

Exemptions from this closure may be approved by the Authorized Officer. Exemptions may be approved for federal, state, and local government personnel on official duty, emergency service personnel including medical, search and rescue, and other licensed or permitted individuals.

The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8364-1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Paula Perletti, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Shoshone Resource Area, P.O. Box 2-B, Shoshone Idaho 83352, telephone (208) 886-2206.

Dated: July 7, 1997.

Bill A. Baker,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20087 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-1020]

Notice of Public Involvement and Scoping Opportunities for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: The Utah Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is seeking public, agency and tribal involvement in the preparation of the GSENM Management Plan, through a series of public planning workshops/scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Land Management Act (FLMPA), National Environmental Policy Act, Presidential Proclamation 6920 and Part 43, Section 1600 of Code of Federal Regulations, the Bureau of Land Management Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is seeking public involvement through various means including the hosting of a series of planning workshops in order to inform the public of Monument values and to understand public views, concerns and ideas regarding possibilities for management and the future of the GSENM.

ADDRESSES: Questions or concerns regarding the planning workshops/scoping meetings and schedules should be addressed to Pete Wilkins, Planning Coordinator, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Planning Office, Bureau of Land Management, 337 South

Main Street, Suite 010, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Wilkins, Planning Coordinator at the above address or by phone at (801) 865-5100, E-Mail at p1wilkin@ut.blm.gov., or fax to (801) 865-5170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was established on September 18, 1996 by Presidential Proclamation 6920. As stated in the Proclamation, a management plan would be prepared pursuant to existing authorities, mainly FLPMA and the National Environmental Policy Act. In accordance with these authorities, the Bureau of Land Management is seeking the comments, concerns and views of all individuals, groups, organizations, agencies and American Indian Tribal Governments that may have an interest in the GSENM. As such, the GSENM, is announcing a series of planning workshops/scoping meetings through out Utah and other western states as well as in Washington D.C.

The purpose of these meetings is to inform the public of some of the important values within the Monument as well as some of directives and guidelines that were established within Proclamation 6920. These workshops are also designed to gather ideas, concerns and opportunities regarding possible management of the GSENM. Additionally, these workshops will help the monument staff identify appropriate issues and alternatives to be addressed within the associated GSENM Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The schedule and location of these Workshop Events is as follows:

All workshops will begin at 7:00 p.m. Big Water, UT, Big Water Town Hall,

August 12, 1997

Escalante, UT, Community Center,

August 14, 1997

Orderville, UT, Valley High School

Little Theater, August 19, 1997

Kanab, UT, Kanab High School, August 21, 1997

Cedar City, UT, SUU Sharwan Smith Center, August 26, 1997

Tropic, UT, Bryce Valley High School Auditorium, August 27, 1997

Panguitch, UT, Panguitch High School, August 28, 1997

Salt Lake City, UT, Division of Natural Resources Auditorium, 1594 W.

North Temple, September 2, 1997

Las Vegas, NV, Cashman Field Center, 850 Las Vegas Blvd. N. @

Washington Ave., September 4,

1997

Flagstaff, AZ, Woodlands Plaza Hotel, 1175 W. Route 66, September 16,

1997

Lakewood, CO, Sheraton West, 360 Union Blvd., September 30, 1997
 Santa Fe, NM, Santa Fe Community College, 6401 South Richards Ave, October 2, 1997
 San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street, October 9, 1997
 Moab, UT, Moab Valley Inn, 711 S. Main, October 14, 1997
 Washington, D.C., Location to be announced, October 16, 1997

Dated: July 7, 1997.

A. J. Meredith,

Monument Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20228 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Amended Notice

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the County of Kem, State of California have extended the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Soledad Mountain Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public and private lands in Kem County, California.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked no later than August 11, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California, 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator (760) 384-5421.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings were held on: Tues. June 24, 1997 and Wed. June 25, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Draft EIR/EIS is to present BLM and Kem County's comparative analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the physical, biological, social and economic resources of the area. The Proposed Action is a mining proposal to extract minerals from the subsurface, process the ore using chemical leaching methods and place the waste rock adjacent to the processing and mining areas. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include variations on the duration of operations and placement of waste rock. After careful consideration

of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issues raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, **Federal Register** notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

A **Federal Register** notice was published on June 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 105) Page 29736 to announce the public meeting dates and comment period schedules.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Lee Delaney,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20139 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1990-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Soledad Mountain Project, CA

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the County of Kern, State of California are extending the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Soledad Mountain Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public and private lands in Kern County, California.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement must

be postmarked no later than August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California, 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator (760) 385-5421.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings were held on: June 24 and June 25 at Rosamond and Mojave, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Draft EIR/EIS is to present BLM and Kern County's comparative analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the physical, biological, social and economic resources of the area. The Proposed Action is a mining proposal to extract minerals from the subsurface, process the ore using chemical leaching methods and place the waste rock adjacent to the processing and mining areas. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include variations on the duration of operations and placement of waste rock. After careful consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issued raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, federal register notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

Five alternatives to the Proposed Action are analyzed in detail: (1) No

Action, (2) Increased Mining and Processing Rate, (3) Decreased Mining and Processing Rate, (4) Reduced Project Size, and (5) Partial Backfilling.

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A **Federal Register** notice was published on June 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 105) Page 29736 to announce the public meeting dates and comment period schedules.

Lee Delaney,

Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20201 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1990-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1220-00]

Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for the Bakersfield District will meet in Bridgeport, California.

DATES: August 15-16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Bridgeport Elementary School, 205 Kingsley Street.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12 member Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. The Council will meet on Friday and Saturday, August 15-16, 1997, beginning at 8:00 a.m. both days. Agenda items include election of officers, a plan to set priorities for the expenditure of range improvement funds, an update on the proposal to trade federal oil leases for the Headwaters forest, a discussion of RS-2477 rights of way, reports on the role of fire in native plant and deer herd management, an update on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Healthy Rangelands initiative, and an update on the status of proposed recreation fees for BLM lands. There will be a field trip Friday afternoon to Bodie State Historic Park. A public