

to: Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503; and the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 208 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

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: National Mapping Division Data Grant Program for Land Processes Research.

OMB approval number: 1028-0052.

Abstract: Respondents supply information and awardees supply a final report. Application information identifies the land processes research project and remotely sensed data requirements. Final report identifies utility of Data Grant Program in the completion of the nonprofit institution's research project.

Bureau form number: None.

Frequency: Annually.

Description respondents: Non-profit institutions.

Estimated completion time: 25 hours.

Annual responses: 520.

Annual burden hours: 13,000 hours.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

John N. Fischer,

Acting Associate Chief, Operations

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-4710-02-24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Number 1004-0073

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request renewal of existing approval of certain information from any person, association, or corporation, or any subsidiary, affiliate, or persons controlled by or under common control with such person, association or corporation, interested in elasing for or developing Federal coal. This information allows BLM's authorized officer to determine if the applicant to lease for or develop Federal coal is qualified to hold such lease.

DATES: BLM must receive comments on the proposed information collection by June 13, 1997 to assure its consideration of them.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments to: Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Send comments via Internet to: WoComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include "Attn: 1004-0073" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

You may hand-deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

BLM will make comments 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: Patrick Sheehy, WO-320, 202-452-0350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in BLM (Form-1004-0073), 43 CFR Group 3400, Coal Management, 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 of information, 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. BLM will receive and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the OMB under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

BLM plans to seek from the Office of Management and Budget extension of approval for the information collection requirements in 43 CFR Parts 3400 through 3485, which cover the leasing and development of Federal coal. These regulations implement the statutory authority governing leasing activities on Federal land which is found in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), the Mineral Leasing act for Acquired Lands of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351-359), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*), the Multiple Mineral Development Act of 1954 (30 U.S.C. 521-531), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 1083-1092), and the Act of October 30, 1978 (92 Stat. 2073-2075).

BLM uses the information provided by the applicant(s) to allow the authorized officer to determine if the applicant to lease for or develop Federal coal is qualified to hold such lease. If BLM did not collect this information, it would not be able to gather relevant data to manage the leasing and development of coal in the public interest.

Based on BLM's experience in administering the activities described above, the public reporting burden for the information collected is estimated to average 19 hours per response. The respondents are applicants to lease for or develop Federal coal, and vary from individuals to small businesses and major corporations. The frequency of response is occasionally, usually upon application. The number of responses per year is estimated to total 1,299. The estimated total annual burden on new respondents is about 19 hours. BLM is specifically requesting your comments on its estimate of the amount of time that it takes to prepare a response. BLM's estimate is 19 hours per response is an average of the following estimated completion time:

Type of application	Number of responses	Hours/re-sponses	Total hours
Exploration License	10	30	300
Coal for Coal & Resource Information	5	3	15
Surface Owner Consultation	50	1	50
Exp. of Leasing Interest	15	6.6	100
Notice of Sale	20	3	60
Leasing on Application	2	150	300
Surface Owner Consent	10	10	100
PRLA	10	150	1,500
Lease Modification	10	35	250
License to Mine	2	5	10
Lease Transfer (incl. assignments)	30	10	300
Sp. Leasing Qual.	10	4	40
Bonding Requirements	10	40	400
Lease Form	5	1	5
Exploration Plans	50	59	2,950
Res. Rec. and Protection Plans	30	174.8	5,245
Mining Plans	10	457.5	4,575
Changes in Plans	100	29.5	2,950
Mining Operations Maps	650	11.30	7,350
Pref. Standards for Exploration	90	1.75	158
Unexpected Wells	10	1	10
Exploration Reports	50	7.5	375
Royalty of Rental Reductions	10	150	1,500
Suspensions	10	14.4	144
Corr. Repts. for Noncompliances	90	3.75	338
LMU Applications/Requirements	10	32	320
Totals	1,299	24,737

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 7, 1997.

Carole Smith,

Information Collection Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-1510-00]

Ely District Proposed Fire and Vegetative Resource Management Plan and Environmental Documentation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Modify Fire Management Plan and Other Planning Documents As Necessary, Ely District, Nevada.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, Nevada intends to modify its current Fire Management Plan and, if necessary, existing land use plans, including a Resource Management Plans (RMP), and two Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and to prepare appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the adoption of a

Fire Management Plan (FMP). The purpose of the FMP is to provide the framework for the reintroduction of fire into the ecosystem while maintaining first priority on protection of human life, and secondary priority on protection of property and natural and cultural resources. Public comment is sought on identification of issues, alternatives that should be considered, and the level of analysis which would be appropriate under the NEPA.

DATES: Comments will be accepted throughout the process of modifying plans and preparation of NEPA analysis. However, comments received after May 28, 1997 may not be reflected in the alternatives considered in any preliminary NEPA analysis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Dunn, Fire Management Officer, Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301; Telephone (702) 289-1920.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Wildland Fire Policy and Program Review was completed to address issues of firefighter safety, as well as costs, inefficiencies, and inconsistencies between federal agencies involved in wildland fire suppression. Among the results of that review is a standardization of policies and procedures among Federal agencies, including the determination that wildland fire, as a critical natural process, must be reintroduced into the

ecosystem. The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District intends to develop objectives through a Technical Review Team, and supported by resource professionals, which will integrate fire into resource management; including fire suppression, prescribed fire, fuels management and public education (including fire prevention) without regard to administrative boundaries. Because the Technical Review Team will include private property owners, all of the affected land managing agencies (County, State and Federal), and interested land users, the preliminary fire management objectives will be developed through consensus to apply to all lands without regard to administrative jurisdiction to permit a comprehensive and realistic approach to fire and vegetative resource management.

At this point, it is uncertain what level of plan modification will be needed, if any. Land use plans affected by actions within the Ely District include the Egan Resource Management Plan, Schell Management Framework Plan, and Caliente Management Framework Plan. The level of environmental analysis appropriate under the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR part 1500) is undetermined pending the outcome of the Technical Review Team's recommendations. Should it be determined that no environmental