

Monday, October 5, 2015

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners was called to order on Monday, October 5, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the regular place of meeting at the Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada. Those present were Chairman Garley Amos, Jr., Commissioners Marlene Brissenden, Mike Bell, Jim French and Ron Cerri, District Attorney Michael Macdonald, Administrator Dave Mendiola and Clerk of the Board Tami Rae Spero.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Amos asked for public comments. Phil Jacka, Dennis Paquette and Anita Paquette appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America and explained that the lease is up on the building they are using so they would like an item to be placed on the next agenda to discuss renewing the lease for another ten years. Mrs. Paquette requested that the maintenance be looked at as the roof is leaking. Administrator Mendiola to arrange for that issue to be addressed. No further public comment offered.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ON CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 18, 2015, AUGUST 3, 2015, AUGUST 17, 2015, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 AND SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**

**REGULAR MEETINGS:** No minutes submitted for consideration.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Administrator Mendiola stated that he had nothing to present under the consent agenda.

**SOLID WASTE MATTERS:** Administrator Mendiola informed the Commission that the County's solid waste management plan is being reviewed for updating purposes.

**PUBLIC LANDS PLANNING MATTERS & FORMULATION OF COUNTY POSITION ON BLM, FOREST SERVICE AND THE FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSED**

**ACTIONS:** Administrator Mendiola stated that he had nothing on this item.

**CODIFICATION UPDATE:** District Attorney Macdonald stated that he had been unable to contact the codifiers so he would have a proposal at the next meeting.

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

**OTHER INFORMATION AND UPCOMING MEETINGS:** Administrator Mendiola reviewed upcoming meetings and workshops.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS REGARDING OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**THEY SERVE ON:** Commissioner Cerri discussed an Elk Planning Group meeting he had attended and noted that he had been chosen to serve on the Legislative Public Lands Committee. Commissioner French discussed the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Conference he had attended as well as the

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Western Interstate Region Board of Directors meeting and the NVWorks Board of Directors meetings that he would be attending. District Attorney Macdonald discussed a prosecutor's conference and Attorney General Summit that he had attended. Discussion occurred regarding the status of the urban pond lease. Discussion ensued regarding issues presented at the annual NACO Conference.

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:** The expenditure list had been provided to the Commission for review. The following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve the expenditures as presented.*

**PUBLIC HEARING MP-15-01: A Master Plan Amendment request submitted by Robert Fierro to reclassify property on the Master Plan from COMM (Commercial) to HDR (High Density Residential) on a 1.25 +/- acre portion of his parcel. Subject property is located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard; a portion of Assessor's Parcel #3537-02-403-004:** Provided to the Board for review was a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing as published and a copy of the Planning Department's Status Report recommending approval. Betty Lawrence, Senior Planning Technician for the Planning Department, appeared before the Board. John H. Milton, III of Desert Mountain Surveying appeared before the Commission representing the applicant. Chairman Amos read the title of the item set to public hearing. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed the amendment request and recommended approval. Mr. Milton discussed the planned single access point for the parcels based on concerns noted by the Nevada Department of Transportation. Chairman Amos asked for public comment; none offered. The following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve this item number MP-15-01, a master plan amendment to reclassify property on the master plan from Commercial to High Density Residential on a 1.25 +/- portion of Mr. Fierro's parcel. Subject property is located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard, a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 3537-02-403-004.*

*(Ordinance No. 10-05-15)*

**PUBLIC HEARING RH-15-02: A zone change request submitted by Roberto Fierro to re-zone a 1.25 +/- acre portion of his property from C (Commercial) to RR-1.25 (Rural Ranchette 1.25 acre minimum lot size); 1.38 +/- acre portion to GC (General Commercial). Subject property is located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard; a portion of Assessor's Parcel #3537-02-403-004:** Provided to the Board for review was a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing as published and a copy of the Planning Department's Status Report recommending approval. Chairman Amos read the title of the item set to public hearing. Mrs. Lawrence reviewed the re-zone request and recommended approval. Chairman Amos asked for public comment; none offered. The following motion was made by Commissioner

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Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve the zone change request item number RH-15-02 submitted by Roberto Fierro to re-zone a 1.25 +/- of this property from C, Commercial to RR-1.25 Rural Ranchette 1.25 acre minimum lot size; 1.38 +/- portion to General Commercial. Subject property located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard; a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 3537-02-403-004.*

*(Ordinance No. 10-05-15a)*

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2015:** Chairman Amos stated that this item would be tabled until the employee could be present.

