

Rebecca Hunt, 620 E. Greene St., Carlsbad, NM 88220.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Carlsbad Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Rebecca Hunt, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone (575) 234-5995; address: Carlsbad Field Office, Attention: Rebecca Hunt, 620 E. Greene St., Carlsbad, NM 88220; e-mail Rebecca_Hunt@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HB Potash, LLC, (Intrepid) is proposing to construct and operate an "in-situ" solution mining project that would involve injecting saline water into previously mined, existing potash mine workings, dissolving the potash and creating a mineral-rich solution, and pumping that solution back to the surface. This solution, called "pregnant" solution, would be routed to a solar evaporation pond system where the potassium-bearing salts would be separated out. The solid potassium-bearing salts would be harvested from the ponds and routed to a flotation plant for ore refinement. This solution mining operation would occur on or within Federal, State, and private surface lands and mineral leases. The proposed action consists of the following:

- Extracting and conditioning groundwater from four wells that draw from the Rustler Formation to create the saline water injectate;
- Injecting this saline water via six injection wells and a surface piping system into the topographically lower portion of the former underground workings;
- Extracting the pregnant brine from five extraction wells;
- Pumping the brine via a surface piping system to solar evaporation ponds;
- Harvesting precipitated potash at the solar evaporation ponds and transporting it to a new flotation mill;
- Refining the ore into a marketable product;
- Recycling the leftover sodium chloride to condition the injection source groundwater; and
- Reclaiming all project components when the ore is depleted and the infrastructure and equipment are no longer needed.

The expected lifespan of the proposed HB "In-Situ" Solution Mine Project is approximately 28 years. HB Potash, LLC, estimates the project will consume approximately 1,774 acre-feet of saline, non-potable water each year. The proposed HB "In-Situ" Solution Mine

Project is located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The area includes portions of Township 19 South, Range 30 and 31 East, Township 20 South, Ranges 29, 30 and 31 East and Township 21 South, Ranges 29 and 30 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian. The project area is located within the Carlsbad Potash Mining District and is part of the Secretary's Potash Area, designated under the 1986 Secretarial Order. The Secretarial Order was issued by the Secretary of the Interior and is titled Oil, Gas, and Potash Leasing and Development Within the Designated Potash Area of Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico, 51 FR 39425 (October 28, 1986), as corrected at 52 FR 32171 (August 26, 1987).

The proposed HB "In-Situ" Solution Mine Project area encompasses approximately 38,453 acres (60.08 square miles). The surface ownership of these lands is approximately as follows:

- *Federal Lands:* 31,439 acres.
- *State Lands:* 4,954 acres.
- *Private Lands:* 2,060 acres.

Of the 38,453-acre proposed project area, the actual extent of the open mine workings and proposed flood zone is only a small portion of the project area as follows:

- *Project Area:* 38,453 acres.
- *Targeted Open Mine Workings:* 11,100 acres.
- *Flood Zone within the Open Mine Workings:* 4,330 acres.

A number of alternatives in addition to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, will be evaluated in the EIS in accordance with NEPA. Alternatives may include consideration of conventional underground mining of remaining reserves; more extensive in-situ mining; smaller in-situ flood extent; and alternatives of the project components (e.g., pipeline burial, alternative pipeline routes, alternative water supplies, using existing facilities for ore processing, and alternative solar pond locations). The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Oil and gas resources, land subsidence, hydrology, air quality, water quality and quantity, underground mine workings, socioeconomics, migratory birds, rangeland resources, recreation and cultural resources.

You may submit comments on issues, the project as proposed, other feasible alternatives, possible mitigation measures, and any other information

relevant to the proposed action by writing to the BLM, or attending a public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Comments, including the names and addresses of the commenter, will be available for public inspection at the BLM's Carlsbad Field Office during business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will also be available to the public after each meeting and to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process required for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR § 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations also will be conducted and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Jesse Juen,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2009-N232; 91400-5110-0000-7B; 91400-9410-0000-7B]

Multistate Conservation Grant Program; Priority List for Conservation Projects

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of priority list.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announce the FY 2010 priority list of wildlife and sport fish conservation projects from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). As required by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, AFWA submits a list of projects to us each year to consider for funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program. We then review and award grants from this list.

ADDRESSES: John C. Stremple, Multistate Conservation Grants Program Coordinator, Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John C. Stremple, (703) 358-2156 (phone) or John_Stremple@fws.gov (e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Improvement Act, Pub. L. 106-408) amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 *et seq.*) and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 *et seq.*) and established the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The

Improvement Act authorizes us to award grants of up to \$3 million annually from funds available under each of the Restoration Acts, for a total of up to \$6 million annually. We may award grants from a list of priority projects recommended to us by AFWA. The FWS Director, exercising the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, need not fund all projects on the list, but all projects funded must be on the list.

Grantees under this program may use funds for sport fisheries and wildlife management and research projects, boating access development, hunter safety and education, aquatic education, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation.

To be eligible for funding, a project must benefit fish and/or wildlife conservation in at least 26 States, or in a majority of the States in any one FWS Region, or it must benefit a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. We may award grants to a State, a group of States, or one or more nongovernmental organizations. For the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, we may award grants to the FWS, if requested by AFWA, or to a State or a group of States.

Also, AFWA requires all project proposals to address its National Conservation Needs, which are announced annually by AFWA at the same time as its request for proposals. Further, applicants must provide certification that no activities conducted under a Multistate Conservation grant will promote or encourage opposition to regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or to regulated angling or taking of fish.

