

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2003; and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The ANS Task Force meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel New Orleans, 1500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA. Phone 504-522-4500.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: [sharon\\_gross@fws.gov](mailto:sharon_gross@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the ANS Task Force meeting include: a field trip to view local invasive species problems; an update of activities from each of the Task Force's regional panels; status and updates from several other Task Force committees including the Outreach and Education Committee and the Prevention Committee; status of State and Interstate ANS Management Plans; an update on ballast water management activities; an update on the activities of the National Invasive Species Council; a discussion of rapid response planning efforts; a discussion on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act; approval of the Chinese Mitten Crab Management Plan; and other topics.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: April 4, 2003.

**Jack Arnold,**

*Acting Co-chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Acting Assistant Director—Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.*

[FR Doc. 03-9610 Filed 4-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

**[NV-010-1990-EX]**

**Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Betze Project Dewatering, Eureka and Elko Counties, NV**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability (NOA) of record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has been prepared, under third party contract, by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office. The SEIS was prepared to analyze the impacts of Barrick Goldstrike Inc.'s dewatering program for the Betze Project and determine suitable mitigation measures. The Final SEIS was released to the public on January 31, 2003. The Record of Decision was signed by the Elko Field Manager on March 4, 2003, approving the SEIS and the proposed mitigation measures.

Copies of the ROD can be obtained from the Elko Field Office at 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, or by calling (775) 753-0200 and requesting a copy of the document. It may also be downloaded from the Elko Field office Internet site at [www.nv.blm.gov/elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko). Additionally, a copy of the ROD will be mailed to individuals, agencies, or companies that commented during the scoping process, or on the Draft and Final SEIS.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** Parties adversely affected by the Record of Decision have 30 days, from the date of publication of this notice, to file a Notice of Appeal in the office which issues this decision (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413). The decision to approve the mining operation is in full force and effect, effective on the date of signing of the Record of Decision. A petition for a stay of the decision must be filed in accordance with the above cited regulations.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the Record of Decision can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801. A Notice of Appeal should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Elko

Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, and a copy to: Office of the Regional Solicitor, Salt Lake City Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kirk Laird, SEIS Coordinator, at Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801 or telephone (775) 753-0200.

**David Stout,**

*Associate Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 03-8797 Filed 4-17-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

**[CA-610-03-1610-DU]**

**Notice of Intent To Designate Routes of Travel and Prepare an Associated Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment in a Portion of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert (NEMO) Planning Area of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA) Managed by the Bureau of Land Management**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to designate Routes of Travel and prepare associated Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA).

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the BLM intends to amend the routes of travel designations in the NEMO area of the CDCA Plan area. The planning area is located in Inyo, San Bernardino, and a small portion of Mono Counties, California. This planning activity encompasses approximately 2.75 million acres of public land. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), BLM planning regulations, and other BLM management policies. The BLM California State Director recently approved the Record of Decision for Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert (NEMO) Management Plan. NEMO designated Routes of Travel within the Shadow, Ivanpah, and Piute-Fenner Valley Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas and conformed Congressional wilderness areas to the CDCA Plan. Route designations will be amended on the remaining BLM lands within the planning area (approximately 2.75 million acres) in the California Desert Conservation Area with the appropriate

NEPA analysis and documentation, consistent with the CDCA Plan and BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1600 *et seq.*). Route designations include "open", "closed" and "limited" and will be in accordance with BLM route designation criteria outlined in 43 CFR 8342.1. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted throughout the creation of the Draft Routes of Travel designations. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site <http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/> at least 15 days prior to the event. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participant who wishes to clarify the views they expressed.

**Public Participation:** Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. Early participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the California Desert District public lands. Dates of scoping meetings are as follows: Monday, May 5, 2003, 4 p.m.–7 p.m., Yucca Valley, CA; Wednesday, May 7, 2003, 4 p.m.–7 p.m., Las Vegas, NV; Monday, May 12, 2003, 4 p.m.–7 p.m., Tecopa, CA; Tuesday, May 13, 2003, 4 p.m.–7 p.m., Ridgecrest, CA; Thursday, May 15, 2003, 4 p.m.–7 p.m., Independence, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roxie Trost, BLM, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311; (760) 252–6020.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NEMO planning process began in 1994. The NEMO Plan was approved on December 20, 2002 with the Record of Decision. The document is also available for review on line at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/landuseplanning.html>. Within the NEMO planning area, routes of travel were designated for Desert Tortoise Wildlife Management Areas in Shadow, Ivanpah and Piute-Fenner Valleys and surrounding bioregions (about 0.45 million acres). The current plan amendment addresses the remaining area in NEMO. Congressional wilderness areas within the planning area total approximately 1.2 million acres. The remainder of the planning area includes Wilderness Study Areas, the Dumont Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Open Area and route networks through

various multiple-use classes and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Linda Hansen,**  
*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 03–9710 Filed 4–17–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–40–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA–310–1820–AE]

#### Notice of Public Meeting: Northeast California Resource Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northeast California Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday and Friday, June 5 and 6, 2003, in the Conference Room of the Bureau of Land Management's Alturas Field Office, 708 West 12th St., Alturas, California. On June 5, the meeting begins at 10 a.m. for a field tour on public lands managed by the BLM Alturas Field Office. On June 6, the meeting begins at 8 a.m. Time for public comments has been set aside for 1 p.m. on June 6.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Burke, Field Manager, BLM Alturas Field Office, 708 West 12th St., Alturas, CA, (530) 233–4666; or BLM Public Affairs Officer Joseph J. Fontana, telephone (530) 252–5332.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Northeast California and Northwest Nevada. At this meeting, agenda topics will include an update on the BLM process to develop new land use plans for the Eagle Lake, Alturas and Surprise field office jurisdictions, and RAC involvement in the process. The council will also hear an update on development of a management strategy for western juniper, and status reports from the managers of the Eagle Lake, Alturas and Surprise field offices. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have time

allocated for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, and the time available, the time for individual comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation and other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Dated: April 10, 2003.

**Joseph J. Fontana,**  
*Public Affairs Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03–9549 Filed 4–17–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–40–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ–910–0777–26–241A]

#### State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

The business meeting will be held on May 7–8, 2003, at the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah. It will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. on May 7, and will continue from 8 to 11 a.m. on May 8. (All times are based on Mountain Standard Daylight Savings.) The agenda items to be covered include: Review and approval of the January 27, and March 25, 2003 meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on Statewide Issues; Arizona Land Use Planning, "Working Landscapes" Initiative, Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board and National RAC Meeting Updates; Presentation on Wilderness Areas Proposed in Arizona Land Use Planning Efforts; RAC Questions on Written Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Update Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams, Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation, Public Relations, Land Use Planning, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion of future meetings. A public comment period will be provided at 5 p.m. on May 7, for any interested persons who wish to address the Council.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222