

Copies of the FEIS may be obtained from Allen Sedik at the above address, or by calling (505) 346-7109. The FEIS is also available for review at this address, and at four other locations, as follows: Pueblo of Nambe, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Route 1, Box 117-BB, Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico 87501; Allen Clark, Reference Services, Albuquerque Public Library, 501 Copper Avenue NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102; Bambi Adams, Reference Services, Santa Fe Public Library, 145 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501; and Espanola Public Library, 314-A Onate Street, Espanola, New Mexico 87532.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allen Sedik, (505) 346-7109.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action would lease 100 acres of the Pueblo of Nambe to High Mesa Environmental LLC for the purposes of constructing and operating a combined MSW and C&D waste facility for a variety of nonhazardous wastes. Approximately 200 to 400 tons per day of waste material would be delivered to the facility by truck. The purpose of the action is to help meet the northern New Mexico Pueblos' solid waste management needs, and to provide a foundation for economic development for the Pueblo of Nambe.

The proposed project includes an initial C&D-only waste cell, with an operations area and a site well. The facility will ultimately include five additional lined cells for combined MSW and C&D waste, two collection ponds, monitoring wells, a leachate evaporation pond, and offsite roadway improvements. The project will meet all applicable environmental standards and regulations.

The project area is in the central portion of the Espanola Basin, part of the Alamosa-Santa Fe segment of the Rio Grande rift, 17 miles northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is an isolated site located three miles from the Pueblo proper, with no infrastructure such as water, power, or roads. The terrain in this area is steep and mostly clay, with little to no vegetation. The area is considered badlands.

Alternatives to the proposed project that are considered in the FEIS include: (1) Limited development; (2) use of an old landfill site; (3) alternate sites on the Pueblo of Nambe; (4) alternate sites off of the Pueblo; (5) use of the site for recreation; (6) use of the site for agriculture; and (7) no action. The environmental issues addressed in the FEIS include geology, topography, soils, water resources, air quality, living

resources, cultural resources, traffic, land use, visual resources, socioeconomic, public health and safety, and noise.

Public participation in the preparation of this FEIS consisted of a public scoping meeting on September 25, 1997, plus two public meetings, one on March 17, and the other on April 21, 1998, to inform the public about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provide participants an opportunity for comment. The public was also afforded a 60-day period for comment on the DEIS. The availability of the DEIS for comment for this period was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 16569, April 3, 1998), the Rio Grande Sun, and the Santa Fe New Mexican.

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: June 21, 1999.

Michael J. Anderson,

Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Plan Amendment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona State Office and Tucson Field Office, in response to a land exchange proposal from ASARCO Incorporated (Asarco) has prepared a FEIS in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The land exchange FEIS is combined with a proposed plan amendment to change the Phoenix and Safford District Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

under BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1600) for the purpose of exchanging public lands pursuant to Section 206 of FLPMA. Asarco has proposed to exchange 10,976 acres of federal lands or minerals in Pinal and Gila counties for 7,300 acres of private lands in Mohave and Pinal counties. The FEIS analyzes four alternatives. A plan amendment is required for all but 637 acres since prior land tenure decisions were to retain these parcels or mineral estate in federal ownership.

DATES: This Notice initiates a 30-day comment period for the FEIS and a 30-day protest period for the proposed plan amendment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shela McFarlin, Project Manager, BLM, Arizona State Office, 222 N. Central, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or by telephone (602) 417-9568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Proposed Action.

Public lands (in Pinal and Gila counties) analyzed for exchange include federal mineral estate (2,780 acres) and federal surface and mineral estate (8,196 acres). Most parcels surround the Ray Mine and Hayden Complex operated by Asarco; or, these consist of future prospects for mineral development or support, including 637 acres near Casa Grande. The 7,300 acres of non-federal lands offered to the BLM include high resource values such as: inholdings or adjacent lands to the Mt. Tipton Wilderness and Sacramento Valley Wilderness; riparian zones along the Gila River and Big Sandy River; occupied habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, American peregrine falcon and bald eagle; proposed critical habitat for cactus ferruginous pygmy owl; desert tortoise category I and II habitat; and, checkerboard inholdings within the McCracken Area of Critical Environmental Concern. These parcels are located within Mohave (mainly) and Gila counties.

