

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]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–M

[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.

Individuals who want to attend the field trip must provide their own transportation and lunch. A schedule for the field trip will be available prior to departure. The council will return to the District Office approximately 1 p.m. for a business meeting. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the council members and BLM support staff will host an open house for public input on the development of Standards and Guidelines for range reform. On February 15, the council will meet from 8 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. at the Las Vegas District Office.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas District, telephone: (702) 647-5000.

Michael F. Dwyer,  
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1750 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

[UT-912-06-0777-52]

**Notice of Meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Utah Resource Advisory Council will meet on Friday, February 16, 1996 at the Airport Hilton Hotel, Lakeview Room, 5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake City, Utah. The first half of the meeting will consist of a training session on rangeland ecology. The training will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 12 noon. The Council will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to discuss various items including the development of standards and guidelines to promote rangeland health and other resource management issues affecting BLM programs within Utah and the West. A public comment period where members of the public may address the Council, is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The meeting will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. All sessions of the Utah Resource Advisory Council meeting are open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Banks, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 324 S. State St., Suite 300, Salt Lake City, 84111; phone (801) 539-4021.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

G. William Lamb,

Utah BLM State Director.

[FR Doc. 96-1751 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

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**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit**

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

PRT-810290

*Applicant:* International Wildlife Museum, Tucson, AZ.

The applicant requests a permit to import one taxidermied cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) mount from the estate of a foreign individual to enhance the survival of the species. The cheetah was originally taken in 1992 as a personal sport-hunted trophy in Zimbabwe.

PRT-810330

*Applicant:* Mary Katherine Gonder, New York, NY.

The applicant requests a permit to import hair samples of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) collected from sleeping nests and museum specimens in Nigeria for enhancement of the species through scientific research.

PRT-785441

*Applicant:* Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA.

The applicant requests a permit to import an additional captive-born female Persian fallow deer (*Dama dama mesopotamica*) from the Opel Zoo, Kronberg, Germany, to enhance the propagation of survival of the species through captive-breeding.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of

Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

The Fish and Wildlife Service regrets that due to circumstances beyond its control, the Office of Management Authority's permitting process and other work have been significantly impacted by the recent partial Federal furlough and inclement weather. While the Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to deal with these circumstances, please be aware that there will be delays in permit processing, response to informational inquiries, returning of phone calls, and other office activities. Your understanding and patience are greatly appreciated during this time.

The furlough of December 18 to January 5, 1996, followed by severe weather conditions the week of January 8, created a significant backlog of unprocessed permit applications, while delaying our ability to complete applications already received. The Service's Office of Management Authority processes more than 5,000 permits annually, or approximately 450 per month. Prior to the furlough, streamlined procedures had cut the processing time in half for certain permits. Due to these events, the time required to process permit applications temporarily has increased significantly.

Six hundred applications were pending at the time of the furlough, slightly more than our monthly average. During the intervening three weeks of Federal closure, 205 new applications and 114 new written requests for information were received. Due to this backlog, applications received after December 16 may require an additional 30 days beyond the normal 60-90 days. Please note that applications are being processed in date order. We anticipate needing the extra time to work through the 600 applications pending before the furlough and complete subsequent applications. Since our goal is to reduce the number of backlogged applications as quickly as possible, this activity is the office's priority until the backlog is reduced and will preclude work on other office commitments.

These circumstances also resulted in an increased volume of phone calls. We are returning calls as quickly as possible. To help us help you, leave a detailed voice mail message if a biologist is unavailable to take your call directly. You may fax specific questions to (703) 358-2281. If requesting an application, include your name, phone and fax numbers, type of activity and species. If inquiring about the status of a permit, include the date you mailed