

desiring acquisition of lands in trust status.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

*Bureau clearance officer:* James McDivitt (202) 208-4474.

Dated: June 5, 1997.

**Ada E. Deer,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-15951 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-962-1020-00]

#### Notice of Availability for the Montana/Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (standards and guidelines) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses three alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative (continuation of current management), Alternative 2 is the Preferred Alternative (the proposed standards and guidelines), and Alternative 3 analyzes the Fallback standards and guidelines. Based on written and oral comments received on the Draft and Supplement to the Draft EIS, Alternative 2 was selected as the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative would be incorporated into 10 BLM land use plans in Montana and

the Dakotas. The Standards and Guidelines Final EIS was made available to the public on June 6, 1997. This Notice announces a 30-day protest period and provides information on the protest procedures.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandy Brooks, Project Manager, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, or 406-255-2929.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM's Director. Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Preferred Alternative may protest such approval. Careful adherence to the following guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues which were commented on during the planning process. New issues may be raised at any time but should be directed to the Montana State Office for consideration in plan implementation, as potential plan amendments, or as otherwise appropriate.

The protest period extends for 30 days, starting from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. Protests may be filed in writing to: Director (WO-210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Preferred Alternative being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the final EIS.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the discussion date of the issue(s) for the record.

5. A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records (i.e., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the BLM may issue a Record of Decision approving the implementation of any portions of the preferred alternative not under protest. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until the protest has been resolved.

Dated: June 12, 1997.

**Thomas P. Lonnie,**

*Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.*

[FR Doc. 97-15921 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-N-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-1990-09]

#### Elko District, Nevada

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a mining Plan of Operations for Newmont Gold Company in Eureka County, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR Part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third-party contractor on the impacts of a proposed Plan of Operations for gold mining by Newmont Gold Company, in Eureka County, Nevada. The Bureau invites comments on the scope of the analysis.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** A scoping meeting will be held July 9, 1997 at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko District Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko NV, to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Representatives of Newmont Gold Company will be available to answer questions about the