

requirements of section 314 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744); the Mining Claim Rights Restoration Act of 1995 (30 U.S.C. 621 *et seq.*); the Oregon and California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1948, referred to after this as the "O and C Lands Act," (62 Stat. 162); the General Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22-54); and the Act of October 21, 1998 (112 Stat. 2681-235). Mining claimants must record location notices or certificates of mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites with BLM within 90 days of their location. Claimants who do not pay the maintenance fee must make an annual filing by December 30. Failure to record the mining claim or site or to submit an annual filing when required causes the claimant to forfeit the mining claim or site by operation of law.

The Act of October 21, 1998, requires payment of a \$100-per-claim or site maintenance fee for fiscal years 1999 through 2001. The payment is due at the time of recording and by each September 1st after that. The Act also requires a \$25 location fee for all new claims or sites located, payable at the time of recording with BLM. Certain "small miners" owning 10 or fewer claims and sites may file by each September 1st a waiver from payment of the maintenance fee and record an annual filing as in the past. Failure to pay the fee or file for a waiver by September 1st makes the mining claim or site forfeited by operation of law. The Act of October 21, 1998, expires on September 30, 2001, unless Congress renews it.

The Act of April 16, 1993 (43 U.S.C. 299[b]), established new procedures for locating mining claims on the reserved mineral estate of the United States where the mineral estate was reserved under the authority of the Stockraising Homestead Act of 1916, as amended. The locator must now file a "Notice of Intent to Locate Mining Claims (NOITL)" with BLM and serve a copy of the NOITL on the surface owner of record, as given in local tax records. The locator must wait 30 days after serving the surface owner before entering the lands or locating mining claims on them. The notice segregates the lands from mining claim location or mineral sale on behalf of the locator for 90 days from BLM's acceptance of the notice. BLM must respond to the NOITL on its official land records. The surface owner does not have to file an NOITL and may locate mining claims at any time the mineral estate is not encumbered.

Bureau Form Numbers: 3830-2 and 3830-3.

Frequency: Once for notices and certificates of location, NOITL's, and payment of location fees. Once each year for annual filings, payment of maintenance fees or filing of waivers. As needed for recording of amendments to a previously recorded notice or certificate of location or transfer of interest.

Description of Respondents: Respondents range from individuals to multi-national corporations engaged in exploring for and developing mineral resources on federal lands.

Estimated Completion Time: 8 minutes for each document or payment.

Annual Responses: 364,000.

Estimated Burden Hours: 48,652 annually.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Carole Smith, (202) 452-0367.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

Carole J. Smith,

BLM Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-00-934-1610-00]

Notice of Intent To Modify Scope of Statewide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Multiple Plan Amendments Considering Establishment of New Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on Selected Public Lands in Utah, and Call for Additional Information

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: The BLM has modified the scope of its planning effort considering establishment of new WSAs on public lands in Utah. Instead of preparing a single EIS/Plan Amendment for all inventory areas under study throughout the state, the BLM will now use a staged approach that will break the plan amendment process into four components. Selected inventory areas will be grouped in four regional studies to address whether or not new WSAs should be established. The first such regional grouping will include 35 inventory areas within the southeast region, encompassing approximately 815,000 acres of BLM lands administered by the Moab and Monticello Field Offices. This change is due, in part, to the large number of scoping comments that provided detailed information on specific areas and regions. Focusing planning on a regional basis will allow for a more

thorough consideration of public input that has already been received, and is anticipated, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process proceeds. Some adjustment is also necessary because new legislation prohibits the BLM from proceeding with WSA planning in certain areas in the West Desert region of the state until the Department of Defense completes a study to evaluate the impact upon military training, testing, and operational readiness of any proposed changes in land designations or management of the "Utah national defense lands."

The scope of this first planning effort has also been modified to include all of the BLM lands that were inventoried and shown in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Report within the areas under study. This includes approximately 162,000 acres of public land currently under study that were initially found lacking wilderness characteristics by the BLM. These include the Arch and Mule Canyon inventory area and portions of 30 other inventory areas within the southeast region. This modification is in response to extensive scoping comments on these areas, and to provide the public additional opportunities to comment on all public lands that were reviewed during the BLM's field inventory.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Banks, Project Manager (Phone: 801-539-4063 or E-mail: dbanks@ut.blm.gov), or by mail to: Utah State Office, Attention: Wilderness Project, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145.

