

questions about the Plan of Operations. Additional scoping meetings may be held as appropriate. Written comments on the Plan of Operations and the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted until May 5, 1995.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be completed by late summer 1995 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 60 days from the date the Notice of Availability is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scoping comments may be sent to: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89706. ATTN: Talapoosa Environmental Impact Statement Project Manager.

For additional information, write to the above address or call Ron Moore at (702) 885-6155.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Miramar Gold Corporation of Reno, Nevada has submitted a Plan of Operations for the Talapoosa Mine located approximately 3 miles north of Silver Springs, Nevada. The proposed operation will include an open-pit mine, tailing facilities, heap leach facilities, waste rock dumps, water treatment facilities, a milling complex as well as administrative and maintenance buildings. The proposal is expected to disturb 570 acres of public and private land.

The issues expected to be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement are: Surface and groundwater quantity and quality, mine pit water quality, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, cultural resources, reclamation, hazardous materials, air quality, soils and watershed, vegetation, visual resources, recreation and wilderness, social and economic values, geology, paleontology, grazing management, access and land use, noise, and cumulative impacts. These topics will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team and will include review of the proposed Plan of Operations as well as other pertinent environmental documents and studies.

A range of alternatives (including but not limited to alternative reclamation measures and the no-action alternative), as well as mitigating measures, will be considered to evaluate and minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

Federal, state and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the Bureau's decision on the Plan of Operations are invited to participate in the scoping process with respect to this environmental analysis. These entities and individuals are also invited to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

It is important that those interested in the Plan of Operations participate in the scoping and commenting processes. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible.

The tentative project schedule is as follows:

Begin Public Comment Period—April 1995
Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement—August 1995
File Final Environmental Impact Statement—November 1995
Record of Decision—January 1996
Begin Construction of Operation—Spring of 1996.

The Bureau of Land Management's scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) Identification of viable alternatives; (3) Notification of interested groups, individuals and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues, or other additional issues, can be obtained.

Dated: March 21, 1995.

John O. Singlaub,

Carson City District Manager.

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[CO-034-95-1220-00]

Designation Order; San Miguel County, CO; Establishment of 7 Day Camping Limit on Public Lands Within San Miguel and Montrose Counties, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area, Montrose District, Montrose, Colorado.

ACTION: Amendment of existing 14 day camping stay limits on 32,641 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a San Miguel River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in San Miguel and Montrose Counties, Colorado.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that person(s) may occupy a designated camping site or multiple sites on BLM Public Lands not closed or otherwise restricted to camping within the San Miguel River

Special Recreation Management Area located in the San Miguel and Montrose Counties, Colorado, for a total period of not more than seven (7) days within a thirty (30) day period.

Following the seven (7) day period, person(s) may not relocate on public lands within the Special Recreation Management Area defined to the north by the town of Pinon in Montrose County, approximately nine miles northwest of the town of Norwood, and to the south by Deep Creek, approximately 7 miles east of the town of Telluride on the San Miguel River, until completion of the thirty (30) day period.

The seven (7) day limit may be reached either through a number of separate visits or through a period of continuous occupation of a site. Under special circumstances and upon request, the authorized officer may give written permission for extension of the seven (7) day limit.

Additionally, no person may leave personal property unattended in designated campgrounds, recreation developments, or anywhere else on BLM public lands within the State of Colorado for a period of more than forty-eight (48) hours without written permission from the authorized officer.

This camping stay limit does not apply to Long Term Visitor Use Areas which may be so designated in the future by the BLM Montrose District office.

DATES: This camping stay limit will be effective May 1, 1995.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This camping stay limit is being established to assist the Bureau in reducing the incidences of long-term occupancy trespass being conducted under the guise of camping on public lands within the San Miguel River Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Of equal importance is the problem of long-term camping which precludes equal opportunities for other members of the public to camp in the same area, which creates user conflicts.

The restriction is also necessary to prevent excessive impacts to soil, vegetation and other resources caused by long-term camping. The restriction applies to all public land users except those who have obtained prior approval from the authorized officer, and those who are specifically allowed a longer stay under terms of a Special Recreation Permit.

CFR Title 43, Chapter II, Part 8360, Subpart 8364.1, Subpart 8365, Subpart 8365.1-2, 8365.1-6, and 8365.2-3 provide BLM authority for establishing

this camping stay limit. The decision for reducing the fourteen day (14) limit to seven (7) days is in compliance with the Bureau's San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan Amendment; San Miguel River ACEC and SRMA, 1993.

