

brown pelicans. All of the current management activities will continue. Some activities, such as special-status species inventories, will be substantially expanded. New management tools and techniques will include: using prescribed fire to augment mowing and herbicide use in the grassland/shrubland habitat; conducting inventories of all habitats on the Refuge; translocating problem avian predators of the western snowy plover; and creating a geographical information system database to track vegetation and population trends. In addition, the Service will pursue a long-term lease with the State Lands Commission to manage the beach and tidelands below mean high water. Full implementation of this alternative will require increased staffing and funding.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

**D. Kenneth McDermond,**

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-03-1990-EX]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental EIS for Golden Sunlight Mine, Montana

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a supplement to the 1998 Golden Sunlight Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) intend to prepare a Supplement to the 1998 Golden Sunlight EIS. This process will incorporate a revised reclamation plan based on a Montana state court decision requiring partial pit backfill.

**DATES:** The BLM and DEQ are seeking comments from individuals, organizations, tribal governments, and Federal, State, and local agencies that are interested or may be affected by the proposed action. The scoping comment period will start with the publication of this notice. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Golden Sunlight Partial Pit Backfill Supplemental EIS, Butte Field Office,

106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana 59701, or Montana DEQ, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Williams, (406) 533-7655, BLM Butte Field Office, or Greg Hallsten, (406) 444-3276, Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc. (GSM) mines and processes gold-bearing ore using facilities located on public and private lands located near Whitehall, Montana. GSM has conducted mining and mineral processing activities since 1975. GSM was permitted through an Environmental Assessment (EA) to proceed with a mine expansion in 1990. Legal action following approval of the mine expansion led to a 1998 EIS and Record of Decision by BLM and the Montana DEQ. Following legal action, a series of Montana District Court rulings ultimately resulted in a ruling requiring GSM to submit a partial pit backfill plan meeting the requirements of Montana law and the judgment of the Court. GSM submitted a revised partial pit backfill plan to the DEQ and BLM on December 2, 2002. The plan submittal is a revised reclamation plan for the open pit. No modifications to the ongoing mining operations are proposed under this submittal; all mining activities are continuing under the approved operating plan. The Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is intended to evaluate the proposed partial pit backfill proposal.

While public participation is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the SEIS. To assist the BLM in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the proposed SEIS should be as specific as possible. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published as part of the SEIS. 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. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

**Richard M. Hotaling,**  
*Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-03-1020-PG]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on June 5-6, 2003, at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Rooms 2 and 3, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, NM, beginning at 8 a.m. The meeting will adjourn between 4 and 5 p.m. both days. An optional Field Trip is planned for Wednesday, June 4. The three established RAC subcommittees will meet in the late afternoon or evening on Thursday, June 5. Location will be announced at the meeting. The public comment period will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 6, and end at 12 noon.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in New Mexico. At this meeting, the topics we plan to discuss include:

Access Issues  
Bark Beetle Infestation  
Fire and Fuels Management Plan  
Amendment/Environmental Assessment  
Stewardship Contracting

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.