

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

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Notice of Public Meeting of the Central California Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central California Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: A business meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, at the Mendocino Hotel, 45080 Main St., Mendocino, CA, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Time for public comment is reserved from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Following the business meeting, the RAC will tour the Campbell-Hawthorne Timber Company property to begin preliminary discussion of possible transfer of portions of the property to BLM for off-highway vehicle use.

On Friday, Oct. 30, the RAC is scheduled to leave the Mendocino Hotel at 8 a.m. to tour the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and tours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Central California District Manager Este Stifel, (916) 978-4626; or BLM Public Affairs Officer David Christy, (916) 941-3146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Central California District, which includes the Bishop, Bakersfield, Central Coast, Ukiah and Mother Lode Field Offices. At this meeting, agenda topics will include a field manager updates on resource management issues including the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument and wildfires. Additional ongoing business will be discussed by the council. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have time allocated for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, and the time available, the time for individual

comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Dated: September 23, 2015.

Ruben Leal,

Associate District Manager.

[FR Doc. 2015-25523 Filed 10-6-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLWO3200000-L19900000.PP0000]

Renewal of Approved Information Collection; Control Number 1004-0025

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: 60-day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites public comments on its plans to seek renewal of its authorization under the Paperwork Reduction Act regarding applications for fee title to Federal lands embraced in hardrock mineral claims. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has assigned control number 1004-0025 to this information collection.

DATES: Please submit comments on the proposed information collection by December 7, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or electronic mail.

Mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW., Room 2134LM, Attention: Jean Sonneman, Washington, DC 20240.

Fax: To Jean Sonneman at 202-245-0050.

Electronic mail: Jesonnem@blm.gov.

Please indicate "Attn: 1004-0025" regardless of the form of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sonia Santillan, at 202-912-7123. Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, to leave a message for Ms. Santillan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, require that interested members of the public and affected agencies be given an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities

(see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d) and 1320.12(a)). This notice identifies an information collection that the BLM plans to submit to OMB for approval. The Paperwork Reduction Act provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

The BLM will request a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany our submission of the information collection requests to OMB.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The following information pertains to this request:

Title: Mineral Patent Applications (43 CFR part 3860) and Adverse Claims, Protests and Conflicts (43 CFR part 3870).

OMB Control Number: 1004-0025.

Summary: On its face, the Mining Law (30 U.S.C. 29, 30, and 39) authorizes a holder of an unpatented claim for hardrock minerals to apply for fee title (patent) to the Federal land (as well as minerals) embraced in the claim. Since 1994, a rider on the annual appropriation bill for the Department of the Interior has prevented the BLM from processing mineral patent applications unless the applications were grandfathered under the initial legislation. The most recent rider is at Public Law 113-235, 128 Stat. 2443, at Section 404. While grandfathered applications are rare at present, the approval to collect the information continues to be necessary because of the possibility that the moratorium will be lifted.

Frequency of Collection: Once.

Form: Certificate of Title on Mining Claims (Form 3860-2) and Application

for Survey on Mining Claim (Form 3860–5).

Description of Respondents: Owners of unpatented mining claims and mill sites upon the public lands, and of reserved mineral lands of the United States, National Forests, and National Parks.

Estimated Annual Responses: 10 responses.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 496 hours.

Jean Sonneman,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 2015–25545 Filed 10–6–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–84–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

[RR0810000, 15XR0680A1,
RY.1541CH20.1430001]

Announcement of Requirements and Registration for a Prize Competition Seeking Methods or Devices That can Quantify Drift Invertebrates in River and Estuary Systems

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation, in collaboration with other federal agencies (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) is announcing a prize competition for seeking a way to economically detect, count, and identify zooplankton and drift invertebrates in river and estuary systems. Problems identified that prevent the simple transfer of oceanographic techniques to rivers and streams are higher water velocities, turbidity, higher surface/depth ratio, and costs (time and money).

