

Office, 3170 East Main, Canon City, CO 81212.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Howard, Area Manager at (719) 589-4975.

Stuart L. Freer,

District Manager.

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[NV-040-1990-01; M46-83-004P]

Bald Mountain Mine Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is given that the Ely District of the Bureau of Land Management has prepared, by a third party contractor, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Placer Dome U.S. Bald Mountain Mine Expansion Project in eastern Nevada. This document is available for public review for a 45 day period.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked by June 16, 1995.

Public meetings to receive oral and written comments have been scheduled for the dates and places listed below. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening.

- May 8, 1995—at the Ely Bureau of Land Management District Office, 702 Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301.
- May 9, 1995—Stockman's Motor Hotel, 340 Commercial St., Elko, Nevada 89803.
- May 10, 1995—Sands Regency Hotel Casino, 345 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, Nevada 89501.
- A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, ATTN: Dan Netcher, Project Leader, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301.
- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following additional locations: Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 850 Harvard Way, Reno, NV 89520; Eureka, White Pine and Elko County Libraries; and the University of Nevada libraries in Reno and Las Vegas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Netcher, Project Leader at the above Ely District Office address or telephone (702) 289-1800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the potential environmental

impacts that could result from the expansion of the current gold mining operations at Bald Mountain Mine and development of the Horseshoe/Galaxy Mine (Proposed Action) and reasonable alternatives. Alternatives analyzed consist of: (1) no action; (2) haul road design; (3) waste rock dump configurations; and (4) reclamation options. The project would involve construction and operation of a new mine at Horseshoe/Galaxy with open pits, crushing facilities, waste dumps, conventional heap leaching facilities and several ancillary facilities. The Bald Mountain Mine expansion would consist of modification of the processing circuit with a wet crushing circuit that would produce a split flow of ore, and the processing facility would consist of both heap leaching and carbon-in-leach facilities with associated tailings. The Bald Mountain Mine expansion would also consist of expansion of the current Top Pit and development of the Sage Pit with corresponding waste rock dumps.

Dated: April 4, 1995.

Ann J. Morgan,

State Director, Nevada.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City of Waterford, Stanislaus County, California.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the City of Waterford (City) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application has been assigned permit number 801047. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphis*) (VELB) and/or loss of its habitat during the expansion of the city's wastewater treatment facility (WWTF).

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for the incidental take permit application, the proposed habitat conservation plan fully describing the proposed project and mitigation, and the accompanying implementing

agreement. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and EA should be received on or before May 19, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the application or adequacy of the EA should be addressed to Mr. Joel Medlin, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823, Sacramento, California 95825. Please refer to permit number 801047 when submitting comments. Individuals wishing copies of the application or EA for review should immediately contact the above office at (916) 979-2725.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Horton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823, Sacramento, California 95825 (916-979-2725).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under Section 9 of the Act, and its implementing regulations, taking of the VELB, a threatened species, is prohibited. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated at 50 CFR 17.32.

The City of Waterford proposes to expand their WWTF along the Tuolumne River in Eastern Stanislaus County, California. As a result of construction activities related to the proposed project, 18 valley elderberry bushes (*Sambucus mexicana*) with 149 individual stems 1 inch or greater in diameter will be destroyed resulting in the incidental taking of VELB. This destruction will be mitigated through the replacement planting and permanent protection of 894 elderberry bush seedlings on approximately 3.9 acres in the immediate area. The City has committed to achieving a 90 percent elderberry plant survival rate at the end of the ten-year monitoring period. The associated native species also will be planted. The City has made sufficient funds available to implement all steps of the mitigation and monitoring plan.

The EA considers a no action alternative. This alternative would not involve the removal of elderberry bushes and consequently would not affect the VELB. Under the no action alternative the City's WWTF would continue to experience "surges" in the flow volume due to municipal storm