Authority

We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: December 3, 2010.

David L. Hankla,

Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office.

[FR Doc. 2010–31148 Filed 12–10–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[USGS—GX11EB00A1810.00]

Proposed Information Collection; Assessment of the Business Requirements and Benefits of Enhanced National Elevation Data

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Geological Survey) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. The ICR, which is summarized below, describes the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as 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. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

DATES: You must submit comment on or before January 12, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this ICR to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB–OIRA at (202) 395–5806 (fax) or *OIRA_DOCKET@OMB.eop.gov* (e-mail). Please send a copy of your comments on the ICR to Phadrea Ponds, Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 2150–C Centre Avenue Fort Collins, CO 80526 (mail); *pondsp@usgs.gov* (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection Request 1028–NEW, LiDAR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Snyder by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 517, Reston, VA 20192–0001, or by telephone at 703–648–5169.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

USGS supports some of the most pressing resource management, environmental and climate change science issues faced by our Nation. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is the leading technology for collecting highly accurate three-dimensional measurements of the Earth's topography and surface features such as buildings, bridges, coastlines, rivers, forests and other landscape characteristics. These data provide an unprecedented tool for scientific understanding and inform National decisions related to ecosystem management, energy development, natural resource conservation and mitigating geologic and flood-related hazards. The USGS now collects LiDAR data to a limited extent and primarily for upgrading bare-earth elevation data for The National Map. This study seeks to establish a baseline of national business needs and associated benefits for LiDAR to enhance the responsiveness of USGS programs, and to design an efficient future program that balances requirements, benefits and costs. The study advances coordinated program development among the numerous Federal and State agencies that increasingly rely on LiDAR to enable the fulfillment of their missions. The study is sponsored by the National Digital Elevation Program steering committee and supported by several member agencies.

The information collection process will be guided by an interagency management team led by USGS with support from a professional services contractor. The information collection will be conducted using a standardized template. Responses are one-time and voluntary.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: None. This is a new collection.

Title: Assessment of the Business Requirements and Benefits of Enhanced National Elevation Data.

Type of Request: New.

Affected Public: States, U.S. Territories, Tribes and local natural resource development agencies.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: One time only.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 445.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 422.

III. Request for Comments

We are again inviting comments concerning this ICR on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 publically available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that will be done.

Dated: December 7, 2010.

Bruce K. Quirk,

Program Coordinator.

[FR Doc. 2010–31169 Filed 12–10–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVSO0000.L16100000.DO0000. LXSS100F0000, 241A; 11–08807; MO#4500015402; TAS: 14X1109]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Battle Mountain District and Associated Environmental Impact Statement, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Battle Mountain District, Battle Mountain, Nevada, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Battle Mountain District, and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The new Battle Mountain RMP will cover both the Mount Lewis Field Office and the Tonopah Field Office and will replace the existing Shoshone-Eureka and Tonopah RMPs.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Battle Mountain RMP and associated EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until February 11, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html.* In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 60-day scoping period or 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Battle Mountain RMP and EIS by using any of the following methods:

- *Web site: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html.*
- *E-mail: BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov.*
- *Fax:* 775–635–4034.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Battle Mountain District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, call Christopher Worthington, planning and environmental coordinator, 775–635–4144, or e-mail *Christopher_Worthington@blm.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM District Office, Battle Mountain, Nevada intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Battle Mountain District, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in portions of Lander, Eureka, Nye, and Esmeralda counties, Nevada and encompasses approximately 10.5 million acres of public land. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by the BLM, Federal, State, and local agencies, and other stakeholders. The issues include: managing vegetative and water resources, including identifying terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and fish priority habitats; managing noxious and invasive species; managing renewable energy development for geothermal, wind, and solar power, including stipulations to protect sensitive resources; identifying and evaluating areas of critical environmental concern; identifying lands with wilderness characteristics with an updated inventory; determining eligibility for wild and scenic rivers; managing National Historic Trails; identifying off-highway vehicle designations and travel management; identifying special recreation management areas to meet increasing recreation demands; managing and protecting visual resources, cultural, historical, and paleontological resources, as well as Native American religious and traditional values; and making land tenure adjustments to meet community growth needs and sustainable development.

