

by close of business on September 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice for the locations of the tribal listening sessions. Submit comments by email to: *consultation@bia.gov* or by U.S. mail to: Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, attn.: Dion Killback, Mail Stop 4141 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dion Killback, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, (202) 208–6939.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, intends to develop policy to strengthen the protection of sacred sites on Federal lands. For many years the Department has received input on sacred sites and to that end, the Department is seeking input specific, but not limited to, the following topics regarding sacred sites

- Meanings of sacred sites and whether the Department should attempt to define the term “sacred site”;
- Personal views of existing Departmental practices or policies, if any, that should be revised to protect

sacred sites and steps necessary to make appropriate revisions;

- Potential development of Departmental practices or policies to protect sacred sites;
- How the Department should facilitate tribal access to sacred sites;
- How the Department should control and grant access to tribally provided information regarding sacred sites;
- Whom the Department should include (recognized leaders of tribal government, tribal spiritual leaders, et.al.) in determining whether a site is considered “sacred” by a tribe.

Tribal listening sessions will be held at the following dates and locations:

Date	Time	Venue
August 13, 2012	1 p.m.–4 p.m	BIA Southwest Regional Office, Pete V. Domenici Building, 1001 Indian School Road, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104, (505) 563–3103.
August 16, 2012	9 a.m.–12 p.m	Holiday Inn-Grand Montana-Billings, 5500 Midland Road, Billings, Montana 59101, (406) 248–7701.
August 23, 2012	1 p.m.–4 p.m	Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, 2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard, Prior Lake, MN 55372, (952) 445–9000.
August 24, 2012	9 a.m.–12 p.m	Mohegan Sun Casino, 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, Connecticut 06382,(860) 862–7311.

Dated: July 27, 2012.

Donald E. Laverdure,
Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.
[FR Doc. 2012–18891 Filed 7–30–12; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

[LLIDI002000.13300000.EO0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Phosphate Mine and Reclamation Plan, Caribou County, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture.
ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Field Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), Caribou-Targhee National Forest, will jointly prepare an Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS) to determine and analyze the effects of a proposed phosphate mine and reclamation plan on Federal mineral leases held by Nu-West Mining, Inc., in eastern Idaho. The EIS will also consider the effects of increasing the size of existing leases through lease modifications.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the scope of the analysis described in this notice by September 4, 2012. The BLM 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.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Mine EIS, C/O Tetra Tech, Address: 2525 Palmer Street, Suite 2, Missoula, MT 59808, or via email at: *BLM_ID_HUSKY1NDR_EIS@blm.gov*. Please reference “Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Mine EIS” on all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Stout, Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204, phone 208–478–6367. Scoping information will also be available at the BLM’s Web-site at <http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/id/en/info/nepa.html>, or the FS Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ctnf/landmanagement/projects>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM, as the Federal lease administrator, will

serve as the lead agency and the FS as the co-lead agency. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is a cooperating agency. The mining and reclamation plans have been developed and submitted for agency review for the proposed open pit mining operations on the Federal phosphate leases IDI–05549 (Husky 1), lease IDI–8289 (North Dry Ridge), and on a portion of the IDI–04 (Maybe Canyon Lease), as well as in areas north and south of the Husky 1 lease within federally designated known phosphate lease area (KPLA) boundaries, in Caribou County, Idaho. Open pit mining operations would be conducted by Nu-West Mining, Inc., doing business as Agrium Conda Phosphate Operations (Agrium). Agrium’s proposed mine plan includes two different mining areas separated by the historically operated, now inactive, Maybe Canyon Mine. Portions of the Maybe Canyon Mine are currently undergoing investigation and remediation through the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Phosphate Mine Project area is located about 19 miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho.

The proposed new mining operations at the Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Mine Project area occur on Federal phosphate leases administered by the BLM, on unleased parcels of National Forest System Lands, and on private lands.

The leases are primarily located on National Forest System lands. The National Forest System lands involved lie within the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The existing leases grant the lessee, Agrium in this case, exclusive rights to mine and otherwise dispose of the federally owned phosphate deposit at the site. Through development of this EIS, the BLM and the FS will analyze environmental impacts of the proposed mining and reclamation operations and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Appropriate mitigation measures will also be formulated.