**ROAD MATTERS:** Road Superintendent Ben Garrett appeared before the Commission.

**REPORT OF PENDING ROAD DEPARTMENT PROJECTS:** Superintendent Garrett reported on the Chip Seal Project and what had been accomplished, road grading and the watering the roads used for the potato harvest. Discussion occurred regarding damage caused by the recent rain storms and how it had effected the mag chloride roads.

**MISCELLANEOUS ROAD RELATED MATTERS:** No items discussed.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TRAINING EXPENDITURES FOR NANCY JURAD, LEGAL OFFICE SUPERVISOR AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY (OR OTHER ATTORNEY FROM THE DA'S OFFICE) TO ATTEND A JOURNAL TECHNOLOGY TRAINING IN LOGAN, UTAH:** District Attorney Michael Macdonald appeared before the Commission and spoke in support of the request to attend training related to the new document management system which had been purchased by the District Attorney's Office a year ago noting that this training will assist with implementation of the program; he explained that a scholarship has been applied for and received in the amount of \$595.00 but that there will be a registration fee for the other attendee plus lodging, meals and mileage for both. District Attorney Macdonald explained the need to present this request due to the County's policy related to out of state travel; he further noted that the amount fits within his budget and discussed the benefits of attending this training. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve the request for training expenditures for Nancy Jurad, Legal Office Supervisor as well as the District Attorney or other attorney from the DA's Office to attend Journal Technology Training in Logan, Utah.*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD IN FINAL HIRING OF THE DEPUTY SHERIFF POSITION AS THE 90-DAY WAITING PERIOD FOR THE**

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**POSITION WILL BE COMPLETE IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS:** Sheriff Mike Allen appeared before the Commission and spoke in support of filling a Deputy Sheriff position which had been vacant since July 20, 2015; he noted that there are currently two positions vacant but that he is still evaluating the second one. Sheriff Allen reviewed the impact on the overtime budget for covering these vacant positions, the incident/arrest statistics for 2015 compared to 2014 and the officer safety risks. Sheriff Allen explained why his Office cannot rely on other law enforcement agencies to cover the shortage, noting that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department is a full service law enforcement agency which has its duties mandated. Commissioner French asked if filling this position will help the overtime situation. Sheriff Allen stated that it would. Commissioner Cerri asked about the pay level. Sheriff Allen responded. The following motion was made by Commissioner French and passed unanimously:

*That the request to move forward with final hiring of the Deputy Sheriff position be granted.*

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WINNEMUCCA CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE WINNEMUCCA AND HUMBOLDT RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS:** A copy of the proposed Cooperative Agreement for Mutual Assistance Between Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Department and Winnemucca Rural Volunteer Fire Department was provided to the Board for review. City Attorney O. Kent Maher, Winnemucca City Volunteer Fire Chief Alan Olson and Winnemucca Rural Volunteer Fire Chief Ron Schrempp appeared before the Commission. Administrator Mendiola noted that an ISO Certification is set for November and that having this mutual aid agreement in place is an important part of that certification. Mr. Maher explained how the ISO Certification had prompted this request and that a mutual aid agreement had been prepared but then a request had been made to include the Humboldt Fire District as well which he does not see a problem with; he continued explaining what the mutual aid agreement does. Chief Olson commented on the ISO inspection and the benefits noting that there has always been a mutual aid agreement but it was never done formally but now that is required. Chief Schrempp noted the need to obtain agreements with the other fire departments in the area and spoke in support of this agreement. District Attorney Macdonald noted that this agreement had been provided late last week and that it will need revisions to address the distinction between the Winnemucca Rural and the Humboldt Fire but substantively his Office is in agreement with Mr. Maher and the fire departments that this is for the benefit of Humboldt County, the City and the districts; he asked that unless there are any specific concerns he be allowed to move forward with working out the details with the final draft of the agreement being presented at the next meeting. After discussion the following motion was made by

