

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2004-66**  
**FOR RELEASE: Sept. 27, 2004**

**BLM Announces Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Winners**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Kathleen Clarke today announced the winners of the 2004 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards. The awards recognize the efforts that have been made in implementing 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, environmentally sound mineral development operations on public and private lands and acknowledge successful partnering efforts in helping ensure a safe and productive hardrock mining industry.

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award winners are Round Mountain Gold Corporation's Manhattan Mine in Nye County, Nevada, and Ken and David Jeter, who operate the Connor Creek Mine in Baker County, Oregon. The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award winner is Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc., in Whitehall, Montana.

"These awards honor companies and individuals who have distinguished themselves both as leaders in the industry and as partnerships in the stewardship of the public lands and resources," BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said. "This year's winners have demonstrated that they're willing to go beyond what is required by law to maintain healthy wildlife populations, protect water quality, and be good neighbors in their communities," she added.

Director Clarke presented the awards to the winners this afternoon in Las Vegas at a joint BLM and Office of Surface Mining awards luncheon held in conjunction with MINExpo International 2004, the world's largest mining exposition.

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.

Nominations for the hardrock mining awards were first screened by BLM State Office officials, who forwarded the applications to BLM Headquarters for final judging. A panel of judges that included people from outside the BLM completed the judging. Complete information on the winners is attached.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Background Information on Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Award Winners**

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award recognizes effective environmental stewardship. The

recipients have a demonstrated track record of successfully meeting or exceeding federal, state or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight.

The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award recognizes the economic benefits of mineral development, with an emphasis on successful coordination with local and regional stakeholders. Projects that enhance the quality of life or demonstrate a concern for the long-term health of the local community will be recognized in this category. This category also recognizes operators who use new or innovative techniques so they can operate effectively in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings.

Winners of the Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award are:

Round Mountain Gold Corporation's Manhattan Mine, located in Nye County, Nevada. The Manhattan Mine receives this award for outstanding environmental stewardship for its innovative reclamation designs. The mine's reclamation plan stabilized or removed historic mine features, eliminated public hazards, and shaped piles of waste rock into landforms that blended with the surroundings. Round Mountain Gold Corporation also developed a new and effective technique for treating water used in the mining process. The gravity-driven system permanently contains solutions in a lined facility, protecting groundwater better than conventional closure methods, with virtually no long-term maintenance.

David and Ken Jeter, operators of the Connor Creek Mine in Baker County, Oregon. These brothers are being recognized for outstanding achievement in environmental leadership by adopting a proactive approach to their mining operation. The Jetters re-graded a two-acre mined area on a steep slope and then planted native grasses by hand. The brothers also showed concern for the safety of recreational users, installing protective gratings across entrances to mines, repairing roads, and maintaining access on both public and private lands. Overall, the Jetters' work has improved the area by reducing runoff into Connor Creek, re-establishing native vegetation, and improving visitor safety.

The winner of the Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award is:

Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc., in Whitehall, Montana. A gold mine subsidiary of Placer Dome, Inc., Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc., receives this award for outstanding achievement in sustainable planning and corporate citizenship. Concerned about the economic future of Whitehall, the mine's location in southwestern Montana, mine operators helped to create the Whitehall Transition Advisory Committee. The Committee's vision is to leave behind a healthy environment and a positive economic and social future when the mine eventually closes. Golden Sunlight operators have donated generously to the community, helping to expand Whitehall's library, renovating local fairgrounds, and providing thousands of dollars each year in scholarships for graduating high-school seniors in the area.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Bureau of Land Management Contact: Mary Linda Ponticelli at 202-452-5083, Jeffrey Krauss at 202-452-5127 or Jo Simpson at 775-861-6586

---

09/24/04 BLM Strategy to Manage Horses Upheld in Federal Court (MISSING FILE, FORWARDS TO THE FOLLOWING LINK)

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html>

---

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2004-64**  
**FOR RELEASE: September 16, 2004**

Adopt a Wild Horse Saturday, October 16 at Palomino Valley, Nevada

On Saturday, October 16 you have an opportunity to select a wild horse for adoption from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, 20 miles north of Sparks, Nevada. The Center will have about 80 head to select from, representing the Diamond, Fish Creek, Little Humboldt, Rock Creek, Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in Nevada.