Copies of the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Report are available for public review at all BLM field offices within Utah and at depository libraries throughout the state. This report is also available on the BLM's Internet web page (<http://www.ut.blm.gov/wilderness>) established for the WSA planning project. This 300-page document provides maps, narratives, and summary reports of the inventory areas. The 35 areas included in the first grouping are contained in this report. In addition, inventory unit permanent documentation files containing aerial photographs, topographic maps, slides, voluminous field log notes and other useful information are available for public review. A complete set of all files can be found at the Utah State Office in Salt Lake City. The documentation files for the relevant inventory areas in the southeast region are also located in BLM's Moab and Monticello Field Offices, respectively.

DATES: All scoping comments regarding this planning effort conducted under the

authority of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLMPA), must be received in writing by the BLM Utah State Office no later than December 31, 1999. It is not anticipated that any new scoping meetings would be required for this modified action. All information gathered to date through the scoping process will continue to be considered for this effort.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 18, 1999, BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Statewide EIS and multiple plan amendments for consideration of new WSAs on public land identified as having wilderness characteristics in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory. Since that time, BLM has engaged in an extensive public involvement process to gather scoping information. To date, BLM has received nearly 13,000 comment letters, many of which contain very specific and detailed comments and new information.

On October 5, 1999 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 was signed into law. Section 2815 of this legislation precludes the BLM from completing any land use plan amendment or statewide amendment package for the "Utah national defense lands" until the Secretary of Defense submits to Congress a report evaluating the impact upon military training, testing, and operational readiness of any proposed changes in land designations or management of the "Utah national defense lands". "Utah national defense lands" are defined in Section 2815 as "public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in the state of Utah that are adjacent to or near the Utah Test and Training Range and Dugway Proving Ground or beneath the Military Operating Areas, Restricted Areas, and airspace that make up the Utah Test and Training Range." This provision affects approximately 13 inventory areas encompassing approximately 186,000 acres of BLM lands under consideration for possible establishment as WSAs.

The BLM will now proceed through a series of four regional studies to address the question as to whether or not new WSAs will be established. The first area for which an EIS and plan amendments will be completed, and for which public comments are currently being solicited, is in the southeast region. This region includes inventoried public lands within 35 areas, encompassing approximately 815,000 acres. Establishment of new WSAs would amend the Grand and San Juan Resource Management Plans (RMPs). These land use plans are administered

by the Moab and Monticello Field Offices, respectively. The following land use plans and associated wilderness inventory areas depict the areas currently under study: Grand RMP: Beaver Creek, Behind the Rocks, Fisher Towers, Goldbar, Granite Creek, Hatch Wash, Hunter Canyon, east portion of Labyrinth Canyon, Lost Spring Canyon, Mary Jane Canyon, Mill Creek Canyon, Negro Bill Canyon, Shafer Canyon, and Westwater Canyon Inventory Areas. San Juan RMP: Arch and Mule Canyons, Bridger Jack Mesa, Butler Wash, Cheesebox Canyon, Comb Ridge, Cross Canyon, Dark Canyon, Fish and Owl Creeks, Fort Knocker Canyon, Gooseneck, Grand Gulch, Gravel and Long Canyons, Harmony Flat, Harts Point, Indian Creek, Mancos Mesa, Nokai Dome, Road Canyon, San Juan River, Sheep Canyon, Squaw and Papoose Canyon. The Gooseneck and Harts Point inventory areas involve both of the RMPs.

Three additional regional groupings of areas will be subject to WSA planning and studies in the future: Uintah and Book Cliffs/San Rafael Swell/Henry Mountains (eastern areas); the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument/Kane County/Washington Counties (south-central/southwest areas); and inventory areas found in the West Desert of Utah. All WSA planning is expected to be completed statewide by 2004.

Scoping comments should focus on all lands within the southeastern Utah region that encompass the 35 areas previously identified in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Report. Comments would be particularly helpful if they address one or more of the following elements:

(a) Any additional information concerning wilderness characteristics within the 35 inventoried areas of the southeastern region, including those lands found by the BLM in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory to be lacking wilderness characteristics.

(b) Information regarding manageability opportunities or conflicts including information on valid existing rights which could be exercised (developed) during the next ten to fifteen years and thereby preclude effective management under the IMP.

(c) Specific information on other resource uses within the inventoried areas, including such uses as grazing practices, rights of way, corridor development, recreation development or mechanical uses, off highway vehicle use, development for mineral extraction, or oil and gas exploration and production.

(d) The proposed planning criteria described further below.