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Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve a resolution supporting a mutual aid agreement between the Winnemucca City Volunteer Fire Department and the Winnemucca and Humboldt Rural Fire Departments.*

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A MALHEUR COUNTY RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGNATION OF ANY "NATIONAL MONUMENT", "NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA" OR "WILDERNESS AREA" IN SOUTHERN MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON:** Provided to the Commission for review was a copy of a letter from the County of Malheur, Malheur Court Judge, Dan P. Joyce with an attached Resolution requesting the Humboldt County Commission's support of the resolution. Administrator Mendiola explained the reason this item was on the agenda due to rumors that some lands in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada could be designated as a national monument or wilderness area and the request from Malheur County that Humboldt County support them in their opposition to this potential designation. Commissioner French noted that this has been an ongoing discussion and there has been pressure put on the Obama Administration for the inclusion of the Owyhee Desert in a wilderness area or as a national monument; he discussed the history of the proposal and stated his support of this request. Commissioner Cerri discussed his research into the issue and his concerns with the potential designation; he stated his support of the request. Chairman Amos commented on the importance of a gas line that goes through the area. After discussion the following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*To approve a letter of support for a Malheur County Resolution in opposition to the establishment or designation of any national monument, national conservation area or wilderness area in southern Malheur County, Oregon.*

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO JOIN WESTERN EXPLORATION, LLC; ELKO COUNTY; EUREKA COUNTY; AND QUANTUM MINERALS, LLC; TO SEEK AN IMMEDIATE INJUNCTION TO BAR THE FEDERAL AGENCIES FROM IMPLEMENTING THE NORTHEAST CALIFORNIA/NEVADA SAGE GROUSE LAND USE PLANNING AMENDMENT (LUPA) BECAUSE IT WILL CAUSE IMMINENT, SUBSTANTIAL AND IRREPARABLE HARM TO NEVADA PLAINTIFFS AND GREATER SAGE GROUSE HABITAT IN NEVADA. DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE POSSIBLE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION UP TO \$10,000.00:** Commissioner French explained the request including the history of the sage grouse designation issue and the land plan amendments that have been filed and what

they indicate including the areas affected in Humboldt County; he noted his concerns regarding the area of land that will be impacted by these focal areas and by this management and how that will affect the overall financial viability of our region; he discussed NACO's involvement in the situation. Commissioner French continued noting the request for the counties impacted to provide information on how these rule changes will affect them and what the long term implications are. Commissioner French provided a copy of his personal declaration regarding the issues that surround this matter to the Commission for review noting that it includes how it will affect the County's activities such as road maintenance, industries such as livestock grazing, recreational activities and the ability to implement and maintain the County's master plan; he stated his intention to sign and submit the declaration. Commissioner French reviewed the other Counties that are involved and discussed the financial support request explaining what the funds will be used for; he asked the Commission to review what he has provided to determine if they are comfortable with it and offered further comment on how the plan will be implemented and the effect it will have on the County's economy. Commissioner Cerri noted that other counties are contributing \$5,000.00 up front and identifying another \$5,000.00, if needed. Commissioner French agreed that starting with \$5,000.00 would be acceptable. Commissioner Cerri agreed with the importance of showing unity in the opposition because of Humboldt County being one of three counties with sagebrush focal areas in it. The following motion was made by Commissioner Brissenden:

*To approve joining Western Exploration, LLC, Elko County, Eureka County and Quantum Minerals, LLC in seeking an immediate injunction to bar the federal agencies from implementing the Northeast California/Nevada Sage Grouse Land Use Planning Amendment because it will cause imminent, substantial and irreparable harm to Nevada plaintiffs and greater sage grouse habitat in Nevada and for Humboldt County to provide financial participation of \$10,000.00.*

