

amendments were processed by the DSL and BLM between 1983 and 1990.

In 1988 GSM applied for a major expansion of operations (Amendment 008). Following completion of a mitigated Environmental Assessment in 1990, GSM was authorized to proceed with the expansion. Amendment 008 included 31 stipulations attached to the Decision Record for the EA. These stipulations were designed to address a variety of environmental issues developed in the EA. This decision was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) by several environmental groups in 1990. In 1993 the IBLA ruled largely in favor of the agencies. In 1992 these same groups appealed the approval of Amendment 008 in Montana State court. On September 1, 1994, the District Court Judge ruled that DSL must prepare an EIS for the impacts associated with Amendment 008. Following the court ruling the plaintiffs, GSM, and DSL negotiated a Settlement Agreement that allowed mining to continue until the completion of an EIS.

In compliance with the District Court Decision, the agencies began preparation of an EIS in 1995.

Total disturbance is approximately 2,336 acres at this time. Under the proposed action the mine's permitted disturbance would expand to include an additional 517 acres of GSM land, 75 acres of BLM-administered land, and 35 acres of school trust (state) land. Operations would continue until approximately 2006.

The Golden Sunlight mine is a conventional truck-and-shovel open-pit mine. Approximately 60,000 to 70,000 tons of rock are excavated per day, totaling approximately 22 million tons per year. Only 2.5 million tons of this total are ore, the remainder being waste rock. Approximately 320 million tons of waste have been placed in waste rock dumps. The ore is processed in a vat cyanide process. Gold-bearing cyanide solutions are treated by carbon adsorption to recover the gold. The recovered gold is ultimately returned to solution for electrowinning onto steel wool, which is then smelted down to recover gold as doré. Following processing, the mill stream is piped as a slurry to Impoundment II, a lined tailings impoundment. Impoundment I, an unlined facility which did experience some leakage in the early 1980s and corrected through a series of pumpback wells, is currently undergoing the early stages of reclamation.

Proposed reclamation of the waste rock dumps includes a mix of 2h:1v and 3h:1v slopes. Because the waste rock at

GSM has high potential for "acid rock drainage" or low pH runoff/effluent, effective reclamation of these wastes is crucial to limiting the reactions that produce acid rock drainage. The reclamation plan calls for a cover system that includes approximately 24 inches of neutral waste rock and 19 to 24 inches of cover soil. Extensive monitoring of several slopes reclaimed since 1990 to 1992 has helped the mine and the agencies determine what reclamation practices have been most effective. Surface water management is another critical factor in reclamation success and is an important part of the reclamation plan. Long-term water treatment is an integral part of the mine plan. GSM has posted a total bond of approximately 38 million dollars to cover reclamation costs.

A Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1995. A public scoping meeting was conducted on October 17, 1995, to solicit comments for the scope of the EIS. Written comments were accepted through November 10, 1995.

Dated: November 5, 1997.

Merle Good,

Headwaters Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-30133 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

[CO-030-5101-00-YCKD; COC-51280]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplement to a Final Environmental Impact Statement; Colorado and New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, USDI, and Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice; Intent to prepare a supplement to a Final Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of scoping with a public comment period.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is initiating the preparation of a Supplement (supplement) to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the TransColorado Gas Transmission Company (TransColorado) pipeline project on federal lands in Colorado and New Mexico. TransColorado is the

proponent. Lands managed by the BLM in the Montrose, Craig, and Grand Junction Districts in Colorado, and the Farmington District in New Mexico, and the USFS in the Uncompahgre and San Juan National Forests, Colorado, are crossed by the TransColorado pipeline project. The supplement will address the environmental impacts of the construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimate abandonment of known proposed route changes and minor realignments (less than 100 ft.) of portions the approved pipeline and right-of-way (ROW) grant COC-51280, and the impacts of the proposed construction and use of known additional temporary work areas adjacent to the approved ROW or, proposed ROW route changes or minor realignments. The supplement will also address the impacts of the construction, operation, maintenance and ultimate abandonment of several ROW route changes or realignments, and the construction and use of several alternative temporary work areas in unspecified locations. These unspecified temporary work areas and ROW route changes or minor realignments will be addressed in the supplement to accommodate conditions that might be encountered during construction. Cumulative affects of potential future gas supply facilities, such as gas supply pipeline laterals will be addressed. The FEIS is not being re-opened nor re-analyzed, nor are the decisions in the FEIS being reconsidered. Any comments addressing issues analyzed in the FEIS will not be considered. Please focus any comments on the proposed action of the supplement to the FEIS.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed action will be accepted until December 15, 1997. The comment period on the draft supplement to the FEIS will be 45 days from the notice of availability, published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Any comments relative to the proposed action described in this notice should be sent to Bill Bottomly, TransColorado Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Bottomly (970) 240-5337, Ilyse Auringer (970) 385-1341, or Steve Hemphill (970) 874-6633.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After preparing a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement in 1992, the BLM and the USFS issued Records of Decision on December 1, 1992, approving the authorization of a