About 20 geldings, 20 mares, 30 weanlings and 4 mare/foal pairs will be available for adoption. The pre-selected animals will be in the walk-up adoption pens on October 16 when the Center opens at 8 a.m. If an adopter is interested in a specific animal in other pens, the BLM asks that he/she make an appointment on a weekday so that time can be scheduled to have a staff member drive them through the larger pens in the facility.

Potential adopters may 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. The application is available at [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov). Adoption will be by silent, competitive bid from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The adoption fee begins at \$125 per animal. Mare and foal adoptions begin at \$250 per pair. Horses not adopted during the competitive bid period will be available on a first come, first served basis at \$125 per horse or \$250 per pair for the remainder of the day.

Most animals may be transported home that day. However, horses from the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm HMAs will only have initial inoculations, so appointments to transport those animals home at a later date should be made at the time of the adoption.

All one to four-year-old studs offered at this adoption have been gelded. The BLM will issue a gelding voucher worth \$50 for all weanling colts offered at this October 16 adoption.

All animals are vaccinated to prevent a variety of equine diseases, including West Nile virus and rabies. Adopters 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. Personnel at Palomino Valley Center will load out animals. Stock trailers with side-swinging gates are preferred. Two-horse trailers may only be used for weanlings. Also, drop ramps are not acceptable. BLM employees will halter and load the horses for the adopter. 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 provide adequate feed, water and 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 information on these horses, call the National Center at (775) 475-2222. General information about the wild horse program is available by calling toll free to 1-866-4MUSTANGS or visiting the website at [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov).

The Palomino Valley facility is located 20 miles north of Sparks, Nevada, on the Pyramid Lake Highway (State Route 445). About 1,500 wild horses gathered from Nevada rangelands since June are currently in the corrals.

-BLM-

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

**NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2004-63**  
**FOR RELEASE: Sept. 10, 2004**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Focuses on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered  
Public Lands

WASHINGTON—Rebecca Watson, assistant secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, announces the availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on wind energy development on Bureau of Land Management-administered lands in the Western United States. The public is invited to review the document and submit comments during the next 90 days.

"As we look closer to home for ways to help meet America's energy needs in an environmentally sound manner, it's apparent that our public lands have much to offer in terms of renewable energy resources, including wind energy," Watson said. "Our national energy strategy includes not only enhancing supplies of renewable and nonrenewable energy, but also places an important focus on conservation."

The Draft Programmatic EIS was prepared:

to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with wind energy development on public lands in 11 western states, and

to evaluate a number of alternatives to determine the best management approach to mitigating potential impacts and facilitating wind energy development. The study does not include Alaska.

The Draft Programmatic EIS is in response to recommendations set forth in the President's National Energy Policy, which encourages the development of renewable energy resources on public lands.

"We are working aggressively with communities and local officials to promote and encourage the development and use of our domestic renewable energy sources," Watson said. "Our approach is consistent with the President's National Energy Policy for diversifying the nation's energy portfolio by encouraging the use of biomass, geothermal, wind and solar energy on federally owned lands."

The Draft Programmatic EIS is posted on the web at <http://windeis.anl.gov>. Public comments are encouraged via the web. Written comments should be mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Wind Energy Programmatic EIS, Argonne National Laboratory, EAS/900, 9700 S. Cass Ave., Argonne, IL 60439.

Although there are no wind farms currently on public land in Nevada, there have been a number of applications filed with BLM field offices to monitor the use of wind energy. Anemometers to measure wind potential are authorized on 23 sites in Nevada, and applications for 25 additional monitoring sites are pending. Half of all pending applications on BLM lands are in Nevada.

The most active proposal in Nevada for a wind energy generation project is in the Dry Hills, 22 miles northeast of Winnemucca on the northeast side of the Osgood Mountains. Navitas Energy of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is proposing a wind energy farm capable of generating up to 80 megawatts of electricity.

An earlier proposal for a wind generating facility at Table Mountain near Las Vegas is on hold.

The number of applications for monitoring sites in each BLM field office is: Winnemucca, eight; Ely, six; Carson City, four; Elko, three; Las Vegas and Battle Mountain, two each.

-BLM-

For more information contact: David Quick, Washington, D.C. (202) 452-5138 or Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586