Chairman Amos asked Commissioner Brissenden if she wanted to approve \$5,000.00 now with an additional \$5,000.00 later if needed but capping it at no more than \$10,000.00. District Attorney Macdonald asked for clarification as to whether Humboldt County is just participating with financial support at this time or if it is the Commission's intent to join the lawsuit at this time as the suit has already been filed; he noted that he had just received a copy of the complaint and was not prepared to provide legal recommendations to the Commission as to how best to proceed if the Commission wants to be a named party at this time; he further noted the question of whether the Commission would want to retain outside counsel and what procedures would need to be taken. Commissioner Cerri referred to his discussions with the other parties relative to the time frame for becoming involved and stated his support

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for the County becoming a named plaintiff in the case. District Attorney Macdonald commented on the ability of the District Attorney's Office to represent the Commission in the suit or the possibility for retaining the counsel that represents the other parties and what that would entail. Commissioner French commented on the need for the three counties impacted to be part of the lawsuit. District Attorney Macdonald explained how the County could become a named party to the legal action. Discussion ensued regarding the time frame for action, the possibility of a special meeting, the ability to contact the legal counsel for the other parties and what the motion would be for this item. After discussion the following amended motion was offered by Commissioner Brissenden and passed unanimously:

*That the Commission is prepared to expend up to \$10,000.00, \$5,000.00 initially and up to an additional \$5,000.00 down the road in support of this litigation and if possible to join the lawsuit and if there is a need for the Commission to have a special meeting one will be scheduled as soon as possible.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Amos asked for public comments. Nigel Bain, General Manager at Barrick Gold Corporation stated his support for the motion made by the Commission on the prior item.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Amos adjourned the meeting at 1128 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_ *[Signature]* Clerk      APPROVED: *[Signature]* Vice-Chairman

(Minutes approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman on 2-16-16)

Notice of Public Meeting  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
**Monday, October 5, 2015**  
9:30 a.m.

Humboldt County Courthouse Meeting Room #201  
50 West Fifth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445

All times on this agenda are approximate.

Consideration of items may require more or less time than is scheduled. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order; the public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; and the public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

Public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on the agenda; however, no action may be taken on a matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Additionally, public comment may be heard on any item listed on the Agenda. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing and/or attend and make comments on any agenda item at the Commission meeting. All public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person, at the discretion of the Commission.

**Agenda – Monday, October 5, 2015**

1. 9:30 a.m.
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Public Comments: General public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on this agenda; however, no action may be taken on a matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.
  - D. Discussion and Action on Correction/Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2015; August 3, 2015; August 17, 2015; September 8, 2015 and September 18, 2015 Regular Meetings.
  
2. 9:35 a.m. Administrative Report - Discussion and for Possible Action
  - A. Consent Agenda
  - B. Solid Waste Matters (if any)
  - C. Public Lands Planning Matters & Formulation of County Position on BLM, Forest Service, and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service Proposed Actions
  - D. Codification Update
  - E. Miscellaneous Reports and Correspondence
    - 1) Other information and upcoming meetings
      - October 19, 2015 County Commission
      - October 8, 2015 Regional Planning Commission
      - October 20, 2015 NDOT Regional Workshop (Convention Center)
    - 2) Reports from Commissioners regarding other Boards and Committees on which they serve.
  - F. Approval of Expenditures
  
3. 10:00 a.m.
  - A. Public Hearing: MP-15-01 - A master plan amendment request submitted by Roberto Fierro to reclassify property on the Master Plan from COMM (Commercial) to HDR (High Density Residential) on a 1.25 +/- acre portion of his parcel. Subject property is located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard; a portion of assessor's parcel #3537-02-403-004 – Discussion and for Possible Action.



