

(62 FR 18731). A **Federal Register** notice concerning proposed U.S. negotiating positions on agenda items and resolutions submitted by other Parties for consideration at COP10 was also published on April 17, 1997 (62 FR 18777). A public meeting allowing for discussion of U.S. positions on species amendments and resolutions submitted by other CITES Parties, and agenda items leading up to COP10, was held on April 25, 1997. A **Federal Register** notice concerning decisions by the Service on negotiating positions to be taken by the United States with regard to proposals to amend the CITES Appendices submitted by other Parties for consideration at COP10 was published on June 6, 1997 (62 FR 31054). Finally, a **Federal Register** notice concerning final U.S. negotiating positions on agenda items and resolutions submitted by other Parties for consideration at COP10 was published on June 6, 1997 (62 FR 31127).

The Service participated in COP10, and by this notice announces a public meeting to discuss the results of that meeting.

Author: This notice was prepared by Mark R. Albert, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[**Notice:** Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); tenth regular meeting; public meeting to discuss the results of the meeting]

[FR Doc. 97-20286 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1220-00]

Nevada: Closing of Certain Public Lands in the Winnemucca District for the Management of Lands Located Around the Burning Man Festival

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (Interior).

ACTION: Temporary motorized vehicle closure of certain Public Lands in Washoe and Pershing Counties from August 27 to September 2, 1997 adjacent to the Burning Man Event.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Certain lands in the Winnemucca District, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada

would be temporarily closed to motorized vehicles from August 27 to September 3, 1997. This closure is being made to protect the unknown resources on public lands that can be found to the east and south of the proposed location of an event known as the Burning Man Festival. This event is expected to attract at least 12,000 visitors this year. While pedestrians and bicycles are acceptable in the area, it is unknown as to the amount of damage motorized vehicles would create.

A second reason for the temporary closure is for the health and protection of visitors to the area. This region has a number of sandy and silty areas in which it is easy to become stuck. Parking for the participants is being established in safe areas on private property.

The public lands to be closed to motorized vehicle use are on the playa of Hualapai Flat and the sandy dunes to the south and east within the area described below:

- T. 34 N., R. 23 E.,
 Sec. 12: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 13: E $\frac{1}{2}$; E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$
 Sec. 24: NE $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 25: E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ (area north of County Road 34)
- T. 34 N., R. 24 E.,
 Sec. 4: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (area south of road only); SW $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road only); SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road only)
 Sec. 5: N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$; S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 6: E $\frac{1}{2}$; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 7: Entire section except N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 8: All
 Sec. 9: All
 Sec. 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ (area west of road only)
 Sec. 15: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road only); NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only); W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only)
 Sec. 16-20: All
 Sec. 21: W $\frac{1}{2}$; NE $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only)
 Sec. 22: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only)
 Sec. 28: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only); W $\frac{1}{2}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area west of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only)
 Sec. 29: N $\frac{1}{2}$; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (area north of County Road 34 only); SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 30: N $\frac{1}{2}$; S $\frac{1}{2}$ (area north of County Road 34 only)
 Sec. 32: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (area north of County Road 34 and the road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road only)
 Sec. 33: N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ (area north of road commonly known as the Soldier Meadows Road)

The lands involved are located in the Mount Diablo Meridian and located northeast of Gerlach, Nevada. A map showing the temporary closure area is available from the following BLM office: Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (702) 623-1500.

Any person who fails to comply with this closure notice issued under 43 CFR part 8364 may be subject to the penalties provided for in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Bilbo, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, Nevada, 89445 (702) 623-1500.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

Ron Wenker,

District Manager, Winnemucca.

[FR Doc. 97-20290 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-067-7122-6606; CACA-35511]

Imperial Project Gold Mining Operation, Imperial County, CA; Environmental Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Withdrawal of the Imperial Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement on the Imperial Project Proposed Gold Mining/Processing Operation, Imperial County.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has withdrawn the Imperial Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), distributed for public review November, 1996. Based on a review of public comment received, it was determined that it was necessary to withdraw the DEIS and to prepare and circulate a new DEIS. The comments received on the DEIS will be treated as scoping comments, however, new comments may be submitted.

