

under the mining law until May 2000 when the clay mineral was determined locatable by BLM mineral examiners. At that time processing of the plan of operations commenced and BLM managers determined an environmental impact statement (EIS) would be prepared to analyze potential impacts resulting from the mining operations. The proposed mining operation would occur in phases over 20 years, in two pits, on a total of 340 acres of the 6,000 acres of mining claims Oil-Dri holds in the area. The processing plant for drying, crushing, and packaging of the clay material (cat litter) would be located on Oil-Dri private land located to the south of the mine area. Initially, the mine and processing plant would employ approximately 50 individuals, with an increase to 100 employees over time with expanded production.

The EIS will address issues brought forth through scoping comments and will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of specialists. A range of alternatives and mitigating measures will be considered to evaluate and minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

Federal, state, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the BLM decision on the proposed plan of operations are invited to participate in the scoping process with respect to this environmental analysis. These entities and individuals are also invited to submit comments on the DEIS.

It is important that those interested in the proposed activities participate in the scoping and commenting processes. Comments should be as specific as possible.

The project schedule is as follows:
Begin Public Comment Period—July, 2000.

Issue Draft EIS—December 2000.

Issue Final EIS—May 2001.

Issue Record of Decision—June 2001.

The BLM's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) identification of viable alternatives; (3) notification of interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues, or other issues, can be obtained.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to

withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: July 10, 2000.

John Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-930-1060-JJ-241E]

Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: A public hearing is scheduled at the Bureau of Land Management State Office. A formal hearing will be conducted to receive statements from the public concerning the use of helicopters and motor vehicles in wild horse gather operations within Idaho for calendar year 2000.

DATE AND TIME: July 27, 2000, 6–8 p.m.
Location at the B.L.M.'s Idaho State Office, Sagebrush/Ponderosa Room, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Courtney, Rangeland Management Specialist, Salmon Field Office, Highway 93 South, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467, telephone (208) 756-5469, or Sam Mattise, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705, telephone (208) 384-3356.

The meeting is open to the public and interested persons may make oral statement on the subject. All statements will be recorded.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Kate Kitchell,

Lower Snake River District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-921-1430-ET; WYW 67917]

Public Land Order No. 7458; Revocation of Bureau of Land Management Order Dated August 17, 1948, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order revokes, in its entirety, a Bureau of Land Management order insofar as it affects 7,016.29 acres of public lands withdrawn for the Bureau of Reclamation's Missouri Basin Project, Big Horn Unit No. 3. The lands are no longer needed for reclamation purposes. Of the lands included in this revocation, 4,536.29 acres will not be opened to surface entry and mining until the completion of a planning review. These lands have been and will remain open to mineral leasing. The remaining 2,480 acres have been conveyed out of Federal ownership and the revocation on this portion is a record-clearing action only.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 14, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet Booth, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 N. Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828 (MS-921), Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, 307-775-6124.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Bureau of Land Management Order dated August 17, 1948, which withdrew the following described lands for the Bureau of Reclamation's Missouri Basin Project, Big Horn Unit 3, is hereby revoked in its entirety:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 49 N., R. 92 W.,

Secs. 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31.

T. 49 N., R. 93 W.,

Sec. 12, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and S¹/₂SE¹/₄

Secs. 13, 24, 25, and 36.

The areas described aggregate 7,016.29 acres in Big Horn County.

2. The following described public lands, which are included in paragraph 1, will not be opened to until a planning review and analysis are completed to determine if any of these lands need special designation and protection or have exchange potential:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 49 N., R. 92 W.,

Sec. 18, lots 6 to 9, inclusive;