

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-07-20  
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### **BLM Extends Public Comment Period for Hardrock Lease Application**

**PORTLAND** – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon State Office announced today that it would extend the public comment period for the Environmental Assessment pertaining to the application for a hardrock minerals lease filed in March 2005 by Idaho General Mines, Inc. (IGMI).

The comment period for the Environmental Assessment was originally scheduled for 30 days beginning March 14, 2007. Recognizing the unique nature of the project and diverse range of issues that the public may need to consider, the BLM has decided to extend the public comment period for an additional 30 days, for a total of 60 days. The public comment period for the Environmental Assessment will now close on Monday, May 14, 2007.

It is important to note that the hardrock minerals lease application does not afford IGMI the opportunity to conduct any exploration, or mining activities, just the right to apply to conduct these activities. Issuance of the proposed fractional interest lease with a contingent rights stipulation prohibits surface-disturbing activities, and is fully discretionary to the Federal Government. The Environmental Assessment can be accessed through the internet at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/news/announcements.php>

It can also be accessed at the BLM Oregon State Office Public Desk, 333 S.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97204. Written comments postmarked within the 60 day comment period will be accepted by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208.

The BLM manages more land – 258 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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