

mineral leasing laws. This correction does not change the former classification and segregation of these lands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Debbie DeBock, Realty Specialist, Yuma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, AZ 85365; (520) 317-3208.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

**Maureen A. Merrell,**  
Assistant Field Manager/Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-22449 Filed 8-31-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-2800/1600]

#### **Notice of availability of planning criteria for the Proposed Falcon to Gonder 345 kV Transmission Line Project and associated Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Shoshone-Eureka, Elko, and Egan Resource Areas in Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties, Nevada**

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

*Cooperating Agencies:* Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of planning criteria associated with the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze Sierra Pacific Power Company's (SPPC) Proposed Falcon to Gonder 345 kV Transmission Line Project and associated amendments to existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plans (RMP) for the purpose of establishing right-of-way utility corridors in Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties, Nevada.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610 the Bureau of Land Management's Battle Mountain, Elko, and Ely Field Offices (BLM) hereby give notice of the availability of planning criteria for amendments to the Shoshone-Eureka, Elko, and Egan Resource Management Plans in Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties, Nevada.

**DATES:** Written comments on the planning criteria must be postmarked or otherwise delivered by 4:30 p.m. on October 2, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, Attention: Katherine Moses, 50

Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mary Craggett, Battle Mountain BLM, at (775) 635-4168 or Katherine Moses, Battle Mountain BLM, at (775) 635-4092.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On December 17, 1998, SPPC filed a right-of-way application with the BLM for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 165-185 mile long 345 kV transmission line that would connect the Falcon substation (north of Dunphy, Nevada) with the Gonder substation (north of Ely, Nevada). The project would improve import and export capabilities to meet anticipated growth in SPPC's system.

Because portions of the transmission line alternatives would be outside of BLM designated utility corridors, the BLM will evaluate the need to amend the Shoshone-Eureka, Elko, and Egan RMPs to establish a new utility corridor in north central Nevada. Elko's RMP would require modifying the existing "low visibility" corridor along I-80 to permit a corridor crossing since anticipated impacts exceed RMP established visual standards. Depending on the preferred alignment selected, the Egan RMP may not need to be amended because alternative route segments would fall into an existing designated utility corridor. An amendment to the Shoshone-Eureka RMP could also involve deleting an existing utility planning corridor near Nevada State Highway 305.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the need for and planning implications of RMP amendments associated with the Falcon to Gonder Transmission Project:

- Emphasize a balanced multiple-use approach to land management, protecting fragile and unique resources, yet not overly restricting the ability of other resources to provide economic goods and services.

- Ensure a system for transmission of utilities through the Resource Management Planning Areas that would allow for future expansion by multiple users.

- Minimize adverse impacts to the environment by concentrating compatible rights-of-way in designated corridors that avoid sensitive resource values.

- Select the preferred alternative based on a combination which best meets demands for public lands while

minimizing disruption of the human environment.

**M. Lee Douthit,**

Associate Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-2000-1060-JJ]

#### **Notice of Intent to Remove Stray Wild Horses**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Wild, Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act (PL 92-195) requires, among other things, that wild horses that exceed the Appropriate Management Levels established for them be removed. In order to accomplish that, the Rawlins Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to remove approximately 300-400 excess horses from the Stewart Creek Herd Management Area (HMA). The removal is scheduled to begin on or about February 15, 2001, and conclude on or about April 1, 2001. The Appropriate Management Level for the Stewart Creek HMA is 150. At least 150 horses will remain in the Stewart Creek HMA after the removal is completed.

Wild Horse populations in the nearby Lost Creek, Green Mountain, and Crooks Mountain HMAs will not be directly affected by this removal and will remain within the AMLs established for them.

A detailed Gather Plan, Environmental Analysis (EA), and Record of Decision for this removal are available on request from: Chuck Reed, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2047, Rawlins, WY 82301, (307) 328-4213, email: Chuck\_Reed@blm.gov.

These documents are also available for review on the BLM website at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/nfnepahome.html](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/nfnepahome.html).

This removal action represents continued implementation of decisions previously communicated through Decision Records WY-037-EA4-121/122 dated July 11, 1994; and WY-030-EA0-037 dated February 25, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information please contact the Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street,