ROW grant and an adjacent Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for subsequent construction, operation and maintenance of the 292 mile-long TransColorado Gas Transmission pipeline from Meeker, Colorado to Bloomfield, New Mexico. Under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by the Act of November 16, 1973 (37 Stat. 567), the BLM issued a 50 foot-wide ROW grant on December 4, 1997, accompanied by a 25 foot-wide TUP, excepting 1.7 miles near Grand Junction, Colorado. The FERC issued TransColorado a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on June 3, 1994. TransColorado completed the 22.5 mile Phase I of the project in December, 1996. The proponent is now prepared to construct the remainder of the pipeline during 1998. TransColorado is requesting approval of additional temporary work areas to construct the pipeline, and is requesting that the existing ROW be amended to accommodate the proposed route changes and minor realignments (less than 100 ft). Public meetings or open houses may be conducted during the comment period to gather comments from the public prior to preparation of the supplement. Public notice of locations, dates, and times of any meetings to be held will be provided. Maps and plats of the project are available for public review at the following offices of the BLM and USFS: the Grand Junction District Office, the Montrose District Office, the Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison National Forest Office, the San Juan National Forest/San Juan Resource Area office, and the Farmington District Office. The level of public interest in the issues of the supplement to the FEIS will determine if additional meetings will be held.

Dated: November 7, 1997.

Phillip W. Dwyer,

Assistant District Manager, Montrose District.

Dated: November 17, 1997.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 97-30663 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-1220-00: GP8-0036]

Prineville District; John Day River, OR: Special Recreation Permits

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI), Prineville District.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that the existing moratorium on the issuance of new commercial floatboating permits for the John Day River will be extended until completion of the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The current moratorium on the issuance of new Special Recreation Permits for commercial boating use of the John Day Wild and Scenic River has been extended by Administrative Decision (dated November 12, 1997). The moratorium will remain in effect until the completion of the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The BLM is currently in the process of completing the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This plan addresses management issues within the Wild and Scenic corridor, including the desired use level of commercial floatboating. To allow the desired use level of to be determined by the planning process, application for new commercial boating permits will not be accepted until further notice.

Decisions made by the plan will direct the future availability of commercial floatboating permits for the John Day Wild and Scenic River.

The authority for this decision comes from 43 CFR 8372.0-3: Authority, 8372.1-1: Public lands, general, and 8372.3 Issuance of permits.

A more specific location of public lands covered by this notice may be obtained at the BLM Prineville District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heidi Mottl, Recreation Planner, BLM Prineville District Office, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754, telephone number (541) 416-6700.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

Donald L. Smith,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-30590 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Concession Contract Negotiations: Gateway National Recreation Area; Staten Island, Fort Wadsworth

SUMMARY: Public notice is hereby given that the National Park Service proposes to award a concession contract authorizing food service, and conference center facilities and services for the public at Fort Wadsworth within the Staten Island Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area for a period of ten (10) years from date of contract execution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should contact National Park Service, Boston Support Office, Concession Management Program, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109-3572 ATTN: Lynne Koser, Telephone (617) 223-5209, to obtain a copy of the prospectus describing the requirements of the proposed contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This contract has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

There is no existing concessioner. The Secretary will consider and evaluate all proposals received as a result of this notice. Any proposal must be received by the National Park Service, Boston Support Office, Concession Management Program, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572, not later than the sixtieth (60th) day following publication of this notice to be considered and evaluated.

Dated: November 3, 1997.

Chrysandra L. Walter,

Acting Field Director, Northeast Field Area.

[FR Doc. 97-30647 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ General Management Plan Amendment for Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino County, CA; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 81-190 as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS)