

Rescissions Act) provides in relevant part that:

"[I]n allocating this \$1,115,000,000 rescission, the Secretary may reduce the appropriations needs of the Department by (1) waiving any provision of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 and section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act (including the provisions governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance) that the Secretary determines is not necessary to achieve the objectives of these programs, or that otherwise impedes the ability to develop, operate or administer projects assisted under these programs, and may make provision for alternative conditions or terms where appropriate * * * ."

The Department has identified the following provisions that affected the procedures for calculating the amount of project rental assistance contract (PRAC) funds reserved for Section 202 and 811 projects funded in FY 1993, 1994, and 1995, as well as to reduce the term for reserving PRAC funds and to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions for Section 202 and 811 projects funded in FY 1995.

I. Projects Funded in Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994

A Memorandum from Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner Retsinas dated August 28, 1995 notified State and Area Offices that all Section 202 and Section 811 projects funded in FY 1993 and 1994 that had not yet reached initial closing must include an Addendum to the Agreement to Enter into the Project Rental Assistance Contract (Forms HUD-90172-A-CA and HUD-90172-B-CA) at the time of initial closing. The Addendum, which had to be signed by both HUD and the Owner, alerted the Owner of HUD's right to reduce the PRAC reserved for the project at a later time.

By instructions to the HUD offices, the PRAC funds reserved for projects funded in FY 1993 and 1994, which either had not gone to initial closing or had the Addendum described above as an attachment to their Agreement to Enter into the PRAC, were reduced by an amount equivalent to the anticipated tenant contributions. Based on a review of the average tenant contributions to rent and the average project operating expenses, tenants on the average contribute at least 25 percent of the projects' operating expenses. Therefore, the PRAC funds were calculated at 75 percent of the estimated project's total operating expenses, thereby reducing the PRAC reserved funds by 25 percent.

II. Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 1995

A. For projects funded in FY 1995, PRAC funds were reserved at 75 percent

of the estimated project's total operating expenses to take into consideration estimated tenant contributions.

B. In addition to the above, based on the authorization in the FY 1995 Rescissions Act, the Secretary is hereby waiving the following statutory and regulatory provisions:

1. Reducing the Term of the PRAC From 20 to 5 Years

Consequently, for all projects selected in FY 1995, project rental assistance funds were only reserved initially for five years. The Department anticipates that at the end of the five-year period, renewals will be approved depending upon the availability of funds.

2. Extending Income Eligibility for Admission to Lower Income Households

Currently, eligible residents' income cannot exceed 50 percent of the median. A waiver of this provision extends the eligibility of elderly persons and persons with disabilities to persons with incomes up to 80 percent of median. These individuals, whether their incomes are up to 50 percent or 80 percent of median, must be admitted to occupancy on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with fair housing requirements.

3. Waiving the Federal Preferences for Admission

Waiving this provision permits project owners to admit to occupancy eligible residents without regard to Federal preferences. However, local preferences will still be allowed in accordance with HUD regulations. Project owners must still ensure that applicants for housing are selected for occupancy in a fair and equitable manner.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Stephanie A. Smith,

Acting General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Forest Management Plan for Trust Forest Lands Within the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Flathead Agency, intends to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the revision of the Forest Management Plan (Plan) for the trust forest lands of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana. A description of the proposed action and possible alternatives to be addressed in the EIS follows as supplemental information.

This notice is published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations found in 40 CFR 1501.7. The purpose of this notice is to solicit suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIS. The BIA encourages all who wish to do so to comment and participate in this scoping process.

DATES: The public comment period closes on March 29, 1996. Public Scoping Meetings will be held on February 20, 1996, at the Arlee Elementary School Lunchroom, Arlee MT; on February 21, 1996, at the Salish Longhouse, St. Ignatius MT; on February 22, 1996, at the Elmo Bingo Hall, Elmo MT; and on February 23, 1996, at the Senior Citizen's Center, Hot Springs, MT. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. A Public Meeting will also be held on February 26, 1996, at the BIA East Conference Room, Tribal Complex, Pablo, MT, beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be addressed to Mr. Ernest "Bud" Moran, Superintendent, Flathead Agency, Pablo, MT 59855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' (Tribes) interdisciplinary team has developed and drafted a proposed action that complies with the Tribes' Purpose and Need Statement for the Plan. This Statement is as follows:

"The purpose of the Flathead Indian Reservation Forest Management Plan is to provide long-term direction for Indian forest resources. The plan describes resource management practices and levels of resource production. It establishes management standards, allocates land, and prescribes management practices to achieve balanced forest ecosystems. The Plan is needed to: (1) satisfy Tribal goals and objectives; (2) ensure that management activities are compatible with sustainable forest ecosystems; (3) balance Tribal cultural, social, economic and environmental values; and (4) establish an adaptive management and monitoring process that incorporates Tribal member values."

