

(c) The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
(d) Suggestions to reduce the burden including use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Please submit your comments to the persons listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please note that comments, names and addresses of commentators, will be available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish your name and address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law.

Type of review: Renewal.

Title: Tribal Self-Governance Program.

Affected Entities: Tribes and tribal consortiums wishing to enter into a self-governance compact.

Size of Respondent Pool: 85.

Number of Annual Responses: 257.

Hours Per Response: 42 hours.

Bureau Information Collection

Clearance Officer: Ruth Bajema, 202-208-2574.

Dated: February 28, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-5227 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-3809]

Notice of Availability; Environmental Impact Statement; South Pipeline Project; Proposed Expansion of Existing Gold Mining/Processing Operations; Lander County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Nevada Division of Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Pipeline Project, Lander County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, notice is hereby given of the availability of the FEIS, prepared by the Battle Mountain BLM, which analyzes the environmental effects of the South Pipeline Project (Proposed Action), the No Action Alternative, and the Pipeline Backfill Alternative.

DATES: Written comments must be postmarked or otherwise delivered by 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2000. Copies of the FEIS may be obtained at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

ADDRESS: Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published in the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Foulkes (775) 635-4060.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cortez Gold Mines, Inc. proposes to extend gold mining operations at the Pipeline Mine within the Gold Acres Mining District in Lander County, approximately 30 miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Nevada. The South Pipeline Project (Proposed Action) would include an expansion of the existing open pit and waste rock disposal sites, and the development of heap leach and ancillary facilities. The Proposed Action would require surface disturbance of 4,450 acres, all of which is public land administered by the BLM. Operations are expected to occur seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, for an additional 10 years (total life of 18 years).

Dated: February 22, 2000.

M. Lee Douthit,

Associate Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.

[FR Doc. 00-4565 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-ES; N-66131]

Realty Action: Lease/Purchase for Recreation and Public Purposes in Lincoln County, NV.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Lincoln County, Nevada has been identified and examined and will be classified under Section 7 of the Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1272), as amended (43 U.S.C. 315f), as suitable for lease/purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The described lands are hereby classified as suitable for lease/purchase under the authority of Section 212 of the Act of October 21, 1976; 43 U.S.C. 1761. **DATES:** On or before March 20, 2000, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed Conveyance for classification of the lands to the Assistant Field, Nonrenewable Resources.

ADDRESSES: Written Comments should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Gene L. Drais Assistant Field Manager, Nonrenewable Resources, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Finn, Realty Specialist, at the above address or telephone (775) 289-1849.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following described parcel of land, situated in Lincoln County is being offered for lease/purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada T. 1 N., R. 67 E. sec. 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Containing 10 acres, more or less.

The lands are hereby classified for public purpose use as school sites and/or other school facilities, 43 CFR 2410, 2430.4(a) and (c). The Lincoln County School District intends to use the land to construct and operate a kindergarten through sixth grade school for residents in Pioche and surrounding areas. A right-of-way would also be acquired to access the proposed site. The lease and/or patent, when finalized, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of lease/patent issuance.

2. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The classification for lease/purchase is consistent with the Bureau's planning for this area. Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land law except for Recreation and Public Purposes.

Dated: February 8, 2000.

Eric K. Luse,

Associate Field Manager, Ely, NV.

[FR Doc. 00-4615 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM050-1430ES]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Public Land in Socorro County, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an RMPA/EA and intent to amend the Socorro Resource Management Plan dated August 1989, and invitation to participate in identification of issues and planning criteria.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the BLM, Socorro Field Office, in cooperation with the State of New Mexico, State Monuments Division (State), will prepare an RMPA/EA. The RMPA/EA will address whether approximately 126 acres of federal land between the towns of Socorro and Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico off of Federal Highway I-

25 can be classified for disposal, and transferred to the New Mexico State Monuments Division under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 as amended (R&PP). The purpose of the proposed transfer is to jointly construct (BLM and State) the proposed El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro International Heritage Center (Center). The RMPA/EA will also analyze various alternatives for special management prescriptions for public land surrounding the proposed Center that are needed to protect the scenic, cultural, watershed, air quality, soils, visual resource management, social and economic, and other values of the location identified in the site selection process. The RMPA/EA preferred alternative could result in an amendment to the Socorro Resource Management Plan approved in 1989 before the Center was considered a potential foreseeable development. Alternative management prescriptions could include, but are not limited to, limitations and/or special conditions for future permits or rights-of-way for such proposals as landfills, electrical transmission lines, communications towers, or multi-story buildings, in certain locations on federal land surrounding the Center.

The RMPA/EA will seek to identify whether impacts are likely to result from the proposed actions of classifying the selected land for disposal, transferring the land, construction of the proposed Center, and any possible management prescriptions of surrounding federal public land. If potential impacts are identified, the RMPA/EA will analyze and consider a range of mitigation measures and alternative to ensure that impacts are not significant. The BLM and State will conduct two public meetings to present the public with a description of the proposed action and to receive comments and questions from the public. The public will have the opportunity to identify any issues regarding the proposed action during the meetings, and written comments will be accepted through May 6, 2000.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Dates and locations of the public meetings are listed below.

April 5, 2000—6 PM
Holiday Inn Express, Conference Center,
1100 N. California St., Socorro, NM
April 6, 2000—6 P.M.
Civic Center, 400 West Fourth St., Truth
Or Consequences, NM

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Charles Carroll, BLM, 198 Neel Street, Socorro, NM 87801

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Carroll, Team Leader, at 505-835-0412.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is the transfer of approximately 126 acres of public land administered by the BLM Socorro Field Office to the State Monuments Division and the Museum of the State of New Mexico for the purpose of constructing a new, jointly funded New Mexico Monument and BLM Interpretive Center. This project is a result of a culmination of years of cooperative effort between the BLM, State of New Mexico, and the towns and cities of the lower Rio Grande in New Mexico. The location of the proposed Center was selected through a detailed study conducted by Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. (ARC), funded by the BLM, State of New Mexico, and the towns of Los Lunas, Belen, Socorro, Truth Or Consequences, and Las Cruces. The site selection process is documented in the report entitled: "El Viaje: A Planning Study For The Camino Real Interpretive Center," 1994 ARC.

The location for the Center was selected from among six candidate sites along the Camino Real, in part, due to its relatively pristine surroundings and excellent panoramic views to natural landmarks which are of historical significance to the historic trail. An observation deck on the proposed Center museum, and trails to locations on the proposed 126-acre compound, will provide visitors with views and interpretation of the surrounding landscape. No changes in ranching or grazing activities are contemplated, except to fence the proposed 126-acre compound to separate cattle from visitors and buildings. This proposed enclosure would not affect the existing grazing permit. The RMPA/EA will review potential impacts to the land and natural resources on and surrounding the site and will consider a wide range of alternatives for other types of future actions on surrounding public land. Types of potential actions will be categorized as compatible or incompatible with the future operation of the Center. For example, the permitting of a lighted microwave tower in direct line of site between the observation deck and a historic natural landmark, might be found to be incompatible. If this were true, then management prescriptions might be defined to allow selective siting of high-visibility actions in certain defined areas of surrounding public land, to mitigate adverse effects upon the values of the Center. Conversely, it might be