

interested in public comments addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How the agency might minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including using appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** As part of the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area effort to provide science that is used by managers, policymakers, and others for decisions that protect, conserve, and enhance healthy fish and wildlife populations across the United States and beyond, the Alaska Science Center Landbird Program conducts research on avian populations within Alaska. Beginning in the late 1990s, an outbreak of beak deformities in Black-capped Chickadees and other species emerged in southcentral Alaska. USGS scientists launched a study to understand the scope of this problem and its effect on wild birds. Since that time, researchers have gathered important information about the deformities—they have identified a new virus as the likely cause and the geographical distribution appears to be expanding. The collection of PII is requested as part of this ongoing research in North American birds. Members of the public provide observation reports of birds with deformities from Alaska and other regions. These reports are very important in that they allow researchers to determine the geographical distribution of the beak deformities and

species affected. Data collection over such a large and remote area would not be possible without the public's assistance. As part of the online reporting system, an individual's phone number, email address, and mailing address are requested. This information allows researchers to request additional details or verify reports if necessary but is not required for submission. PII is used only for contact purposes, is stored in a separate table that is encrypted, and is not shared in any way with other individuals, groups, or organizations.

**Title of Collection:** Alaska Beak Deformity Observations.

**OMB Control Number:** 1028–0116.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Individuals/households.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 150.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 175.

**Estimated Completion Time per Response:** Approximately 5 minutes.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 15 hours.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Frequency of Collection:** One time.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** None.

The authority for this action is the PRA of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Christian Zimmerman,**

*USGS Alaska Science Center Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4338–11–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

[RR83530000, 267R5065C6,  
RX.59389832.1009676]

### National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Reclamation (516 DM 1)

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a revision to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing procedures for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) at Chapter 1 of Part 516 of the Department of the Interior's (Department or DOI) Departmental Manual (516 DM 1)—DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing Procedures. The revision adds two new categorical exclusions (CEs) for hydropower-related activities in the DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing

Procedures, Appendix 2: Bureau Categorical Exclusions.

**DATES:** The revision is effective upon publication with the CEs available for immediate use upon this publication.

**ADDRESSES:** The substantiation record and supporting materials, including relevant Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONISIs), are available at <https://www.usbr.gov/nepa>. The public can also view the CE substantiation report at <https://www.usbr.gov/nepa>. The web address for the DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing Procedures where the new CEs are being added is: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/handbook/516-dm-1-handbook-national-environmental-policy-act-implementing>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shane Hunt via phone at 916–202–7158, or via email at [usbr\\_ce@usbr.gov](mailto:usbr_ce@usbr.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services.

Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was established in 1902. Its original mission was civil works construction to develop the water resources of the arid Western United States to promote the settlement and economic development of that region. Reclamation developed hundreds of projects to store and deliver water. That substantial infrastructure development contributed to making Reclamation the largest wholesale supplier of water in the United States.

Reclamation has had a long, successful history generating reliable, low-cost hydropower—delivering energy, economic, and national security benefits to western communities for over a century. Reclamation is the second-largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, owning 77 facilities and directly operating 53 of them, which together comprise over 14,750 megawatts of capacity. These “reserved” facilities generate an average of 37 million megawatt-hours of electricity annually—the equivalent demand of over 3.5 million U.S. homes.

In alignment with Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, and Secretary's Order 3418, Unleashing American Energy, Reclamation is

actively implementing a Hydropower Action Plan. This plan prioritizes capital investment, deregulation and process improvement, and technological innovation to maximize hydropower energy production, cost-savings, and operational efficiencies.

As part of this effort, Reclamation developed two CEs to add to its NEPA implementing procedures to improve the efficiency of NEPA compliance for hydropower activities that have consistently demonstrated no significant environmental impacts to the human environment. When appropriately established and applied, CEs allow agencies to operate more efficiently to protect the environment by focusing their resources on proposals that may have significant environmental impacts.

## II. NEPA

NEPA, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions in their decision-making processes and inform and engage the public in that process. 42 U.S.C. 4331.