Agency Decisions

The BLM Idaho State Director or delegated official will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposed mine and reclamation plan, the proposed lease modifications and appropriate land use authorizations on leased lands. Decisions will be based on the EIS and any recommendations the FS may have regarding surface management of leased National Forest System lands. The FS Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor will make:

- (1) Recommendations to the BLM concerning surface management and mitigation on leased lands within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest; and
- (2) Decisions on mine-related activities that occur off-lease within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

Special Use Authorizations from the FS would be necessary for any support structures and facilities for the mine located off-lease within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The applicable land use plans have been reviewed relative to the proposed action and at this time it is not anticipated that any amendments would be needed.

The Army Corps of Engineers may also make decisions related to permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Background

Agrium plans open-pit mining of the phosphate on their existing leases according to the terms of the leases. The proposed Husky 1-North Dry Ridge Mine Project would include an open-pit phosphate mine and associated features including growth media stockpiles, temporary and permanent overburden storage areas, storm water retention ponds and mine pit backfill areas, haul roads, equipment staging areas, and re-routing of an existing National Forest System Road (#134) for approximately 13 years. A power line may also be needed for the duration of mining and reclamation.

The existing three leases contain 3,026.59 acres. In order to maximize phosphate mineral recovery, the lessee has proposed lease modifications (enlargements) to both the Husky 1 and North Dry Ridge leases totaling 470 acres. Agrium has also requested off-lease Special Use Authorizations covering 395 additional acres to accommodate access roads, storm water retention facilities, and staging areas. While a portion of Federal Lease IDI-8289 (North Dry Ridge) occurs on Idaho Department of Fish and Game lands, no disturbance on these lands is proposed in the mine plan. The EIS will analyze a proposed disturbance of approximately 1,051.64 acres on private and National Forest System Lands; about 645.86 acres on the three existing leases, 397.24 acres on requested lease modifications and Special Use Authorizations, and about 8.54 acres off lease on private lands.

Within the disturbance area on National Forest System Lands, approximately 65 acres are in the Dry Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area. The Proposed Action is consistent with the exemptions for phosphate mining within the General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland theme of the 2008 Idaho Roadless Rule.

The mining sequence included in the Proposed Action is to mine the North Dry Ridge and Husky 1 consecutively, but with some transitional overlap. Mining will begin in the North Dry Ridge area, and then progress to the Husky 1 as production at North Dry Ridge slows. It is anticipated that mining of the North Dry Ridge deposit will occur for approximately 2.6 years followed by approximately 11 years of mining operations on the Husky 1 deposit. Mining in the North Dry Ridge area will progress from north to south, with overburden placed in the existing North Maybe Canyon pit as backfill, followed by overburden placement in the North Dry Ridge pit itself as room is made available. In the Husky 1 area, mining will again proceed generally from north to south. Initially, overburden from the Husky 1 pit would be placed in a waste dump and into the existing South Maybe Canyon southern pit as overburden backfill. As mining progresses southeast in the Husky 1 pit, overburden would be placed in the South Maybe pit, the North Maybe Canyon pit, or the previously mined out areas of the North Dry Ridge as overburden backfill.

Agrium has proposed management practices in its mine and reclamation plan to reduce environmental impacts. Reclamation would be conducted concurrently with mining. Agrium's

plan also emphasizes the backfilling of mine pits, thereby limiting the amount of overburden placed in permanent external storage areas. To reduce the potential for contaminant release to water or uptake by reclamation vegetation, Agrium is proposing to limit the amount of time that seleniferous (selenium-bearing) overburden is exposed to the elements, to return all seleniferous overburden material to the mine pits as backfill, and to cap overburden with a combination of low-seleniferous material and liner material.

Agrium proposes building new facilities associated with its mining operations including a staging area, fuel storage area, and dust suppression wells with water fill stands. In addition, existing offices and shop facilities at the nearby Dry Valley Mine would be used.

