

possible environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

DATES: A Record of Decision will be prepared no earlier than 30 days after the Notice of Receipt for the Final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Final EIS will be available from the Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702, telephone 406-494-5059; or the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 50620-0901, telephone 406-444-3276.

Public reading copies will be available for review at the following locations: (1) Bureau of Land Management, Office of External Affairs, Main Interior Building, Room 5600, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC; (2) Bureau of Land Management, External Affairs Office, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana; (3) Bureau of Land Management, Butte District Office, 106 North Parkmont Street; and (4) State of Montana, Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana. Text of the Final EIS will be posted at the Department of Environmental Quality Web site: www.deq.mt.gov/eis.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Hallsten, Team Leader, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901, telephone 406-444-3276; or David Williams, Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702, telephone 406-494-5059.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM) began large-scale operations to mine and process gold-bearing ore in 1982 following completion of an Environmental Impact Statement by the Montana Department of State Lands (DSL) in 1981. Several minor amendments were processed by 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 No. 2, a lined tailings impoundment. Impoundment No. 1 is an unlined facility which did experience some leakage in the early 1980s. This was corrected through a series of pumpback wells and the impoundment 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.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. 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 scoping comments were accepted through November 10, 1995. A public hearing on the Draft EIS was held in Whitehall, Montana, on January 5, 1998, and written comments on the Draft EIS were accepted until January 21, 1998. In addition to 28 oral presentations at the public hearing, approximately 289 written comments were received. All comments, written and oral, were reviewed and considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

Dated: April 2, 1998.

Merle Good,

Headwaters Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-10893 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

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

Notice of Availability of the Final Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement for a TransColorado Gas Transmission Project; Colorado and New Mexico

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of a final supplement to the Final 1992 Environmental Impact Statement TransColorado Gas Transmission Project; Colorado and New Mexico.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as lead agency, and in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) has prepared a Final Supplement (Supplement) to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the TransColorado Gas Transmission (TransColorado) Project on federal lands in Colorado and New Mexico. TransColorado Gas Transmission Company 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 addresses the environmental impacts of the construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimate abandonment of known proposed route changes and minor realignments (less than 100 ft.) of 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 also addresses the impacts of the construction of minor realignments and the construction and use of relocated or additional temporary work areas, in unspecified locations. These unspecified temporary work areas and minor realignments are addressed to accommodate conditions that might be encountered during construction. Also addressed in the Supplement are proposed modifications to several environmental protection measures contained in the 1992 Right of Way (ROW) grant and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Supplement, and the 1992 TransColorado FEIS are available for public review at the following BLM and USFS offices: BLM Grand Junction District, BLM Montrose District (Montrose District Office, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401), Montrose District, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (2250 Highway 50, Delta, Colorado 81416), San Juan National Forest and BLM San Juan Resource Area (Federal Building, Room 102, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado 81301), and BLM Farmington District (1235 N. LaPlata Hwy., Suite A, Farmington, New Mexico 87401). Public reading copies are available at the federal depository libraries in Colorado and New Mexico and public libraries within San Juan County, New Mexico, and La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado, and at TransColorado Offices in Salt Lake City and Montrose, CO.

DATES: The Final Supplement to the 1992 Final EIS will be available to the public for 30-days starting April 24, 1998. After the 30-day availability period, one Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued for all federal lands.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After preparing Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements, the BLM and the USFS signed Records of Decision on December 1, 1992 and issued a ROW grant and 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), BLM issued a 50 foot-wide ROW grant on December 4, 1992, 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.

Public participation has occurred throughout the preparation of the Supplement. The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this Supplement to the FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 21, 1997. "Open House" forums were held from October 21 through December 10, 1997 at Norwood, Durango, Delta, Rangely, Dolores, and Grand Junction, Colorado. Field trips to locations on the San Juan National Forest were offered on November 15 and 22, 1997. The Draft Supplement was published on January 23, 1998, and was available for public comments for a 60-day period that closed on March 18, 1998. The BLM and USFS received 52 written comment letters and several oral comments at the public meetings held on February 17, 18, and 19, 1998 in Durango, Dolores, and Grand Junction, Colorado, respectively.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

Mark W. Stiles,

District Manager, Montrose District, Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

Dale E. Trenda,

Range, Fire, and Timber Staff Officer, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, Forest Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(AZ-917/AZ-060; AZA 28350)

Notice of Availability of the Decision Record for the White Canyon Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Phoenix Resource Management Plan, Pinal County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The State Director has approved that portion of the proposed plan amendment for the designation and management of the White Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the plan amendment revises designation and management decisions made through the Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed modification to land tenure designations have been set aside and will be integrated with an environmental impact statement under preparation for the proposed Ray Land Exchange.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shela McFarlin, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or telephone (602) 417-9568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Decision Record will amend the Phoenix RMP to modify the White Canyon ACEC designation as follows: (1) 300 non-wilderness federal acres will be retained as the White Canyon ACEC (within T3S, R12E, Section 23, NE ¼ and Section 25, NW ¼); (2) 1,620 wilderness acres formerly designated as ACEC will continue to be managed as wilderness under all appropriate guidelines, but will cease to be designated as ACEC; and, (3) BLM will seek to acquire 480 acres in Section 24 (T3S, R12E) to be managed upon acquisition as ACEC. Acquisition will be from the state of Arizona or subsequent land owners through appropriate mechanisms such as donation, friendly condemnation or exchange. New ACEC management prescriptions will replace the Phoenix RMP management actions and a coordinated resource management plan will be completed. Motorized travel will be limited to designated roads and trails. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing will be prohibited. The plan will