

available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: (503) 231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: August 21, 2000.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00-21987 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Smith River Rancheria Liquor Control Ordinance

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice publishes the Smith River Rancheria Liquor Control Ordinance. The Ordinance regulates the control of, the possession of, and the sale of liquor on the Smith River Rancheria trust lands, and is in conformity with the laws of the State of California, where applicable and necessary. Although the Ordinance was adopted on January 19, 2000, it does not become effective until published in the **Federal Register** because the failure to comply with the Ordinance may result in criminal charges.

DATES: This Ordinance is effective as of August 29, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaye Armstrong, Branch of Judicial Services, Division of Tribal Government Services, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4631-MIB, Washington, DC 20240; telephone (202) 208-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Act of August 15, 1953, Public Law 277, 67 Stat. 586, 18 U.S.C. 1161, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Rice v. Rehner*, 463 U.S. 713 (1983), the Secretary of the Interior shall certify and publish in the **Federal Register** notice of adopted liquor ordinances for the purpose of regulating liquor transaction in Indian country. The Smith River Rancheria Liquor Ordinance, Resolution No. 20-03, was duly adopted by the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council on January 19, 2000. The Smith River Rancheria, in furtherance of its economic and social goals, has taken positive steps to regulate retail sales of

alcohol and use revenues to combat alcohol abuse and its debilitating effects among individuals and family members within the Smith River Rancheria.

This notice is being published in accordance with the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 Departmental Manual 8.

I certify that by Resolution No. 20-03, the Smith River Rancheria Liquor Control Ordinance, was duly adopted by the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council on January 19, 2000.

Dated: August 21, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

The Smith River Rancheria Liquor Control Ordinance, Resolution No. 20-03, reads as follows:

Liquor Control Ordinance

Article 1. *Name.* This Ordinance shall be known as the Smith River Rancheria Liquor Control Ordinance.

Article 2. *Authority.* This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the Act of August 15, 1953, Publ. L. 83-277, 67 Stat. 588, 18 U.S.C. 1161, and Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Rancheria.

Article 3. *Purpose.* The Purpose of the Ordinance is to regulate and control the possession and sale of liquor on the Rancheria, and to permit alcohol sales by tribally owned and operated enterprises, and at tribally approved special events, for the purpose of the economic development of the Rancheria. The enactment of a tribal ordinance governing liquor possession and sales on the Rancheria increases the ability of tribal government to control Rancheria liquor distribution and possession, and will provide an important source of revenue for the continued operation and strengthening of the tribal government the economic viability of Tribal enterprises, and the delivery of tribal government services. This Liquor Control Ordinance is in conformity with the laws of the State of California as required by 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1161, and with all applicable Federal laws.

Article 4. *Effective Date.* This Ordinance shall be effective as the date of its publication in the **Federal Register**.

Article 5. *Possession of Alcohol.* The introduction or possession of alcoholic beverages shall be lawful within the exterior boundaries of the Rancheria; provided that such introduction or possession is in conformity with the laws of the State of California.

Article 6. *Sales of Alcohol.*

(A) The sale of alcoholic beverages by business enterprises owned by and subject to the control of the Rancheria shall be lawful within the exterior boundaries of the Rancheria; provided that such sales are in conformity with the laws of the State of California.

(B) The sale of alcoholic beverages by the drink at special events authorized by the Rancheria shall be lawful within the exterior boundaries of the Smith River Rancheria;

provided that such sales are in conformity with the laws of the State of California and with prior approval by Resolution of the Council.

Article 7. *Age Limits.* The drinking age within the Rancheria shall be the same as that of the State of California, which is currently 21 years. No person under the age of 21 years shall purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage. At such time, if any, as California Business and Professional Code Sec. 25658, which sets the drinking age for the State of California, is repealed or amended to raise or lower the drinking age within California, this Article shall automatically become null and void and the Council shall be empowered to amend this Article to match the age limit imposed by state law, such amendment to become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** by the Secretary of the Interior.

Article 8. *Civil Penalties.* The Rancheria, through the Council and duly authorized personnel, shall have the authority to enforce this Ordinance by confiscating any liquor sold, possessed or introduced in violation hereof. The Council shall be empowered to sell such confiscated liquor for the benefit of the Rancheria, and to develop and approve such regulations as may become necessary for enforcement of this Ordinance.

Article 9. *Prior Inconsistent Enactments.* Any prior tribal laws resolutions or ordinances which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with this Ordinance.

Article 10. *Sovereign Immunity.* Nothing contained in this Ordinance is intended to, nor does in any way, limit, alter, restrict, or waive the sovereign immunity of the Rancheria or any of its agencies from unconsented suit or action of any kind.

Article 11. *Severability.* If any provision of this Ordinance is found by an agency or court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be unaffected thereby.

