

of Land Management (BLM) has prepared, by third party contractor, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Florida Canyon Mining Incorporated's Florida Canyon Mine Expansion and Comprehensive Reclamation Plan. This document because available June 20, 1997, and public comment will be accepted for a 60 day period beginning then.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be received by the close of business August 18, 1997, to ensure consideration. Public meetings to receive oral and written comments have been scheduled for the following dates, times, and places: July 15, 1997, 7 pm, at the Pershing County Community Center, 820 6th St., Lovelock, Nevada; July 16, 1997, 7 pm, at the Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Filed Office, ATTN: Ken Loda, Project NEPA Coordinator, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is also available for inspection at the following additional locations: Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 850 Harvard Way, Reno, Nevada; Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, Nevada; Pershing County Library, Lovelock, Nevada; Lander County Library, Battle Mountain, Nevada; and the University of Nevada Library in Reno, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Loda, Project NEPA Coordination at the above Winnemucca Filed Office address or telephone (702) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the potential environmental impact that could result from the implementation of the proposed mine expansion and comprehensive reclamation plan. Alternatives analyzed are the north extension of the heap leach pad alternative and the no action alternative.

The mine is located on public and private lands adjacent to Interstate Highway 80, approximately 35 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada and 38 miles southwest of Winnemucca, Nevada. Approximately 860 acres would be disturbed by the proposed mine expansion, of which 447 are public and 413 private. The proposed project would include expansion of the open pit and north and south waste rock storage areas; development of the new

south heap leach pad; haul road; solution ponds; solution corridor/road; plant; monitoring wells/road; crusher site; diversion channels and sediment ponds; growth media stockpiles; exploration roads and drill sites; water supply pipelines; realignment of the Johnson Canyon access road; and a revised comprehensive reclamation plan for the mine. Approval would extend the life of the mine five years.

Dated June 24, 1997.

Ron Wenker,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-17074 Filed 6-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-070-5101-CO12]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Grand Junction Resource Area office, Grand Junction District, had an Environmental Impact Statement prepared to address impacts of the Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement project proposed by the Ute Water Conservancy District (Ute Water). The project is a raw water conveyance system proposed on private and public lands in Mesa County, Colorado to replace a deteriorated and under sized pipeline currently approved under BLM ROW grant C 081282.

Copies of the EIS and the Technical Memoranda will be available at the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction, Colorado, at the Grand Junction Resource Area, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 at the BLM, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 and at the Ute Water Conservancy District, 560 25 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 PM, MST, on August 29, 1997. A public meeting will be held from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on August 12, 1997, at the Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main Street, Grand Junction, Colorado.

ADDRESS: Comments should be sent to the Grand Junction Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, ATTN: Plateau Creek Pipeline Replacement Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Stevens, (970) 244-3009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The existing Plateau Creek Pipeline is an essential part of the Ute Water system which provides water to more than 60,000 Grand Valley residents. The Ute Water service area includes most of the Grand Valley area surrounding the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, and extends from east of the Town of Palisade to within 5 miles of the Colorado-Utah stateline. Ute Water is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado formed under the Water Conservancy Act of 1937, and is considered to be a quasi-municipal entity. In order for Ute Water to meet its commitment of providing a reliable, cost effective, high quality water source, replacement of the pipeline is necessary. Water is conveyed via a 24-inch-diameter pipeline approximately 14 miles along Plateau Creek Canyon and adjacent to Interstate Highway 70 to Ute Water's treatment plant located on Rapid Creek, near the Town of Palisade. As of 1994, the pipeline was no longer able to provide an adequate flow rate to meet the peak day customer demands. The pipeline is presently subject to frequent breaks due to deteriorated pipe condition, and is unreliable due to its location within geologic hazards and stream erosion areas.

The Bureau of Land Management and Ute Water had performed scoping to: (1) identify interested stakeholders and agencies, (2) define key issues, and (3) identify initial project alternatives for preparation of an Environmental Assessment. The initial filing of the Notice of Intent was on March 14, 1995. On the basis of subsequent information and comments provided to the BLM it was determined that issues and concerns would best be analyzed in an EIS.

During the initial scoping, 16 alternatives were developed. These include seven alternatives along the Plateau Creek corridor, three different alternatives involving use of water from nearby utilities, a Colorado River pump station alternative, two alternatives for supplying water from the Kannah Creek watershed, two alternatives for supplying water from the Whitewater Creek watershed, and a No Action alternative. Groundwater alternatives and conservation actions are also addressed in the EIS. Four of the

initially considered alternatives, selected on the basis of screening criteria described in Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. These are:

Alternative A—Replacement of the pipeline in a modified alignment parallel to Plateau Creek such that impacts to all resources are minimized.

Alternative B—Replacement of the pipeline parallel to Plateau Creek mainly within the existing state highway 65 and 330 rights-of-way.

Alternative C—Replacement of the pipeline in either alignment A with a smaller pipeline. This alternative includes provisions for construction of a booster pump station at the mouth of Plateau Canyon to be built at a future date to meet long-term demands.

Alternative D—A “no federal action” alternative (Denial of the proposed action or reasonable alternatives).

Major issues identified during the scoping include: (1) wetlands and riparian areas, (2) threatened and endangered species, (3) Prime and Unique Farmlands, (4) water depletion issues, and (5) impacts to State Highway 65.

Mark T. Morse,
District Manager

[FR Doc. 97-17348 Filed 6-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-00; N-61499]

Notice of Realty Action: Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Recreation and public purpose lease/conveyance.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for lease/conveyance for recreational or public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The West Charleston Baptist Church proposes to use the land for a church facility to include a child care center.

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 20 S., R. 60 E.,

Sec. 7: Lots 22, 27-30

Containing 25.00 acres, more or less.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The lease/conveyance is consistent with current Bureau

planning for this area and would be in the public interest. The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right of prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

and will be subject to:

1. Easements in accordance with the City of Las Vegas/Clark County Transportation Plan for roads, public utilities and flood control purposes.

2. Those rights for public road purposes which have been granted to Clark County by Permit No. N-59722 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43USC1761). Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the District Manager, Las Vegas District, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a church facility. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use

proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a church facility.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification of the land described in this notice will become effective 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The lands will not be offered for lease/conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Michael F. Dwyer,

District Manager, Las Vegas, NV.

[FR Doc. 97-17076 Filed 6-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings Regarding Management Plan of Black Rock Desert; Nevada, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and scoping period.

SUMMARY: To prepare for the development of a Black Rock region management plan, a series of public scoping meetings will be held in July, 1997. These meetings will be conducted as workshops so that BLM and the concerned public can analyze the many varied issues of the Black Rock Desert region, leading to development of various management alternatives for the resources. These resources include lengthy, pristine sections of the Applegate/Lassen, Noble and Fremont National Historic Trails, related hot springs, private property, visual settings, the Playa and its edge or transition areas, distinctive plant and animal habitats, and mineral potential. Plan goals include (1) Managing the varied resources while providing for a wide range of dispersed recreational activities and opportunities in a prudent manner; (2) Providing economic opportunities and other human values within a sustainable, healthy ecosystem. **DATES:** See Supplementary Information section for meeting dates and locations. All comments must be submitted in writing and postmarked no later than August 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ron Wenker, District Manager, Winnemucca Field Office,