

on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Visitor knowledge and economic impact at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Walden, Colorado.

*OMB Approval No.:* New collection.

*Abstract:* The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all refuges will be managed in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which, when implemented, will achieve refuge purposes; help fulfill the Refuge System mission; maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; help achieve the goals of the Wilderness Preservation System; and meet other mandates. An underlying component of these plans is a strong scientific foundation for establishment for refuge objectives, implementation of management actions, and quantitative monitoring of progress towards these objectives. Few studies have been conducted that evaluate public knowledge, perception, or economic value associated with National Wildlife Refuges. Information about the existing community, economic, and public relations status is a precursor to many of the habitat and visitor management decisions. The primary objective of this study is to gain sufficient knowledge about refuge visitors. Our second objective is to develop and test a set of tools that can be used/repeated at other refuges around the country. Understanding public knowledge, perception, and values is a vital component of natural resource management. Improved understanding will guide future management practices.

*Bureau Form No.:* None.

*Frequency:* One time.

*Description of Respondents:* Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge visitor or group of visitors.

*Estimated Completion Time:* 10 minutes per respondent (approximate).

*Number of Respondents:* 400 (575 surveys).

*Burden hours:* 67 hours (The burden estimates are based on 10 minutes to complete each questionnaire and a 70% return rate).

All comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Phadrea Ponds, Wildlife Biologist, 970-226-9445; or Lynne Caughlan, Economist, 970-226-9384; or Ayeisha Brinson, Wildlife Ecologist, 970-226-9330. U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Social, Economic and Institutional Analysis Section, 4512 McMurry Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525-3400.

*For Additional Information Please Contact:* Phadrea Ponds (970) 226-9445. [phadreaponds@usgs.gov](mailto:phadreaponds@usgs.gov).

Dated: February 16, 2001.

**Susan Haseltine,**

*Chief Scientist for Biology.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-3809]

#### Notice of Availability; Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Phoenix Project; Proposed Expansion of Existing Gold, Silver, and Copper Mining/Processing Operations; Lander County, NV

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

*Cooperating Agencies:* Nevada Division of Wildlife.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Phoenix Project, Lander County, Nevada.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, notice is hereby given of the availability for comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the Battle Mountain BLM, which analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives.

**DATES:** Written comments must be post-marked or otherwise delivered by 4:30

p.m. (Pacific time zone) on May 4, 2001. Comments may also be presented at public meetings to be held: April 4, 2001, (7-9 pm) BLM office, Battle Mountain, NV. A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pam Jarnecke, Battle Mountain BLM at (775) 635-4144.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Battle Mountain Gold Company (BMG), a wholly owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, proposes to expand its current operations near Battle Mountain, Nevada, to include mining and beneficiation of gold, silver, and copper ores. The proposed Phoenix Project would require up to an additional 4,295 acres of disturbance. BMG would develop the Phoenix and Reona pits and expand the Midas and Iron Canyon pits. Mining these ore deposits would be coupled with excavating and beneficiating low-grade gold ore stockpiles associated with the previous Tomboy, Northeast Extension, and Fortitude mining operations. Beneficiation operations would include heap leach facility expansion and new milling facilities. The projected mine life is up to 28 years, followed by five years of reclamation.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

**Gerald M. Smith,**

*Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-01-1020-PB]

#### New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on April 5 and 6, 2001, at the Best Western