

of patented land owned by the Smoky Valley Common Operation. The proposed facilities would comprise an expansion of the existing operation at the Round Mountain Mine to improve the recovery of gold from ore that is being mined from the existing open pit. Ancillary facilities would include a new primary crusher; a power line; fresh water, reclaim water, and tailings pipelines; and a septic system. The proposed facilities would be located on approximately 757 acres of public land administered by the BLM, Battle Mountain District Office, Tonopah Resource Area. Construction is scheduled to begin in 1996; operation of the mill and tailings facility would begin in 1997 and continue until 2008.

This full-text Final EIS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed mill and tailings facility and ancillary facilities, a range management alternative, an alternative tailings impoundment site, and the no action alternative. In addition, the Final EIS analyzes potential impacts associated with pit dewatering and pit water quality, and the leach offload piles. Issues analyzed in the Final EIS include geology and minerals, water resources, soils and watershed, vegetation, wildlife and fisheries, range resources, paleontological resources, cultural resources and Native American traditional and religious values, air quality, access and land use, recreation and wilderness, social and economic values, visual resources, noise, and hazardous materials.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register in August 1993, and an open scoping period was held for 120 days. Two public scoping meetings to solicit comments and ideas were held in November 1993, and a newsletter was issued to keep the public informed of the progress of the EIS. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register in September 1995. The Draft EIS was issued to the public and agencies in September 1995, and comments on the document were accepted during a 60-day comment period. Comments were also accepted during two public comment meetings on the Draft EIS, held in October 1995.

The Final EIS contains in its entirety the analyses originally published in the Draft EIS as well as responses to public comments received during the public comment period. The comments received include 15 letters and 2 public meeting transcripts, which are reproduced in the Final EIS. These comments have been responded to by

clarifying or updating the analyses, making factual revisions, or explaining why a comment does not warrant further response.

Comments on the Final EIS, if any, will be reviewed to determine if they have merit (i.e., if they identify significant issues not previously addressed or introduce new significant information). If so, the official responsible for preparing the EIS will determine whether additional analysis is warranted. If not, a Record of Decision will be issued following the 30-day availability period for this Final EIS.

A copy of the Final EIS will be sent to all individuals, agencies, and groups who have expressed interest in the project or as mandated by regulation or policy.

Dated: February 5, 1996.  
Thomas H. Jury,  
*Acting District Manager.*  
[FR Doc. 96-3091 Filed 2-12-96; 8:45 am]  
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#### [AZ-933-06-1310-01; AZA 26597]

##### **Oil and Gas Leases: Arizona**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease AZA 26597 for lands in Mohave County, Arizona, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rental and royalties accruing from June 1, 1995, the date of termination. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 USC 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective June 1, 1995, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Hyde, BLM Arizona State Office, P.O. Box 16563, Phoenix, Arizona 85011, (602) 650-0518.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5 per acre or fraction thereof, and 16⅔ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of the Federal Register notice.

Dated: January 25, 1996.  
Mary Jo Yoas,  
*Chief, Lands and Mineral Operations Section.*  
[FR Doc. 96-3092 Filed 2-12-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

##### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

##### **Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit of the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover in Massachusetts**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit, which is for a period of two years, would authorize the incidental take of the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in Massachusetts. The proposed take would occur as a result of specific actions relating to the management of recreational use of beaches where breeding piping plovers are found.

The Service has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the incidental take application. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**DATES:** Written comments on the application and EA should be received on or before March 14, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the application and requests for copies of the draft EA and the conservation plan should be addressed to Field Supervisor, New England Field Office, 22 Bridge St., Unit 1, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4986, telephone (603) 225-1411. Comments regarding the conservation plan will be forwarded to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for review and response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susanna L. von Oettingen at the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic Coast piping plover was listed as a threatened species on January 10, 1986. Because of its listing as threatened, the piping plover is protected by the Act's prohibitions against "take". However, the Service may issue permits to carry out otherwise prohibited activities involving endangered and threatened wildlife