

additional comments or concerns to be addressed in preparation of the Supplemental EIS.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This notice re-initiates public scoping for the supplemental Betze EIS. A scoping meeting will be held on February 5, 1998, at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko, Nevada. The public is invited to attend the meeting scheduled from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm to review the project and identify issues and concerns which need to be addressed in the Supplemental EIS. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management and Barrick will be available during the meeting to answer questions. Written comments on the scope of the EIS will also be accepted until February 16, 1998. A draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) is expected to be completed by the summer of 1998 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a Notice of Availability of the DSEIS will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DSEIS will be 60 days from the date the Notice of Availability is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801. ATTN: Supplemental Betze EIS Coordinator. For additional information, write to the above address or call Nick Rieger at (702) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In response to a Plan of Operations submitted in April 1989, the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) with respect to Barrick's Betze Project. The Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Betze Project were issued on June 10, 1991. The Final EIS included a description of the environmental impacts projected to result from groundwater pumping conducted by Barrick to lower the local groundwater elevations below the proposed Betze mining operations. Since the Betze EIS was issued, Barrick's implementation of the pumping operations and its monitoring of groundwater elevations have provided new information regarding the pumping requirements and potential environmental impacts of pumping operations. This new information indicates that the highly transmissive area from which the groundwater is to be pumped is more extensive than projected at the time the Betze EIS was prepared. As a result, Barrick has been pumping groundwater at higher rates than projected in the Betze EIS, and a

greater volume of water has been produced. In addition to delivering water to a local rancher for irrigation uses as described in the Betze EIS, Barrick has implemented reinjection and infiltration programs to return more water to the groundwater system, and has obtained approval to discharge water to the Humboldt River from the state of Nevada. Barrick and ELLCO are now proposing to install approximately 4,000 linear feet of buried 48-inch steel pipeline next to an existing pipeline they are using to discharge water to improve operational flexibility of the existing Boulder Valley water management system. The second pipeline would allow Barrick to by-pass a water treatment plant when the water is discharged for irrigation and infiltration.

In the Notice of Intent published on August 31, 1994, the Bureau proposed preparation of a supplement to the Betze EIS that would describe the new information gathered since the Betze EIS was prepared and would describe any changes in the projected environmental impacts as a result of the new information. In addition, the Bureau stated that the supplemental EIS would assess the cumulative impacts of groundwater pumping to lower elevations and for longer periods of time than is associated with mining of other deposits situated on lands within the area in which groundwater levels are being lowered. By this notice, the Bureau is proposing to expand the original scope to evaluate the environmental impacts of installing the proposed pipeline and to determine whether there may be any adverse environmental impacts that were not specifically identified in the Betze EIS that may be mitigated under the terms of the Betze Record of Decision.

In response to the initial Notice of Intent and a Dear Interested Party letter dated September 2, 1994, the Bureau received eleven written and nine oral comments. Based on these comments and the BLM's internal review, five issues of concern were identified and are currently the focus of the supplemental EIS:

- Potential impacts to surface and ground water resources, including the Humboldt River;

- Potential impacts to livestock operations;

- Potential impacts to threatened and endangered species;

- Potential impacts to riparian and wetland vegetation; and

- Potential impacts to wildlife and fisheries resources.

Through this supplemental Notice, the Bureau is soliciting any additional

comments on the scope of the supplemental EIS to assist the Bureau in identifying and considering additional issues and concerns to be analyzed in the supplemental EIS. Comments submitted in response to this supplemental Notice of Intent should be directed to the attention of Nick Rieger, Project Manager at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801. Comments must be received by the close of business on February 16, 1998.

Dated: January 7, 1998.

Helen Hankins,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-1517 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-930-1060-04]

Notice of Public Hearing and Intent to Remove Wild Horses

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: A public meeting is scheduled for February 25, 1998 at the White Mountain Library, Rock Springs, Wyoming. A formal hearing will be conducted to receive statements from the public concerning the use of helicopters and motor vehicles in wild horse management operations within Wyoming for calendar year 1998. Prior to the hearing, planned removal operations for the year will be discussed. Periodic removals are necessary in order to maintain the populations within the AML (Appropriate Management Levels) established through the planning process as a result of monitoring and analysis of that data in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM Policies. This document serves as a Notice of Intent to remove excess wild horses from the following Herd Management Areas (HMA):

Great Divide Resource Area

Cyclone Rim HMA—remove 260 horses from an estimated 330. AML is 70 and this action would reduce the population to AML. Begin approximately March 1, end April 10. Decision Record EA# WY-037-EA4-121/122 dated July 11, 1994.

