**PETITION/APPLICATION FOR WITHDRAWAL EXTENSION**

**SACRAMENTO PASS RECREATION AREA**

**WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA**

Items required by 43 CFR 2310.1-2(c) and 43 CFR 2310.1-3 for a withdrawal extension petition/application:

1. **APPLICANT**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Nevada State Office

1340 Financial Boulevard

Reno, Nevada 89502

1. **NON-INTERIOR** **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Not applicable.

**(3)** **CONSENT OF HEAD OF NON-INTERIOR AGENCY**

Not applicable.

**(4)** **TYPE OF WITHDRAWAL ACTION**

This petition/application is a request for an extension of Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7060, which withdrew 464.93 acres of public land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws.

**(5)** **DESCRIPTION OF THE LANDS INVOLVED**

The legal description of the public lands proposed for the withdrawal extension is described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 14 N., R. 68 E.,

 sec. 1, lots 3 and 4;

 sec. 2, lots 1 and 2.

T. 15 N., R. 68 E.,

 sec. 35, SE¼;

 sec. 36, W½SW¼ and SE¼SW¼.

The lands described contain 464.93 acres in White Pine County.

**(6)** **OVERLAPPING WITHDRAWALS**

None.

**(7)** **PURPOSE OF WITHDRAWAL EXTENSION**

The purpose of the withdrawal extension is to continue to provide protection for a centralized location for recreationists that visit nearby natural and cultural resource attractions on public land and to enhance the visitor’s experience and reduce natural resource degradation by providing improved facilities and services.

The Sacramento Pass Recreation Area (SPRA) popularity has increased due to its location by a scenic road and close proximity to Great Basin National Park (GBNP) with Lehman Caves and Mt. Wheeler, Mt. Moriah, and the Baker Archaeological Site. The SPRA serves as a rest stop for travelers, a picnic and activity area for visitors to the pond and trails for horseback riding and biking, and it is a quiet, well furnished, location for campers. During peak periods, GBNP staff refers overflow visitors to the camping facilities available at SPRA. The BLM and National Park Service (NPS) have worked cooperatively on trails that crisscross jurisdictions. The BLM has also sought NPS input and White Pine County Commission support for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funded Round 12 Capital Improvements Project B050, Priority 12-2, in the amount of $374,790.00 to update the SPRA facilities, perform vegetation treatments and road improvements, and provide accessibility to the pond, restrooms, picnic and camping area.

The SPRA is located in an area of placer gold mining interest without viable mining operations being developed. Part of the original request to withdraw the area for a recreation site was due to surface resource damage caused by mineral exploration and failure to reclaim portions of the 464.93 acres by mining companies that have since gone out of business. The need to retain the withdrawal from mineral location and entry is high.

**(8)** **EXTENT OF SEGREGATION**

PLO No. 7060 withdrew the public land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws including the United States mining laws.

**(9)** **TYPE OF TEMPORARY LAND USE DURING SEGREGATION PERIOD**

The BLM may approve licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations of a temporary nature on the 464.93 acres of public surface estate.

**(10)** **ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES**

A cooperative agreement or an interagency agreement under Sections 302(b) or 307(b) is not applicable, and a right-of-way (ROW) under Section 507 is not an appropriate alternative to a withdrawal. The facility is a BLM site for which a cooperative or interagency agreement is not applicable. A ROW does not protect the SPRA against mineral location, a concern due to high mineral potential, nor would it protect the financial investment that the BLM has made at the site.

**(11)** **DURATION OF WITHDRAWAL**

A review of the existing withdrawal determined that the land was still being used for the purpose for which it was originally withdrawn. The BLM proposes a 20-year withdrawal extension. At the end of this period, the BLM will reevaluate the desirability of further extending the withdrawal.

**(12)** **ALTERNATIVE SITES**

There are no suitable alternative sites containing the combination of accessibility, scenic values, water, and lack of conflicting uses. The site is now beautifully developed, increasing its uniqueness and value to users. The land was selected, in part, due to not having been reclaimed after mining activity. In addition, attractive rock formations, vegetation, location on Hwy 50/6 with access to major travel routes, attractive scenic vistas, and proximity to the GBNP and other natural and cultural resources merited the withdrawal. The site has been developed with vault toilets, graded roads and trails, and picnic and camping areas. These facilities are in the process of being refurbished and updated, making the SPRA increasingly pleasant and suited to recreation.

**(13)** **NEED FOR WATER**

The purpose of this withdrawal does not require water rights. The recreation site was developed for primitive camping.

**(14)** **EXAMINATION OF RECORDS**

You may examine records relating to this application at the following locations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bureau of Land ManagementNevada State Office 1340 Financial Blvd.Reno, Nevada 89502 | Bureau of land ManagementEly District Office702 North Industrial WayEly, Nevada 89301 |

**(15)** **PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES**

Identification of mineral resources indicates that the SPRA is located within an area where there is some interest in placer gold mining. The area has undergone many years of exploration without any viable mining operations being developed. There is low potential for any economic locatable mineral extractions within the proposed withdrawal.