

Parties (currently 132 countries), as well as international non-governmental organizations. In addition, ERM is meeting in person with several governments, in order to obtain more detailed responses to the questionnaire and in order to assist ERM in preparing its report on the effectiveness of the Convention. Each country that is visited has been asked by ERM to independently decide how to consult with neighboring countries, as well as with non-governmental organizations; the questionnaire sent to the Parties recommends broad consultation. The United States supports an exceedingly broad, transparent, and consultative process, with active input from all non-governmental organizations interested in the effectiveness of CITES and the conservation of species subject to international trade. ERM has stated that it is limited in the countries it plans to visit, based on limited time and funds. The Monitoring Committee mentioned above worked with ERM to plan the country visits. ERM plans to consult with the following CITES regions and countries during June and July 1996; those consultations will either involve a personal delegation (an ERM representative) or a consultation in-country by ERM's regional office staff: Europe (delegation to Brussels for meetings with the European Commission and European CITES Committee), Asia (Japan and Thailand for the delegation, China and India for consultations); Oceania (Australia and Papua New Guinea for consultations); North America (delegation to the United States); Africa (delegation to Zimbabwe, consultations in Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal), and Central and South America and the Caribbean (consultations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and possibly Trinidad and Tobago). The United States will make every effort to include representatives of Canada and Mexico in the meetings and consultations in the United States.

The United States will review comments received from national and international non-governmental organizations based in the United States, in the formulation of its response to the questionnaire. Representatives of the Service, as CITES Management and Scientific Authority, along with other federal agencies, will meet with the ERM delegation to provide input on the U.S. responses to the questionnaire and the U.S. views on how to improve the effectiveness of the Convention. The public meeting with non-governmental organizations that is announced in this Notice will provide those organizations

with an opportunity to provide input directly to ERM. ERM will use that information in the preparation of its report to the Standing Committee.

Author: This notice was prepared by Mark Phillips and Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (703/358-2095; fax 703/358-2280).

Dated: June 6, 1996.

J.L. Gerst,

*Acting Director.*

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## Bureau of Land Management

[CA-065-06-1990-01]

### Environmental Impact Statement for the California Desert Conservation Area, CA

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to close the public scoping period regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for an open pit, heap leach gold mine on portions of public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area, Kern County, CA. Comments will be accepted until June 30, 1996.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be closing the scoping comment.

**ADDRESSES:** Scoping comments may be sent to: BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area Manager, 300 S. Richmond, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, ATTN: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Golden Queen is proposing to construct and operate the Soledad Mountain Project, an open pit precious metals (gold and silver) mining and cyanide leaching processing operation at the Soledad Mountain project area located approximately five miles southwest of the town of Mojave in Kern County, California.

The proposed action includes: construction of facilities; mining and processing of precious metals ores at the rate of three to four million tons per year for a period of ten to sixteen years; stockpiling of overburden materials; sales of overburden materials as aggregate and construction materials; and reclamation of the project site.

The project area is approximately 1,228 acres, of which 959 acres are private land and 269 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by BLM. The

proposed surface disturbance is approximately 782 acres on private lands and 153 acres on public lands. The proposed mining operation includes twelve interconnected open pit mining areas within the ultimate pit boundary of the proposed open pit.

A March 28, 1996 Notice invited comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis and notified the public of upcoming meetings.

Two public meetings were held on:

Date: April 16, 1996, Tuesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Place: Rosamond High School, 2925 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA 93560, Glennan Gymnasium

Date: April 17, 1996, Wednesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Place: Mojave High School, 15732 "O" St., Mojave, CA 93501, Mustang Gymnasium.

Comments were received from the attendees during the public meetings and by mail. Comments will be accepted until June 30, 1996.

BLM has set up a WEB PAGE for sharing information on the process and the project. It can be accessed by reaching <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>

For further information contact: Ahmed Mohsen, BLM EIS Coordinator at (619) 384-5421.

Dated: May 24, 1996.

Lee Delaney,

*Area Manager.*

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## National Park Service

### Final General Management Plan, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, New Hampshire; Notice of Availability

Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the release of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, New Hampshire.

In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service has prepared and announces the release of the Final Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, New Hampshire. An environmental impact statement is required to assess the impacts of implementing the General Management Plan. The National