

the River. Data obtained will assist Federal agencies and others in planning activities on the River in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612/725-3536, x250); FAX: (612/725-3526).

Dated: June 10, 1996.

John A. Blankenship,
Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 96-15127 Filed 6-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Notification; Review of the Effectiveness of the Convention

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a public meeting to discuss an international study of the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and announces the availability for public comment of a questionnaire as part of this study. This study is the result of a decision of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in November 1994. This decision gave the CITES Standing Committee the responsibility to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the provisions and implementation of the Convention, and to report its findings to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. An international contractor in the United Kingdom has been engaged for this study by the CITES Standing Committee, and has produced a questionnaire for governments to respond to. The Service, in preparing the U.S. government response, seeks the comments of interested non-

governmental organizations. The questionnaire itself is extensive and would therefore be very expensive and time consuming to reproduce here. The Service prefers to make this questionnaire available by electronic means if possible. However, should some member of the public not have access to the transfer of this questionnaire by electronic means, alternate arrangements such as faxing or mailing of copies will be made. Public input from written comments received by the Service will be considered in formulating the United States response to this questionnaire.

DATES: The Service will consider comments and information received by July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on July 19, 1996, in the Auditorium of Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia. Comments on the questionnaire should be sent to Dr. Susan Lieberman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, VA 22203. Requests for copies of the questionnaire should either be sent electronically to "R91A-OMA.MOB@mail.fws.gov", via regular mail, or via fax to (703) 358-2280. Electronic requests for copies of the questionnaire should have as their subject line "SEND QUESTIONNAIRE".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, telephone (703)358-2095, or E-mail to Susan_Lieberman@mail.fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, November 1994 (COP9), the Conference of the Parties decided to assign the CITES Standing Committee the task of conducting a review of the effectiveness of the provisions and implementation of the Convention, and to report its findings to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This decision is found in COP9 document number Com. 9.10. The CITES Standing Committee plans to conduct this review in several phases, the first of which is incorporated in the questionnaire made available by this Notice.

The CITES Standing Committee was directed to appoint a team to undertake the review including an independent consultant and two individuals chosen by the CITES Standing Committee for the information gathering portion of the project. These two members would ensure efficient access to information about the Convention and complement

the expertise made available by the independent consultant. On December 21, 1994, the CITES Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. 831, which contained a call for proposals from prospective consultants to conduct the study on the effectiveness and implementation of the Convention. The firm of Environmental Resources Management (ERM), based in London, United Kingdom, was ultimately selected for the task. That selection was made by a Monitoring Committee of CITES Parties, including several representatives to the CITES Standing Committee. The Monitoring Committee, which was selected by the Standing Committee, is made up of representatives of the following governments: Argentina, Canada, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, and United Kingdom. The study itself and the report that is produced will be monitored and reviewed by the same Monitoring Committee and will be presented to the December 1996 meeting of the CITES Standing Committee. The CITES Standing Committee selected Jaques Berney (retired Deputy Secretary General of CITES) and Marshall Jones (Assistant Director for International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) or Dr. Susan Lieberman (Chief, CITES Operations Branch, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), as the technical advisors on the project.

The initial phase of this review is designed to collate information including but not necessarily limited to the following: The stated and implied objectives of the Convention and their continued relevance to the conservation of wild fauna and flora; the degree of effectiveness of conservation for representative species listed in the three Appendices of CITES and the extent of this degree of conservation that can be attributed to the implementation of the Convention; the relationship of the Convention to other global or regional conservation treaties or agreements and how the objectives of the Convention may be enhanced or hindered by the existence and implementation of these treaties or agreements; the ease and effectiveness of implementation, including enforcement, of the Convention in Party states; and the anticipated and actual roles of various participants in the implementation of the Convention, including Party states, non-Party states, national and international conservation organizations, and national and international trade and development organizations.

