

on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Visitor knowledge and economic impact at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Walden, Colorado.

*OMB Approval No.:* New collection.

*Abstract:* The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all refuges will be managed in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which, when implemented, will achieve refuge purposes; help fulfill the Refuge System mission; maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; help achieve the goals of the Wilderness Preservation System; and meet other mandates. An underlying component of these plans is a strong scientific foundation for establishment for refuge objectives, implementation of management actions, and quantitative monitoring of progress towards these objectives. Few studies have been conducted that evaluate public knowledge, perception, or economic value associated with National Wildlife Refuges. Information about the existing community, economic, and public relations status is a precursor to many of the habitat and visitor management decisions. The primary objective of this study is to gain sufficient knowledge about refuge visitors. Our second objective is to develop and test a set of tools that can be used/repeated at other refuges around the country. Understanding public knowledge, perception, and values is a vital component of natural resource management. Improved understanding will guide future management practices.

*Bureau Form No.:* None.

*Frequency:* One time.

*Description of Respondents:* Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge visitor or group of visitors.

*Estimated Completion Time:* 10 minutes per respondent (approximate).

*Number of Respondents:* 400 (575 surveys).

*Burden hours:* 67 hours (The burden estimates are based on 10 minutes to complete each questionnaire and a 70% return rate).

All comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Phadrea Ponds, Wildlife Biologist, 970-226-9445; or Lynne Caughlan, Economist, 970-226-9384; or Ayeisha Brinson, Wildlife Ecologist, 970-226-9330. U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Social, Economic and Institutional Analysis Section, 4512 McMurry Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525-3400.

*For Additional Information Please Contact:* Phadrea Ponds (970) 226-9445. [phadreaponds@usgs.gov](mailto:phadreaponds@usgs.gov).

Dated: February 16, 2001.

**Susan Haseltine,**

*Chief Scientist for Biology.*

[FR Doc. 01-4830 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-3809]

#### Notice of Availability; Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Phoenix Project; Proposed Expansion of Existing Gold, Silver, and Copper Mining/Processing Operations; Lander County, NV

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Nevada Division of Wildlife.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Phoenix 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 parts 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, notice is hereby given of the availability for comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the Battle Mountain BLM, which analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives.

**DATES:** Written comments must be post-marked or otherwise delivered by 4:30

p.m. (Pacific time zone) on May 4, 2001. Comments may also be presented at public meetings to be held: April 4, 2001, (7-9 pm) BLM office, Battle Mountain, NV. A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pam Jarnecke, Battle Mountain BLM at (775) 635-4144.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Battle Mountain Gold Company (BMG), a wholly owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, proposes to expand its current operations near Battle Mountain, Nevada, to include mining and beneficiation of gold, silver, and copper ores. The proposed Phoenix Project would require up to an additional 4,295 acres of disturbance. BMG would develop the Phoenix and Reona pits and expand the Midas and Iron Canyon pits. Mining these ore deposits would be coupled with excavating and beneficiating low-grade gold ore stockpiles associated with the previous Tomboy, Northeast Extension, and Fortitude mining operations. Beneficiation operations would include heap leach facility expansion and new milling facilities. The projected mine life is up to 28 years, followed by five years of reclamation.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

**Gerald M. Smith,**

*Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 01-4824 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-01-1020-PB]

#### New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on April 5 and 6, 2001, at the Best Western

Stevens Inn, 1829 South Canal, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

There will be an optional all day field trip on Wednesday, April 4, 2001. Transportation will be provided for RAC members. The optional field trip will be organized by the Carlsbad Field Office of the BLM. The Field Tour will leave from the Best Western Stevens Inn at 8:30 a.m. The meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2001, will start at 8 a.m. and will end about 5 p.m.

The draft agenda for the RAC meeting includes agreement on the meeting agenda, any RAC comments on the draft minutes of the last RAC meeting on January 24 through 26, 2001, in Silver City, New Mexico, and a check-in from the RAC members. The focus of the meeting will be on Off Highway Vehicle issues, the RAC Charter, the International Program and discussion of Part D of the Draft National Energy Policy. Presentations will include discussion.

The three established RAC Subcommittees may have late afternoon or evening meetings on Wednesday, April 4, after the optional field trip, or on Thursday, April 5, after the meeting. The exact time and location of possible Subcommittee meetings will be established by the Chairperson of each Subcommittee and be available to the public following the field trip on Wednesday, April 4, and during the RAC meeting on Thursday, April 5, for that evening. That information will also be available at the desk of the Stevens Inn on those two days.

On Friday, April 6, the meeting starts at 8 a.m. and will end about 3 p.m. The ending time of 3 p.m. may be changed depending on the work remaining for the RAC. The meeting is open to the public, and starting at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2001, there will be an additional 15 minute Public Comment Period for members of the public who are not able to be present for the regular Public Comment Period on Friday, April 6, to address the RAC.

The meeting on Friday, April 6, will start at 8 a.m. with a review of the agenda thus far. At 8:15 a.m. RAC Subcommittee Reports are scheduled from the Urban and Open Space Subcommittee, the Roads and Trails Subcommittee, and the Energy Subcommittee.

The regular Public comment Period for the Public to address the RAC is on Friday, April 6, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The RAC may reduce or extend the end time of 12 noon depending on the number of people wishing to address the RAC. Anyone wishing to address the RAC should be present at the 10 a.m. starting time. The length of

time available for each person to address the RAC will be established at the start of the public comment period and will depend on how many people wish to address the RAC, but usually not more than 15 minutes. At the completion of public comments, the RAC may continue discussion on its agenda items.

BLM State of the Field Office Reports, presented by the Field Office Managers, will be scheduled at various times during the 2 day meeting.

RAC discussions and any RAC recommendations are scheduled for 2:45 p.m. followed by a RAC assessment of the current meeting and development of draft agenda items and selection of a location for the next RAC meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary White, New Mexico State Office, Office of External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7404.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: February 9, 2001.

**Richard Whitley,**

*Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-4825 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-952-01-1420-BJ]

#### Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, New Mexico, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

#### New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico

T. 9 N., R. 14 W., approved December 4, 2000, for Group 941 NM;

T. 23 N., R. 10 E., approved November 30, 2000, for Group 951 NM;  
T. 21 S., R. 31 E., approved December 13, 2000, for Group 977 NM;  
T. 29 N., R. 12 W., approved January 24, 2001, for Group 978 NM;  
T. 29 N., R. 14 W., approved February 14, 2001, Supplemental Plat;

#### Indian Meridian, Oklahoma

T. 27 N., R. 10 W., approved January 24, 2001, for Group 86 OK;

If a protest against a survey, as shown on any of the above plats is received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed and become final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written protest with the NM State Director, Bureau of Land Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed. The above-listed plats represent dependent resurveys, surveys, and subdivisions.

These plats will be available for inspection in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-0115. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment of \$1.10 per sheet.

Dated: February 15, 2001.

**John P. Bennett,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor for New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 01-4826 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-P**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-933-1430-ET; AA-82857]

#### Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Alaska

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, has filed an application to withdraw approximately 2,998 acres of National Forest System land for the Russian River and Upper Russian Lake Recreation Corridor. The proposed withdrawal will aid in protecting the fisheries, recreational,