLM's rationale for rejecting the backfill alternative was sound and reasoned, BLM has determined that no modifications or changes are required in the ROD. Furthermore, since none of the data or additional analyses performed to date identify environmental impacts not previously identified in the FEIS, no additional analysis is warranted under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

This Notice of Final Decision is BLM's final decision regarding the

approval of the Lisbon Valley Copper Project pursuant to direction given by the Board in its September 23, 1998, decision, to reconsider the Backfill Alternative. The Moab Field Office memorandum of January 25, 1999, is available at the Moab Field Office of the BLM at 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532, (435-259-6111).

DATES: Parties adversely affected by this Notice of Final Decision have until March 10, 1999, to file a Notice of Appeal (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). The decision to approve the mining operation in relation to the original decision regarding rejection of the Open Pit Backfill Alternative is in full force and effect, effective on the date of this publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (43 CFR 3809.4(f)). A petition for a stay of the decision may be filed in accordance with the above cited regulations.

ADDRESSES: A Notice of Appeal should be addressed to: Bill Lamb, Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 45155, 324 South State Street, Room 301, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Jackson, Project Coordinator, Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah, 84532, (435) 259-6111.

Dated: February 1, 1999.

Brad Palmer,

Associate Moab Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 99-2856 Filed 2-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-09-1010-00-1784]

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; Resource Advisory Council meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet at Ridgway State Park, Colorado.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southwest Center, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The March 11, 1999, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Ridgway State Park Headquarters (Dutch Charlie entrance) approximately 21 miles south of Montrose or five miles north of Ridgway on U.S. Highway 550. The agenda will include discussions on Colorado water rights and the Black Canyon National Monument's reserved water right, and an update on the North Fork Coal EIS. Public comment is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

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. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Southwest Center Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the Southwest Center Office and on the Internet at http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo_sw_rac.htm and are available for public inspection and reproduction within thirty (30) days following each meeting.

Dated: January 29, 1999.

Roger Alexander,

Public Affairs Specialist.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-200-09-1020-00]

Science Advisory Board; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a public meeting of the Science Advisory Board to examine the use of science for improving the management of the Nation's public land and resources. Topics of discussion will include the BLM's National Applied Resource Sciences Center, research needs for integrated weed management, and research associated with population management of wild horses and burros.

DATES: BLM will hold the public meeting on Thursday, March 4, 1999, from 11 am to 5 pm, local time.

ADDRESSES: BLM will hold the public meeting in the Nevada Room C-204 of the Bureau of Land Management's National Training Center (NTC), 9828 N

31st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.
Receptionist, (602) 906-5500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Jauhola, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street, NW, LSB-204, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 452-7761.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in accordance with section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463).

I. The Agenda for the Public Meeting Is as Follows

- 11:00 am Welcome, introductions
Review Minutes of Previous Meeting
Report from Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (Acting)
- 11:30 am Report from the Bureau of Land Management
- 12:00 Noon Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee
Immuno-contraceptive Study
Population modeling for genetic viability
- 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm National Applied Resource Sciences Center
- 2:30 pm Research Needs Review and Budget Process
- 3:30 pm Science Needs for Integrated Weeds Management
- 4:30 pm Public Comments
- 4:45 pm Next Meeting and Other Items
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

II. Public Comment Procedures

Participation in the public meeting is not a prerequisite for submittal of written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on BLM's use of science are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analyses of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, commenters should submit two copies of their written comments, where practicable. BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, we intend to make them available in their entirety, including your name and address (or your e-mail address if you file electronically). However, if you do not want us to release your name and address (or e-mail address) in response

to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your wish to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations of businesses, will be released in their entirety, including names and addresses (or e-mail addresses).

Electronic Access and Filing Address:

Commenters may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: cjauhola@wo.blm.gov. Please include the identifier "Science3" in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

III. Accessibility

The meeting sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the hearing, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled hearing date. Although BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Dated: February 2, 1999.

Christine A. Jauhola,

Group Manager, Fish, Wildlife and Forest Group.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-1430-00; NMNM 96531 & NMNM 98501]

Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; New Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of realty action; R&PP Act classification.

SUMMARY: The following public land in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, has been examined and found suitable for classification for conveyance to the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico, and the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico, under the provisions of the R&PP Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Sunland Park has made

application to acquire 138.88 acres (Parcel 1) of public land to be used for recreational purposes. The Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces has made application to acquire 67.10 acres (Parcel 2) of public land to maintain an existing path that leads to a religious shrine, develop rest stops and picnic areas, add shrines/prayer stops, and preserve the remaining pristine qualities of the area.

Parcel 1

T. 29 S., R. 4 E., NMPM
Sec. 17, Lots 6 to 9, inclusive,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
Containing 138.88 acres, more or less.

Parcel 2

T. 29 S., R. 4 E., NMPM
Sec. 16, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 17, Lot 7, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
Containing 67.60 acres, more or less.

The land is difficult and uneconomic to manage and is not required for any other Federal purpose. The classification and subsequent conveyance is consistent with the Las Cruces Field Office's Mimbres Resource Management Plan of December, 1993, and would be in the public interest.

DATES: Comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance or classification must be submitted on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juan Padilla, at the address above or at (505) 525-4376.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The patents when issued will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the R&PP Act and all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under application of law and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

4. The conveyance will be subject to all valid rights and reservations of record. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for conveyance under the R&PP Act and leasing under the mineral