

The objective of this final plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of these six aquatic snails so that protection under the Act is no longer necessary. As reclassification and recovery criteria are met, the status of these species will be reviewed and they will be considered for reclassification or removal from the *Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants* (50 CFR part 17).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: September 8, 2005.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E5-6759 Filed 12-1-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-038-1220-AL; HAG 06-0011]

#### Notice of Call for Nominations for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board

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

**ACTION:** Call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management is requesting public nominations to fill an unexpired term on the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board provides advice regarding management, use, and further development of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. The Bureau of Land Management will consider public nominations until January 17, 2006.

**DATES:** Send all nominations to the address listed below no later than January 17, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the location to send nominations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208, (503) 808-6306, e-mail: [pam\\_robbins@blm.gov](mailto:pam_robbins@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1730) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board is a

citizen-based advisory council that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Members serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for government employees. As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, board membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of public lands. The unexpired term to be filled is a representative of trail advocacy groups. The term expiration is December 29, 2006. Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board. Nominees must be residents of Oregon. The Bureau of Land Management will evaluate nominees in coordination with the Governor of the State of Oregon, based on their education, training, and experience and their knowledge of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. The Bureau of Land Management will forward recommended nominations to the Secretary of the Interior, who has responsibility for making the appointments. The following must accompany all nominations:

- Letters of reference from trail advocacy group(s),
- A completed background information nomination form,
- Any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

Nomination forms are available from Pam Robbins, P.O. Box 2965, 333 SW., First Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97208-2965, (503) 808-6306, email: [pam\\_robbins@blm.gov](mailto:pam_robbins@blm.gov). Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

Dated: October 20, 2005.

**David R. Henderson,**

*Vale District Manager, OR/WA BLM.*

[FR Doc. E5-6777 Filed 12-1-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-1990]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement To Analyze the Proposed Amendment to the Pipeline/South Pipeline Plan of Operations (NVN-067575) for the Cortez Hills Expansion Project

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

**COOPERATING AGENCY** Nevada Department of Wildlife. Consultation is ongoing with the Environmental Protection Agency on Cooperating Agency status.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the Proposed Amendment to the Pipeline/South Pipeline Plan of Operations (NVN-067575) for the Cortez Hills Expansion Project, Lander and Eureka Counties, Nevada, and notice of scoping period.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Battle Mountain Field Office will be directing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze proposed pit and process facility expansions and development of a new open-pit gold mine and associated facilities, in Lander and Eureka counties, Nevada. The EIS will be prepared by a third-party contractor directed by the BLM and funded by the proponent, Cortez Gold Mines. The project will involve public and private lands in Lander and Eureka counties, Nevada. The BLM invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on the scope of the EIS can be submitted in writing to the address below and must be post-marked or otherwise delivered by 4:30 p.m. on January 3, 2006. Scoping meetings will be held in Crescent Valley and in Battle Mountain, Nevada. All scoping meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters or flyers, at least 15 days prior to each event. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participants who wish to clarify the views they expressed.

The purpose of the public scoping meetings is to identify issues to be addressed in the EIS, and to identify potentially viable alternatives that address these issues. BLM personnel will be present to explain the NEPA process, mining regulations, and other requirements for processing the proposed Plan of Operations Amendment and the associated EIS. Representatives of Cortez Gold Mines will also be available to describe their proposal.

**ADDRESSES:** Written scoping comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land

Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820, ATTN: Chris Worthington. Written comments may also be faxed to Chris Worthington at (775) 635-4034. Documents pertinent to this proposal as well as comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, may be examined at the Battle Mountain Field Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays). Comments 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. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Worthington, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820 (775) 635-4144.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Cortez Gold Mines (CGM), on behalf of the Cortez Joint Venture, proposes to expand its Pipeline/South Pipeline Project, an existing open-pit gold mining and processing operation. The Pipeline/South Pipeline Project is located in north-central Nevada approximately 31 miles south of Beowawe in Lander County.

The proposed Cortez Hills Expansion Project (Project) is located within Township 27 North (T27N), Range 47 East (R47E); T27N, R46E; T26N, R47E; T26N, R48E; T28N, R46E; and T28N, R47E in Lander and Eureka counties. The currently authorized disturbance area associated with the Pipeline/South Pipeline Project is 9,103 acres. Approximately 6,139 additional acres of disturbance would occur as a result of the proposed mine expansion, most of which would occur on federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management Battle Mountain Field Office.

The project would involve the construction and development of the following primary components in the Cortez Hills and Cortez Mine area: New open pit for development of the Cortez Hills and Pediment ore zones with an in-pit groundwater dewatering system;

expansion of existing Cortez Mine open pits; two new heap leach facilities with associated solution ponds and two carbon-in-column facilities; new ore, subgrade ore, and growth media stockpiles; two new waste rock disposal facilities; expansion of the existing waste rock disposal facility at the Cortez Mine; new ancillary facilities (maintenance shop, administrative facilities, and fuel and lubricant storage facilities); new primary crusher, stock pile area, and 12-mile conveyor system; expansion of the existing tailings facility at the Cortez Mill; new water supply well(s) and associated power line and pipeline; potential new cross-valley water pipelines; Horse Canyon haul road modifications; relocation of existing county road and relocation of existing 69-kV transmission line segments in the project area; installation of a new 120-kV transmission line and substation; new borrow area; and construction of a new land fill and reactivation of the existing landfill near the Cortez Mill.

The project also would involve the construction or modification of the following primary components in the Pipeline/South Pipeline and Gold Acres areas:

Expansion of the existing Pipeline waste rock disposal facility, relocation of the existing county road around the waste rock disposal facility expansion area, expansion of the existing Pipeline/South Pipeline open pit, and an increase in the Pipeline Mill processing capacity from the currently permitted 13,500 tons per day (tpd) to an average of 15,000 tpd.

CGM proposes to mine the ore body in the Cortez Hills Expansion area concurrently with their existing Pipeline/South Pipeline ore bodies. Although a portion of the ore from the Cortez Hills Expansion area may be processed at the existing Cortez and/or Pipeline mills, the primary method of processing would be heap leaching at the Cortez Hills site. Construction and operation of the Cortez Hills Expansion Project is anticipated to be initiated in 2007. The life of the mine would include approximately 10 years of active mining and an additional 3 years for on-going ore processing. Concurrent reclamation would be conducted during this period as areas become available. Site closure and final reclamation would continue for a few additional years.

Potential significant direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts from the proposed action will be analyzed in the EIS. Significant issues to be addressed in the EIS include dewatering activities, cultural and native American

issues, and visual impacts. Additional issues to be addressed may arise during the scoping process. Federal, state, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this Plan of Operations amendment are invited to participate in the scoping process.

Dated: October 26, 2005.

**Gerald M. Smith,**  
*Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.*  
[FR Doc. E5-6768 Filed 12-1-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-922-06-1310-FI; COC62571]

#### Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2-3(a) and (b)(1), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease COC62571 from Red Willow Production Company for lands in Jackson County, Colorado. The petition was filed on time and was accompanied by all the rentals due since the date the lease terminated under the law.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management, Milada Krasilinec, Land Law Examiner, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication, at 303.239.3767.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre or fraction thereof, per year and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$155 to reimburse the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease COC62571 effective April 1, 2005, under the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.