- B. Public Hearing: RH-15-02 – A zone change request submitted by Roberto Fierro to rezone a 1.25 +/- acre portion of his property from C (Commercial) to RR-1.25 (Rural Ranchette 1.25 acre minimum lot size); 1.38 +/- acre portion to GC (General Commercial). Subject property is located at 4510 West Winnemucca Boulevard; a portion of assessor's parcel #3537-02-403-004 – Discussion and for Possible Action.
4. 10:15 a.m. Employee of the Month Presentation for September 2015.
5. 10:20 a.m. Road Matters: Discussion and for Possible Action
- A) Report of Pending Road Department Projects  
B) Miscellaneous Road Related Matters (if any)
6. 10:30 a.m. District Attorney: Request approval of training expenditures for Nancy Jurad, Legal Office Supervisor as well as DA (or other attorney from the DA's office) to attend a Journal Technology Training in Logan, Utah - Discussion and for Possible Action.
7. 10:35 a.m. Sheriff's Office: Request for approval to move forward in the final hiring of the Deputy Sheriff position as the 90-day waiting period for the position will be complete in less than two weeks – Discussion and for Possible Action.
8. 10:40 a.m. Consideration of a Resolution supporting a Mutual Aid agreement between the Winnemucca City Volunteer Fire Department and the Winnemucca and Humboldt Rural Fire Departments – Discussion and for Possible Action.
9. 10:50 a.m. Consideration of approval for a Letter of Support for a Malheur County Resolution in opposition to the establishment or designation of any "National Monument", "National Conservation Area" or "Wilderness Area" in Southern Malheur County, Oregon – Discussion and for Possible Action.
10. 10:55 a.m. Discussion and consideration to join Western Exploration, LLC; Elko County; Eureka County; and Quantum Minerals, LLC; to seek an immediate injunction to bar the Federal Agencies from implementing the Northeast California / Nevada Sage Grouse Land Use Planning Amendment (LUPA) because it will cause imminent, substantial and irreparable harm to Nevada Plaintiffs and greater sage grouse habitat in Nevada. Discussion to include possible financial participation up to \$10,000 – For Discussion and Possible Action.
11. 11:05 a.m. Public Comment: General public comment is designated for discussion only. The public has the opportunity to address the Commission on any matter not appearing on this Agenda; however, no action may be taken on a matter raised until the matter itself has been specifically included on the Agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.
12. 11:10 a.m. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

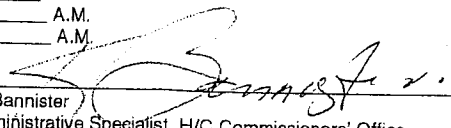
**NOTICE:** The County Commission may close the meeting to receive information from legal counsel pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 241.015

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

PLACES POSTED: Humboldt Co. Courthouse: Rooms 201, 205 & 207 at 8:05 A.M.  
Humboldt County Library: 85 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. at 8:12 A.M.  
County Annex: 4<sup>th</sup> & Bridge St. at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.  
Winnemucca City Hall: 4th & Melarkey St. at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.  
Humboldt County Website: [www.hcnv.us](http://www.hcnv.us) at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.  
State of Nevada Website: [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov) at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.

MEETING DATE: October 5, 2015  
DATE POSTED: September 30, 2015 before 9:00 A.M.

POSTED BY:

  
K. Bannister  
Administrative Specialist, H/C Commissioners' Office

**NOTE FOR SUPPORTING MATERIAL:** A copy of the supporting material for the meeting may be obtained at Commissioner meeting/agendas on the Humboldt County website: [www.hcnv.us](http://www.hcnv.us) or by contacting Dave Mendiola, County Administrator, at 50 W. Fifth Street, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (775) 623-6300

**NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** - Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Humboldt County Administrator's Office at 623-6300 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NOTICE** - Humboldt County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment or services in an unlawful manner.

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issues raised during the protest period and how they were addressed, please refer to the Director's Protest Resolution Reports for all four ARMPAs, which are available at the following Web site: [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning\\_overview/protest\\_resolution/protestreports.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/protest_resolution/protestreports.html).