Off-lease facilities on private lands would include haul roads, stockpile areas, and a train load-out facility (tipple).

Potential impacts to water quality from dissolved metals including selenium will be addressed in the EIS. Agrium has proposed to implement practices designed to reduce, eliminate, or mitigate these impacts as described above. Suitable soil or other growth media would be salvaged from disturbed areas for use in reclamation. Concurrent mine reclamation would include backfilling pits as mining progresses, grading slopes, capping overburden disposal areas and pit backfills, reestablishing drainages, spreading growth media, stabilizing surfaces, promoting revegetation, and testing and treatment for any remaining contaminants. Facilities and equipment would be removed at closure. Environmental monitoring would be performed to ensure impacts do not exceed those authorized.

Issues initially identified for the proposed mining of the Husky 1—North Dry Ridge Mine Project include potential effects on groundwater and surface water quantity and quality; uptake of contaminants by vegetation, loss of soil and mineral resources; changes to air quality; loss of wildlife and their habitats (including fisheries); reduction of livestock grazing; impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat; reduced opportunity for recreation; impacts to inventoried roadless areas, changes in socio-economics such as employment and the continued operation of a fertilizer plant and support businesses; reduced opportunity to implement Native American rights, treaties, and land uses; changes to visual resources.

The BLM and FS will use and coordinate NEPA public participation

requirements to assist the agency in satisfying public involvement under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

The BLM and Forest Service will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts to treaty rights and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed project that is being evaluated, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM or FS to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as cooperating agencies.

Alternatives and Schedule

The EIS will analyze the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Other alternatives may be considered that could provide mitigation of potential impacts.

The tentative EIS project schedule is as follows:

- Begin public scoping period and meetings: Summer 2012;
 - Release draft EIS and associated comment period: January 2015;
 - Final EIS publication: Fall 2016;
- and
- Records of Decision: Fall 2016.

Scoping Procedure

The scoping procedure to be used for this EIS will involve notification in the **Federal Register**; a mailing to interested and potentially affected individuals, groups, Federal, State, and local government entities requesting input by way of comments, issues and concerns; news releases or legal notices; and public scoping meetings.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments will be available for

public review at the BLM address listed above during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The BLM and the FS are seeking information and written comments concerning the Proposed Action from Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, individuals, and organizations interested in, or affected by, the Proposed Action or Alternatives. To assist the BLM and the FS in identifying issues and concerns related to the Proposed Action, scoping comments should be as specific as possible.

At least three “open-house” style public scoping meetings will be held which will include displays explaining the project and a forum for asking questions and commenting on the project.

Meetings are planned to be held in Pocatello, Fort Hall, and Soda Springs, Idaho. The dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings will be announced in mailings and public notices issued by the BLM (see **DATES** above).

Authority: 43 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; 40 CFR parts 1500–1508; 43 CFR part 46; 43 U.S.C. 1701; and 43 CFR part 3590.

Joe Kraayenbrink,

District Manager, Idaho Falls District, Bureau of Land Management.

Brent Larson,

Forest Supervisor, Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 2012–18883 Filed 8–1–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT926000–L19100000–BJ0000–LRCME1R05173]

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plats of survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, on September 4, 2012.

DATES: Protests of the survey must be filed before September 4, 2012 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Protests of the survey should be sent to the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101–4669.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Montoya, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101–4669, telephone (406) 896–5124 or (406) 896–5009, *Marvin_Montoya@blm.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 4 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was necessary to determine the boundaries of tribal trust lands. The lands we surveyed are:

Principal Meridian

T. 25 N., R. 23 E.

The plat, in one sheet, representing the dependent resurvey of the south boundary of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, through Township 25 North, Range 23 East, of the Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted July 12, 2012.

We will place a copy of the plat, in one sheet, and related field notes we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information. If the BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in one sheet, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest. We will not officially file this plat, in one sheet, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3.

Steve L. Toth,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 2012–18855 Filed 8–1–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT926000–L19100000–BJ0000–LRCS42800800]

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.