Preliminary planning criteria include: (1) The planning area is defined as the area covered by the existing Shoshone-Eureka and Tonopah RMPs. The plan will make resource use determinations for public lands within the defined planning area boundary. (2) The planning effort will rely on available inventories of the lands and resources as well as data gathered during the planning process. (3) The planning will address requirements for sage-grouse habitat and conservation as outlined in the National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, and the most current BLM guidance and instruction memoranda will be followed. (4) The planning process will use Geographic Information Systems and corporate geospatial data to the extent practicable and Federal Geographic Data Committee standards and other applicable BLM data standards will be followed. (5) The plan and associated EIS will be developed through the BLM's ePlanning system to the extent consistent with the current functionality of the system and schedule considerations. (6) The plan will be consistent to the maximum extent possible with the plans and management programs of local government, consistent with State and Federal laws and guiding regulations and coordinated with other Federal agencies where appropriate. (7) The planning process will use and observe principles of multiple use and sustained yield. (8) The planning process will involve consultation with Native American Tribal governments. (9) The plan will recognize valid existing rights and incorporate valid existing management from the Shoshone-Eureka and Tonopah RMPs as appropriate. (10) Opportunities for public involvement will be provided throughout the planning process. (11) A review of eligibility, findings and tentative classification of waterways as eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will follow the criteria contained in 43 CFR 8351. (12) Environmental protection and energy production are each desirable and necessary objectives and will not be considered mutually exclusive priorities.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Before including an address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the 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 review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will evaluate the identified issues to be addressed in the plan and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue is placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: wildlife and fisheries, threatened and endangered species, special status species, vegetation, invasive and noxious weeds, renewable energy, lands and realty, minerals management, outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle and transportation, air resources, visual resources, cultural resources and Native American concerns, paleontology, hydrology, public safety, law enforcement, fire ecology and management, rangeland

management, sociology and economics, and Geographic Information Systems.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

Ron Wenker,

Nevada State Director.

[FR Doc. 2010–31207 Filed 12–10–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA–051552, LLCAD0700 L51010000 ER0000 LVRWB10B3980]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office and Imperial County, California, intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended). This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Draft EIS/EIR and possible CDCA Plan amendment. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 12, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html.* In order to be included in the Draft EIR/EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIR/EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Draft EIR/EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Web site: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html.*
- *E-mail: caocotillo@blm.gov.*
- *Fax:* (760) 337–4490.
- *Mail:* Cedric Perry, Project Manager, California Desert District (CDD), BLM, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the CDD or the BLM's California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact Cedric Perry, BLM Project Manager, telephone (951) 697–5388; address 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; e-mail *Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ocotillo Express, LLC has submitted an application for a right-of-way authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission, an approximate 15,000-acre, 550 megawatt (MW) wind energy project including a substation, administration, operations and maintenance facilities, transmission, and temporary construction lay down areas. The proposed wind energy project would be located on BLM administered lands and a small portion on lands under the jurisdiction of Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. The proposed action consists of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind turbine generators and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 550 MW of electricity. The project would be constructed in 2 phases: Phase I is anticipated to total approximately 299 MW, and Phase II is about 251 MW. A recently approved high-voltage transmission line known as the Sunrise Powerlink crosses the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project site and will facilitate interconnection of the proposed project and transmission of its renewable energy output to Southern California.

The BLM will be the lead agency for NEPA compliance and Imperial County will act as the lead agency under CEQA for the project. The BLM has invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be a cooperating Federal agency in the preparation of the EIR/EIS because the proposed project may require a section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. The BLM and Corps agree that establishing a cooperating agency relationship will create a more streamlined and coordinated approach in developing the Ocotillo EIR/EIS and they will be developing a Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and will guide the process of developing the EIR/EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomics, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues. Authorization of this proposal would require an amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans. The BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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