

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vivian Titus, Senior Land Law Examiner, at 602-417-9598. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question for the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The location of the federally owned mineral interest segregated by this notice is intended to be identical in location as the privately owned surface interest of the applicant, as described in the applicant's deeds recorded on June 21, 2006, at the Maricopa County Recorder's office under Recordation Numbers 20060834935 and 20060834944. The lands referred to in this notice consist of four individual parcels, described in the two deeds mentioned above, and are described as follows:

Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian*Parcel 1*

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the South Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, and the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter;

Except the East 528 feet of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest, all in Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa, Arizona.

Parcel 2

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, described as follows:

Beginning at a point 658.00 feet West of the Brass Cap and the Southeast corner of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 2 East; Thence North 754.85 feet to a set point; Thence West 577.00 feet to a set point; Thence South 755.26 feet to a set point; Thence East 577.00 feet to a point of beginning; Except any part thereof lying within the following described parcel: Commencing at the East Quarter corner of said Section 35; Thence South along the East line of said Section 35, a distance of 785 feet; Thence West 675 feet to the True Point of Beginning; Thence South Parallel to and 675 feet West of the East line of said Section 35, a distance of 1100 feet;

Thence West 570 feet; Thence North 1100 feet; Thence East 570 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

Parcel 3

That part of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 2 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, lying West of the West lines of those certain parcels described in Docket 11938, Page 261; and in Docket 14071, Page 774; and lying South of the North line of said parcel described in Docket 14071, Page 774; extended westerly.

Parcel 4

A part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 2 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the East Quarter corner of said Section 35; Thence South along the East line of said Section 35, a distance of 785 feet; Thence West 675 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence South parallel to and 675 feet West of the East line of said Section 35, a distance of 1,100 feet; Thence West 570 feet; Thence North 1,100 feet; Thence East 570 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The areas described aggregates approximately 111.33 acres in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Under certain conditions, Section 209(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1719, authorizes the sale and conveyance of the federally owned mineral interests in land when the surface estate is not federally owned. The objective is to allow consolidation of the surface and mineral interests when either one of the following conditions exist: (1) There are no known mineral values in the land; or (2) Where continued Federal ownership of the mineral interests interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than mineral development.

An application was filed for the sale and conveyance of the federally owned mineral interests in the above-described parcels of land. Subject to valid existing rights, on September 10, 2012 the federally owned mineral interests in the lands described above are hereby segregated from all forms of appropriation under the general mining and mineral leasing laws, while the application is being processed to determine if either one of the two specified conditions exists and, if so, to otherwise comply with the procedural requirements of 43 CFR part 2720. The

segregative effect shall terminate upon: (1) Issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance as to such mineral interests; (2) Final rejection of the application; or (3) September 10, 2014, whichever occurs first.

Comments: Your comments are invited. Please submit all comments in writing to Vivian Titus at the address listed above. 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 available to the public 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.

Authority: 43 CFR 2720.1-1(b).

Julie A. Decker,

Deputy State Director, Resources.

[FR Doc. 2012-22220 Filed 9-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

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

[LLCAN00000.L18200000.XZ0000]

Notice of Temporary Closure of Public Lands in Eastern Lassen County, California, and Western Washoe County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that BLM-managed public lands in the area affected by the Rush Fire in eastern Lassen County, California, and western Washoe County, Nevada, are closed to public access because of dangers posed by the Rush Fire. Exempted from this closure are personnel and vehicles involved with fire suppression and resource protection and State, local and Federal officials involved with enforcement. This closure is necessary to protect public health and safety.

