

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of approval for the collection of information from those persons who seek to acquire the Federally owned (reserved) mineral interests underlying their surface estate. BLM collects information to assure that the applicant is the owner of the surface that overlies the Federally owned minerals and that statutory requirements for their conveyance have been met.

DATE: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 14, 1996 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C. Street NW, Room 401 LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: !WO140@attmail.com. Please include "Attn: 1004-0153" and your name and return address in your internet message.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, L Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl C. Gammon, (202) 452-7777.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning a proposed collection of information to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1719, states that the Secretary of the Interior may convey mineral interests owned by the United States where the surface is or will be in non-Federal ownership if he finds that there are no known mineral values in

the land or that the reservation of the mineral rights in the United States is interfering with or precluding appropriate non-mineral development of the land and the non-mineral development is a more beneficial use of the land than mineral development. BLM adopted implementing regulations at 43 CFR Part 2720 in 1979 (44 FR 1342, January 4, 1979) and amended them in 1986 (51 FR 9657, March 20, 1986). The regulations establish a procedure whereby any individual seeking to acquire the Federally owned (reserved) mineral interest underlying their surface must make application and provide information essential to compliance with law, regulations, and procedures. At 43 CFR 2720.1-2, the regulations specify the information that must be included in the application in narrative form:

Name, address, and phone number. The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the existing or prospective record title owner of the land is necessary to identify and locate the individual for transacting business and communication. The phone number is necessary for direct communication with the applicant.

Proof of Ownership. Proof of ownership of land included in the application is necessary to assure the applicant is the record title owner of the surface. In the case of a prospective owner, the application must include a copy of the contract or a statement describing the method by which ownership will be obtained.

Supporting survey evidence. The applicant must include a copy of any patent or other instrument conveying the land included in the application, with supporting survey information. This information is necessary to legally describe the land in the application.

Statement. The applicant must include a statement concerning: (1) The nature of the Federally owned or reserved mineral values in the land, (2) the existing and proposed uses of the land, (3) why the mineral reservation is interfering with or precluding appropriate non-mineral development of the land, (4) how and why such development would be a more beneficial use than mineral development, and (5) a showing that the proposed use complies or will comply with State and local zoning or planning requirements. This information is necessary to assure that the application meets statutory requirements for receiving benefits.

BLM uses the information collected to analyze and approve applications for purchase of Federally owned mineral interests. If the information required by

43 CFR 2720.1-2 was not collected, BLM would be unable to carry out the mandate of Section 209 of FLPMA, and beneficial development of the surface would be precluded.

Based on its experience administering the regulations at 43 CFR Part 2720, BLM estimates that the public reporting burden for the information collection is eight hours per application. The respondents are non-Federal owners of the surface of the land in which the mineral interests are reserved or otherwise owned by the United States who seek to acquire those mineral interests. The frequency of response is one per application. BLM estimates that 29 Conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interests applications will be filed annually. The estimated total annual burden on new respondents is collectively 232 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 12, 1996.

Dr. Annetta L. Cheek,

Chief, Regulatory Management Team.

[FR Doc. 96-6270 Filed 3-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

[CA-066-06-1610-00]

Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, Palm Springs—South Coast Resource Area, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an environmental assessment and proposed California Desert Conservation Area plan amendment affecting public lands within the Palm Springs—South Coast Resource Area, southern California. Citizens are requested to review and provide comments on the proposed amendment and environmental assessment. BLM proposes to expand the boundaries of two existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): the Big Morongo Canyon ACEC (No. 50) and the Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC (No. 60). The Salt Creek ACEC would be renamed the Dos Palmas ACEC.

DATES: Citizens are requested to provide written comments on the proposed amendment and environmental assessment no later than May 14, 1996 to the following address: Ms. Julia Dougan, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs—South Coast Resource Area, 63–500 Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258–2000.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: If you would like to receive a copy of the Proposed Plan and Environmental Assessment, contact Ms. Elena Misquez, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs—South Coast Resource Area, 63–500 Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258–2000; telephone (619) 251–4826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Big Morongo Canyon ACEC currently includes 3,705 acres of public land just east of Highway 62, and 7 miles north of Interstate 10, San Bernardino County. BLM proposes to expand the ACEC to approximately 29,000 acres to establish a corridor between the BLM-managed public lands and Joshua Tree National Park, 5 miles due east. The proposed ACEC expansion would protect sensitive plant and wildlife habitat and wildlife movement corridors. The legal description for the Big Morongo Canyon ACEC expansion is as follows:

