

facilities; heap leach pads, associated process solution pond, and an event pond; an adsorption, desorption, and recovery plant, including barren and pregnant solution tanks; ancillary and other facilities, including explosive storage area, ammonium nitrate prill silos, liquid natural gas cryostorage, or compressed natural gas generators and switch station, truck shop and wash bay, ready line, landfill, laydown areas, water and power infrastructure, buildings, yards, parking, storage, growth media stockpiles, production water wells (GBPW-210 and GBPW-211) and associated water supply pipeline, groundwater monitoring wells (GBMW-01, GBMW-03, and GBMW-04), communication facilities, potable water and fire water facilities, septic systems, and fencing; and mine access roads (Three Bars Road, Atlas Haul Road, North Roberts Creek Road, Bypass Road [NVN-91566], and Roberts Creek Road). Total proposed Project disturbance would be approximately 1,127 acres of surface disturbance, which includes both proposed new disturbance and existing disturbance that would be incorporated into the Project, with approximately 944 acres on public land administered by the BLM Mount Lewis Field Office and 183 acres on private land. The actions involved in the decision to be made by the U.S. Department of the Interior's BLM include authorization of the Gold Bar Plan of Operations. The Gold Bar Mine Project is in conformance with the 1986 Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision.

The proposed pit depths would not intercept groundwater. No pit dewatering would be necessary and no pit lakes are anticipated to form after mining operations end.

The purpose of this comment period is for the public to comment on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS, through scoping, has identified and analyzed impacts to the following resources areas: Water resources; air quality; vegetation resources (including noxious weed and special status species); wildlife (including migratory birds and special status species); grazing management; land use and access; aesthetics (noise and visual); cultural resources; paleontological resources; geological resources (including minerals and soils); recreation; social and economic values; hazardous materials; Native American cultural concerns; and wild horses. The project area does not have any lands with wilderness characteristics. The Pony Express National Historic Trail (NHT) crosses existing Three Bars and North Roberts Creek Roads; however,

public and recreational access to the NHT would not be affected by mining activities.

The Draft EIS describes and analyzes the proposed Project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on all affected resources. In addition to the proposed Project, four alternatives were analyzed including the 25kV Overhead Distribution Line Alternative, the Three Bars Road/Atlas Haul Road as Only Access Alternative, the Mount Hope and North Roberts Creek Road for Light Vehicle Traffic Alternative, and the No Action Alternative. Development of alternatives focused on reducing impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.

On September 11, 2015, a Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** inviting scoping comments on the Proposed Action (80 FR 54800). A public scoping meeting was held in Eureka on October 6, 2015. A total of 12 scoping comment letters were received during the scoping period. Concerns raised included impacts to water resources, air quality, wild horses, wildlife, and recreation.

The BLM has utilized and coordinated the NEPA scoping and comment process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3)—and the BLM continues to do so. The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed Project has assisted the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Title 54 of the NHPA.

The BLM has consulted and continues to consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including potential impacts to areas of critical cultural and spiritual significance and potential impacts to cultural resources, have been analyzed in the Draft EIS. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed Project that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the comment process.

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 1503.1 and 1506.6.

**Jon D. Sherve,**

*Field Manager, Mount Lewis Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 2017-03966 Filed 3-2-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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#### Notice of Public Meeting, Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council, Idaho

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

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

**DATES:** The Twin Falls District RAC will meet March 15, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the BLM Shoshone Fire Ready Room, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end no later than 5:30 p.m. The public comment period will take place from 10:15–10:45 a.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heather Tiel-Nelson, Twin Falls District, Idaho, 2878 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301, (208) 736-2352. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, to contact the above individual. The FRS 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 15-member RAC 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 Idaho. During the March 15 meeting, there will be a new member orientation, an officer election, field office manager updates and an overview of the Idaho Department of Water Resources water recharge efforts—which will include an afternoon field tour. Additional topics may be added and will be included in local media announcements.

More information is available online at <http://bit.ly/TFD-RAC>  
RAC meetings are open to the public.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1784.4-1.

**Elizabeth A. Maclean,**

*BLM Twin Falls District Manager (Acting).*

[FR Doc. 2017-04071 Filed 3-2-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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#### Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative—Science Technical Advisory Panel, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Energy Policy Act, Section 348, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior, North Slope Science Initiative—Science Technical Advisory Panel will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 20–21, 2017, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 20, and will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at Noon on Tuesday, March 21. The public will have an opportunity to comment from 3:30 p.m.–4 p.m. on Monday, March 20.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus in the International Arctic Research Center, Room 401, 930 North Koyukuk Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Guyer, Acting Deputy Director, North Slope Science Initiative, Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, 907-271-3284 or email [sguyer@blm.gov](mailto:sguyer@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven 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 Science Technical Advisory Panel provides advice and recommendations to the North Slope Science Initiative Oversight Group about priority

information needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority information needs and recommendations may include inventory, monitoring, and research activities that contribute to informed resource management decisions. This meeting will include continued review of emerging issues and application of North Slope Scenarios implications to inventory, monitoring, and research priorities.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the North Slope Science Initiative Acting Deputy Director. The public may present written comments to the Science Technical Advisory Panel through the North Slope Science Initiative Acting Deputy Director. 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. 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.

The draft meeting plan and minutes from previous meetings are available for public inspection at <http://northslope.org/stap/#documents>.

**Erika Reed,**

*Acting Alaska State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2017-04162 Filed 3-2-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOS00000 L12200000.PM0000-17X]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, Southwest Resource Advisory Council

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is scheduled to meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 31, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A public comment time regarding matters on the agenda will be held at 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Montrose County Fairgrounds (Pioneer Room), 1001 N. Second St., Montrose, CO 81401.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shannon Borders, Public Affairs Specialist; 970-240-5300; 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact this office during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with this office. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Southwest RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of public land issues in Colorado. Topics of discussion for the meeting may include field manager and working group reports, recreation, fire management, land use planning, invasive species management, energy and minerals management, travel management, wilderness, land exchange proposals, cultural resource management, and other issues, as appropriate.

This meeting will be open to the public. As noted above, the RAC meeting also will allocate time for public comments. Depending on the number of people who wish to comment and the time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Attendees may also submit written comments for the RAC's consideration. 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.

Summary minutes for the RAC meeting will be available for public inspection within 30 days following the meeting at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/colorado/southwest-rac/minutes>.

**Ruth Welch,**

*BLM Colorado State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2017-04163 Filed 3-2-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P**