The BLM received notifications of inconsistencies and recommendations as to how to resolve them during the Governor's consistency review period from the States of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. The BLM also received a concurrence letter of consistency from the State of California. On August 6, 2015, the BLM State Directors for Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah sent notification letters to their respective States as to whether they accepted or rejected their recommendations for consistency. The States were then given thirty days to appeal the State Directors' decisions. The States of Idaho, Nevada, and Utah appealed the BLM State Directors' decisions. The BLM Director affirmed the State Directors' decisions on these recommendations as the recommendations did not provide the balance required by 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e). The Director communicated his decisions on the appeals in writing to the Governors concurrently with the release of the RODs.

The Proposed LUPAs/Final EISs were selected in the ROD as the ARMPAs, with some minor modifications and clarifications based on protests received, the Governors' consistency reviews, and internal agency deliberations.

*Copies of the Idaho and Southwestern Montana GRSG ROD and ARMPA are available upon request and are available for public inspection at:*

- BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise ID 83709;
- BLM Boise District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705;
- BLM Owyhee Field Office, 20 First Avenue West, Marsing, ID 83639;
- BLM Idaho Falls District Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401;
- BLM Salmon Field Office, 1206 South Challis Street, Salmon, ID 83467;
- BLM Challis Field Office, 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, ID 83226;
- BLM Pocatello Field Office, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID 83204;
- BLM Twin Falls District Office, 2536 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301;
- BLM Shoshone Field Office, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352;
- BLM Burley Field Office, 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID 83318;

- BLM Coeur d'Alene District Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815;
- BLM Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, ID 83522;
- BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101;
- BLM Butte District Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701; and
- BLM Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, MT 59725-9431.

*Copies of the Nevada and Northeastern California GRSG ROD and ARMPA are available upon request and are available for public inspection at:*

- BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV, 89502;
- BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, NV, 89445;
- BLM Ely District Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV, 89301;
- BLM Elko District Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV, 89801;
- BLM Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV, 89701;
- BLM Battle Mountain District Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV, 89820;
- BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623, Sacramento, CA, 95825;
- BLM Alturas Field Office, 708 W. 12th Street, Alturas, CA, 96101;
- BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA, 96130; and
- BLM Surprise Field Office, 602 Cressler Street, Cedarville, CA, 96104.

*Copies of the Oregon GRSG ROD and ARMPA are available upon request and are available for public inspection at:*

- BLM Oregon State Office, 1220 SW. 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97204;
- BLM Baker Resource Area Office, 3100 H Street, Baker City, OR 97814;
- BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738;
- BLM Lakeview District Office, 1301 S. G Street, Lakeview, OR 97630;
- BLM Prineville District Office, 3050 NE. 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754; and
- BLM Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918.

*Copies of the Utah GRSG ROD and ARMPA are available upon request and are available for public inspection at:*

- BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT, 84101;
- BLM Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, UT 84721;
- BLM Fillmore Field Office, 95 East 500 North, Fillmore, UT 84631;

- BLM Kanab Field Office and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, UT 84741;
- BLM Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, UT 84501;
- BLM Richfield Field Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701;
- BLM Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 S. Decker Lake Boulevard, West Valley City, UT 84119; and
- BLM Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT 84078.

**Authority:** 36 CFR 219.59, 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2; 43 CFR 1610.5.

**Amy Lueders,**

*Acting Assistant Director, Renewable Resources & Planning.*

[FR Doc. 2015-24213 Filed 9-22-15; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO210000.15X.L11100000.PH0000 LXSISGST0000]

### Notice of Proposed Withdrawal; Sagebrush Focal Areas; Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming and Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management has approved an application to withdraw approximately 10 million acres of public and National Forest System lands identified as Sagebrush Focal Areas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming from location and entry under the United States mining laws to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and mining, subject to valid existing rights. This notice temporarily segregates the lands for up to 2 years while the application is processed. This notice also provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed withdrawal application. In addition, this notice initiates the public scoping process for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose impacts of the proposed withdrawal.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed withdrawal application or scoping comments on issues to be analyzed in the EIS must be received by December

The areas described contain approximately 1,929,580 acres in Harney, Lake, and Malheur Counties.

