

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-08
FOR RELEASE: October 25, 2005

Partners backfill more than 50 abandoned mines near Rhyolite and Beatty

Outdoor enthusiasts who visit the public lands near Beatty and Rhyolite this weekend should face far fewer hazards than before, thanks to those who are working together this week to close more than 50 abandoned mine sites in the area.

The cooperative effort to backfill these abandoned mines is the result of a partnership among state and federal agencies, the mining industry, conservation groups and volunteers that formed several years ago.

The 50-site abandoned mine remediation project is the largest number of sites ever attempted in Nevada at one time, or for that matter probably anywhere in the West.

Backfilling operations involve bulldozing the rock and dirt that came out of the mine back to where it came from. In some cases, abandoned mines will be filled with polyurethane foam to protect cultural remains. Bat gates may eventually be installed at other sites in the area, in the shafts and adits where bats have made their homes.

Among the volunteers who donated their work to the project was Dr. Rick Sherwin, noted bat and abandoned mine expert from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

All backfilling operations are funded by private sector donations of time, materials, equipment, and labor.

Employees of the Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office and Tonopah Field Station completed bat surveys and cultural resource clearances that are necessary before backfilling can begin.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Richard H. Brown (775) 861-6586

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-07
FOR RELEASE: October 19, 2005

Public Scoping Begins in Federal Energy Corridor Designation

A public scoping meeting to identify energy right-of-way corridors on public lands is slated for Wednesday, November 2 in Las Vegas at the Tuscany Suites Hotel, 225 E. Flamingo Road.

A Notice of Intent published in the September 30 Federal Register initiated preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) supporting the designation of right-of-way corridors on federal lands to improve energy transmission across the Western United States.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS), to designate corridors on federal lands in 11 Western States for oil, natural gas and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities.

“Corridor designation represents a major Federal action that may have significant environmental impact under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),” said BLM Nevada State Director Ron Wenker. “An interagency programmatic environmental impact statement will be completed before corridors are designated so that States, the public and other interested parties may have the opportunity to be involved in scoping and planning for this process.”

After a PEIS is completed, the BLM and the Forest Service will amend relevant land use plans as necessary to implement corridor designation on lands these agencies manage. The Energy Policy Act requires that necessary updates to land use plans be completed by August 8, 2007.

Public scoping runs from October 5, 2005 through December 4, 2005, with (a) public scoping meeting(s) scheduled for the following cities:

October 25 – Denver, CO

October 26 – Albuquerque NM and Salt Lake City UT

October 27 – Cheyenne WY and Helena MT

November 1 – Boise ID and Sacramento CA

November 2 – Las Vegas NV and Portland OR

November 3 – Phoenix AZ and Seattle WA

Each scoping meeting will include two sessions, one from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and another from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Participants at the Nevada meeting are urged to book airline and hotel reservations early as Las Vegas is hosting a major convention that week.

Representatives from the BLM, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy -- which are the agencies involved in preparing the PEIS -- will attend each scoping session to discuss corridor designation and take comments and questions from those attending.

More information about the corridor designation project is available online at <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>. This Website also includes the means to submit comments electronically and to subscribe to an email list service for updates on the project.

The BLM manages 262 million surface acres, located mostly in 12 Western States, including Alaska – more land than any other Federal agency. With a budget of about \$1.8 billion, the Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the U.S. Managing these lands gives the BLM a central role in implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Acting as steward of numerous energy resources – coal, oil and gas, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, and biomass energy resources – is part of the agency’s multiple-use mission to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

America’s National Forests encompass 191 million acres of land throughout the country. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Scott Powers (406) 896-5319 or Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586, BLM, or Tom Baker, (775) 355-5308, Forest Service

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-06

FOR RELEASE: October 17, 2005

Wild Horse Adoption Slated for December 10 in Eureka

Eureka! You can find it, the perfect horse by Christmas. Plan on adopting a wild horse on Sat., Dec. 10 and enjoy the weekend in a charming, historic mining town in central Nevada.

Wild horses just gathered from the Simpson Park Range west of Eureka, Nevada, will be offered for adoption at the Eureka County Fairgrounds. Horses from this area are colorful, with paint and Curly horses among the herd, and are known for good conformation.

You may preview the horses offered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for adoption from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 9 and the morning of Sat., Dec. 10 at the fairgrounds (1.2 miles west of Eureka on Highway 50, on the north side of the highway).

