

management objectives and strategies related to wildlife and habitat management; public use, education, and interpretation; safety; open and effective communication; working with others; and refuge operations.

Alternative B, the Service's Proposed Action, emphasizes wildlife and habitat conservation with a moderate amount of wildlife-dependent public use. Refuge-wide habitat conservation would include management of native plant communities, weeds, restoration tools, removal and revegetation of unused roads and stream crossings, management of deer and elk populations, prairie dogs, and protection of Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat. Visitor use facilities would include about 16 miles of trails, a seasonally staffed visitor contact station, trailheads with parking, and developed overlooks. Most of the trails would use existing roads and public access would be by foot, bicycle, horse, or car. A limited public hunting program would be developed.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Some of the changes from the Draft CCP/EIS that resulted from public comments included changes to trail alignments, more flexible trail implementation, changes to the types of weaponry allowed for hunting, more discussion about issues related to cleanup and contamination, and additional discussion about potential impacts from transportation improvements. Public outreach has included public open houses, public hearings, individual outreach activities, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. Two previous notices were published in the **Federal Register** concerning this CCP/EIS (67 FR 54667, August 23, 2002; and 69 FR 7789, February 19, 2004).

During the Draft CCP/EIS comment period that occurred from February 19, 2004 to April 25, 2004, the Service received over 5,000 comments from about 1,000 individuals, agencies, and organizations. Comments were received through public hearing testimony, letters, emails, form letters, and petitions. All substantive issues raised in the comments were addressed in the Final CCP/EIS. Public comments will be available for review at the Front Range Community College Library, Rocky Flats Reading Room or at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center on weekends. Responses to comments will be included as a companion document with the Final CCP/EIS.

Dated: September 29, 2004.

Linda H. Kelsey,

*Acting Deputy Regional Director, Region 6,
Denver, Colorado.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-1990-EX]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Golden Sunlight Mine, Jefferson County, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has been prepared for the Golden Sunlight Mine administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Butte Field Office (BLM) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The SEIS addresses alternatives and potential impacts and mitigating measures associated with Golden Sunlight Mine's proposed pit backfill.

DATES: We will accept written comments on the Draft SEIS for 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. We will announce future meetings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings. The Draft SEIS will be posted on the Montana DEQ Web site (<http://www.deq.state.mt.us>).

ADDRESSES: Send your written comments concerning this notice to: Greg Hallsten, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901. Submit electronic comments to: ghallsten@state.mt.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to request a copy of the document, contact: Greg Hallsten, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or David Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office, 106 N. Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Golden Sunlight Mine pit backfill and reclamation is in response to a District Court order stipulating that

reclamation of the open pit be carried out in accordance with the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. The public is invited to review and comment on the range and adequacy of the alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and proposed mitigation of impacts in the SEIS. For comments to be most helpful, they should be specific in identifying any concerns or conflicts the reviewer may have with the analysis in 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.

Richard M. Hotaling,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-5853-EU]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Air Force, Nellis Air Force Base; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Clark County Regional Flood Control District; Clark County Comprehensive Planning; City of Henderson; City of Las Vegas; City of North Las Vegas.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with the specific purpose to enable BLM to transfer title or authorize uses of public land in the Las Vegas Valley. The project area consists of public lands identified for disposal within the boundary established by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

(SNPLMA) (Pub. L. 105–263), and as expanded/amended by the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Act) (Pub. L. 107–282).

DATES: BLM will sign the Record of Decision (ROD) for the FEIS the same day the Notice of Availability for the FEIS is published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the **Federal Register**. The ROD will be provided with the FEIS and the signed copy of the ROD will be posted on the official Web site on the day of signature. Therefore, the 30-day period of availability will also serve as the appeal period for the entire FEIS, as provided for by 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2). Appeal rights will be explained in the ROD as well as the cover page of the FEIS. No actions can occur until the 30-day period expires.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the FEIS for the official record to: E-mail: jsteinme@nv.blm.gov. Fax: (702) 515–5155. Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130–2301. 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. Copies of the FEIS are available in the BLM Las Vegas Field Office at the above address during office hours (7:30 to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays). Interested persons may also view the FEIS on the Internet at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/lvdiseis>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Steinmetz, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, telephone (702) 515–5097; e-mail jsteinme@nv.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FEIS complies with NEPA, FLPMA, and BLM management policies as defined in the Las Vegas RMP of 1998. The FEIS contains a summary of the alternatives and resulting impacts of implementing land disposal actions, identifies the preferred alternative (Conservation Transfer), and contains a summary of written and verbal comments received during the 60-day public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and responses to the substantive issues raised during the

review. The DEIS was released for public review on September 10, 2004.

Shortly after approval of SNPLMA, the BLM received a rapid increase in the requests for public land disposal. The Clark County Act significantly increased the amount of land available for disposal by adding approximately 22,000 acres to the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Area by amending the boundary defined and approved in SNPLMA. The rapid disposal rate and additional lands created the need to augment the impact analysis conducted for the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP), signed October 5, 1998. The FEIS addresses the intent of Congress, as manifested in the SNPLMA and the Clark County Act, to provide public land for local community development. This does not preclude other authorized uses of public lands such as applications for Rights-of-Way, Leases, and Recreation and Public Purpose uses pending disposal of public lands located in Clark County, Nevada.

The FEIS analyzes three alternatives. The alternatives include complete disposal, a disposal implementation option (Conservation Transfer) that addresses sensitive environmental resources, and a no action alternative as required by NEPA. The no action alternative to land disposal is a continuation of realty management as specified in the RMP. Comments that were received on the DEIS from the public and internal BLM review comments were incorporated into the FEIS where appropriate. Major resource issues addressed in the FEIS include air quality, surface water hydrology and water quality, water supply and demand, protected and sensitive plant and wildlife species, archaeological and historic sites, paleontological resources, socio-economics, recreation opportunities, and visual characteristics.

BLM intends to proceed with the land sale scheduled for February 2, 2005 (see Notice of Realty Action, **Federal Register**, Vol. 69, No. 218, Friday, November 12, 2004, Notices, pages 65450–65454), based in part on the Record of Decision for the Land Disposal FEIS. Copies of the Las Vegas Valley Disposal FEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State and local government agencies and to interested parties.

Mark T. Morse,

Field Manager, Las Vegas.

[FR Doc. 04–27487 Filed 12–15–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–070–05–1310–EJ]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Possible Plan Amendment Concerning Oil and Gas Leasing in the Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the continued implementation of the oil and gas leasing decisions in the 1985 Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended in 2003. This may lead to further amendment of the RMP for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office in Campbell, Sheridan, and Johnson Counties, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: This Notice is intended to satisfy the requirements at 43 CFR 1610.2(c) for amending an RMP (if deemed necessary) pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and initiates scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The purpose of this EA is to examine land use allocations for oil and gas leasing and lease stipulations in light of new information, including new development scenarios since 1985, in the Buffalo Field Office (BFO). This action has been prompted by recent rulings of the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (the Court) which upheld the IBLA's April 26, 2002, determination that the 1985 Buffalo RMP/EIS and the Wyodak EIS were insufficient to support certain leasing decisions because the RMP did not discuss the impacts to air and water of coal bed natural gas (CBNG) extraction and production. See *Pennaco Energy v. DOI*, 377 F.3d 1147 (10th Cir., August 10, 2004).

DATES: The public is invited to comment on this proposed action, the scope of the EA, alternatives to be considered, and planning criteria. The BLM can best use comments and resource information that are submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. BLM does not plan to hold scoping meetings at this time.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments or questions to the BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834. Written comments must have the Environmental Assessment number 070–05–070 written