

by courses 104 to 105 to 106 to 107 to 108 to 104B to 104A back to 104, as shown on the BLM Dependent Resurvey and Survey for the boundaries of the Santa Ynez Indian Reservation, T. 6 N., R. 31 W., San Bernardino Meridian, approved September 14, 1977.

The lands described above were used and occupied by certain Indian families outside the reservation. In 1903, the lands were deeded to the United States in trust for those particular Indians with a reverter. By 1940, the Tribe and the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior found that the lands described above reverted back to the grantor's successors in interest. Although disclaimers were executed at that time, they were never recorded with the County Recorder, causing the impression that the United States still holds the lands in trust. The United States proposes to issue a disclaimer of interest to remove this cloud on title.

For a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed disclaimer may present their views in writing to the undersigned officer at the above address.

Dated: November 25, 2003.

**Howard K. Stark,**

*Chief, Branch of Lands Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-1990-EX]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) To Analyze Homestake Mining Company's Proposed Modification to the Plan of Operations for Expansion of Its Ruby Hill Mine, Eureka County, NV

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 40 CFR 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and 43 CFR Subpart 3809, the Bureau of Land Management's Battle Mountain Field Office will be directing the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze a proposed expansion of an

open-pit mine and associated facilities in Eureka County, Nevada. Expansion of the Ruby Hill Mine, specifically development of the East Archimedes deposit, was defined in the EIS for the existing mine as a reasonably foreseeable future action. The project will involve public and private lands. The SEIS will be prepared by a third-party contractor directed by the BLM.

The BLM invites comments on the scope of the analysis. The purpose of the public scoping meetings is to identify issues to be addressed in the SEIS and potentially viable alternatives that address these issues. BLM personnel will be present to explain the NEPA process, mining regulations, and other requirements for processing the proposed Plan of Operations Amendment and the associated SEIS.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on the scope of the SEIS can be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the writing of the Draft SEIS. Scoping meetings will be held in Eureka and in Battle Mountain, Nevada. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters or flyers, and will be posted on the Battle Mountain BLM Web site, <http://www.nv.blm.gov/bmountain>, at least 15 days prior to each event. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participants who wish to clarify the views they expressed.

**ADDRESSES:** Written scoping comments should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Rd., Battle Mountain, NV 89820, ATTN: Mary Craggett. Written comments may also be faxed to Mary Craggett at (775) 635-4034. Documents pertinent to this proposal as well as comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, may be examined at the Battle Mountain Field Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays). Comments may be published as part of the SEIS.

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. BLM will not consider anonymous comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Craggett, Project Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 (775-635-4060.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** HMC has submitted a proposal to expand its existing Ruby Hill Mine located south of Highway 50, approximately 1 mile northwest of the town of Eureka, Nevada. The project (development of the East Archimedes deposit) would consist of extending the existing open pit, expansion of existing waste rock and heap leach facilities, construction of dewatering facilities, and the continued operation, reclamation, and closure of the existing Ruby Hill Mine, to include mine office and warehouse, truck shop, haul roads, ore stockpiles, access road, diversion ditches, power transmission lines, water wells and pipelines, process solution transmission pipelines and a landfill. The project area is unchanged from the existing Ruby Hill Mine approved Plan of Operations (N64-95-001P) and related Environmental Impact Statement (NV64-EIS96-33), and is within portions of Township 19 North, Range 53 East, MDM, sections 2 to 11, inclusive, 14 to 18, inclusive, and 20 to 23 inclusive and portions of Township 20 North, Range 53 East, sections 28 and 31 to 35, inclusive. Under the proposed action, an estimated additional disturbance of 665 acres would occur. This proposed disturbance includes approximately 484 acres of private land owned by HMC, and 181 acres of BLM-administered public land. Project access will continue to be via an improved gravel road from U.S. Highway 50.

Potentially significant direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts from the proposed action will be analyzed in the SEIS. Significant issues to be addressed in the SEIS include dewatering activities and visual impacts. Additional issues to be addressed may arise during the scoping process. Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this plan of operations amendment are invited to participate in the scoping process. The life of the project under this modification would increase approximately six years over the timeline outlined in the Ruby Hill Project Final EIS.

Dated: February 3, 2004.

