

**Natomas Basin Conservancy Activities Open to Public Review**

All pertinent proceedings of the Natomas Basin Conservancy will be open to public review. This includes such activities as meetings, selection of lands for acquisition for the reserve system, and development of management and monitoring plans for reserve lands. There are likely to be certain exceptions to these provisions because of confidentiality issues in dealing with private landowners and other exceptions as provided by State or Federal law, but it is the intention of the HCP and the Conservancy to allow public scrutiny of its activities and decisions to the maximum extent practicable.

The Environmental Assessment for the Natomas Basin HCP considers the environmental consequences of four alternatives. Alternative 1, the proposed action, consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit to the City of Sacramento and implementation of the HCP and its Implementing Agreement. This alternative is preferred because it satisfies the purpose and needs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Sacramento, and the impacts of urbanization are minimized and mitigated by the establishment of habitat reserves. Alternative 2 proposes a variable mitigation ratio in which landowners with documented occurrences of covered species or "high quality" habitat would be required to compensate at a higher ratio than landowners with no documented occurrences of covered species or "poor quality" habitat. Alternative 3 is similar to the proposed action except that the minimum percentage of mitigation lands to be maintained as managed marsh habitat (as opposed to rice farm habitat) would increase from 25 to 50 percent. Under Alternative 4, the no action alternative, the Service would not issue an incidental take permit and development within the Natomas Basin would occur with individual development projects mitigating for their impacts independently in an unstructured manner.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are

met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: June 12, 1997.

**Don Weathers,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 97-15920 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Geological Survey****Notice To Accept Contribution From Private Sources**

**AGENCY:** United States Geological Survey, Interior.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Geological Survey is accepting a \$5000 contribution from the National Stone Association toward student support and project expenses related to studies of aggregate resources and urban growth issues in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area.

**INQUIRES:** If any other parties are interested in making contributions for the same or similar purposes, please contact Mr. Gilpin R. Robinson, Jr. of the U.S. Geological Survey, Eastern Mineral Resources Team, Mail Stop 954, Reston, Virginia 20192; telephone (703) 648-6113; e-mail grobinso@usgs.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: June 9, 1997.

**P. Patrick Leahy,**

*Chief, Geologic Division.*

[FR Doc. 97-15968 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Indian Affairs****Land Acquisitions**

**ACTION:** Re-proposed Information Collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposal for renewal of the collection of information, as required under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of May 22, 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) and OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 18, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and suggestions on the renewal should be made directly to the bureau clearance officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Management and Administration, 1849 C Street, NW., MS-4657-MIB, Washington, DC 20240 and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (076-0100), Washington, DC, 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to Larry E. Scrivner, Chief, Division of Real Estate Services, Office of Trust Responsibilities, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW., MS-4510-MIB, Washington, DC 20240, telephone (202) 208-7737.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The Secretary of the Interior has statutory authority to acquire lands in trust status for individual Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes. The Secretary requests written information in order to make a determination. The information is not in any special form but it must identify the party(ies) involved and describe the land in question. Respondents are Native American tribes or individuals who request the acquisition of real property for trust status. The Secretary also requests additional information necessary to satisfy those pertinent factors listed in 25 CFR 151.10 or 151.11.

**II. Method of Collection**

No specific form is used, but respondents supply information and data so that the Secretary may make an evaluation and determination in accordance with established Federal factors, rules and policies.

**III. Data**

*OMB approval number:* 1076-0100.

*Agency Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* State or local governments, individual Indians or tribes.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* Approximately 9,200 per annum nationwide.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 4 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden hours:* 36,800.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$736,000.

*Description of respondents:* Native American tribes and individuals

desiring acquisition of lands in trust status.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

*Bureau clearance officer:* James McDivitt (202) 208-4474.

Dated: June 5, 1997.

**Ada E. Deer,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-15951 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-962-1020-00]

##### Notice of Availability for the Montana/Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (standards and guidelines) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses three alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative (continuation of current management), Alternative 2 is the Preferred Alternative (the proposed standards and guidelines), and Alternative 3 analyzes the Fallback standards and guidelines. Based on written and oral comments received on the Draft and Supplement to the Draft EIS, Alternative 2 was selected as the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative would be incorporated into 10 BLM land use plans in Montana and

the Dakotas. The Standards and Guidelines Final EIS was made available to the public on June 6, 1997. This Notice announces a 30-day protest period and provides information on the protest procedures.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandy Brooks, Project Manager, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, or 406-255-2929.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM's Director. Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Preferred Alternative may protest such approval. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues which were commented on during the planning process. New issues may be raised at any time but should be directed to the Montana State Office for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate.

The protest period extends for 30 days, starting from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. Protests may be filed in writing to: Director (WO-210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Preferred Alternative being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the final EIS.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the discussion date of the issue(s) for the record.

5. A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records (i.e., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the BLM may issue a Record of Decision approving the implementation of any portions of the preferred alternative not under protest. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until the protest has been resolved.

Dated: June 12, 1997.

**Thomas P. Lonnie,**

*Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.*

[FR Doc. 97-15921 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-N-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-1990-09]

##### Elko District, Nevada

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a mining Plan of Operations for Newmont Gold Company in Eureka County, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR Part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third-party contractor on the impacts of a proposed Plan of Operations for gold mining by Newmont Gold Company, in Eureka County, Nevada. The Bureau invites comments on the scope of the analysis.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** A scoping meeting will be held July 9, 1997 at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko District Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko NV, to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Representatives of Newmont Gold Company will be available to answer questions about the