



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Needles Field Office
101 W. Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363
www.ca.blm.gov/needles

January 3, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
2800 (P)
CA-690.01

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management has completed a preliminary "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) of former Camp Ibis.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has requested the issuance of a temporary use permit to conduct an EE/CA of former Camp Ibis, located in eastern Piute Valley and the western Dead Mountains, San Bernardino County, California. Camp Ibis was a divisional camp associated with the Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area activities conducted from 1942 to 1944 under the command of General George S. Patton Jr. The EE/CA would statistically characterize the nature, location and concentration of residual ordnance and explosives, if any, that may be present within the Camp as a result of former military training activities. The EE/CA study would randomly sample 3,000 magnetic anomalies detected in about 100 acres out of the Camp's roughly 13,400 acre total. Up to 50 explosive projectiles would be detonated in place, should any be found during the project. The greatest probable surface disturbance associated with these activities is estimated to be less than 0.1 acres.

A copy of the preliminary FONSI and EA are enclosed for your review and comment. The comment period will close on February 6, 2003. Written comments should be sent to the Needles Field Office, Attn. Camp Ibis Project, at the address listed on the letterhead above and must be postmarked by or before the closing date. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail at ca690@ca.blm.gov and must be received by or before February 6, 2003. The preliminary FONSI and EA will also be posted on our website at: www.ca.blm.gov/needles.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the preliminary FONSI and EA, you may contact George R. Meckfessel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, by phone at 760/326-7008 or by e-mail at gmeckfes@ca.blm.gov.

Sincerely,

John Bierk, acting for

Molly S. Brady
Needles Field Manager