

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

Plan of Operations. Additional scoping meetings may be held as appropriate. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until July 18, 1997.

A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected to be completed by the spring of 1998 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a notice of availability of the DEIS will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 60 days from the date the notice of availability is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801. ATTN: South Operations Area Project Amendment EIS Coordinator. For additional information, write to the above address or call Roger Congdon at (702) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Newmont Gold Company of Carlin, Nevada has submitted a Plan of Operations to expand and continue their Gold Quarry open pit mine, located approximately six miles northwest of the town of Carlin. The mine and associated facilities are located in portions of Sections 22, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 34 North, Range 51 East, Sections 29, 31, and 32 of Township 34 North, Range 52 East, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 33 North, Range 51 East, and Sections 6 and 7 of Township 33 North, Range 52 East, MDM. Newmont developed the Gold Quarry open pit mine in 1980, when it was known as the Maggie Creek pit. It is currently permitted through the year 2001. The proposal is to continue operations at the Gold Quarry mine; expand existing waste rock dumps, and continue dewatering operations through the year 2013. Existing and approved operations have been analyzed through the year 2001 for impacts to 2,047 acres of public land and 5,913 acres of private land. Part of the proposed operation would be confined to previously disturbed areas. Additional surface disturbance is anticipated on approximately 855 acres of public land and 465 acres of private land. The issues expected to be analyzed in the EIS include potential impacts to ground water availability and quality, wildlife, pit water quality, and cultural resources. Cumulative impacts will also be addressed. In addition, the following resources will be analyzed: recreation and wilderness, geology, paleontology, air quality, soils, vegetation, range management, lands and realty, visual resources, land use

planning, social and economic values, and hazardous materials. The analysis will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team.

A range of alternatives (including but not limited to alternative reclamation measures and the no-action alternative) will be developed to address the issues. Mitigating measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands. Federal, state and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the Bureau's decision on the Plan of Operations are invited to participate in the scoping process with respect to this environmental impact statement. These entities and individuals are also invited to submit comments on the DEIS.

It is important that those interested in the Plan of Operations participate in the scoping and commenting process. Comments should be as specific as possible.

The tentative project schedule is as follows:

Begin Public Comment Period—June 1997.

Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement—Spring of 1998.

File Final Environmental Impact Statement—Autumn of 1998.

Record of Decision—Autumn of 1998.
Begin Permitted Operation—Winter of 1998/1999.

The Bureau of Land Management's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) Identification of viable alternatives; (3) Notification of interested groups, individuals and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues, or other additional issues, can be obtained.

Dated: June 11, 1997.

Helen Hankins,

Elko District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-15919 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management—Interior

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Boise to finalize standards and guidelines for managing livestock grazing on Idaho public lands and to

develop comments on the U.S. Air Force's Enhanced Training in Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: July 7, 1997. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Public comment periods will be held beginning at 9:30 am and 3:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The Lower Snake River District Office is located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

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

Dated: June 12, 1997.

Barry Rose,

Public Affairs Specialist.

[FR Doc. 97-15922 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-931-1430-01; AA-17987]

Public Land Order No. 7269; Partial Revocation of Executive Order No. 3406, Dated February 13, 1921; Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order partially revokes an Executive order insofar as it affects approximately 99 acres of public land withdrawn for use by the Coast Guard, Department of Transportation for the Inner Iliasik Island Lighthouse reserve. The land is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was withdrawn. The land will continue to be withdrawn as part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, as established and designated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 18, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shirley J. Macke, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue, No. 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599, 907-271-5477.

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 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Executive Order No. 3406, dated February 13, 1921, which reserved public land on Inner Iliasik Island for lighthouse purposes, is hereby revoked insofar as it affects the following described land:

Seward Meridian

T. 59 S., R. 83 W.,

Located within sec. 30, that part of the southern end of the island lying south of