Alternatives Analyzed

Four alternatives are analyzed in the FEIS. The Proposed Action (Agency Preferred Alternative) would exchange 10,976 acres of public lands or mineral estate for 7,300 acres of private, would provide for continuing public access through the White Canyon-Copper Butte area, and result in a donation of 480 acres along Walnut Creek (if Asarco is successful in purchasing this parcel from the state of Arizona). Under the Buckeye Alternative, the exchange would consist only of 10,176 acres of public lands or minerals for 6,659 acres of offered lands and continued public access. The Copper Butte Alternative

reduces the action to exchanging 9,161 public acres for 5,601 acres of offered lands. Under the No Action Alternative, an exchange would not occur; federal lands and minerals would remain under BLM management.

Comments on the FEIS

Comments will be considered in preparing the record of decision on the land exchange. All comments on the FEIS must be received within 30 days of this Notice. Send FEIS comments to: Shela McFarlin, BLM, Arizona State Office, 222 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Please note that comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, are available for public review and/or release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and street address from public review or from disclosure under FOIA, 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 businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Protest of the Proposed Plan Amendment

This FEIS combines the analysis of the exchange proposal with a proposed plan amendment. The amendment would change the existing land tenure decision in the Phoenix and Safford District Resource Management Plans to retain much of the selected lands, to a decision to dispose of these lands. The plan amendment process offers an opportunity for administrative review by filing a protest with the BLM Director. This applies only to the proposed plan amendment, not the exchange itself. The protest must be received at the address below by close of business within 30 days of this Notice. Protest letters must be sent to: Director, BLM; Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator WO-210/LS-1075; Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. The overnight mail address for protests is: Director, BLM; Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210), 1620 L. Street NW, Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036. At a minimum, protest letters must include: (1) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest. (2) A statement of which

parcel or parcels (by township, range and section) or issues are being protested. (3) A statement of the part or parts of the plan amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables and maps included within the proposed plan amendment. (4) A copy of all documents addressing the issues or parcels that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record. (5) A statement of reasons explaining why the BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. All relevant facts need to be included in the statement of reasons. These facts, reasons, and documentation are very important to understand the protest rather than merely expressing disagreement with the proposed decision.

Copies of the FEIS may be requested from: Shela McFarlin, (address above), (602) 417-9568, or from these offices: BLM Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Rd., Phoenix, AZ. 85027; BLM Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 85748; and, BLM Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Avenue, Kingman, AZ. 86401. Review copies are available at public libraries in Mesa, Kingman and Kearny; and the Arizona State University, Hayden Library, Tempe, AZ.

Dated: June 16, 1999.

Gary Bauer,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-015-1610-00]

Notice of Availability of Proposed Owyhee Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS); and Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Designations

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Owyhee Resource Area. The RMP/EIS addresses alternatives for management on 1.3 million acres of BLM administered public lands in

southwest Idaho. Consideration of 20 areas for Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation is also addressed in the document. This notice, therefore, is also issued pursuant to 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2(b) of the BLM Planning Regulations. The RMP/EIS also addresses suitability of wild, scenic and recreational designations on 223 miles of stream segments determined to be eligible for such designations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The public has the opportunity to protest the Owyhee Proposed Resource Management Plan, which is Alternative E in the final EIS. The BLM Planning Regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2, state that any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which may be adversely affected may protest. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of receipt of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: The 30-day protest period provided for in the BLM Planning Regulations will begin on July 2, 1999 and end on August 2, 1999. Written protests may be submitted at any time during the protest period and must be filed (postmarked) by August 2, 1999 at the address below.

ADDRESSES: Written protests must be sent to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Ms Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210/LS-1075, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daryl Albiston, Area Manager; or Fred Minckler, Team Leader at the address above. Telephone (208) 384-3300. Copies of the RMP/EIS are available for inspection at the BLM, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Owyhee Resource Area includes 1,320,032 acres of BLM administered public lands in western Owyhee County, Idaho and encompasses 1,779,492 acres including State and private lands. The Owyhee RMP/EIS describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing these public lands. The land use planning effort addresses a broad spectrum of land uses and allocations including wild horse management, land tenure adjustments, off-highway motorized vehicle (OHMV) designations, wild, scenic and recreational river designations, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). Twenty areas ranging in size from 114 acres to 141,796 acres totaling