Gerald M. Smith,

Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-936-04-2823-JM-PJ02]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the BLM, Utah State Office, intends to prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management for more than three quarters of BLM lands in Utah. This Plan Amendment will amend 21 Land Use Plans that address management of the public lands in the Cedar City, Fillmore, Kanab, Moab, Monticello, Richfield, Salt Lake, and St. George Field Offices (FOs), and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The purpose of the Amendment is to incorporate current Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy into Resource Management Plans, Management Framework Plans, and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan. The Amendment will address restoring fire as an integral part of fire-adapted ecosystems to meet resource management objectives, to protect human life and property, as well as natural and cultural resources, through the reduction of hazardous fuels, and to establish consistent methods of managing fire and fuels on BLM-administered public lands in Utah. The Amendment will analyze fire and fuels management actions and their impacts on the human environment for public lands administered by the eight Utah BLM Field Offices and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in one document in order to ensure consistency and collaboration among the offices and the interested public.

**DATES:** The BLM is now soliciting written comments on issues and concerns that should be considered during the development and analysis of the proposed Land Use Plan Amendment. While written comments will be accepted throughout the planning process, to be most useful, comments should be received on or before the end of the comment period at the addresses listed below. The comment period will last 30 days from

the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to comment, request additional information, or request to be put on the mailing list, you may do so by any of several methods. You may mail, hand deliver, or fax your comments or requests to: Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 324 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303; FAX (801) 539-4243. Comments or requests may be submitted via electronic mail as well (*UT\_Fire\_Comments@blm.gov*). Upon request, comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Utah State Office during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Amendment. Current Resource Management Plans, Management Framework Plans, the Monument Management Plan, and all other documents relevant to this planning process are also available for public review at the Utah State Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jolie Pollet, Fire Ecologist, (801) 539-4129, or Matthew Higdon, Planner, (801) 539-4052, Utah State Office, 324 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This planning activity encompasses approximately 18 million acres of public lands within the state of Utah. The planning area includes all surface lands managed by BLM in the eight BLM Field Offices described above and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. This amendment does not affect lands for which BLM only administers the sub-surface, or mineral estate. This Plan Amendment will immediately amend the following: four Resource Management Plans (RMPs) [Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony (1986), Grand (1985), St. George (1999), San Juan (1991)]; 12 Management Framework Plans (MFPs) [(Escalante (1981), Forest (1977), Henry Mountains (1982), Iso-tract (1985), Mountain Valley (1982), Paria (1981), Park City (1975), Parker Mountain (1982), Pinyon (1983), Randolph (1980), Vermillion (1981), Zion (1981)]; and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan (1999). In addition, this action could amend, at a later date, the Resource Management Plans guiding management for western desert areas of the Salt Lake and Fillmore Field Offices.

The proposed Plan Amendment will: (1) Establish landscape level fire management objectives; (2) describe desired wildland fire conditions; (3) identify the suite of management

strategies and actions to meet desired wildland fire conditions and desired resource management conditions; (4) describe areas where fire may be restored to the ecosystem; (5) describe areas where fires are unwanted; (6) identify general restrictions on fire management practices; (7) identify criteria used for establishing fire management priorities; and (8) identify the anticipated maximum burned acres and acres treated for hazardous fuel reduction. BLM has identified general issues for this planning effort, including: protection of human life; protection of property; protection of natural/cultural resources; integration of fire and resource management; and protection of air quality. These issues, along with others that may be identified through public participation, will be considered during the planning process.

BLM has identified the following preliminary planning criteria to guide the planning process: (1) Compliance with all legal mandates of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, the BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR part 1600, and other relevant laws; (2) the Amendment will recognize the existence of valid existing rights; (3) lands covered in the Amended Land Use Plans will be public lands managed by the BLM and decisions in the Amendment will be made only on lands managed by BLM; (4) the BLM will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach, where possible, to jointly determine the desired future conditions of public lands; (5) the BLM will make all possible attempts to ensure that its management prescriptions and planning actions are as complimentary as possible to other planning jurisdictions, within the boundaries described by law and policy; (6) the BLM will, to the extent possible, use current scientific information, research, new technologies and the results of resource assessments, monitoring and coordination to determine appropriate management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems; and (7) the Amendment will supersede only sections of the existing Land Use Plans that relate to Fire and Fuels Management. Additional planning criteria may be identified during the comment period.

Existing information will be used to develop the Plan Amendment. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the Plan Amendment in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified.