

Meetings

BLM will conduct scoping meetings on the following dates at the specified locations:

- May 13—Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park, 303 N. River Drive, Spokane, WA
- May 13—Colorado Room, Holiday Inn, 14707 W. Colfax Ave., Golden, CO
- May 15—Pioneer Room, Carleson Center, 2010 Second Ave., Fairbanks, AK
- May 15—Park Suite, Best Western Executive Park Hotel, 1100 North Central, Phoenix, AZ
- May 20—Silver Legacy, 407 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV
- May 22—Pan American Room, Capitol Hilton, 16th and K Streets, NW, Washington, DC
- May 28—Colonial Inn, 2301 Colonial Way, Helena, MT

BLM will conduct separate afternoon and evening meetings at each location, except for the Washington, DC location where we will hold only an afternoon meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. BLM will hold the afternoon meetings from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time and the evening meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. local time at each location. In Helena, the afternoon meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.; in Fairbanks, the afternoon meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting sites for the public scoping meeting are accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who needs an accommodation to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in alternative format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although BLM will attempt to meet a request received after this date, the requested accommodation may not be available.

II. Background and Discussion of Information Solicited

In a memorandum dated January 6, 1997, the Secretary of the Interior directed BLM to revise and update its Surface Management regulations (43 CFR part 3809) for operations under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22 *et seq.*). This is a resumption of a rules revision effort that commenced in 1991, but was suspended in 1993 without publication of proposed rules, pending Congressional action that would have amended the Mining Law. Any regulatory changes would have been superseded and possibly incompatible with such legislative reform.

While the proposal to undertake comprehensive revisions to the Surface

Management regulations was on hold, BLM did move forward to complete and implement specific Surface Management regulatory revisions, including the following final rules: Use and Occupancy of Mining Claims (July 16, 1996, 61 FR 37116), and Bonding (February 28, 1997, 62 FR 9093).

In the Secretary's direction to the BLM, he identified several areas of concern with the existing regulations. These include:

Definition of "unnecessary or undue degradation." BLM contemplates revising the definition to more clearly require the use of "best available technology and practices," local or State "best management practices," or other similar technology-based standards appropriate in the conduct of hardrock mining.

Mining and reclamation performance standards. BLM currently does not have detailed performance addressing such areas as revegetation, contouring, and hydrology in the Surface Management regulations.

Notice level operations. For many hardrock mining operations that disturb 5 acres or less, the existing Surface Management regulations do not require advance approval of a plan of operations by BLM. Instead, an operator must provide BLM a "notice" which completely describes the operation and measures to protect the environment at least 15 calendar days before beginning activities on the site (43 CFR 3809.1-3). The task force is expected to propose at least three alternative ways of addressing this issue. One alternative would be to require all those intending to conduct mining to submit a plan of operations and receive BLM's approval before commencing operations (elimination of notice-level operations). A second alternative would be to narrow the scope of the notice provision; for example in areas of environmental sensitivity an operator planning to disturb 5 acres or less would have to submit a plan of operations and receive BLM's approval before commencing operations. A third alternative would be to tighten up the current notice provisions to better protect the environment, such as by requiring more information from an operator, allowing BLM more time to review a notice, and providing greater penalties for not meeting the requirements of the notice provisions.

Coordination with State regulatory programs. To ensure that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's purpose of avoiding unnecessary or undue degradation is achieved, BLM would adopt rules that would minimize

duplication and promote cooperation among regulators.

Issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS include impacts to:

Air and water resources;
Soils, vegetation, and topography;
Threatened and endangered species;
Cultural resources;
Fish and wildlife;
Exploration and mining activities; and
Local and regional economies.