#### Utah

##### Salt Lake Meridian

Tps. 9 and 10 N., R. 3 E.,  
Tps. 9, 10, 10½, and 11 N., R. 4 E.,  
Tps. 9 to 12 N., R. 5 E.,  
Tps. 9 to 13 N., Rs. 6 to 8 E.,  
Tps. 12, 14, and 15 N., R. 17 W.,  
Tps. 11 to 15 N., R. 18 W.,  
Tps. 10 to 15 N., R. 19 W.

The areas described contain approximately 230,808 acres in Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties.

#### Wyoming

##### 6th Principal Meridian

Tps. 27 and 28 N., R. 99 W.,  
Tps. 27 to 29 N., R. 100 W.,  
Tps. 25, 28, and 29 N., R. 101 W.,  
Tps. 28 N., R. 102 W.,  
Tps. 22 N., Rs. 104 and 120 W.,  
Tps. 22, and 25 to 27 N., R. 105 W.,  
Tps. 26 and 27 N., Rs. 106 to 108 W.,  
T. 24 N., R. 112 W.,  
Tps. 23 and 24 N., Rs. 113 and 115 W.,  
Tps. 22 to 24 N., Rs. 114 and 119 W.,  
Tps. 20 to 24 N., R. 117 W.,  
Tps. 21 to 24 N., R. 118 W.,  
Tps. 19 and 20 N., R. 121 W.

The areas described contain approximately 252,162 acres in Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties.

The total areas described aggregate approximately 10 million acres of public and National Forest System lands in the six states and counties listed above.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management has approved the BLM's application. Therefore, this document constitutes a withdrawal proposal of the Secretary of the Interior (43 CFR 2310.1-3(e)).

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal of the Sagebrush Focal Areas in Priority Habitat Management Areas is to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and mining subject to valid existing rights.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency or cooperative agreement, or surface management by the BLM under 43 CFR part 3715 or 43 CFR part 3809 regulations or by the Forest Service under 36 CFR part 228 would not adequately constrain nondiscretionary uses, which could result in loss of critical sage-grouse habitat.

There are no suitable alternative sites for the withdrawal.

No water rights would be needed to fulfill the purpose of the requested withdrawal.

Records relating to the application may be examined by contacting the BLM offices listed above.

For a period until December 23, 2015, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the BLM Director, 1849 C Street NW., (WO-210), Washington, DC 20240, or electronically to [sagebrush\\_withdrawals@blm.gov](mailto:sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov).

All comments received will be considered before any final action is taken on the proposed withdrawal.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Air quality/climate, American Indian resources, cultural resources, wilderness, mineral resources, public health and safety, recreation, socioeconomic conditions, soil resources, soundscapes, special status species, vegetation resources, visual resources, water resources, and fish and wildlife resources.

Because of the nature of a withdrawal of public lands from operation of the mining law, mitigation of its effects is not likely to be an issue requiring detailed analysis. However, consistent with Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14), the BLM will consider whether and what kind of mitigation measures may be appropriate to address the reasonably foreseeable impacts to resources from the approval of this proposed withdrawal.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts to Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed withdrawal that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be

requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Comments including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Washington Office at the address noted above, during regular business hours Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For a period until September 24, 2017, subject to valid existing rights, the lands described in this notice will be segregated from location and entry under the United States mining laws, unless the application/proposal is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations may be allowed during the temporary segregative period, but only with approval of the authorized officer of the BLM or the USFS.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2300.

Neil Kornze,

Director, Bureau of Land Management.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO350000.L14400000.PN0000]

##### Renewal of Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: 30-day notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted an information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to continue the collection of information from owners of surface estates who apply for title to underlying Federally-owned mineral estates. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) previously approved this information collection activity, and assigned it control number 1004-0153.