Stewart Creek HMA—remove 100 horses from an estimated 250. AML is 150 and this action would reduce the population to AML. Begin approximately August 1. Decision

Record EA WY-037-EA4-121/122 dated July 11, 1994.

I-80 North (Outside HMA)—remove 100 of 100 horses. This action would reduce the herd to 0. Begin March 1, finish April 10. Decision Record EA# WY-037-EA1-039 dated February 21, 1992.

I-80 South (Outside HMA)—remove 275 of 275 horses. This action would reduce the herd to 0. Begin approximately August 15, finish September 15. Decision Record EA# WY-037-EA1-039 dated February 21, 1992.

Lander Resource Area

Dishpan Butte HMA—remove 40 horses from an estimated 90. AML is 75 with a range of 50-100 and this action would reduce the population to the low end of the range. Fall gather date to be selected. Decision Record EA WY-036-EA3-013 dated February 25, 1993.

Conant Creek HMA—remove 40 horses from an estimated 100. AML is 80 with a range of 60-100 and this action would reduce the population to the low end of the range. Fall Gather date to be selected. Decision Record EA# WY-036-EA3-013 dated February 25, 1993.

Crooks Mountain HMA—remove 300 of 400 horses reducing the population to approximately 100. AML range is 75 with a range of 65-100 and herd will be reduced to within this range. Fertility control research may be initiated using immunocontraception on selected mares. Should this be instituted, an environmental assessment (EA) covering this action will be prepared. Begin approximately July 6, finish August 30. Decision Record EA# WY-037-EA4-121 and 122 dated July 11, 1994.

Rock Springs District

Divide Basin HMA—remove 200 of an estimated 640. AML is 500 with a range of 415-600. This action would reduce the population to the lower end of the range. Begin approximately July 6, finish August 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Salt Wells Creek HMA—remove 415 from an estimated population of 780. AML is 365 and this action would reduce the herd to AML. Fall gather date to be selected. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Little Colorado HMA—remove 79 of an estimated population of 156. AML is 100 and this action would reduce the herd to 77 horses or 23 below AML. Fall gather date to be selected. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Areas Outside HMAs—remove 190 of 190 horses. This action would reduce

the horses outside HMA's to 0. Begin approximately July 6, finish August 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Weather conditions and other logistical considerations may dictate changes in removal/completion dates. The dates indicated are approximate, and removal may take place in any of the HMAs listed above during anytime of the year with the exception that gathers will not take place between April 16 and July 7, since this is the estimated peak of foaling in Wyoming.

Numbers presented are approximate and will be finalized by aircraft census to be conducted during January/February 1998. All actions are in conformance with Bureau of Land Management Policy, documents listed above, and current monitoring data. Horse populations will not be reduced below the lower limit of the AML range. These actions represent no new decisions.

If you have comments on the plans, please contact the Wyoming State Director at P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003-1828.

DATES: February 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: White Mountain Library, 2935 Sweetwater Dr., Rock Springs, WY, 82901-4331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Pierson, State Director, 5353 Yellowstone, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003-1828.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Agenda:

- Introduction and Opening Remarks
- Review of the Wild Horse Management Plan
- Video presentation of roundup activity
- Public comment period on removal plans
- Formal Hearing on the Use of helicopters in the plan

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements on the subject of helicopter use during the formal hearing. All statements will be recorded.

Dated: January 15, 1998.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-1460 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-960-1420-00] ES-48890, Group 26, Illinois

Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Illinois

The plat, in four sheets, of the dependent resurvey of a portion of U.S. Survey No. 580, a portion of the west boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the survey of the Locks and Dam No. 27 Acquisition Boundary, Township 4 North, Range 9 West, and the survey of the Locks and Dam No. 27 Acquisition Boundary, Township 4 North, Range 10 West, both of the Third Principal Meridian, Illinois, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on February 23, 1998.

The survey was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All inquiries or protests concerning the technical aspects of the survey must be sent to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., February 23, 1998.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the reproduction fee of \$2.75 per copy.

Dated: January 12, 1998.

Stephen G. Kopach,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor.

[FR Doc. 98-1415 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[AAG/A Order No. 148-98]

Privacy Act of 1974; Modified System of Records

Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), notice is given that the Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, proposes to modify a system of records entitled "Department of Justice Payroll System, JMD-003."

The Department is modifying the system of records to show that, pursuant to an interagency agreement, the Department provides the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center (NFC), relevant and necessary data to perform pay-related functions on the Department's behalf. In addition, the system description, in particular the routine use disclosure section, has been extensively edited. Four new routine uses have been italicized for public convenience.