NEPA also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) as an advisory agency within the Executive Office of the President on environmental matters and the implementation of NEPA. NEPA requires Federal agencies to identify and develop methods and procedures, in consultation with CEQ, to ensure appropriate consideration of environmental concerns. 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(B).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review of major Federal actions subject to NEPA, with the level of review corresponding to anticipated effects on the quality of the human environment. If a proposed major Federal action is likely to have reasonably foreseeable significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support its approval. 42 U.S.C. 4336(b)(1). If the proposed action is not likely to have reasonably foreseeable significant environmental effects or if the significance of the effects is unknown, the agency may instead prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which is a concise public document used to support agency decision-making. 43 U.S.C. 4336(b)(2). After completing the analysis in an EA, the agency may conclude that the action will have no significant effects and document that conclusion in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) or conclude that the action is likely to have significant effects and therefore requires

preparation of an EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(b)(2).

Under NEPA, an agency also may establish CEs—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment—in its agency NEPA procedures as an additional form of NEPA review. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1). If Reclamation or another bureau or office within DOI determines that a CE covers a proposed action, it must then evaluate the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances, which are factors or circumstances that indicate a normally categorically excluded action may have a significant effect. 43 CFR 46.205, 46.215. If Reclamation or another bureau cannot categorically exclude the proposed action following review for extraordinary circumstances (*i.e.*, there are extraordinary circumstances present), it will prepare an EA or EIS, as appropriate, before issuing any decision to authorize the action. 43 CFR 46.205(c), 42 U.S.C. 4336(b).

Bureaus and DOI establish new or revise existing CEs by substantiating the proposed new or revised CEs with sufficient information to demonstrate that the actions included in the category normally do not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and provides this substantiation in a written record that is made publicly available. In developing NEPA procedures, bureaus and DOI also consult with CEQ in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(B).

## III. Categorical Exclusions Justification

The Department and Reclamation find that the categories of actions described in the two CEs being added to DOI's NEPA implementing procedures normally do not have a significant effect on the human environment, absent extraordinary circumstances. This finding is based on Reclamation's history and over 40 years of experience analyzing actions under NEPA and using CEs; and post-implementation review of authorized actions that confirms that these actions normally do not have a significant effect on the human environment.

To demonstrate the finding that actions under the proposed CEs would not normally result in significant effects on the human environment, Reclamation reviewed proposed actions evaluated in 10 EAs that supported FONSI as well as post-implementation information and summarized them in the CE substantiation report included in this notice's supporting documentation. These 10 EAs that supported FONSI analyze actions that these CEs are designed to cover in the future.

DOI recognizes that certain proposed actions, when reviewed on a case-by-case basis, may implicate one or more extraordinary circumstances, and for those proposed actions where a normally excluded action may have a significant effect, bureaus will prepare an EA or EIS. Thus, prior to applying any CE, bureaus will review the proposed action to ensure it is covered by the CE and evaluate the proposed action for the presence of any extraordinary circumstances.

Reclamation requires that any action for which one of the new CEs is applied must be documented. Reclamation documents CE use with a checklist to demonstrate a) the applicability of the CE, and b) that no extraordinary circumstances are present such that a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. In such cases where a normally excluded action may have a significant effect, Reclamation will conduct additional NEPA analysis and prepare an EA or EIS, as appropriate.

## IV. Text for the DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing Procedures

The Department's NEPA procedures are modified with additions as follows. The DOI Handbook of NEPA Implementing Procedures, Appendix 2: Bureau Categorical Exclusions:

### *Bureau of Reclamation*

#### 14.5 Categorical Exclusions

##### C. Project Implementation Activities

(5) \*Issuance of a lease of power privilege or alternative authorization by Reclamation, approving non-federal hydropower development which merely augments or supplements existing Reclamation Project facilities.

##### D. Operation and Maintenance Activities

(10) \*Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing hydropower facilities and equipment, including all powertrain and balance of plant equipment, which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation. Covered facilities and equipment include, but are not limited to, turbines, generators, transformers, cranes, pumps, gates, control and communication systems, and new instrumentation.