Dated: March 31, 1997.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 97-8601 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

[AZ-950-57-77; AZA 28900]

Public Land Order No. 7251; Withdrawal of National Forest System Lands for State Highway 87 Roadside Zone; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws 7,550 acres of National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for 20 years to protect the State Highway 87 Roadside Zone. The lands have been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 4, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cliff Yardley, BLM Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, 602-417-9437.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described National Forest System lands are hereby withdrawn from location and entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1988)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, to protect the scenic values of the State Highway 87 Roadside Zone:

Gila and Salt River Meridian

Tonto National Forest

T. 7 N., R. 9 E.,

Sec. 1, W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 12, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 8 N., R. 9 E.,

Sec. 36, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 8 N., R. 10 E.,

Sec. 5, lot 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 7, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 8, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 17, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 18, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 20, W $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 29, W $\frac{1}{2}$, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 31, lot 3, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 32, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 9 N., R. 10 E.,
 Sec. 3, lots 3 and 4, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 4, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 5, lots 1 and 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 8, N $\frac{1}{2}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 9, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 10, NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 S. 16, N $\frac{1}{2}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 9 N., R. 10 E.,
 Sec. 17, W $\frac{1}{2}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 20, N $\frac{1}{2}$;
 S. 32, W $\frac{1}{2}$.
 T. 10 N., R. 10 E.,
 Sec. 9, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 16, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 21, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$.
 T. 10 N., R. 10 E.,
 Sec. 22, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 28, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 33, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The areas described aggregate 7,550 acres in Gila County.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those land laws governing the use of the National Forest System lands under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of their mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 20 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1988), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 97-8627 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

[NV-930-1430-01; N-59269]

Realty Action: Sale of Public Lands in Nye County, Nevada, by Noncompetitive Sale Procedures

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management; Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the District Manager, Battle Mountain Field

Office, 50 Bastian Road, P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.

SUMMARY: The following described land in Nye County, Nevada, has been examined and identified as suitable for disposal by direct sale, at the appraised fair market value, under Section 203 and Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719).

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 7 S., R. 44 E.,

Sec. 33, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Comprising 5 acres, more or less.

The lands will be sold to the adjacent land owner, John R. Wellborn. The lands are hereby classified for disposal in accordance with Executive Order 6910 and the Act of June 28, 1934, as amended. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Craggett, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, at (702) 635-4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The land has been identified as suitable for disposal by the Esmeralda/Southern Nye Resource Management Plan. The land is not needed for any resource program and is not suitable for management by the Bureau or another Federal department or agency.

The locatable and salable mineral estates have been determined to have no known value. Therefore, the mineral estate, excluding leasable minerals, will be conveyed simultaneously with the surface estate in accordance with section 209(b)(1) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Acceptance of the sale offer will constitute application for conveyance of the available mineral interests. The sale proponent will be required to submit a \$50.00 nonrefundable filing fee for conveyance of the mineral interests specified above with the purchase price for the land. Failure to submit the nonrefundable fee for the mineral estate within the time frame specified by the authorized officer will result in cancellation of the sale.

Upon publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws or disposals pursuant to Sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA. The segregation shall terminate upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance, upon publication in the **Federal Register** of a

termination of segregation, or 270 days from date of this publication, whichever occurs first.

The patent, when issued, will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);
2. Leasable minerals (43 CFR 2430.5(a));

And will be subject to:

1. Those rights for highway purposes granted to the Nevada Department of Transportation, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way Nev-066116, pursuant to the Act of August 27, 1958;
2. Those rights for powerline purposes granted to Valley Electric Association, its successors or assigns, by right-of-way Nev-066116, pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1911; and
3. All other valid existing rights.

Should the sale proponent not purchase the parcel, the lands may remain for sale, over the counter, at the appraised fair market value, until the segregation terminates 270 days from publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**. Interested parties may inquire about the parcel at the Bureau of Land Management, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Adverse comments submitted during the 45-day comment period will be evaluated by the State Director, who may sustain, vacate or modify this realty action and issue a final determination. In the absence of timely filed objections, this realty action will become a final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

Gerald M. Smith,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-8600 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

[CO-956-97-1420-00]

Colorado: Filing of Plats of Survey

March 27, 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., March 27, 1997. All inquiries should be sent to the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

The plat representing the retracement of a portion of the Colorado-New Mexico boundary and the dependent resurvey of a portion of the Eighth Standard Parallel North (north