Lots 1, 2, 5, 6, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ above boundary of San Geronio Wilderness Area, Sec. 36, T.1 N., R.4 E., SBM. S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 13; E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 22; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 23; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 24; Sec. 25–26 All; NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 27; S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28; S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32; N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 33; Secs. 34–36 All, T.1 S, R.4 E SBM. Secs. 1–5 All; N $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9; Secs. 10–12 All, T.2 S, R.4 E SBM. Sec. 6–7 All; W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8; Sec. 16–17 All; Lots 4, 11, 16, 17, 22, 23, 28, 29, 34, 35, 40, E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18; Secs. 19–21 All; Secs. 28–33, T.1 S, R.5 E SBM. Secs. 4–9 All; Secs. 16–18 All; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ above aqueduct Sec. 19; N $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20; Sec. 21

All; Lots 1–5 Sec. 26; Sec. 27 All below aqueduct; N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T.2 S, R.5 E SBM.

The following management prescriptions are proposed: The powerline access road in Little Morongo Canyon leading to the southwest end of Yucca Valley will remain open to motorized vehicle use, bicycles, equestrian use, hunting, and pets on a leash. Vehicle travel will be limited to the existing road. OHV use off that road will be prohibited. Big Morongo Canyon will remain closed to public motorized vehicle use, bicycles, pets and hunting. Equestrian use will be allowed on designated trails in Big Morongo Canyon. Due to the low mineral material value and sensitive resources contained therein, mineral material sales would not be in the public's interest and will not be offered. The ACEC would continue to be closed to livestock grazing.

The Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC (4,288 acres) is located northeast of the Salton Sea and Highway 111 in Riverside County. The ACEC would be renamed as the Dos Palmas ACEC. The ACEC boundary would be expanded to 14,880 acres to include additional public lands and lands acquired by The Nature Conservancy for the protection of sensitive plant, wildlife and cultural resources. The legal description for the Dos Palmas ACEC is as follows: Sec. 34 All T.7 S, R.11 E SBM.; Secs. 2–4, 9–16, 21–28, 35—All, T.8 S, R.11 E, SBM. Secs. 18, 19, 30—All, T.8 S., R.12 E. SBM. The following management prescriptions are proposed: The width of the utility corridor which runs through the ACEC will be reduced to one mile to avoid areas with sensitive resources and still allow room for any future utility line development. The ACEC will be closed to public motorized vehicle use except along Dos Palmas Road to allow public access. Due to the low mineral material value and sensitive resources contained therein, mineral material sales would not be in the public's interest and will not be offered. The ACEC will remain closed to livestock grazing. The discharge of firearms will be disallowed except for the legal take of game. Pets shall be kept on a leash at all times. The palm oases within the ACEC will be closed to bicycles and equestrian use.

Nothing in this Proposed Plan shall have the effect of terminating any validly issued rights-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities in

such rights-of-ways within the ACEC boundaries in accordance with Sections 509(a) and 701(a) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

Dated: March 8, 1996.

Julia Dougan,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96–6166 Filed 3–14–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

[CA–060–06–5440–00–B026]

Availability of the Record of Decision for the Mesquite Regional Landfill

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Mesquite Regional Landfill in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the regulations at 40 CFR Part 1500. This document is now available to the public.

The ROD adopts the Proposed Action as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) jointly prepared by the BLM and the County of Imperial. The ROD approves a land exchange (CACA–34105) and issuance of a right-of-way grant (CACA–29617) to Gold Fields Mining Corporation who, through its wholly owned subsidiary Arid Operations, Inc., will operate the landfill in Imperial County, California.

The landfill will encompass approximately 4250 acres, including approximately 1750 acres of public lands currently administered by BLM. The BLM-administered lands in the project area will be exchanged for approximately 2640 acres of private land located elsewhere in Imperial and Riverside Counties. The exchange of approximately 5 acres of public land currently situated within the Singer Geoglyphs Area of Critical Environmental Concern will not be completed until such time as the California State Director issues a separate ROD approving an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan to exclude this land from the ACEC and redesignate it as Multiple-Use Class M. The exchange of the five acre parcel is not essential to the construction or operation of the Mesquite Regional Landfill.