

*Total Annual Responses:* 45,158.

Dated: August 30, 2000.

**Rebecca Mullin,**

*Service Information Collection Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-22723 Filed 9-5-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Communications, Education and Outreach Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Communications, Education and Outreach Committee. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**DATES:** The Communications, Education and Outreach Committee will meet from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The Communications, Education and Outreach Committee Meeting will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia in Room 800.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joe Starinchak, Outreach Coordinator, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at 703-358-2018 or by e-mail at [joe\\_starinchak@fws.gov](mailto:joe_starinchak@fws.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Communications, Education and Outreach Committee. The ANS Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the Communications, Education & Outreach Committee meeting include: Message development and processes to raise public awareness about aquatic nuisance species.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 840, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: August 30, 2000.

**Cathleen I. Short,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.*

[FR Doc. 00-22720 Filed 9-5-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-1990-EX]

#### **Notice of Availability for the Betze Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Comment Period and Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR 1500-1508 and 43 CFR 3809, notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management has prepared, with the assistance of a third-party consultant, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on Barrick Goldstrike's dewatering operations for the Betze/Post open pit and Meikle underground mines in northeastern Nevada, and has made copies of the document available for public review.

The Draft SEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts from expanded dewatering operations along with the impacts of a proposed additional pipeline intended to increase flexibility for the mine's water management operations.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Draft SEIS will be accepted until close of business on November 14, 2000. A public meeting for oral and written comments is scheduled to be held September 26, 2000, in Elko, Nevada, at the Bureau of Land Management Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street at 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the Draft SEIS should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office; Attn: Kirk Laird, SEIS Coordinator; 3900 E. Idaho Street; Elko, NV 89801.

The Draft SEIS is available for inspection at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office (Reno); BLM Elko Field Office; Eureka, Lander, and Elko County libraries; the University of Nevada libraries in Reno and Las Vegas; and the Great Basin College library in Elko. It is also available from the BLM,

Elko Field Office internet site at [www.nv.blm.gov/elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kirk Laird at the above address or call (775) 753-0200.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Dewatering operations are expected to end in 2010. The dewatering cone of depression is expected to expand for approximately 100 years then diminish until reaching steady state approximately 230 years after the end of mining. Major issues are potential impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species, and impacts to surface resources, including water, wildlife, and vegetation within the dewatering area.

A copy of the Draft SEIS has been sent to all individuals, agencies, and groups who have expressed interest in the project or as mandated by regulation or policy. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the address listed above. The Draft SEIS is also available at the BLM Elko Field Office website: [www.nv.blm.gov/elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko). Public participation has occurred during the Environmental Impact Statement process. A Notice of Intent was filed in the **Federal Register** in August 1994 and subsequently in January 1998. Public scoping meetings to solicit comments and ideas were held in September 1994 and January 1998. All comments presented to the BLM throughout the Environmental Impact Statement process have been considered.

Dated: August 29, 2000.

**Helen Hankins,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 00-22738 Filed 9-5-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan, Death Valley National Park, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, California, Nye and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada; Notice of Availability**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (REIS) identifying and evaluating potential impacts of a proposed General Management Plan (GMP) for Death Valley National Park. This document provides updated and revised information that was prepared

largely as a result of public comments on the original Draft EIS/GMP that was released in September 1998. Death Valley is a unit of the National Park System, created by Congress on October 31, 1994, in the California Desert Protection Act. The REIS/GMP also includes a draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) that addresses management options for non-federal lands that exist inside the park boundary. The LPP and REIS were prepared as a component of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Effort (NEMO), a coordinated interagency project involving the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The NPS anticipates that this document could proceed separately from other components of this coordinated planning effort, and separate Records of Decision will be prepared accordingly. The REIS identifies and evaluates the environmental consequences of a proposed action and two alternatives. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated. When approved the GMP will serve as the overall management strategy for the next 10–15 years, under which more detailed activity or implementation plans are prepared as appropriate.