8360.0-7 PENALTIES: Violations of any regulations in this part by a member of the public, except for the provisions of 8365.1-7, are punishable by fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. Violations of supplementary rules authorized by 8365.1-6 are punishable in the same manner.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning this camping stay limit for public lands administered by the BLM in San Miguel and Montrose Counties in the State of Colorado may be obtained from Karen Tucker, Recreation Planner, Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area, Montrose District, 2505 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, Colorado 80401, (970) 249-6047.

Dated: March 22, 1995.

Philip Dwyer,

Acting District Manager.

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[NM-010-1610-00]

Intent To Prepare a Rio Puerco Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) and Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Unit (WSU); Albuquerque District, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a RMP amendment/EIS and invitation to participate in developing a management plan for the El Malpais NCA including recommendation on the wilderness suitability of the Chain of Craters WSU.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque District is initiating the preparation of the El Malpais NCA management plan and EIS. This action will amend the Rio Puerco RMP. It will include a recommendation on the wilderness suitability of the Chain of Craters WSU and may consider establishment of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Proposed planning criteria and dates of public scoping meetings are also included herein.

DATES: Written comments regarding issues to be addressed in developing the draft El Malpais Plan must be submitted on or before May 19, 1995. In addition

to written comments, two public scoping meetings will be held in April (see below.)

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the El Malpais Planning Team, BLM, Albuquerque District, 435 Montano NE., Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Hamilton at 505-761-8746 or Patty McLean at 505-761-8728, at 435 Montano NE., Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: The public is invited to attend two public meetings to identify issues to be considered in the draft El Malpais Plan and Chain of Craters wilderness suitability analysis. The meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

Date/time	Location
April 25, 1995 7 p.m.-10 p.m	National Guard Armory. 2001 East Santa Fe Avenue, Grants, NM.
April 27, 1995 7 p.m.-10 p.m	Amberley Suite Hotel. 7620 Pan American Freeway NE., Albuquerque, NM.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The El Malpais NCA, near Grants, New Mexico was established by Public Law 100-225 on December 31, 1987. The NCA encompasses 262,600 acres. The Chain of Craters WSU, established through the same legislation, totals 18,300 acres and is included within the NCA. Between 1988 and 1991, BLM developed a General Management Plan (GMP) for the El Malpais NCA. BLM considered the GMP an "activity plan" and completed an environmental assessment, rather than a formal RMP amendment and EIS. The GMP was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) by the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition on the grounds that the plan required an EIS and in 1994 IBLA decided in favor of the appellants and directed BLM to prepare an RMP amendment. The proposed El Malpais Plan and EIS will direct the management of the NCA for the next ten to twenty years and will address all requirements of PL 100-225 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, including a suitability analysis and recommendation for the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area. The planning area will include all lands within or contiguous to the NCA boundary, including lands acquired since the NCA was established.

The El Malpais plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team representing Archeology, Range, Outdoor Recreation, Interpretation and

Wildlife Biology. Additional technical support will be provided by other Technical Specialists as needed.

Anticipated Planning Issues

Suggested issues to be addressed in the plan include the following: American Indian Issues; Boundary Adjustments; Cultural Resources; Desired Plant Communities; Facility Development; Interpretation and Public Education; Natural Resources; Range Management; Recreation; Transportation (including ORV designation); Wilderness (WSA and designated wilderness areas); and Wildlife Habitat.

Planning Criteria

Proposed planning criteria for development of the El Malpais Plan are listed below. Public comment is invited. Planning criteria may be changed as planning proceeds based on public suggestions and the findings of various studies and assessments.

1. Actions must comply with laws, executive orders, and regulations.

2. In each planned action, resource outputs must be reasonable and achievable.

3. Planned actions will sustain the productivity and diversity of natural systems in the NCA.

4. The plan will be developed using the best available scientific information as the cornerstone for resource allocations and other land management decisions in the NCA. The plan will incorporate the work done for the GMP published in 1991 as well as new information attained since establishment of the NCA.

5. The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to land management.

6. The BLM will base planning and management on long-term horizons and goals.

7. To the extent possible, this plan will be consistent with the lands and policies of tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments.

8. Consideration will be given to designating special administrative management areas within the planning area, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas.

9. Planned actions will contribute to or sustain the health of the land. Monitoring and inventory information will be used to assess the effect of management actions.

Public Participation

Public participation activities during the planning process will include consultation with affected users and