

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 24 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:**

Intercontinental Potash Corporation (ICP) is proposing to develop a new underground mine in southern Lea County, New Mexico, to extract polyhalite ore for the production of the sulfate of potash, a component of agricultural fertilizer. ICP holds BLM prospecting permits and has applied for preference right leases. These prospecting permits are located about 40 miles southeast of Carlsbad and 20 miles west of Jal, in Lea County, New Mexico. ICP has proposed a Mine Plan of Operations that includes an underground mine accessed by a shaft and a ramp, and processing facilities, including the ore process plant, dry stack tailings pile, evaporation ponds, water wells, pipelines, power lines, and a railroad load out facility. The polyhalite will be continuously mined using the conventional room and pillar retreat method. In order to mine in proximity to active oil and gas wells, ICP has elected to follow the rules and regulations of a Category IV gassy mine.

The Project area includes Federal, State, and private lands totaling 31,137 acres, of which 2,400 acres would be disturbed. The surface landownership consists of about 22 percent public lands managed by the BLM, 53 percent owned by the State of New Mexico, and 25 percent privately owned. About 55 percent of the minerals within the proposed mine area is owned by the Federal Government.

Processing would require pumping a maximum of 4,000 gallons per minute of groundwater from the Capitan Reef Aquifer.

The BLM initiated the NEPA process for the Project Draft EIS by publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on January 3, 2012 (77 FR 130). The EIS will inform the BLM's decision whether to approve ICP's Ochoa Mine Plan of Operations and Closure Plan, requested rights-of-way, and preference right leases, and if so, under what terms and conditions. Public scoping meetings were conducted on January 23-24, 2012. Major issues identified for this project include oil and gas, water resources, land use, socioeconomic impacts, air quality, wildlife, livestock grazing, and health and safety.

Alternatives developed include the proposed action (Alternative A), which would include approval of ICP's Mine Plan of Operations, granting new rights-of-way, and approval of preference right leases to allow the mining and processing of polyhalite ore. In addition, three action alternatives were analyzed in the Draft EIS. Alternative B is identical to Alternative A except that the visual impacts of the tailing stockpile would be reduced. Alternative C is identical to Alternative A except that standards and guidance would be established for managing concurrent development of fluid minerals. Alternative D is similar to Alternative A, except that the location of the evaporation ponds and tailings stockpile would be at a different location. A no action alternative was also analyzed, in which the proposed mine plan of operations, rights-of-way, and preference right leases would be denied.

The Draft EIS addresses the issues and concerns raised during internal and external (public) scoping last year and analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action, three action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative. Alternate tailings management, processing facilities siting, and co-development options are included in the analysis. The BLM has not yet chosen a preferred alternative for this Project and is seeking public comment. The final preferred alternative may combine aspects of the existing alternatives.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5.

**Aden L. Seidlitz,**

*Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2013-19172 Filed 8-8-13; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLNMP02000 L14300000 ET0000 NMNM-127501/NMNM-83404]

**Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; New Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget proposes to withdraw on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2,924.65 acres of public lands and 440 acres of federally reserved mineral interests underlying non-Federal lands in Eddy County, New Mexico, to protect highly significant caves and their associated resources. This notice segregates the public lands and reserved mineral interests for up to 2 years from location and entry under the United States mining laws and gives the public an opportunity to comment on the application and to request a public meeting.

**DATES:** Comments and public meeting requests must be received on or before November 7, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, 620 E. Greene Street, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Goodbar, Cave/Karst Resource Specialist, at the address above, by telephone at (575) 234-5972 or by email at [jgoodbar@blm.gov](mailto:jgoodbar@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual. The FIRS is available 24 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:** The BLM filed an application requesting the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget to withdraw, subject to valid existing rights, the following described public lands and federally reserved minerals underlying non-Federal lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, for a period of 20 years, to protect highly significant caves and their associated resources:

**New Mexico Principal Meridian**

*McKittrick Hill Caves*

T. 22 S., R. 24 E.,

- Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 22, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 26, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 27, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Mudgetts/Little Mudgetts Caves

- T. 24 S., R. 24 E.,  
 Sec. 21, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Big Manhole/Little Manhole Caves

- T. 24 S., R. 24 E.,  
 Sec. 22, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Honest Injun Cave

- T. 22 S., R. 25 E.,  
 Sec. 28, lot 6.

#### Yellow Jacket and Lair Caves

- T. 23 S., R. 25 E.,  
 Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 23, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### KFF (Elliott's) Cave

- T. 24 S., R. 25 E.,  
 Sec. 23, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Chosa Draw Caves

- T. 25 S., R. 25 E.,  
 Sec. 20, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 21, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Sec. 22, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 27, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 28, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 29, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Lost Cave

- T. 22 S., R. 26 E.,  
 Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### Fence Canyon Cave Area

- T. 24 S., R. 26 E.,  
 Sec. 17, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Sec. 18, lot 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The following describe non-Federal surface and Federal minerals:

#### New Mexico Principal Meridian

##### Chosa Draw Caves

- T. 25 S., R. 25 E.,  
 Sec. 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The total areas described aggregate 2,924.64 acres of public lands and 440 acres of Federal minerals underlying non-Federal lands in Eddy County.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget approved the BLM's petition/application; therefore, the petition constitutes a withdrawal

proposal of the Secretary of the Interior (43 CFR 2310.1–3(e)).

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect highly significant caves and their associated resources.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency agreement, or cooperative agreement would not adequately constrain non-discretionary uses that could irrevocably destroy the area's cave resources.

There are no suitable alternative sites as the described lands contain the significant caves and their associated natural resource values.

No water rights would be needed to fulfill the purpose of the requested withdrawal.

Records relating to the application including maps may be examined by contacting Jim Goodbar of the BLM Carlsbad Field Office at the above address and phone number. Cave locations are confidential information, therefore not subject to the Freedom of Information Act in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.

For the period until November 7, 2013, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal application may present their views in writing to the BLM Carlsbad Field Office at the address noted above. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Carlsbad Field Office, at the address above, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including address, phone number, email address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including 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 view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the BLM Carlsbad Field Office no later than November 7, 2013. If the authorized officer determines that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register**

and through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: [http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad\\_Field\\_Office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Carlsbad_Field_Office.html), at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

For a period until August 10, 2015 the public lands and federally reserved minerals described in this notice will be segregated from location and entry under the United States mining laws unless the application is denied or cancelled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations of a temporary nature which will not significantly impact the values to be protected by the withdrawal may be allowed with the approval of the authorized officer of the BLM during the segregative period.

This application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2310.3.

**William Merhege,**

*Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Resources.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–NRSS–EQD–13710; PPWONRADN1, PPMRSNR1N.NS0000]

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request: NPS Study of Value of Natural Sounds: A Pilot Study

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We (National Park Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection request (ICR) described below. This collection will consist of a pretest of a survey of the general public concerning the value of natural quiet in national parks. To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as a part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other federal agencies to comment on this ICR. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** To ensure that your comments on this ICR are considered, OMB must receive them on or before September 9, 2013.