DATES: Listed below are the specific dates pertaining to this prize competition:

1. Submission period begins on October 7, 2015.
2. Submission period ends on November 16, 2015.
3. Judging period ends on January 15, 2016.
4. Winners announced by January 29, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The *Quantifying Drift Invertebrates in River and Estuary Systems* Prize Competition will be posted on the following crowd-sourcing platforms where Solvers can register for this prize competition:

1. The Water Pavilion located at the InnoCentive Challenge Center: <https://www.innocentive.com/ar/challenge/browse>.

2. U.S. Federal Government Challenge Platform: www.Challenge.gov.

3. The Nature Open Innovation Pavilion at <http://www.nature.com/openinnovation/index.html>.

4. The Scientific American Citizen Science Center at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/>.

InnoCentive, Inc. is administering this challenge under a challenge support services contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. These Web sites will redirect the Solver community to the InnoCentive Challenge Center as the administrator for this prize competition. Additional details for this prize competition, including the Challenge Agreement specific for this prize competition, can be accessed through any of these prize competition web addresses. The Challenge Agreement contains more details of the prize competition rules and terms that Solvers must agree with to be eligible to compete.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Challenge Manager: Dr. David Raff Science Advisor, Bureau of Reclamation, (202) 513–0516, draff@usbr.gov; or Mr. Chuck Hennig, (303) 445–2134, chennig@usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Reclamation is announcing this prize competition in compliance with 15 U.S. Code 3719, Prize Competitions. Habitat restoration, improvement, and creation in rivers, streams, and estuaries are key elements for the recovery of salmon, trout, and other critical fish species in the United States. Millions of dollars are spent annually on activities such as manipulating flow regimes, adding structural elements such as wood or rock, reconnecting rivers with their floodplains, and restoring wetlands. A critical aspect in evaluating the effectiveness of these habitat manipulations is understanding how they influence the food resources available to critical fish species targeted for recovery and protection. Yet despite its importance, quantification of food resources has proven difficult.

A solution is being pursued through a prize competition because the Bureau of Reclamation and the collaborating Federal agencies want to seek innovative solutions from those beyond the usual sources of potential solvers and experts that commonly work in the fish recovery management domain. We find ourselves often wondering if

somebody, somewhere may know a better way to quantify the availability of food sources for threatened and endangered fish. The prize competition approach enables us to reach new sources of potential solvers to discover other technologies that could be adopted for this purpose; or generate new solutions that would not likely be accomplished by standard contractual methods.

Challenge Summary: Accurate food counts, such as zooplankton and drift invertebrates, are instrumental in fish habitat evaluation and restoration in our rivers and streams. Although technology has been developed for automated detection and identification of zooplankton and drift invertebrates in oceanographic settings, they have not been developed for the unique environmental conditions in rivers and estuaries. High flow rates and turbidity cause problems with automated visual systems used today. The main obstacle in estuaries is turbidity while the main obstacle in river systems is flow velocity. In addition, the horizontal nature of rivers invokes problems not encountered in deep ocean waters (*e.g.*, sunlight effects at the surface of water and the mixing of food sources throughout the water column in rivers due to turbulence as opposed to more stratified food webs in ocean waters). We would like to identify devices/methods that can detect, count, and identify zooplankton and drift invertebrates in an economical way in rivers and estuary systems. There is potential for future collaboration with the Seeker in developing and testing winning solutions.

This is a Theoretical Challenge that requires only a written proposal to be submitted. The Challenge award will be contingent upon theoretical evaluation of the proposal by the Bureau of Reclamation (Seeker). The Seeker has a total prize pool budget of \$30,000 to pay the top three submission(s) that meet or exceed the criteria below, an award of \$10,000 each. No awards are guaranteed unless they meet or exceed the criteria, and more than one award is not guaranteed. If only a single submission meets or exceeds the criteria, the prize award may be as high as \$15,000.

To receive an award, the Solvers will not have to transfer their exclusive intellectual property rights to the Seeker. Instead, they will grant to the Seeker a non-exclusive license to practice their solutions.

The Seeker believes there might be a potential for future collaboration with awarded Solver(s), although such collaboration is not guaranteed. The Seeker may also encourage Solver(s) to