DATES: The temporary closure is effective August 14, 2012, and will be lifted no later than September 14, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynda Roush, Acting Northern California District Manager, 707-825-2309; or BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Manager Ken Collum, 530-252-5374. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the

above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure affects all public lands bounded by the Juniper Ridge and Tuledad Roads, (combined Lassen County Road 522), the Stage Road (Lassen County Road 504), Marr Road (Lassen County Road 526) and the BLM Buckhorn Road on the north; U. S. Highway 395 on the west; Nevada Highway 447 and the Sand Pass Road on the east; and the Wendel Road on the south. The closure begins at T34N, R13E, SE corner of Section 25 and continues through the entire fire area. This closure is made under authority of 43 CFR 8364. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure order may be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Specific roads included in the closure are Ryepatch Road, Horn Road, Garate Road, Ramhorn Road, Shinn Ranch Road, Stoney Road, Deep Cut Road, Smoke Creek Road, Skedaddle Ranch Road, Brubeck Road, Dry Valley Road, and Buckhorn Road from the junction with Lassen County Road 526 (the Marr Road) to the junction with Nevada State Highway 447. The Ramhorn Springs Campground and the Dodge Reservoir and Campground are also closed.

Thomas Pogacnik,
Deputy State Director.

[FR Doc. 2012-22222 Filed 9-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Scoping Meetings for Continued Operation of the Paradox Valley Unit, Montrose County, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation intends to prepare an environmental impact statement to identify and evaluate brine disposal alternatives to replace or supplement the existing Brine Injection Well No. 1 which has a projected remaining useful life of three to five years under current operations.

DATES: Comments on the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) will be accepted from September 10, 2012, to November 26, 2012.

Three public scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on the scope of the EIS, potential alternatives, and issues to be addressed in the EIS. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the scope and content of the EIS should be sent to Mr. Terence Stroh, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 248-0608; facsimile (970) 248-0601; or email at paradoxeis@usbr.gov.

Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the EIS, should contact Mr. Stroh using the information cited above. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for locations of public scoping meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Terence Stroh, Bureau of Reclamation, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 248-0608; email at TStroh@usbr.gov; or Mr. Andy Nicholas, Bureau of Reclamation, Paradox Valley Field Office, P.O. Box 20, Bedrock, Colorado 81411; telephone (970) 859-7214; email at ANicholas@usbr.gov; or Mr. Kib Jacobson, Bureau of Reclamation, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138; telephone (801) 524-3753; email at KJacobson@usbr.gov.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paradox Valley Unit was constructed to assist in meeting the objectives and standards of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 (Pub. L. 80-845) and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974, as amended and supplemented (Pub. L. 93-320), which authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of works in the Colorado River Basin to control the salinity of water delivered to users in the United States and Mexico. Authorized facilities included wells, pumps, pipelines, solar evaporation ponds, and all necessary appurtenant and associated works such as roads,

fences, dikes, power transmission facilities, and permanent operating facilities.

Background

The Paradox Valley Unit is located along the Dolores River in the Paradox Valley in Montrose County, Colorado, about ten miles east of the Colorado-Utah state line. The Dolores River is a major tributary to the Colorado River. Groundwater in the Paradox Valley is highly saline. Saline concentrations in this area have been measured in excess of 250,000 milligrams per liter; by far one of the most concentrated sources in the Colorado River Basin. Groundwater then surfaces into the Dolores River. Studies show that the Dolores River accumulated more than 205,000 tons of salt annually before the Paradox Valley Unit began operation.

The Paradox Valley Unit presently consists of a brine collection well field, brine surface treatment facility, brine injection facility, a 16,000-foot injection well, and associated roads, pipelines, and electrical facilities. Unit operations have been adjusted over time to address increased seismic activity and injection pressures. Under normal operations, the Paradox Valley Unit averages injection of about nine to ten million gallons of brine per month. The Unit currently controls about 110,000 tons of salt per year that would have entered the Dolores River and, in turn, degraded the water quality of the mainstem of the Colorado River.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to identify, evaluate, and implement brine disposal alternatives to replace or supplement Brine Injection Well No. 1 which was built in 1988 and has a projected remaining useful life of three to five years, under current operations, provided that acceptable seismicity levels and well integrity are maintained.

Need for Action

The Bureau of Reclamation's Paradox Valley Unit is one of the most effective salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin and provides about ten percent of the total salinity control in the Colorado River at Imperial Dam. Because the existing brine injection well is nearing the end of its useful life, another well or alternative brine disposal mechanism is needed for continued enhancement and protection of the quality of water available in the Colorado River for use in the United States and the Republic of Mexico, and to enable the United States to comply with its obligations under the agreement with Mexico of August 30, 1973.