

the Attention of the Emigrant Project Manager, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. E-mail: tschmidt@nv.blm.gov. Fax: (775) 753-0255.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours, Monday–Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests to withhold your name or street address from public review will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. The DEIS is available for review at the Elko Field Office during regular business hours, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV, and on the Elko Field Office Internet site at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Schmidt, Emigrant Project Manager at the Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. Telephone: (775) 753-0200. E-mail: tschmidt@nv.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Emigrant Mine about ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada. The mine and associated facilities would be located in portions of Sections 24, 26, 34, 36 of T. 32 N., R. 53 E.; and Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, T. 31 N., R. 53 E. The proposed Emigrant Mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing oxide waste in mined out areas of the pit; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9 years through the year 2014. Approximately 1172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

The issues analyzed in the DEIS include potential impacts to wildlife and cultural resources; the potential for waste rock, heap leach, and pit walls to produce acid rock drainage or heavy

metals; and diversion of an unnamed drainage. Cumulative impacts are also addressed. The following resources are also analyzed in the DEIS: Geology and minerals, Native American religious concerns, air and water quality, paleontology, lands and realty, fisheries, aquatic and riparian resources, range management, vegetation, soils, visual resources, recreation, wilderness, weeds, social and economic values, environmental justice, and threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species.

A range of alternatives, (including, but not limited to, the no-action alternative), have been developed to address issues identified during scoping. Mitigating measures are considered in the DEIS to minimize environmental impacts and undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by BLM's decision on the Emigrant Project Plan of Operations are invited to participate in the EIS process.

Dated: August 25, 2004.

Helen Hankins,
Field Office Manager.

Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on March 21, 2005.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability of Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

Cooperating Agencies: Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning, City of Henderson, City of Boulder City, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Act) (Pub. L. 107-282), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

has prepared a Draft RMP/EIS to analyze alternative approaches to management of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA).

DATES: Written comments on the Draft Resource Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) will be accepted for 90 days following the date of publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.sloancanyon.org>.
- E-mail: charles_carroll@nv.blm.gov.
- Fax: (702) 515-5023 (Attn: Sloan Canyon NCA).
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, Attn: Sloan Canyon NCA, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are available on the Web site and upon request. The Draft RMP/EIS is available for review at public information repositories (BLM Nevada State Office in Reno, Paseo Verde Library in Henderson, Boulder City Library in Boulder City, North Las Vegas Library—Main Branch in North Las Vegas, and Summerlin Library in Las Vegas), and at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, visit the web site or contact: Charles Carroll, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Telephone (702) 515-5000, and e-mail charles_carroll@nv.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In November 2002 Congress designated the Sloan Canyon NCA to preserve and protect a portion of southern Nevada's Mojave Desert as a permanent asset for future generations. The Clark County

Act established both the Sloan Canyon NCA of 48,438 acres and the North McCullough Wilderness Area (14,763 acres entirely contained within the NCA), which are located southeast of the City of Las Vegas, adjacent to the City of Henderson in Clark County, Nevada. The Clark County Act requires the BLM to develop a plan for the appropriate use and management of the Sloan Canyon NCA and Wilderness within three years of enactment. The Draft RMP/EIS fulfills the needs and obligations set forth by NEPA, FLPMA, the Clark County Act, and BLM management policies described in the Las Vegas RMP of 1998. Upon completion, this RMP/EIS will amend the Las Vegas RMP regarding management of the 48,438 acres within Sloan Canyon NCA and North McCullough Wilderness Area. The management alternatives considered in the Draft RMP/EIS include: Continuing current management practices (no action alternative), an alternative that emphasizes natural character, one that allows moderate developed use while maintaining natural character, and another that emphasizes developed uses. The no action alternative is required by NEPA, and would continue current management as described in the Las Vegas RMP, in conjunction with the requirements of the Clark County Act. The alternatives contain both land use planning decisions and implementing decisions to provide planning structure to facilitate management of the Sloan Canyon NCA. The analysis of the alternatives includes an evaluation of indirect, direct, and cumulative impacts.

Major resources and activities addressed in the Draft RMP/EIS include: Recreation, the North McCullough Wilderness Area, cultural resources, special designations, visual resources, interpretation, facilities, lands and realty, transportation, vegetation management, wildlife management, wildland fire management, water resources and quality, air quality, livestock grazing, geology and soils, minerals, abandoned mines, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics and environmental justice.

Dated: January 10, 2005.

Helen Hankins,

Field Manager, Las Vegas.

[FR Doc. 05-5880 Filed 3-24-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1610-DO-015F]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Initiate the Public Scoping Process

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca Field Office (WFO), Nevada, is initiating a planning effort to prepare the Winnemucca RMP and associated EIS. The RMP would replace the existing 1982 Sonoma-Gerlach and Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plans and one land use plan amendment titled the "Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan-Lands Amendment (Jan. 1999)."

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice and will end on May 24, 2005. However, collaboration with the public will continue throughout the planning process. Public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and a BLM Web site at least 15 days prior to the event. Comments on issues and planning criteria should be received on or before the end of the scoping period at the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445 or via fax at (775) 623-1503.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM WFO, during regular hours 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact

Jeff Johnson, Project Lead, Telephone (775) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the public scoping process is to identify issues that should be considered in the RMP/EIS and to initiate public participation in the planning process. BLM personnel will also be present at scoping meetings to explain the planning process and other requirements for preparing the RMP/EIS.

The planning area includes lands within the BLM WFO administrative boundary. The WFO RMP decision area encompasses about 7.1 million acres of public lands, which are located within Humboldt, Pershing, Lyon, Churchill and Washoe Counties, Nevada. The decision area includes public lands administered by the BLM WFO, and does not include private lands, state lands, tribal trust lands, federal lands not administered by the BLM, and lands located within the planning area of the RMP for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, associated Wilderness Areas, and other contiguous lands.

The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated Council of Environmental Quality Regulations 40 CFR part 1500. The plan also fulfills requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA: 43 U.S.C. 1711), applicable planning regulations at 43 CFR part 1600, and BLM management policies.

The BLM WFO will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management actions and decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns of the public, subject to planning criteria to be developed to guide the plan. Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by the BLM, other agencies, and meetings with individuals and user groups. The major issue themes to be addressed in the RMP effort include:

- Management and protection of public land resources while allowing for multiple uses.
- Management of riparian areas and water quality concerns.
- Recreation/visitor use and safety management.
- Travel management, including Off Highway Vehicle.
- Management of areas with special values.
- Energy and minerals management.
- Management of wildlife habitat including protection of sensitive species habitat.