Those members of the public who have previously submitted comments regarding all or portions of the inventoried areas in the southeast region do not need to resubmit scoping comments on these areas, as BLM will take all of the existing comments into consideration. Additional comments focused on the lands initially found by BLM not to have wilderness characteristics are appropriate at this time and would be helpful in identifying and addressing specific issues in these areas. Proposed planning criteria were originally made available in the **Federal Register** Notice of March 18, 1999.

1. BLM will amend the RMPs based on the information contained in the Utah Wilderness Inventory of 1999, as supplemented by information gathered and analyses contributed in this planning/NEPA process.

2. This planning/NEPA process will conform to all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Archeological Resource Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

3. To the extent possible under Federal law, and within the framework of proper long-term management of the public lands, BLM will strive to ensure that its management prescriptions and planning actions take into consideration related programs, plans, or policies of other resource agencies. This will include the formal consistency review by the State of Utah Governor's office. BLM will work closely with the Governor's Office to help facilitate the consistency review process.

4. BLM will provide local, state and Federal agencies a copy of the Draft EIS with a written request to comment. Agencies may identify in writing any inconsistencies with formally approved land use plans or their related jurisdictions.

5. Existing WSAs will continue to be managed under the provisions of the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP). The current plan amendment process will not address suitability recommendations for existing WSAs.

6. Planning decisions made through this BLM process will apply only to Federal public lands.

7. All valid existing rights will continue to be recognized.

8. Any WSAs designated pursuant to this process will contain the following recommended setbacks:

- 300 feet from the centerline of high standard paved roads,
- 100 feet from the centerline of high

standard graveled roads,
 – 30 feet from the centerline of low standard dirt roads, Unless resource conditions warrant granting exceptions.

9. The plan amendment process will address off highway vehicle designations in the inventory areas, consistent with the provisions of the IMP as necessary to protect wilderness characteristics.

Alternatives that are currently proposed for consideration include: (1) No Action—Under this alternative, none of the inventory areas would be designated as WSAs and the lands would continue to be managed according to the existing land use plans; (2) All areas would be designated as WSAs, and IMP would be applied to all lands; (3) Selected WSAs—Some of the 35 inventoried areas, or portions thereof, would be designated as WSAs and IMP would be applied, while other inventoried areas, or portions thereof, would not be designated as WSAs. The EIS would provide information and analysis to identify impacts associated with each alternative.

Planning for the southeastern region is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2000. A draft EIS is expected to be published by Spring of 2000.

The public will have opportunities to provide further input, review information, and to comment on the draft EIS. Anyone wanting to be added to the mail list for this planning project should contact the BLM at the address given above. Comments received, including names and addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Utah State Office and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written scoping letter. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: October 28, 1999.

Linda S. Coleville,

Acting Utah State Director.

[FR Doc. 99–28698 Filed 11–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UTU–76561, UTU–77365]

Utah; Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases

In accordance with Title IV of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (Public Law 97–451), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas leases UTU–76561 and UTU–77365 for lands in Duchesne and Emery Counties, Utah, was timely filed and required rentals accruing from September 1, 1999, the date of termination, have been paid.

The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. The \$500 administrative fee for each lease has been paid and the lessee has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of publishing this notice.

Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the leases as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate leases UTU–76561 and UTU–77365, effective September 1, 1999, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Robert Lopez,

Chief, Branch of Minerals Adjudication.

[FR Doc. 99–28697 Filed 11–2–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–056–1430–ES; N–65825]

Notice of Realty Action: Segregation Terminated, Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Segregation terminated, recreation and public purpose lease/conveyance.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada was segregated on July 23, 1997 for exchange purposes under serial number N–61855. The exchange segregation on the subject lands will be terminated upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The land has been examined and found suitable for lease/conveyance for recreational or public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act,

as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Clark County proposes to use the lands for a fire station and training facility.

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 21 S., R. 62 E.,

Sec. 2, Lot 15.

Containing 40.00 acres, more or less, located at Hollywood Ave. and Sahara Ave.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The lease/conveyance is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest. The lease/patents, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations of the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and will be subject to:

1. Easements in accordance with the Clark County Transportation Plan.

2. Those rights for telephone purposes which have been granted to Sprint Central Telephone by right-of-way CC–017422A under the Act of March 4, 1911 (43 USC 961).

3. Those rights for gas line purposes which have been granted to Southwest Gas Corporation by right-of-way Nev–061333 under the Act of February 25, 1920 (30 USC 185 sec. 28).

4. Those rights for water line purposes which have been granted to the Bureau of Reclamation by right-of-way N–1521 under the Act of December 5, 1924 (43 Stat. 0672).

5. Those rights for roadway purposes which have been granted to Clark County by right-of-way N–56936 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 USC 1761).

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws.