

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 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: February 20, 2000.

**Kristen Nelson,**

*Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 00-5126 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Submission to OMB for Approval of Tribal Self-Governance Program Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs is submitting a request for an extension of an information collection from potential Self-Governance Tribes, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collected under OMB Clearance Number 1076-0143 will be used to establish requirements for entry into the pool of qualified applicants for self-governance, to provide information for awarding planning and negotiation grants, and to meet reporting requirements of the Self-Governance Act. The **Federal Register** notice of proposed information collection activities was published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 1999 (64 FR 68371-68372).

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before April 3, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments can be sent to: The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. A copy should be sent to William Sinclair, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 2548 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may obtain copies of the information collection request submission and the **Federal Register** notice by contacting William Sinclair, (202) 219-0244.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** You are advised that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB clearance number. For

example, the collection listed by OMB as 1076-0017, and it expires 06/30/2002. For the Self-Governance collection of information, the response is voluntary, to obtain or retain a benefit, depending upon the parts of the program being addressed. The Department received three letters from self-governance tribes on the proposed extension of the information collection from current and potential self-governance tribes. These comments were similar in nature and are summarized below.

Three comments indicated that the phrase "certain information" being required by tribes to support their admission into Self-Governance was unclear and that the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Pub.L. 103-413) is clear as to what information is required. The information being requested of new tribes in this extension is no more than what is required by Public Law 103-413. To make this clearer, the words "as required by Pub.L. 103-413" have been inserted following the words "certain information" in this **Federal Register** notice.

There were three comments stating that the reference to "grants" in the summary section is unclear. To address this, the words "planning and negotiation" have been inserted before the word "grants" in this **Federal Register** notice.

There were three comments that addressed the words "must submit certain information" and contended that Self-Governance tribes are not required to submit any information but are willing to do so on a voluntary basis. Further, the words "certain information" is vague. In response to this comment, a change was made in this **Federal Register** notice to replace the word "must" with the words "will be requested to" and following the word "information" the following words were inserted "as described in the draft negotiated rules as published for public comment in the **Federal Register**, February 12, 1998. This information will be used to \* \* \*."

There were three comments that took exception with the sentence "Information is also required to ensure that the trust responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior are safeguarded and that imminent jeopardy to trust assets is avoided (See section 403(d) of the Act.)." The three comments point out that Pub L. 103-413 requires trust evaluations to be performed and does not require tribes to submit information for the purposes of safeguarding the Secretary's trust responsibilities. In response to this comment the sentence

"Information is also required of tribes to ensure that the trust responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior are safeguarded and that imminent jeopardy to trust assets is avoided (section 403(d) of the Act.)." has been deleted in this **Federal Register** notice. The information required of tribes in conjunction with the annual trust evaluations has been included in a separate information collection request.

One comment suggested that the BIA should "cease any further activity and allow the negotiated rulemaking committee to complete its work \* \* \*". However, the process requires that an information collection request extension be made at this time. All the information contained in this information collection request is consistent with the agreed to portions of the negotiated rules and is required by the Act itself. No change was made in response to this comment. The revised text from the proposed information collection follows:

The Self-Governance program was authorized by the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994, Public Law 103-413, as amended. Tribal Self-Governance is a voluntary program that is currently active and operating without promulgated regulations [see section 407(d) of the Act which says that lack of promulgated regulations shall not limit the effect of this title]. Previously, an information collection request was cleared by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, of the Act. That clearance expires on February 29, 2000. Tribes interested in entering into Self-Governance must submit certain information as required by Public Law 103-413, as amended, to support their admission into Self-Governance. In addition, those tribes and tribal consortia who have entered into self-governance compacts will be requested to submit certain information as described in the draft negotiated rules published for public comment in the **Federal Register**, February 12, 1998 (63 FR 7202-7251). This information will be used to justify a budget request submission on their behalf and to comport with section 405 of the Act that calls for the Secretary to submit an annual report to the Congress.

You may submit comments about the collection to evaluate the following:

(a) The accuracy of the burden hours, including the validity of the methodology used and assumptions made;

(b) The necessity of the information for proper performance of the bureau functions, including its practical utility;

(c) The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,  
(d) Suggestions to reduce the burden including use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Please submit your comments to the persons listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please note that comments, names and addresses of commentators, will be available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish your name and address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law.

*Type of review:* Renewal.

*Title:* Tribal Self-Governance Program.

*Affected Entities:* Tribes and tribal consortiums wishing to enter into a self-governance compact.

*Size of Respondent Pool:* 85.

*Number of Annual Responses:* 257.

*Hours Per Response:* 42 hours.

*Bureau Information Collection*

*Clearance Officer:* Ruth Bajema, 202-208-2574.

Dated: February 28, 2000.

**Kevin Gover,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 00-5227 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-3809]

#### **Notice of Availability; Environmental Impact Statement; South Pipeline Project; Proposed Expansion of Existing Gold Mining/Processing Operations; Lander County, NV**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** Nevada Division of Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Pipeline Project, Lander County, Nevada.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, notice is hereby given of the availability of the FEIS, prepared by the Battle Mountain BLM, which analyzes the environmental effects of the South Pipeline Project (Proposed Action), the No Action Alternative, and the Pipeline Backfill Alternative.

**DATES:** Written comments must be postmarked or otherwise delivered by 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2000. Copies of the FEIS may be obtained at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

**ADDRESS:** Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published in the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under 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 businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Foulkes (775) 635-4060.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Cortez Gold Mines, Inc. proposes to extend gold mining operations at the Pipeline Mine within the Gold Acres Mining District in Lander County, approximately 30 miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Nevada. The South Pipeline Project (Proposed Action) would include an expansion of the existing open pit and waste rock disposal sites, and the development of heap leach and ancillary facilities. The Proposed Action would require surface disturbance of 4,450 acres, all of which is public land administered by the BLM. Operations are expected to occur seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, for an additional 10 years (total life of 18 years).

Dated: February 22, 2000.

**M. Lee Douthit,**

*Associate Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 00-4565 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-ES; N-66131]

#### **Realty Action: Lease/Purchase for Recreation and Public Purposes in Lincoln County, NV.**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action

**SUMMARY:** The following described public land in Lincoln County, Nevada has been identified and examined and will be classified under Section 7 of the Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1272), as amended (43 U.S.C. 315f), as suitable for lease/purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The described lands are hereby classified as suitable for lease/purchase under the authority of Section 212 of the Act of October 21, 1976; 43 U.S.C. 1761. **DATES:** On or before March 20, 2000, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed Conveyance for classification of the lands to the Assistant Field, Nonrenewable Resources.

**ADDRESSES:** Written Comments should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Gene L. Drais Assistant Field Manager, Nonrenewable Resources, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kevin Finn, Realty Specialist, at the above address or telephone (775) 289-1849.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following described parcel of land, situated in Lincoln County is being offered for lease/purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada T. 1 N., R. 67 E. sec. 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Containing 10 acres, more or less.

The lands are hereby classified for public purpose use as school sites and/or other school facilities, 43 CFR 2410, 2430.4(a) and (c). The Lincoln County School District intends to use the land to construct and operate a kindergarten through sixth grade school for residents in Pioche and surrounding areas. A right-of-way would also be acquired to access the proposed site. The lease and/or patent, when finalized, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States: