

rare, threatened, and endangered species. We agree with the commenter that use of existing information reduces the burden on respondents. The Guidelines encourage use of credible, publicly available information, including published studies, technical reports, databases, and information from agencies, local conservation organizations, and/or local experts. We also agree that burdens are reduced by siting projects in areas with least risk to wildlife and their habitats, and note that this is exactly what we hope to accomplish by working with developers to implement the Guidelines.

#### Other Comments

Several other comments were provided that were not pertinent to the questions asked in the notice. These comments addressed regulatory tools for migratory bird conservation, BGEPA programmatic permits for incidental take of eagles, suggestions for what types of mitigation methods should be acceptable as compensation for loss of protected species, enforcement actions by the Office of Law Enforcement against wind facilities compared with other energy technologies, splitting environmental study responsibilities among separate consultants, and stakeholder involvement in the development of adaptive management plans. One commenter also noted that the Service did not estimate the burden on the public to access the information collected via Freedom of Information Act requests, administrative appeals, and lawsuits. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that we analyze the burden placed on those who submit information to us, not on the burden of others attempting to access that information.

#### Request for Public Comments

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: December 23, 2014.

**Tina A. Campbell,**

Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-30481 Filed 12-29-14; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-HQ-NCTC-2014-N258; FF09X32000-FXGO16610900400-145]**

#### Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Application for Training, National Conservation Training Center

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before January 29, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-5806 (fax) or [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail), or [hope\\_grey@fws.gov](mailto:hope_grey@fws.gov) (email). Please include "1018-0115" in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey at [hope\\_grey@fws.gov](mailto:hope_grey@fws.gov) (email) or 703-358-2482 (telephone). You may review the ICR

online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Information Collection Request

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0115.

*Title:* Application for Training, National Conservation Training Center.

*Service Form Number:* 3-2193.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Description of Respondents:*

Individuals, businesses, organizations, and State, local, and tribal governments.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 500.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 500.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 84.

*Abstract:* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, provides natural resource and other professional training for Service employees, employees of other Federal agencies, and other affiliations, including State agencies, private individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and university personnel. FWS Form 3-2193 (Training Application) is a quick and easy method for prospective students who are not from the Department of the Interior to request training. We encourage applicants to use FWS Form 3-2193 and to submit their requests electronically. However, we do not require applicants to complete both a training form required by their agency and FWS Form 3-2193. NCTC will accept a training request in any format as long as it identifies the name, address, and phone number of the applicant; sponsoring agency; class name; start date; and all required financial payment information.

NCTC uses data from FWS Form 3-2193 to generate class rosters, class transcripts, and statistics, and as a budgeting tool for projecting training requirements. It is also used to track attendance, mandatory requirements, tuition, and invoicing for all NCTC-sponsored courses both onsite and offsite.

#### Comments Received and Our Responses

*Comments:* On July 3, 2014, we published in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 38055) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that

notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on September 2, 2014. We received one comment. The comment was directed to the subject matter, validity, and necessity of the training and not to the information collection requirements. The commenter believes that employees should obtain training prior to employment and that further training is unnecessary. We have not made any changes to the collection in response to this comment.

#### Request for Public Comments

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: December 23, 2014.

**Tina A. Campbell,**

Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVW0300.L5110000.GN0000.  
LVEMF1402860.14X MO 4500073913]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Hycroft Mine Expansion Phase II, Humboldt and Pershing Counties, NV

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Black Rock Field Office in Winnemucca, Nevada, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts of approving an expansion of the Hycroft Mine in Humboldt and Pershing Counties, Nevada. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues to be considered in the EIS, and serves to initiate consultation, as required, under the National Historic Preservation Act.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 29, 2015. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the Hycroft Mine Phase II Expansion Project EIS/land use plan amendment by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>
- *Email:* [wfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@blm.gov)
- *Fax:* 775-623-1503
- *Mail:* BLM Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Black Rock Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Loda, Project Lead, telephone 775-623-1500; address BLM Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; email [wfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@blm.gov). Contact Mr. Loda to have your name added to our mailing list. 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:** The applicant, Hycroft Resources and Development, Inc. (HRDI) has proposed an expansion of their operations at the existing Hycroft Mine, which is located approximately 55 miles west of Winnemucca, Nevada, in Humboldt and Pershing Counties. The mine is currently authorized to disturb 6,144 acres (approximately 1,784 acres of private land and 4,360 acres of public land), and the BLM analyzed the impacts of that disturbance in an EIS in 2012, and an Environmental Assessment for the mine plan modification in 2014. The expansion to HRDI's operations presented would include:

- Expanding the Plan boundary to the east;
- Extending mining and processing activities until 2034;
- Increasing the rate of process water pumping until 2034;
- Constructing and operating the Northeast Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and associated pipeline corridor and haul road;
- Constructing and operating the North Heap Leach Facility (HLF) East expansion and associated solution ponds;
- Constructing a new 65 to 80 mile 345 kV power-line to the mine site;
- Expanding the existing Brimstone pit and mine below the measured groundwater table, between 4,210 to 2,860 feet above mean sea level;
- Conducting active dewatering of the Brimstone pit through installation and operation of dewatering wells;
- Conducting passive dewatering within the expanded pit footprint;
- Expanding the South Waste Rock Facility (WRF);
- Modifying the approved land use in the South Processing Complex area to allow the option of constructing the Southwest WRF in place of the complex if desired;
- Modifying waste backfill plans with respect to the proposed mining plan;
- Expanding haul and secondary roads around the pits, WRFs, HLFs, and TSF;
- Constructing storm water diversion, installing culverts, and other storm water controls;
- Constructing growth media stockpiles; and
- Possible construction of a solar energy installation after closure and reclamation.

Total surface disturbance related directly to the modified plan of operations would be 14,909 acres on public and private lands. Disturbance on public land will increase by 8,796 acres, from 4,360 acres to 13,156 acres. Disturbance on private land would