

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[WO-320-6-1990-01]****Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35)**

The proposal for the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, *as amended* (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM's Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 30 days directly to the Bureau Clearance Officer and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1004-0114), Washington, D.C. 20503, telephone 202-395-7340.

Title: Recordation of Location Notices and Annual Filings for Mining Claims, Mill Sites, and Tunnel Sites; Payment of Location and Maintenance Fees and Service Charges.

OMB Approval Number: 1004-0114.

Abstract: The information collected is used to determine whether or not mining claimants have met the statutory requirements of Section 314 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744), the Mining Claim Rights Restoration Act of 1955 (30 U.S.C. 621 *et seq.*), the Oregon and California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1948 (hereinafter called "the O and C Lands Act", Pub. L. 80-477, 62 STAT 162), the General Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22-54), the Act of August 10, 1993 (Pub. L. 103-66; 30 U.S.C. 28f-k), and the Act of April 16, 1993 (Pub. L. 103-23; 43 U.S.C. 299[b]). Mining claimants must record location notices of mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within 90 days of their location. Each calendar year after the claims and sites are located, the claimants must make an annual filing by December 30. Failure to record the mining claim or site or to submit an annual filing makes the mining claim or site abandoned and void by operation of law. Enactment of Pub. L. 103-66 of August 10, 1993 (107 STAT 405; 30 U.S.C. 28[f]-[k]) requires payment of a \$100 per claim or site maintenance fee for fiscal years 1994 through 1998. The payment is due at the time of recording and by each following August 31

thereafter. The Act also requires a \$25 location fee for all new claims or sites located, payable at the time of recording with BLM. Certain "small miners" owning 10 or fewer claims and sites in total may file by each August 31 a waiver from payment of the maintenance fee and file an annual filing as in the past. Failure to pay the fee or file for a waiver by August 31 makes the mining claim or site forfeited by operation of law. Pub. L. 103-66 expires on September 30, 1998 unless renewed by Congress. Enactment of Pub. L. 103-23 of April 16, 1993 (107 STAT 60; 43 U.S.C. 299[b]) establishes new procedures for location of mining claims upon the reserved mineral estate of the United States where the mineral estate was reserved under the authority of the Stockraising Homestead Act of 1916, *as amended*. The locator must now file a Notice of Intent to Locate Mining Claims (NOITL) with BLM and serve a copy of the NOITL upon the surface owner of record, as taken from the local tax records. The locator must wait 30 days after serving the surface owner before entering the lands or locating mining claims upon the lands so noticed. The notice segregates the lands from mineral entry or mineral sale on behalf of the locator for 90 days from acceptance by BLM. BLM is required to post the NOITL upon its official land records. The surface owner is not subject to filing a NOITL and may locate mining claims at any time the mineral estate is not segregated.

Bureau Form Numbers: 3814-4 and 3830-2.

Frequency: Once for notices and certificates of location, NOITL, and payment of location fees. Once each year for annual filings, payment of maintenance fees or filing of waivers.

Description of Respondents: Respondents may range from an individual to multi-national corporations.

Estimated Completion Time: 0.1333 hours for each document or payment.

Annual Responses: 359,000.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Wendy Spencer (303)-236-6642.

Dated: July 18, 1996.
Annetta L. Cheek,
Chief, Regulatory Management Team.
[FR Doc. 96-18864 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

[WY-010-1820-00]**Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Grass Creek Planning Area Resource Management**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Grass Creek Planning Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: The FEIS for the Grass Creek Planning Area RMP describes and analyzes four alternative resource management plans, including the proposed RMP, for managing the BLM-administered public lands and Federal mineral estate in the Grass Creek Planning Area of the Bighorn Basin Resource Area. The planning area includes portions of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties in the Bighorn Basin of north central Wyoming.

The Draft EIS (DEIS) for the Grass Creek Planning Area RMP was made available for public review and comment in January 1995. Comments received on the DEIS were considered in preparing the proposed RMP and FEIS. When completed, the Grass Creek Planning Area RMP will provide the management direction for future land and resource management actions on approximately 968,000 acres of public land surface and approximately 1,171,000 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. The FEIS focuses on the proposed RMP alternative and BLM's responses to public comments on the DEIS. The FEIS also describes the other alternatives and their environmental consequences which were considered in the DEIS, therefore, it will not be necessary to have the DEIS to conduct a complete review of the FEIS.

The proposed Grass Creek Planning Area RMP is a comprehensive land-use and resource management plan. It was developed by making adjustments to the Preferred Alternative presented in the DEIS. In addition, the planning team has revised some of the analysis in the DEIS and included new information, based on public comments. However, the environmental consequences of the proposed RMP are not substantially different from those of the Preferred Alternative.