A lottery adoption is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Only qualified adopters may participate, and the cost is \$125 per animal. Horses not adopted in the lottery will be offered afterwards on a first-come, first-served basis.

Adopters will receive complete health care records, so they can begin health care regimens with their own veterinarian. All of these horses will have received an initial set of inoculations for all major equine diseases, including West Nile virus. A booster shot is recommended in January 2006. A Coggins test will have been administered to each animal to assure they do not have Equine Infectious Anemia.

A brand inspector and a veterinarian will prepare paperwork so the horses can be transported home, including across state lines. BLM personnel at Eureka will load out animals on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday until 10:00 a.m. 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 this adoption, call (775) 635-4058 or 635-4181. 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 Eureka for screening and approval.

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Note to Editors:

Eureka sprung to life in 1864 with silver strikes, however it was most productive after 1869 when smelters were build to take advantage of the high lead content in its silver ore. Production peaked about 1888. Today the city has a charm which results from efforts to retain its historic mining era appearance. Especially interesting are the refurbished Opera House and Court House. The old Eureka Sentinel Building is now a museum. Tax money from gold mining at the northern end of Eureka County has resulted in several new public facilities including schools and an enclosed pool. The county retains a ranching, agriculture, and mining flavor.

Eureka is located in central Nevada on Highway 50, the Loneliest Road in America, which parallels much of the Pony Express Trail. For information on accommodations in the area call 775 237-5484 or visit <http://www.co.eureka.nv.us/> .

For more information contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586 or Debra Kolkman (775) 289-1946

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-05
FOR RELEASE: October 17, 2005

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting
Scheduled for November 7 in Washington, D.C.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on Monday, November 7 in Washington, D.C., to discuss issues relating to the management and protection of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time at the Hotel Washington.

The Board, which meets four times a year, provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The latest official BLM figures show that nearly 32,000 wild horses and burros roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states. Nevada rangelands are home to 14,700 of these equines, and two Nevadans serve on the nine-member advisory board: Dr. Boyd Spratling of Elko and Larry Johnson of Reno.

The public may address the Board at the November 7 meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the Hotel Washington, 515 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C., 20004. (The hotel phone number is 202-638-5900 or 800-424-9540.) Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit the length of presentations, which have been set at three minutes for previous meetings.

The agenda of the meeting can be found in the Oct. 11, 2005, Federal Register. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting. Those who would like to comment, but are unable to attend, may submit a written statement by Nov. 2, 2005, to: BLM, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attn: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ms. DeLorme at (775) 861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any

time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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 \$1.8 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.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Sharon Kipping (202-452-7753) or Maxine Shane (775-861-6586)

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-04
FOR RELEASE: October 13, 2005

BLM Resource Advisory Councils to Meet in Elko

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada announces the annual joint meeting of its three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) at Elko Convention Center, in Elko, Nev., on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 20 and 21, 2005. Each RAC is composed of citizens representing specific interest groups. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Thursday.

"This meeting will bring members of the three RACs together, some of them for the first time, and will give everyone a chance to discuss common issues as they begin a new year with new challenges," said BLM Nevada State Director Ron Wenker

The agenda for the meeting focuses on bringing the RACs together to discuss BLM Nevada's priorities for the coming year and to solicit their advice and involvement in making the councils more successful.

The RACs provide advice and recommendations to the BLM on land use planning and management of the public lands. Meetings are open to the public and public comment periods are included in each meeting. This forum provides an excellent opportunity for people to ask questions of the citizen-based advisory councils or to make comments that may assist RACs in their planning efforts. There will be a public comment period on Thursday, Oct 20 at 3:00 p.m.

The three RACs will meet separately on Friday morning, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to plan their agendas for the coming year. They are the Northeastern Great Basin, Mojave-Southern Great Basin, and the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RACs.

For more information, or for a faxed copy of the agenda, contact the BLM Nevada Office of Communications, (775) 861-6586.

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For more information contact: Jo Simpson at 775-861-6586

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-03
FOR RELEASE: October 13, 2005

Nominations Open for Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public nominations to fill three vacancies on the national Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The categories to be filled represent humane advocacy, livestock management and wildlife management. All nomination letters should be submitted by October 31, 2005.

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises federal managers for the BLM (an agency of the Department of the Interior) and the Forest Service (an agency of the Department of Agriculture) on the management, protection, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands administered by those agencies.