There are approximately 451,391 acres of forest trust land on the Flathead

Indian Reservation. The proposed action describes the forest in terms of seral stages and structure. It measures existing conditions against the natural or pre-European contact condition and proposes a Desired Condition that more closely resembles the pre-European contact condition. It also prescribes management activities to manipulate vegetation toward the Desired Condition, and identifies management standards and constraints for cultural protection, for other natural resources, and for social and economic concerns.

The EIS will evaluate alternatives that address the purpose and need for action. These may include: (1) No action, which would continue current operating policies, including those in the 1982–1992 Flathead Forest Management Plan; (2) management activities and strategies to develop, restore or promote sustainable ecosystems while treating forest outputs as by-products of a healthy forest; and (3) other reasonable alternatives identified via public input.

Dated: December 19, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96–1390 Filed 1–29–96; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Land Management

[NV–060–7122–00–8661; N64–93–001P]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Plan of Operation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit Plan of Operation for mining in Lander County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended, and to 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain District has made available the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the proposed development of an open pit mine and associated facilities, in Lander County, Nevada.

DATES: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish its Federal Register Notice of Availability on February 2, 1996. That publication begins the official 30 day period required by the Council on Environmental Quality for Final EISs.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District Manager, 50 Bastian Rd., P.O. Box 1420, Battle Mountain, NV 89820 ATTN: Dave Davis. Copies of the Final EIS may be made in writing to the preceding address or by calling Dave Davis at (702) 635–4000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Davis, Pipeline Project Manager, at (702) 635–4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cortez Gold Mines filed a Plan of Operations in October, 1992 for the development of the Pipeline Gold deposit open pit mine. The Pipeline proposal calls for the development of an 1827 acre open pit gold mine operation located in the southern end of Crescent Valley, Lander County, Nevada. In addition to the 235 acre open pit, there will be a dewatering program required to keep the pit dry during mining operations. This dewatering program will pump an estimated 30,000 gallons per minute (gpm). Approximately 28,000 gpm of the total 30,000 gpm will be returned to the Crescent Valley aquifer through a series of infiltration ponds. Associated facilities include a new 5,000 ton per day mill, constructing a new combined heap leach/tailings facility, waste dumps and associated support facilities, offices, etc.

The Draft and Final EISs evaluate the impacts of the Pipeline proposal on a number of resources. The focus of both documents include the impacts to ground and surface water resources, pit lake chemistry, social and economic impacts to the region, air quality, cultural resources and Native American religious concerns.

The Final EIS incorporates changes to the findings in the Draft EIS that resulted from the public comment process on the Draft EIS. These changes include an expanded regional ground water modelling study. The regional study supports and expands upon the subregional ground water modelling effort prepared for the Draft EIS. Water quality modelling was expanded for the Final EIS. These expanded water quality modelling results indicate some metal species and other constituents may exceed current Nevada Drinking water standards in the long term (250 years after cessation of mining operations). Precise estimates for such long term predictions are impossible to predict with current technology. In order to better understand the potential future impacts, the BLM also had an ecological risk assessment for the pit lake prepared. This risk assessment identifies some potential to affect avian wildlife in the long term. Mitigation is

proposed for those potential avian impacts. Cortez has committed to an irrevocable, long term monetary contingency fund. This funding will be used by the BLM for monitoring all aspects of the project after cessation of mining operations; although the primary focus of the funding will be used to monitor the pit lake water quality. The contingency fund will also be used to mitigate any future long term impacts resulting from pit lake water quality.

Dated: January 22, 1996.

Gerald M. Smith,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96–1627 Filed 1–29–96; 8:45 am]

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[NV–050–1020–001]

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council; Amendment of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Amendment to meeting location and times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), council meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a discussion of laws and regulations that pertain to grazing, and a statewide update of standards and guidelines.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Michael Dwyer at the Las Vegas District Office, 4765 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108, telephone, (702) 647–5000.

DATES, TIMES: Dates are February 14 and 15, 1996. The council will meet at the BLM Las Vegas District Office located at 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 7:30 a.m. on February 14, 1996, and will depart for a field trip at 8 a.m.