Eligible project proposals are reviewed and ranked by AFWA Committees and interested nongovernmental organizations that represent conservation organizations, sportsmen's organizations, and industries that support or promote fishing, hunting, trapping, recreational shooting, bowhunting, or archery. AFWA's Committee on National Grants recommends a final list of priority projects to the directors of State fish and wildlife agencies for their approval by majority vote. By statute, AFWA then must transmit the final approved list to the FWS for funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program by October 1.

This year, we received a list of 13 recommended projects. We recommend them for funding in 2010. AFWA's recommended list follows:

MSCGP 2010 CYCLE RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

ID	Title	Submitter	WR request	SFR request	Total 2009 grant request
10-007	State Fish and Wildlife Agency Director Travel Administration and Coordination.	AFWA	\$82,500.00	\$82,500.00	\$165,000.00
10-008	State Fish and Wildlife Agency Coordination and Administration.	AFWA	318,920.71	318,920.71	637,841.42
10-009	Why Do Some Anglers Not Fish Every Year, and Others Do?.	AFWA	0.00	289,536.00	289,536.00
10-011	Protect State Wildlife Agencies Authority to Sustainably Manage Wildlife Resources in Concert with Federal Actions Required by International Treaties and Conventions.	AFWA	70,125.00	70,125.00	140,250.00
10-014	Identifying and Implementing Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Natural Resources: A Series of Regional Climate Change Workshops for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies.	AFWA	60,000.00	60,000.00	120,000.00
10-016	Establishment of a National United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Liaison Biologist Position.	University of Tennessee and WMI.	405,000.00	0.00	337,500.00
10-026	Implementation of the Hunting Heritage Action Plan.	WMI	296,560.00	0.00	296,560.00
10-027	Midwest Fish Habitat Partnerships: Meeting National Fish Habitat Action Plan Goals through Development of a Coordinated Scientific Network.	MAFWA	0.00	398,000.00	398,000.00
10-025	Explore Bowhunting Education Program	ATA	266,217.30	0.00	266,217.30
10-032	Coordination of the Industry and Federal and State Agency Coalition.	AFWA	90,600.00	90,600.00	181,200.00
10-055	Formulating a Vision for Fish Health Management in Fishery Conservation: Bridging Knowledge Gaps.	MSU	0.00	480,932.00	480,932.00
10-057	Hunting Heritage Conservation Challenge Badge Initiative.	NWTF	173,300.00	0.00	173,300.00

MSCGP 2010 CYCLE RECOMMENDED PROJECTS—Continued

ID	Title	Submitter	WR request	SFR request	Total 2009 grant request
10-063	Coordination 10-063 of Farm Bill Program Implementation to Optimize Fish and Wildlife Benefits to the States.	AFWA	79,320.00	79,320.00	158,640.00
Total			1,870,433.71	1,816,825.71	3,645,476.72

Dated: November 17, 2009.

Daniel M. Ashe,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLIDB0100L14300000.ES0000 24 1A.0;
4500007763; IDI-36028]

Notice of Realty Action: Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification, Lease and Conveyance of Public Land, Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action.

SUMMARY: The City of Caldwell filed an application to purchase a 29.57-acre tract of public land under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act, as amended, to be used as a public park. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has examined the land and found it suitable to be classified for lease and/or conveyance under the provisions of the R&PP Act, as amended.

DATES: Interested parties may submit written comments regarding this proposed classification and lease or sale of this public land until February 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to Michael O'Donnell, Acting Four Rivers Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Effie Schultsmeier, Four Rivers Realty Specialist, at the above address, via e-mail at effie_schultsmeier@blm.gov, or phone (208) 384-3357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM has examined and found suitable to be classified for lease and subsequent conveyance under the provisions of the R&PP Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*), the following public land described below.

Boise Meridian

T. 3 N., R. 3 W.,

Sec. 15, lots 2 and 3.

The area described contains 29.57 acres, more or less, in Canyon County.

In accordance with the R&PP Act, the City of Caldwell filed an application to purchase the above-described property to develop as a public park. Additional detailed information pertaining to this application, plan of development, and site plans are in case file IDI 36028, located in the BLM Four Rivers Field Office at the address above. The land is not needed for any Federal purpose. Lease and subsequent sale of this land is consistent with the BLM Cascade Resource Management Plan dated July 1, 1988, as amended, and would be in the public interest. The City of Caldwell has not applied for more than 6,400 acres for recreation uses in a year, the limit set in 43 CFR 2741.7(a)(3), and has submitted a statement in compliance with the regulations at 43 CFR 2741.4(b). Any lease and subsequent sale will be subject to the provisions of the R&PP Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior. Any lease or patent of this land will also contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. Provisions of the R&PP Act, including, but not limited to, the terms required by 43 CFR 2741.9.
2. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945); and
3. All mineral deposits in the land so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

Any lease or sale will also be subject to valid existing rights; will contain any terms or conditions required by law or regulation, including, but not limited to, any terms or conditions required by 43 CFR 2741.9; and will contain an appropriate indemnification clause protecting the United States from claims arising out of the lessee's or patentee's use, occupancy, or operations on the leased or patented lands. It will also

contain any other terms or conditions deemed necessary or appropriate by the authorized officer. As of January 12, 2010, the above-described land is segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the United States mining laws, except for lease and sale under the R&PP Act.

Public Comments: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a public park. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize future uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs. Interested parties may also submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching its decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for R&PP use.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Any adverse comments on the proposed classification, lease and sale will be reviewed by the BLM Idaho State Director, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action and classification and issue a final determination. In the absence of any objections, the classification of the land described in this notice will become effective on March 15, 2010. The lands will not be available for lease and conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Michael O'Donnell,

Acting Four Rivers Field Manager.

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