The following are changes to the management actions in the Preferred Alternative of the DEIS.

—Motorized vehicle use in the Badlands Proposed Special Recreation Management Area would be limited to

“existing” roads and trails rather than “designated” roads and trails.

- The Red Canyon Creek area would not be designated a special recreation management area.
 - With a new management objective, the BLM would attempt to maintain the current opportunities for “semi-primitive” non-motorized recreation in the planning area.
 - The Fifteenmile Wild Horse Herd Management Area would not be expanded, although the existing herd area would be retained.
 - The Fifteenmile Creek Watershed and Meeteetse Draw areas would not be proposed for designation as areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs).
 - Public lands immediately north of the South Fork of Owl Creek (for a distance of about 13 miles along the stream starting at Rock Creek) would be added to the Upper Owl Creek proposed ACEC. The entire proposed ACEC would be closed to mining claim location and development and to other surface-disturbing activities.
- The following are modified analyses, new material, and clarifications:
- An expanded cultural resources section describes traditional values (custom and culture) associated with Native American beliefs, ranching, recreation, and oil and gas development.
 - The anticipated use of prescribed fire has been increased from 9,000 to 11,000 acres.
 - The anticipated levels of exploratory drilling have been varied by 50 percent in two alternatives to provide a better comparison of economic impacts.
 - Fiscal contributions of the oil and gas industry, consisting of royalties and taxes, have been quantified.
 - Recreation use estimates have been revised downward to reflect an annual growth of about 1 percent.
 - New information describes cooperative efforts to control noxious weeds.
 - New information describes wildlife seasonal habitat and habitat fragmentation.
 - The glossary and references sections have been updated and expanded.
 - The livestock grazing appendix has been revised.
 - Appendixes on economics and mitigation measures have been added.

DATES: Protests on the proposed Grass Creek Planning Area RMP must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FEIS is

published in the Federal Register. The FEIS is scheduled to be mailed to the public on or about July 24, 1996, and the EPA NOA is anticipated to be published on either August 2, 1996, or August 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Protests on the proposed Grass Creek Planning Area RMP should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, Director (480), Resource Planning Team, MS 314 LS, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Vessels, Assistant Area Manager, Bighorn Basin Resource Area at 307-347-5297 or Bob Ross, RMP Team Leader at 307-347-5178. Copies of the FEIS are available from the BLM Worland District Office at P. O. Box 119, 101 South 23rd Street, Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Upper Owl Creek proposed ACEC would be managed to maintain important wildlife habitat, protect rare plants, maintain scenic quality, enhance recreation, protect an important groundwater recharge area, and reduce erosion and natural hazards associated with the area’s landslide potential. The special management designation would not apply to State or private lands.

The coal screening process (including application of the coal unsuitability criteria under 43 CFR Part 3461) was not conducted for the planning effort. Any interest in coal exploration or leasing will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If an application for a coal lease is received sometime in the future, an appropriate land use environmental analysis will be conducted (which will include conducting the coal screening process), to determine whether or not the coal areas applied for are acceptable for development and leasing consideration. The RMP will be amended as necessary.

Wilderness management and recommendations on wilderness designation are not addressed in the FEIS. Wilderness management, related to four wilderness study areas in the Grass Creek Planning Area (formerly the Grass Creek Resource Area), is addressed in the Grass Creek/Cody Wilderness EIS published in August 1990. Pending a decision by Congress on designation of these areas, the Owl Creek, Bobcat Draw Badlands, Sheep Mountain, and Red Butte Wilderness Study Areas will be managed under the BLM’s “Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review.”

Dated: July 17, 1996.

James K. Murkin,

Acting State Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

[MT-920-1430-01; MTM 82056]

Public Land Order No. 7208; Withdrawal of National Forest System Land for the Snowbird Mine; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws 37.50 acres of National Forest System land from location and entry under the United States mining laws for a period of 50 years for the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, to protect the recreational opportunities and mineral resources of the Snowbird Mine area. The land has been and will remain open to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System land and to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Ward, BLM, Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406-255-2949.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1988), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described National Forest System land is hereby withdrawn from location and entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1988)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, to protect the significant recreational opportunities and mineral resources of the Snowbird Mine area:

Principle Meridian, Montana

Lolo National Forest

T. 12 N., R. 25 W.,

Sec. 19, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 37.50 acres in Mineral County.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those public land laws governing the use of the National Forest System land under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of their mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review