DATES: Written scoping comments must be received no later than September 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be addressed to the Area Manager, Attn: Imperial Project, El Centro Resource Area, 1661 South Fourth St., El Centro, California 92243.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Romoli (909) 697-5237.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The comments submitted on the withdrawn

DEIS (circulated November, 1996) will not receive a written response. Instead, the written comments will be considered in preparation of the new DEIS. Prior commentors can submit comments during the scoping period for the new EIS.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during the business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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 or business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The Imperial Project is a proposal by Glamis Imperial Corporation (a sister corporation of the former project applicant Chemgold Inc.) to develop an open-pit, gold mining operation utilizing a heap leach process. The proposed site is located in eastern Imperial County, California, approximately 45 miles northeast of El Centro, California and 20 miles northwest of Yuma, Arizona. The project area is comprised of approximately 1,625 acres. Up to 150 million tons of ore would be leached, and 300 million tons of waste rock would be deposited at the proposed waste rock stockpiles or the mined-out portions of the three planned open pits. Typical, average mining rate would be 130,000 tons per day. Approximately 1,409 acres of surface disturbance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Mining activity would be performed 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and are projected to commence in 1998 and terminate around the year 2017. The proposed mine would include a lined heap leach pad to contain the ore heap and to collect process fluid from the heap for gold recovery. Waste rock would be hauled directly to a waste rock stockpile or to one of the on-site pits to be backfilled. A ground water production well field, consisting of up to four groundwater production wells, would be completed and used to provide water through a buried pipeline for processing operations, dust control, and on-site domestic uses. The proposed project would also include a power substation

and construction of a short portion of a transmission line and a rebuild of an existing transmission line.

Dated: July 24, 1997.

Terry Reed,
Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20194 Filed 7-31-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-1990-09]

Notice of Intent; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a mining Plan of Operations for the Newmont/Barrick HD Venture in Eureka County, Nevada; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third-party contractor on the impacts of a proposed Plan of Operations for gold mining by the Newmont/Barrick HD Venture, in Eureka County, Nevada. The Bureau invites comments on the scope of the analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This notice initiates public scoping for the Leeville EIS. A scoping meeting will be held August 20, 1997, at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko NV., to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until 9:00 p.m., if necessary. Representatives of Newmont Gold Company (operating partner) will be available to answer questions about the Plan of Operations. Additional scoping meetings may be held as appropriate. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the EIS will be accepted until September 2, 1997. A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected to be completed by the spring of 1998 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a notice of availability of the DEIS will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 60 days from the date the notice of availability is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, Bureau of Land

Management, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801. ATTN: Leeville Project EIS Coordinator. For additional information, write to the above address or call Deb McFarlane at (702) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Newmont/Barrick HD Venture of Carlin, Nevada has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Leeville underground mine, located about 20 miles northwest of the town of Carlin. The mine and associated facilities would be located in portions of sections 2, 3, 10, and 11 of T. 35 N., R. 50 E. A water pipeline is proposed to be located in sections 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 22 of T. 35 N., R. 50 E.; sections 1, 2, 3, and 12, of T. 35 N., R. 49 E., and section 33 of T. 36 N., R. 49 E., MDM. The proposed Leeville mine would consist of an underground mine which would develop three deposits and would include surface support facilities, access and haul roads, waste rock facility, stockpiles, powerlines, dewatering wells, pipelines, and water treatment facilities. Proposed mining operations and dewatering would last for approximately 18 years, through the year 2017. Approximately 457 acres of public land and 39 acres of private land would be disturbed.

The Leeville Project operations would require dewatering at pumping rates of up to 35,000 gallons per minute for the life of the project. Excess water would be discharged into the Humboldt River via a pipeline proposed to connect with an existing dewatering discharge pipeline. This project lies between Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.'s Betze/Post Mine and Newmont Gold Company's South Operations Area and would be affected by both dewatering cones of depression.

The issues expected to be analyzed in the EIS include potential impacts to ground water availability, wildlife, cultural resources, and hazardous materials. Cumulative impacts will also be addressed. In addition, the following resources will be analyzed: recreation and wilderness, geology, paleontology, air quality, soils, vegetation, range management, lands and realty, visual resources, land use planning, and social and economic values. The analysis will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team.

A range of alternatives (including but not limited to alternative reclamation measures and the no-action alternative) will be developed to address the issues. Mitigating measures will be considered to minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands. Federal,