Article 12. *Amendment.* This Ordinance may be amended by majority vote of the Council at a duly noticed Council meeting, such amendment to become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** by the Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 00-22065 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-067-1990; CA-40204]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Expansion of the Existing Mesquite Gold Mine

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Newmont Gold Company, operator of the Mesquite gold mine

located in Imperial County, California, has proposed to expand mining operations by a plan modification submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro Field Office, on November 30, 1998. Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), and the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, section 21000, *et seq.*), the BLM and the Imperial County Planning and Building Department, as lead agencies, have prepared, through a third-party contractor, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the impacts of the Mesquite Mine expansion which would extend the mine life through the year 2006. The Draft EIR/EIS presents a preferred alternative derived from seven alternatives, including the companies proposed action. The preferred alternative is the agencies' attempt to reduce or avoid the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The Draft EIR/EIS discloses the possible environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

DATES: A Final EIR/EIS will be prepared following a 60 day comment period on the Draft EIR/EIS. This comment period will end on October 30, 2000. The Final EIR/EIS will be published approximately 30 days following the Draft EIR/EIS comment period.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS will be available from the Imperial County Planning and Building Department, 939 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243; telephone (760) 482-4236, extension 4310.

Public reading copies will be available for review at the following locations: (1) Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA; (2) Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South Main Street, El Centro, CA; (3) Imperial County Planning and Building Department, 939 Main Street, El Centro, CA; (4) local libraries in San Diego County, California, and Imperial County, California; and in the town of Yuma, Arizona. Text of the Draft EIR/EIS will be posted at the Bureau of Land Management Web site: www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro/mesquite/

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jurg Heuberger, Imperial County Planning and Building Department, 939 Main Street, El Centro, CA; telephone (760) 482-4236 extension 4310; or Kevin Marty, Bureau of Land Management, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA; telephone (760) 337-4422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mesquite Mine began operations under an approved plan of operations during 1985. Since this time, plan modifications and expansions have occurred, which are summarized within the approved Mesquite Mine consolidated plan of operations dated October, 1995. On November 30, 1998, Newmont Gold Company, operator of the Mesquite Mine, submitted a plan of operations for an expansion of the mine. The existing mine site encompasses 5,200 acres, of which 3,655 acres have been disturbed by mining activities to date. The total area proposed for disturbance under the expansion is 693 acres, of which 190 acres would be new, unpermitted disturbance.

The expansion would allow the company to continue extracting and processing economical gold deposits, delineated by drilling programs initiated during 1988 and continuing to date. Current ore reserves would be depleted by the end of year 2000, while expansion would increase the mine life a projected seven years into year 2006. The plan modification proposes to process approximately 89 million tons of ore and 242 million tons of waste rock. The Big Chief and Rainbow pit expansions would encompass approximately 350 acres of Federal, State and private (patented) land, of which 76 acres would be new, unpermitted land disturbance. The plan modification also describes alternative methods for storage of waste rock, either in existing mined-out open pits, at new or expanded out-of-pit storage areas, or a combination of both; and construction of ancillary facilities including roads, fencing and drainage diversions.

Dated: August 23, 2000.

Greg Thomsen,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-21988 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-68086-1020-01]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an EIS Proposed Renewal of Ord Mountain Grazing Lease in Critical Habitat

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish

and Game will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider alternatives for the proposed renewal of cattle grazing privileges within the Ord Mountain Grazing Allotment, located approximately 20 miles south of Barstow, California. This allotment includes public rangelands in San Bernardino County that have been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a species State and federally listed as threatened.

The lessee, Dave Fisher, has applied to the Bureau of Land Management for renewal of his grazing lease for a period not to exceed ten (10) years under the same terms and conditions as those under which he has been grazing livestock in this area for the reasonably foreseeable past.

A range of alternatives to be analyzed, include the no action alternative (no lease renewal), to renewal under the existing terms as modified to consider new policies and changing conditions, including additional alternatives that address seasonal grazing restrictions, modifications of range improvements and other changes to the existing lease, primarily to address critical desert tortoise habitat issues and areas not meeting proper functioning condition.

Public Participation: A public scoping meeting will be held at the Barstow Field Office of BLM, 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA, on September 21, 2000 at 7 p.m. Comments presented during this meeting serve to provide additional issues for the EIS. If you would like to get formal comments into the record, please provide them in writing at the meeting or within thirty days of this notice. Issues identified to date include the requirement to consult with the lessee, impacts to desert tortoise and the Ord-Rodman Critical Habitat Unit (CHU), health of native vegetative communities and proper utilization, proliferation of exotic invasive species, the relationship to other land uses; impacts to wilderness qualities, potential for accelerated soil erosion, water quality impacts and effects to riparian and wetland habitat values.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: BLM, Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311, Attn: Larry Blaine. For further information on this proposal, or to be placed on the mailing list for the EIS contact BLM at the above address or by telephone at (760) 252-6079.

Dated: August 23, 2000.

Harold Johnson,
Acting Field Manager, Barstow Field Office.
[FR Doc. 00-21989 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

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