**Proposal:** This REIS/GMP presents the proposed management approach and two alternatives for the management of the park. The proposed action (Alternative 1) seeks to extend the existing management strategies that are in place for the previous national monument, and to apply the NPS mission and policies to the management of the resources within the new lands added to Death Valley in 1994 by the California Desert Protection Act. It also strives to incorporate the existing Congressional designation of 95% of the park as Wilderness into the management approach. This alternative addresses the removal of feral burros and horses from the park in order to achieve the NPS mission of managing the unit for native desert species. It also recognizes the need to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management on adjacent land, where their mandate from

Congress is to maintain viable herds of wild horses and burros. This alternative attempts to balance the preservation of resources mission with specific mandates from Congress. In Death Valley, the California Desert Protection Act provides for the continuation of grazing on the new lands. This alternative addresses grazing as a component of the management. This plan identifies a number of activity level plans needed to address site specific issues, such as the Saline Valley Warm Springs management and a backcountry/wilderness management plan. This alternative seeks funding for purchase of private property from willing sellers, or/and mineral interests where proposed uses conflict with the primary mission of preserving resources and providing for visitor enjoyment.

**Alternatives:** In addition to the proposal, this conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process also addressed the alternative of continuing existing management (no action), and an optional management approach. The existing management alternative (Alternative 2) describes the continuation of current management strategies. It is also commonly referred to as the status quo alternative. Under this alternative, existing visitor and administrative support services and facilities would be maintained in their current locations. There would be no change in road maintenance, although some roads might be improved if funding became available. No changes in recreation use would occur. Land acquisition would focus on obtaining funds to acquire private property and mineral interests from willing sellers only where proposed uses conflict with the park mission.

The optional approach (Alternative 3) provides for closure of the airstrips at Saline Valley Warm Springs, designating campsites at the Warm Springs, and specifies acquisition of private land or mineral interests only in sensitive habitats and the phase out of the concession operation at Stovepipe Wells.

**Comments:** Printed or CD-ROM copies of the REIS are available for

public review at park headquarters, as well as at many public libraries and federal offices in southern California and southern Nevada. In addition, the document is posted on the internet at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva). Inquiries and requests for copies may also be directed to: Superintendent, Death Valley National Park, Furnace Creek, California 92328. The telephone number for the park is (760) 786–2331.

Interested individuals, organizations, Tribes, and agencies wishing to express any new concerns about management issues and future land management direction are encouraged to address these to the Superintendent, Death Valley National Park. All written comments must be postmarked not later than December 8, 2000, and should be submitted to the address noted above.

If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

**Public Meetings:** The NPS will host a series of open houses to provide interested individuals and organization representatives an opportunity to express concerns, ask questions, view large scale maps and engage in dialog about the range or content of alternatives. This dialog is intended to provide additional guidance to the NPS in preparing a final EIS and plan amending the GMP and LPP. Written comments will also be accepted at these workshops. The public is invited to attend at any time during the open house posted hours. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

Friday, October 27th .....	Barstow, CA .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 30th .....	Pasadena, CA .....	6:00–9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31st .....	San Bernardino, CA .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 1st .....	Needles, CA .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 2nd .....	Las Vegas, NV .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Friday, November 3rd .....	Baker, CA .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Monday, November 13th .....	Amargosa, CA .....	2:00–6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 14th .....	Furnace Creek, CA .....	6:00–9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 15th .....	Bishop, CA .....	6:00–9:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 16th .....	Lone Pine, CA .....	6:00–9:00 p.m.
Friday, November 17th .....	Ridgecrest, CA .....	6:00–9:00 p.m.

Specific locations and other details will be available at the internet site identified above or by calling the park at (760) 786-2331.

**Decision:** Upon conclusion of the review period for the REIS/GMP, all written comments received will be duly considered in preparing a final plan. Currently the final EIS and GMP are anticipated to be completed during spring 2001. The availability of this final document will be similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently a Record of Decision would be executed no sooner than 30 (thirty) days after release of the final EIS. The official responsible for approval of the GMP is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; the official responsible for implementation of the approved GMP is the Superintendent, Death Valley National Park.

