

habitats used by many other species to the point of desertification, soil salinization, and depletion of vegetative communities (Abraham and Jefferies 1997). The Service believes that the MCLSG population exceeds sustainable levels for their arctic and subarctic breeding habitats, and the population must be reduced to approximately 1.5 million birds to bring the population to within long-term management objective levels (Central/Mississippi Flyway Councils 1982). The Service is also concerned that avian cholera, a highly contagious and deadly disease, could be transmitted to other migratory birds that stage with large concentrations of MCLSG during spring and fall migration.

The Service has attempted to curb the population growth of MCLSG through habitat management, expansion and liberalization of existing seasons, and increases in bag and possession limits, however, the population continues to grow and the geese continue to rapidly degrade their breeding habitats. Over the last year, the Service has consulted with various scientific and conservation organizations in the United States and Canada and has worked in coordination with the Canadian Wildlife Service to bring all available scientific information regarding MCLSG to decision makers.

Under the Act, the Secretary of the Interior has the responsibility for setting appropriate regulations for the take of migratory birds, with due regard for maintaining such populations in a healthy state and at satisfactory levels. As a first step in determining whether and how to reduce the MCLSG population to healthy and sustainable levels, the Service will examine various migratory bird regulatory alternatives and their impacts in an Environmental Assessment, a draft of which will be made available for public review.

Along with the Service's review of regulatory alternatives, the Service will develop habitat management strategies to contribute to a reduction in the MCLSG population. When developed, any proposals will be subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as appropriate.

Literature Cited

Abraham, K.F., and R.L. Jefferies. 1997. High goose populations: causes, impacts, and implications. Pages 7-72 in B.D.J. Batt (editor). *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril: Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*. Arctic Goose Joint Venture Special Publication. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. and Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario.

Abraham, K.F., R.L. Jefferies, R.F. Rockwell, and C.D. MacInnes. 1996. Why are there so many white geese in North America? Pages 79-92 in J. Ratti (editor). *Proceedings of the 7th International Waterfowl Symposium*. Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, Tennessee.

Central and Mississippi Flyway Councils. 1982. Management guidelines for mid-continent snow geese in Wildfowl Management Guidelines. 22 pages.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Donald J. Barry,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 98-8553 Filed 4-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-62050]

Intent To Prepare a Planning Amendment to the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Management Framework Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a plan amendment.

SUMMARY: The following described land has been proposed for direct sale under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719) to the Pershing County Fair and Recreation Board:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 27 N., R. 31 E.,

Sec. 7: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 8: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The land has not been specifically identified for disposal under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the proposed plan amendment/environmental assessment would identify the subject lands for disposal under the authority of the subject Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lands are currently under lease to the Pershing County Fair and Recreation Board under the auspices of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*), for a golf course.

The Fair and Recreation Board desires to purchase the lands in order to provide more flexibility in procuring financing and in management of the proposed golf course.

DATES AND ADDRESS: For a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested persons may submit written comments regarding the proposed plan amendment to: Ron Wenker, District Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, NV 89445.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Detweiler, Realty Specialist, at the above Winnemucca Field Office address or telephone (702) 623-1500.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Colin P. Christensen,

Acting District Manager, Winnemucca, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 98-8861 Filed 4-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1430-10]

Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District, intends to develop an Activity Plan/Land Use Plan amendment for the Back Rock Desert located in the northwest portion of the district. The purpose of the plan and amendment is to better manage the resources and increasing level of activities occurring on the desert. Currently the Black Rock region reflects very few man-made developments and contains pristine sections of the Applegate/Lassen National Historic Trail. Plan goals include [1] Managing the varied resources while providing for a wide range of dispersed recreational activities and opportunities in a prudent manner; [2] Providing economic opportunities and other human values within a sustainable, healthy ecosystem. Competitive events and commercial uses of the desert have increased tremendously since the original Management Framework Plan was completed in 1982.

During July, 1997, five public scoping meetings were held to gather public input as to their concerns and suggestions for the Black Rock Desert. Input gathered from these meetings will be used to develop the objectives for the plan and to formulate the alternatives for the Environmental Impact Statement leading to the amendment of the Land Use Plan.

DATES: A public comment period on the forthcoming Draft Plan Amendment will be announced in the spring of 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Ron Wenker, District Manager, Winnemucca District Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Bilbo, Recreation Specialist, Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (702) 623-1500.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Ron Wenker,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-8866 Filed 4-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-020-5410-A150; AZA 29818]

Application for Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An application for conveyance of federally-owned mineral interests has been filed under the provisions of 43 CFR 2720 for the following-described lands:

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 14 N., R. 1 E.,
Sec. 19, lot 2;
Sec. 29, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;
Sec. 30, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
Containing 318.16 acres.

Publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** segregates the mineral interests owned by the United States in the lands covered by the application to the extent that they will not be subject to appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws. The segregative effect of the application shall terminate upon issuance of a conveyance document for the mineral interests, rejection of the application, or two years from the date of this publication, whichever occurs first.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Wood, (602) 417-9360, Arizona State Office, 222 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Mary Jo Yoas,

Supervisor, Lands and Minerals Operations.

[FR Doc. 98-8862 Filed 4-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-62289]

Notice of Realty Action: Non-Competitive Sale of Public Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Non-competitive sale of public lands in Clark County, NV.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for sale utilizing non-competitive procedures at not less than fair market value. Authority for the sale is Section 203 and Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94-579).

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 19 S., R. 62 E.,
Sec. 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
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W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 37 acres, more or less.

The parcel is being offered as a non-competitive direct sale to Las Vegas Motor Speedway for a racing facility. The land is not required for any federal purpose. The sale is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest. In the event of a sale, conveyance of the available mineral interests will occur simultaneously with the sale of the land. The mineral interests being offered for conveyance have no known mineral value. Acceptance of a direct sale offer will constitute an application for conveyance of those mineral interests. The applicant will be required to pay a \$50.00 non-refundable filing fee for conveyance of the available mineral interests. The patent, when issued, will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and will be subject to:

1. Those rights for highway purposes granted to Nevada Department of Transportation by permit no. Nev-057852 under the Act of September 27, 1958 [23 U.S.C. 317(a)].

2. Those rights for road purposes which have been granted to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway by permit no. N-60255 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, leasing under the mineral leasing laws, and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed sale to the District Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for disposal. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a racing facility. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification of the land described in this Notice will become effective 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The lands will not be offered for sale until after the classification becomes effective.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

Adrian A. Garcia,

Acting Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Las Vegas, NV.

[FR Doc. 98-8867 Filed 4-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P