

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-45
FOR RELEASE: September 21, 2005

Newmont Honored with Sustainable Development Mineral Award

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has honored Newmont Mining Corporation with a Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Award for its contributions to local communities in Elko and Eureka Counties.

The 2005 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards include the Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, the Hardrock Community Outreach and Economic Security Award and the Small Operator Award.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke presented the awards September 20, during a joint BLM and Office of Surface Mining awards dinner hosted by the National Mining Association.

“All four award winners illustrate the BLM's concept of sustainable development — maintaining current standards of living while providing for future needs,” BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said. “Thanks to their efforts, the public lands will continue to provide a range of resources for present and future generations.”

The Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards recognize the efforts that have been made to implement the principles of sustainable development, a concept adopted by the United States and 192 other countries, to balance environmental, economic, and social considerations in planning for mining operations.

BLM presented the 2005 Hardrock Community Outreach and Economic Security Award to Newmont's Eastern Nevada Operations. The award recognized Newmont's concern for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral development, specifically the coordination of projects that have local and regional stakeholders and which contribute to the quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community.

“Newmont Mining has demonstrated a commitment to promoting economic development and contributing to the social and economic infrastructure of local communities,” said Acting BLM Nevada State Director Amy L. Lueders. “They've been effective partners not only with BLM but also with area businesses, educational institutions, local governments and other federal agencies.”

According to Lueders, Newmont Mining has worked through these partnerships to foster ongoing discussions about the long-term future for Nevada communities affected by mining.

The BLM also presented a Hardrock Community Outreach and Economic Security Award to Molycorp Inc.'s Questa Molybdenum Mine in Questa, New Mexico.

The 2005 Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award winner is the Kennecott Ridgeway Mine in Fairfield County, South Carolina. A third award, new for 2005, is the Small Operator Award. The 2005 Small Operator Award winner is Diamond Jim Olmstead, lease holder and operator of mining claims on Gold Creek in Chandalar quadrangle, Alaska. This operation is on mining claims located on lands administered by the BLM.

First offered in 2003, the BLM awards are similar to existing Department of the Interior awards for excellence in coal mining reclamation. The hardrock mining awards enable the Department of the Interior to recognize the industrial and metallic minerals industry as well as sand and gravel operators.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land—261 million surface acres—than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.9 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation.

The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

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NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-44
FOR RELEASE: September 19, 2005

Wild Horse Adoption September 24 at Palomino Valley

Yearling fillies and geldings and two- and three-year old mares and geldings will be featured at the Saturday, September 24 adoption at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley. The Center is located about 20 miles north of Sparks just off the Pyramid Lake Highway on Ironwood Road.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Center will open at 8 a.m., with a silent bid adoption scheduled for 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Bids will only be accepted from qualified adopters, and begin at \$125 per animal. Wild horses not adopted in the morning will be offered afterwards on a first come, first serve basis until 2 p.m.

Yearling fillies and geldings were born in BLM facilities or come from Nevada herd management areas including Warm Springs Canyon, Black Rock West or the Calico Mountains. Most of the two- and three-year old geldings are from the Calico Mountains. The mares are primarily from the Warm Springs Canyon and Calico Mountains herd management areas.

Wild horses from these Nevada herd management areas display a variety of color. The colors include: bay, black, buckskin, brown, sorrel, gray, strawberry, palomino, grulla, and red/white pinto.

Adopters will receive complete health care records, so they can begin health care regimens with their own veterinarians. A brand inspector and a veterinarian will prepare paperwork so the horses can be transported across state lines. BLM personnel at the Palomino Valley Center will load out animals. Stock trailers with side-swinging gates are preferred. Drop ramps are not acceptable. Individuals are asked to bring a halter and lead rope appropriate for the size and kind of animals adopted.

To qualify to adopt, an individual must be at least 18 years old; however, parents or guardians may adopt and allow younger family members to care for the animal. Adopters must have adequate facilities to provide humane care for the number of animals requested. You may not adopt if you have been convicted of inhumane treatment to animals.