The nine members on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board represent a balance of interests. Each member has knowledge or special expertise that qualifies him or her to provide advice in the following categories: wild horse and burro advocacy, wild horse and burro research, veterinary medicine, natural resources management, humane advocacy, wildlife management, livestock management, and the public-at-large. Members must have demonstrated the ability to analyze and interpret data and information, evaluate programs, identify problems, work with collaboration to seek solutions, and formulate and recommend corrective actions.

Currently two Nevadans serve on the nine-member board. Dr. Boyd Spratling of Elko represents veterinary medicine and Larry Johnson of Reno represents wildlife management. The wildlife management position currently held by Johnson is one of the three positions up for renewal. Advisory Board members serve three-year terms, on a staggered-term basis, with one-third of the Advisory Board subject to appointment each year.

Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Individuals may also nominate themselves. In accordance with Section 7 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, federal and state government employees are not eligible to serve on the Board.

The Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM is accepting nomination letters plus resumes that include the nominee's name, address, profession, relevant biographic data, references, and specific category of interest. Nominations should be sent to the National Wild Horse and Burro Program, BLM, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006, Attn: Ramona Delorme. Her phone number is 775 861-6583 and the fax number is 775 861-6618.

The 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act mandates the protection, management, and control of wild horses and burros to ensure a healthy, viable, free-roaming herd population within the limits of available public land resources. The Act authorizes the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to manage wild horses and burros that roam public lands in the West. The agencies gather excess animals

and offer them to the general public for adoption.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Sharon Kipping (202) 452-7753 or Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-02
FOR RELEASE: October 11, 2005**

Water EIS Project Manager Named

Reno, Nev.—The Bureau of Land Management has named a project manager to guide environmental documentation on rights-of-way applications filed for the transport of water in eastern Nevada to the Las Vegas Valley. The project manager will work out of the Nevada State Office in Reno for State Director Ron Wenker.

As project manager, Penny Woods, will coordinate the development of three environmental impact statements. For nearly eight years, Woods has been the field manager for the BLM Oregon's Baker Field Office in Baker City. In that position, Woods manages a complex intermingled land pattern scattered across nine counties in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington.

"I am eager to assume the responsibility of this project," said Woods. "My work experience through my career at BLM has prepared me for a project of this magnitude."

Other BLM positions Woods has held include nearly seven years as area manager of the San Rafael Resource Area in Price, Utah; nearly four years as chief of planning for the Vernal District Office in Utah; and nine years as supervisory realty specialist with the Rawlins District in Wyoming.

Woods earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She will begin her new job in early December.

-BLM-

For more information contact: JoLynn Worley at 775-861-6586

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-01
FOR RELEASE: October 4, 2005**

BLM Honors UNR Professor with Sustainable Development Award

The Bureau of Land Management will honor Dr. Dirk van Zyl from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Sustainable Development Award, during the October 5 quarterly meeting of the BLM and the Nevada Mining Association in Elko.

The award recognizes Dr. van Zyl's contributions over the last five years to a better understanding of mining and its contributions to sustainable development.

The award will be presented by Ted Murphy, Manager for Solid Minerals at the BLM

Washington Office, and Del Fortner, Deputy State Director for Minerals Management at the BLM Nevada State Office.

Dr. van Zyl is the Chairman of the Department of Mining Engineering, Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, and Director of the Mining Life-Cycle Center, which maintains a Web site for the Sustainable Minerals Roundtable.

The national-level Sustainable Minerals Roundtable was formed to develop measures and indicators of sustainable development for material, mineral and energy systems. The roundtable is chaired by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey, and meetings are convened at the UNR Mining Life-Cycle Center in Reno.

As an active participant in the Sustainable Minerals Roundtable, as well as in other venues, Dr. van Zyl has worked diligently with the Bureau of Land Management to promote the benefits of sustainable development from a mining perspective.

Over the past few years he has actively participated as a speaker and facilitator in local northern Nevada community workshops on sustainable minerals issues. Significant issues addressed during these workshops included methods of sustaining local economies during mining “bust” periods.

During fiscal year 2005, Dr. van Zyl was instrumental in establishing an executive graduate certificate program at UNR for mining professionals, entitled “Risk and Opportunity Management: Integrating Business Excellence and Social Responsibility in the Mining Industry.” He has also served as an instructor for the course.

Dr. van Zyl is also helping the BLM Nevada Division of Minerals Management to initiate a Bureau pilot action plan, which will integrate sustainable development principles into both the BLM land-use planning system and the Surface Management component of the BLM Mining Law Administration Program.

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For more information contact: Richard H. Brown at 775-861-6480, or David Quick at (202)-452-5138