ERM, the contractor on the study, has transmitted a Questionnaire to all CITES

Parties (currently 132 countries), as well as international non-governmental organizations. In addition, ERM is meeting in person with several governments, in order to obtain more detailed responses to the questionnaire and in order to assist ERM in preparing its report on the effectiveness of the Convention. Each country that is visited has been asked by ERM to independently decide how to consult with neighboring countries, as well as with non-governmental organizations; the questionnaire sent to the Parties recommends broad consultation. The United States supports an exceedingly broad, transparent, and consultative process, with active input from all non-governmental organizations interested in the effectiveness of CITES and the conservation of species subject to international trade. ERM has stated that it is limited in the countries it plans to visit, based on limited time and funds. The Monitoring Committee mentioned above worked with ERM to plan the country visits. ERM plans to consult with the following CITES regions and countries during June and July 1996; those consultations will either involve a personal delegation (an ERM representative) or a consultation in-country by ERM's regional office staff: Europe (delegation to Brussels for meetings with the European Commission and European CITES Committee), Asia (Japan and Thailand for the delegation, China and India for consultations); Oceania (Australia and Papua New Guinea for consultations); North America (delegation to the United States); Africa (delegation to Zimbabwe, consultations in Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal), and Central and South America and the Caribbean (consultations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and possibly Trinidad and Tobago). The United States will make every effort to include representatives of Canada and Mexico in the meetings and consultations in the United States.

The United States will review comments received from national and international non-governmental organizations based in the United States, in the formulation of its response to the questionnaire. Representatives of the Service, as CITES Management and Scientific Authority, along with other federal agencies, will meet with the ERM delegation to provide input on the U.S. responses to the questionnaire and the U.S. views on how to improve the effectiveness of the Convention. The public meeting with non-governmental organizations that is announced in this Notice will provide those organizations

with an opportunity to provide input directly to ERM. ERM will use that information in the preparation of its report to the Standing Committee.

Author: This notice was prepared by Mark Phillips and Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (703/358-2095; fax 703/358-2280).

Dated: June 6, 1996.

J.L. Gerst,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96-15201 Filed 6-13-96; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Land Management

[CA-065-06-1990-01]

Environmental Impact Statement for the California Desert Conservation Area, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to close the public scoping period regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for an open pit, heap leach gold mine on portions of public lands in the California Desert Conservation Area, Kern County, CA. Comments will be accepted until June 30, 1996.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be closing the scoping comment.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments may be sent to: BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area Manager, 300 S. Richmond, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, ATTN: Ahmed Mohsen, EIS Coordinator.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Golden Queen is proposing to construct and operate the Soledad Mountain Project, an open pit precious metals (gold and silver) mining and cyanide leaching processing operation at the Soledad Mountain project area located approximately five miles southwest of the town of Mojave in Kern County, California.

The proposed action includes: construction of facilities; mining and processing of precious metals ores at the rate of three to four million tons per year for a period of ten to sixteen years; stockpiling of overburden materials; sales of overburden materials as aggregate and construction materials; and reclamation of the project site.

The project area is approximately 1,228 acres, of which 959 acres are private land and 269 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by BLM. The

proposed surface disturbance is approximately 782 acres on private lands and 153 acres on public lands. The proposed mining operation includes twelve interconnected open pit mining areas within the ultimate pit boundary of the proposed open pit.

A March 28, 1996 Notice invited comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis and notified the public of upcoming meetings.

Two public meetings were held on:

Date: April 16, 1996, Tuesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Place: Rosamond High School, 2925 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA 93560, Glennan Gymnasium

Date: April 17, 1996, Wednesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Place: Mojave High School, 15732 "O" St., Mojave, CA 93501, Mustang Gymnasium.

Comments were received from the attendees during the public meetings and by mail. Comments will be accepted until June 30, 1996.

BLM has set up a WEB PAGE for sharing information on the process and the project. It can be accessed by reaching <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>

For further information contact: Ahmed Mohsen, BLM EIS Coordinator at (619) 384-5421.

Dated: May 24, 1996.

Lee Delaney,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-15081 Filed 6-13-96; 8:45 am]

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National Park Service

Final General Management Plan, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, New Hampshire; Notice of Availability

Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the release of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, New Hampshire.

In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service has prepared and announces the release of the Final Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, New Hampshire. An environmental impact statement is required to assess the impacts of implementing the General Management Plan. The National