For details on horses in this adoption, call (775) 475-2222. For applications and information about adoption in other areas, call 1- 866-4MUSTANGS or visit www.blm.gov . All potential adopters must be approved in advance by BLM wild horse and burro specialists in their geographic area, or they may bring the application to Palomino Valley for screening and approval.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-43
FOR RELEASE: September 13, 2005**

Oil and Gas Sale Nets Nearly \$728,000 in Bonus Bids

A quarterly oil and gas lease sale held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on September 13 brought in close to \$728,000 in bonus bids. The sale took place at the BLM Nevada State Office in Reno.

The BLM sold 58 of the 114 parcels offered for the sale. This amounts to 86,224 acres sold out of 181,058 offered. The highest-valued parcel brought in \$76,000, and the highest bid per acre was \$67.

The State of Nevada will receive half of the revenue collected from this sale.

During the last quarterly competitive sale in June 2005, nearly \$3.1 million in bonus bids were received for 335,537. The total bids and fees received for the June sale, along with the number of acres sold, were by far the highest that BLM Nevada had seen in 14 years of competitive oil and gas lease sales.

For fiscal year 2005, nearly \$3.9 million in bonus bids were received for 452,181 acres.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-42
FOR RELEASE: September 9, 2005**

Nevada Rancher Loses Federal Claims Case

Reno, Nev.—The U.S. Court of Federal Claims granted the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) motion for dismissal of a fifth amendment takings and breach of contract case brought by Esmeralda County rancher Ben Colvin. The decision, filed on Sept. 2, 2005, by Judge Wiese, rules that a state

water right does not confer an attendant right to graze cattle on federal lands and that a lease to graze cattle under the Taylor Grazing Act does not constitute a contract binding the United States.

"It will be interesting to see what effect this ruling has on other similar cases pending before the same court," said BLM Battle Mountain Field Manager Jerry Smith.

The ruling states, "The case law makes clear, and the plaintiff concedes, that a grazing permit does not rise to the level of a protectable property interest, nor does it confer any right, title, or interest to the lands of the United States." The ruling also states, "In addition, the Ninth and Tenth Circuits have expressly rejected the assertion that a right to graze on federal lands is attendant to a state water right."

The decision is the latest in a string of setbacks for Colvin. He grazed his livestock on public lands for six years, refusing to pay grazing fees until in 2001, when the BLM issued trespass and impoundment notices, then impounded 62 head of his cattle. The livestock were sold at auction with the proceeds applied to the impoundment costs. Colvin owes more than \$70,000 in livestock and realty trespass fees to the BLM. The realty trespass fees are for Colvin's inaction to remove his range improvements from the public land allotment.

Colvin filed a lawsuit against the BLM Tonopah assistant field station manager in 2003, claiming the BLM is a fictitious agency, that there are no public lands and the manager is a false agent with no authority. The suit, filed in State District Court, was moved to U.S. District Court of Nevada and dismissed by Federal District Judge Larry R. Hicks.

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**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2005-41
FOR RELEASE: September 2, 2005**

Federal Oil and Gas Sale Scheduled for September 13, 2005

The Nevada Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold an oral oil and gas lease auction Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., in Reno. Doors open at 8 a.m. with the auction beginning at 9 a.m. BLM will offer a total 180,838.088 acres in 114 parcels in Nevada.

Auction rules call for a \$2 per acre minimum bonus bid on any parcel. This means a buyer will pay the one-time bonus bid price for the right to obtain the federal lease, in addition to a standard \$1.50 per acre annual rental on the lease. BLM will also charge winning bidders \$75 per parcel to help cover administrative costs. If the leased acreage starts producing oil or gas, the federal government collects a royalty on production. Royalties collected are shared equally with the State of Nevada.

Leases are for a primary term of 10 years, and continue as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.

BLM has finalized and mailed out a notice of sale to potential federal oil and gas lease bidders. It contains a complete list of the parcels, conditions of the sale and lease stipulations. Copies will be

available at the sale, and can be purchased for \$5 from the Nevada State Office, or by writing: BLM, Attn: Copy Work, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada, 89520-0006. Copies are also available for purchase from each BLM field office in Nevada.

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