

the above address and at the California BLM State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Zale, (760) 337-4420.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit is comprised of 98,902 acres of public land, spanning a portion of the eastern escarpment of Southern California's Peninsular Ranges. The Eastern San Diego County RMP, when completed, will provide management guidance for use and protection of the resources managed by the El Centro Field Office in this area. The Draft RMP/EIS has been developed through a collaborative planning process and considers five alternatives. The primary issues addressed include: Conflicts between motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized/non-mechanized recreationists; protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources from impacts due to recreational use, livestock grazing, and other land uses; guidance for renewable energy development; and addressing other planning issues raised during the scoping process.

The Draft RMP/EIS also includes consideration of the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). The preferred alternative includes the following ACECs: In-Ko-Pah ACEC—23,020 acres (currently 22,186 acres); Table Mountain ACEC—4,684 acres (currently 4,293 acres). Use of public lands within these ACECs would vary, depending on the resources and/or values identified (see Chapter 2 of the Draft RMP/EIS), but would likely include limitations on OHV use, livestock grazing, and development projects.

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.

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on February 26, 2007.

Dated: September 6, 2006.

**Vicki L. Wood,**

*El Centro Field Office Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-169-07-1610-DO]

#### Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Carrizo Plain National Monument, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is a revision of the April 24, 2002 Notice of Intent (**Federal Register** Volume 67, Number 79, pages 20152-20153). In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to initiate a new scoping process for a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

Previously, the BLM announced that an Environmental Assessment would be prepared in connection with the RMP for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. By this notice, the BLM is announcing public scoping meetings.

**DATES:** Specific dates and locations of public meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media and on BLM's Web site, <http://www.ca.blm.gov>. We will provide additional formal opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft RMP/EIS, expected to be ready for public review and comment sometime in 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Written scoping comments should be sent to: Monument Manager, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308. Scoping comments previously submitted following publication of the 2002 Notice of Intent are still valid and will be considered together with comments received pursuant to this revised notice. Commentors do not need to resubmit comments but may provide additional comments or clarifications of those previously made.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Monument Manager, Carrizo Plain

National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, Calif. 93308 or telephone (661) 391-6000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With the recent appointment of the new Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, the BLM is resuming work with the public on developing a draft RMP to guide future management of the Monument.

BLM has decided to prepare an EIS to support the plan, based on public requests and BLM's interest in expanding public involvement in the planning process. The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the RMP in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified during scoping.

In cooperation with the Monument Advisory Committee, the BLM and its Monument managing partners, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Game, will be conducting additional public scoping meetings to gather input on issues to be addressed in the draft RMP and EIS. To be most helpful, you should submit formal scoping comments within 30 days after the last public meeting. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. The BLM will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

The Carrizo Plain, the largest undeveloped remnant of the once vast San Joaquin Valley ecosystem, was designated a national monument in 2001 in recognition of its special resource values, including threatened and endangered species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. It also contains nationally significant geological features, such as one of the best exposed examples of the 10-million year old San Andreas Fault, as well as one of the most significant cultural sites in California, at Painted Rock. In the spring, the Plain exhibits a lavish wildflower display of goldfields, purple

owls, lupine, and the rare California jewel flower.

Dated: November 27, 2006.

**Ron Huntsinger,**

*Field Manager, Bakersfield Field Office.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on February 26, 2007.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-1990]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement To Analyze the Proposed Mount Hope Project Plan of Operations (NVN-082096) for the Mount Hope Molybdenum Mine

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) subparts 1500-1508, and 43 CFR subpart 3809, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain Field Office will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mount Hope Project, a proposed open pit molybdenum mine, mill, and associated facilities, located on public and private lands in Eureka County, Nevada.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping period. Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be post-marked or hand delivered to the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office by 4:30 p.m., no later than 30 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register** to ensure full consideration. The public will be notified of scoping meetings through the local news media at least 15 days prior to the first meeting. It is anticipated at least two scoping meetings (in Eureka and Battle Mountain, Nevada) will be held during this scoping period.

**ADDRESSES:** Written scoping comments should be sent to the BLM, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820, ATTN: Angelica Ordaz. Written comments may also be faxed to Angelica Ordaz at (775) 635-4034, or submitted in writing to the BLM at one of the scoping meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact

Angelica Ordaz, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office, or by telephone at (775) 635-4000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Idaho General Mines, Inc. (IGMI) has submitted a Plan of Operations (NVN-082096) to the BLM for the proposed mining project. Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 1502.14(a) and 1502.14(d), in addition to the proposed action, the BLM will explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including the alternative of no action. The reasonable range of alternatives will include an analysis of the feasibility to back fill or partially back fill the mined out pits.

The Mount Hope Project Plan of Operations (Plan) will be presented to the public during scoping meetings, and informational letters on the Plan will be mailed to interested parties. The Plan will be available for public review at BLM's Battle Mountain Field Office. The BLM invites public comment on the scope of the analysis, including issues to consider and alternatives to the proposed action. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. BLM personnel will be present at the scoping meetings to explain the environmental review process, the mining regulations, and other requirements for processing the proposed Plan and the associated EIS. Representatives of IGMI will also be available to describe their proposal.

You may submit comments on issues in writing to the BLM at the public scoping meetings, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. To be most helpful, formal scoping comments should be submitted within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice, although comments will be accepted throughout the development of the EIS. Comments received and a list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be made available for public inspection and open for 30 days following each meeting for any participant(s) who wish to clarify their

views. Comments and documents pertinent to this proposal, 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 EIS.

The proposed project would be located in north-central Nevada approximately 23 miles northwest of the town of Eureka in Townships 20, 21, 22, and 23 North, Ranges 51 and 52 East. The project would involve both public and private lands in Eureka County, Nevada. The project would involve the construction and development of the following primary components: An open pit for development of the Mount Hope ore body with an in-pit groundwater dewatering system; waste rock stockpiles; high grade and low grade ore stockpiles; ancillary facilities (maintenance shop, administrative facilities, and fuel and lubricant storage facilities); primary crusher; conveyor system; crushed ore stock pile area and ore reclaim system; a mill and flotation circuit including reagent storage, offices and a laboratory, warehouse, and laydown yards; north and south tailings storage facilities; a molybdenite concentrate roaster; water supply well(s) and associated rights-of-way for access roads, power lines, and pipelines; relocation of existing Falcon to Gonder 230-kV transmission line segments in the project area; installation of a 120-kV transmission line and substation; construction of a landfill, haul, secondary, access, and exploration roads; and ancillary facilities including growth media stockpiles, diversion ditches, and stormwater runoff controls.

The mine and milling facility would operate for approximately 53 years. During the first 12 years, the milling rate would be 44,100 tons per day and would increase to 55,100 tons per day for years 12 through 53. The roaster would convert molybdenum disulfide (MoS<sub>2</sub>) to technical grade molybdenum oxide (MoO<sub>3</sub>). Up to 100 tons of molybdenite concentrate per day would be processed through the roaster. Concurrent reclamation would be conducted during the 53-year operating period as mining in an area is completed. Site closure and final reclamation would be undertaken at the end of mining and milling.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the EIS, in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Potential significant direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts from the proposed action will be analyzed in the EIS.