**Authorities**

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

**Stephen G. Tryon,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 2026–10794 Filed 5–28–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4332–90–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[A2407–014–004–065516, #O2509–014–004–12522LLID]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed DeLamar Mine Project—Owyhee County, Idaho**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Owyhee Field Office, Marsing, Idaho intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of DeLamar Mining Company's proposed DeLamar Mine Project in Owyhee County, Idaho. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public-scoping process for the environmental impact statement. The BLM requests that the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives, and identification of relevant information, and studies by June 29, 2026. To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period. Public meetings will be held:

- June 9, 2026, 6:00–8:00 p.m. MDT at the Jordan Valley Lions Club located at 902 Bassett St. in Jordan Valley, Oregon 97910.
- June 11, 2026, 6:00–8:00 p.m. MDT at the Marsing American Legion Hall located at 126 N Old Bruneau Hwy in Marsing, ID 83639.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the DeLamar Mine Project by any of the following methods:

- Website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/Project-Home/?id=3D00EE85-E859-F111-BEC6-001DD804183B>

- *Email:* [BLM\\_ID\\_OFO\\_DMC\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_ID_OFO_DMC_EIS@blm.gov)

- *Mail:* BLM Owyhee Field Office, Attn: DeLamar Mine EIS, 101 S. Bruneau Hwy, Marsing, ID 83639

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/Project-Home/?id=3D00EE85-E859-F111-BEC6-001DD804183B> and at the Owyhee Field Office at the above address or during the in-person public meetings listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christopher Lund, Project Manager, telephone 208–896–5912; address 101 S. Bruneau Hwy, Marsing, ID 83639; email [BLM\\_ID\\_OFO\\_DMC\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_ID_OFO_DMC_EIS@blm.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Mr. Lund. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DeLamar Mining District was established approximately one-half mile west of Silver City, Idaho after discoveries of gold and silver deposits in the 1860s. Since then, mining activities have cycled, most recently in the 1960s, which resulted in BLM permitting mining plans of operation (MPOs) at Florida Mountain and Delamar Mountain in the early 1990s. By the early 2000s, mining operations ceased and reclamation began. Since 2018, DeLamar Mining Company (DMC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Integra Resources, has carried out geophysical and geochemical exploration and ongoing geologic mapping and exploration drilling programs. As a result of the exploration, DMC has developed and submitted an MPO to reopen and expand the existing DeLamar Mine (Mine). The BLM will prepare an EIS to consider the impacts of the proposed MPO.

**Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The BLM's purpose is to respond to DMC's proposal as described in their MPO and to take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation (UUD) of public lands. The need for federal action is established by the BLM's responsibilities under the Surface Management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 and under Section 302(b) of the FLPMA.

**Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The Proposed Action, as described in the MPO, is to mine gold and silver ore by expanding the two existing open pit mines on Florida and DeLamar Mountains. To support mining activities, DMC proposes to construct haul and access roads, two heap leach facilities, three development rock storage facilities, and ancillary facilities while adhering to environmental protection measures identified in the MPO. Upon conclusion of mining operations, the site would be reclaimed in accordance with federal and state regulations. The Proposed Action estimates 2,915 total acres of disturbance, which includes 1,420 acres of previously disturbed areas and 1,495 acres of new surface disturbance. Of the proposed new surface disturbance, 812 acres would be on BLM-managed public lands, 6 acres on state land, and 677 acres on private land. Construction and mining activities are estimated to last 19 years.

The No Action Alternative reflects a continuation of current, permitted activities. Authorized mining activities could continue under the existing MPOs which would allow for open pit operations, milling, heap leach, reclamation, care and maintenance, and closure activities, including ongoing exploration and environmental monitoring. Reclamation activities would proceed, and authorized facilities for water treatment and site maintenance would remain operational.

Other alternatives which may be considered in the EIS are expected to be variations of mine and facility configuration based on resource issues identified through the public scoping process. The BLM welcomes comments on all preliminary alternatives as well as suggestions for additional alternatives.

**Summary of Expected Impacts**

Potential impacts from mining related activities may include loss of native vegetation and soils, disturbance to wildlife including loss of habitat, alteration of quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources, changes in streamflow through increased sedimentation resulting in impacts to riparian habitat, increased emissions potentially affecting air quality, physical or visual changes to sites important to Native American Tribes and local American history, and increased traffic in the area.

**Anticipated Permits and Authorizations**

- Plan of Operations-BLM
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit-USACE