Signed: August 28, 2000.

**William C. Walters,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

[FR Doc. 00-22742 Filed 9-5-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan; Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, California; Notice of Availability**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifying and evaluating potential impacts of a proposed General Management Plan (GMP) for Mojave National Preserve. This revised document was prepared largely as a result of public comments on the earlier DEIS/GMP distributed for formal review in September 1998. Mojave National Preserve is a new unit of the National Park System, established by Congress on October 31, 1994, by the California Desert Protection Act. The Revised DEIS/GMP also includes a draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) that addresses management options for non-federal lands that exist inside the preserve boundary. This conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process is one element of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Effort (NEMO), a coordinated interagency initiative involving the

NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The NPS has determined that this element of the overall NEMO effort may proceed apart from other components of this coordinated planning effort; thus separate Records of Decision will be prepared. The Revised DEIS identifies and evaluates the environmental consequences of a proposed GMP and two alternatives. No significant adverse environmental impacts are foreseen. Upon approval the GMP will set forth the initial overall preserve management strategy for the next 10-15 years under which more detailed activity or implementation plans are prepared as appropriate.

**Proposal:** This Revised DEIS/GMP identifies and analyzes the proposed management approach and two alternatives for managing the 1.6 million-acre Mojave National Preserve in the northeastern Mojave Desert in California. The proposed action (Alternative 1) envisions Mojave National Preserve as a natural environment and a cultural landscape, where the protection of native desert ecosystems and processes is assured for future generations. The protection and perpetuation of native species in a self-sustaining environment is a primary long-term goal. The proposal seeks to manage the preserve to perpetuate the sense of discovery and adventure that currently exists. This means minimizing development inside the preserve, including the proliferation of signs, new campgrounds, and interpretive exhibits. The NPS would look to adjacent communities to provide most support services (food, gas, and lodging) for visitors. The proposal also seeks to provide the public, consistent with the NPS mission, with maximum opportunities for roadside camping, backcountry camping, and access to the preserve via existing roads. Funding would be sought for the rehabilitation and partial restoration of the historic Kelso Depot for use as a museum and interpretive facility. A balance is struck between the NPS mission of resource preservation and other mandates from Congress, such as maintaining grazing, hunting, and mining under NPS regulations and continuing the existence of major utility corridors. The proposal would maintain the ability of private landowners inside the boundary of the preserve to maintain their current way of life, while seeking funding to purchase property from willing sellers where proposed uses conflict with the primary mission of preserving resources. Nearly 230,000 acres within the preserve were in nonfederal

ownership at the time of establishment of the preserve.

**Alternatives:** In addition to the proposal, the alternatives addressed in this document also include existing management (no action), and an optional management approach. The existing management alternative (Alternative 2) describes the continuation of current management strategies. It is commonly referred to as the status quo alternative. Under this alternative, existing visitor and administrative support services and facilities would be maintained in their current locations. There would be few improvements in existing structures and there would be no change in road maintenance, although some roads might be improved if funding became available. No significant changes in existing recreation use would occur. Protection of Kelso Depot from fire, earthquakes and vandalism would be provided if funding could be obtained, but it would not be rehabilitated or restored. Land acquisition would focus on obtaining minimum funds to acquire property from willing sellers and properties where uses conflict with the preserve mission.

The optional approach (Alternative 3) provides for an increase in the facilities and services provided for public enjoyment. A small visitor contact building might be built at Kelso to provide information.

**Comments:** As noted, this Revised DEIS incorporates comments previously received from interested reviewers. At this time individuals, organizations, Tribes, agencies, and others wishing to express any new concerns about management issues and future land management direction are encouraged to address these to the Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve. All written comments must be postmarked not later than December 8, 2000, and should be submitted in care of the address noted below. If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

Printed or CD-ROM copies of the Revised DEIS are available for public