

BLM Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant
Program
Physical Scientist – Occupational Series 0301/1301/1350

GSA Project ID: 2017619

Project Title: Physical Scientist/Planning Coordinator Resource Assistant

Location: BLM California State Office, Branch of Energy and Minerals

Related Degree: Bachelors of Science degree in Geography

Project Mentor: Mark R. Chatterton

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Project Descriptions

This project will focus on the coordination of BLM California's (BLM) efforts to restore oil and gas lease sales statewide. In the last few years BLM has received several challenges to our NEPA documents questioning the adequacy of our environmental analysis and mitigation related to the issuance of new leases. Part of the process to respond to Federal District Court decisions and orders has been to develop the land use plan amendments for multiple field offices to address the identified deficiencies related to well stimulation and assure consistency between FO planning documents. BLM has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Land Use Plan Amendment (DEIS/LUPA) for the Central Coast Field Office (CCFO). Comments are being received and will need responses prepared to answer concerns raised during the public review period. Further the California State Office has been the lead in the development of this DEIS/LUPA and a decision have been made to transfer this role and responsibility to the CCFO. Finally, the project will develop coordination efforts between other active litigation that have challenged our oil and gas leasing efforts and DEIS/LUPA as well as land use plans that are ongoing. This will require close coordination with the District and Field Offices, the California State Office, and the Department of Interior's Solicitor Office. A role remains at the SO to assure a successful transfer to the Central Coast FO, assist the Bakersfield FO in responding to their litigation and those outcomes, and ensure the language in the South Coast Plan reflects what we have learned from the litigation in other offices and from the commissioned science study.

Project Expectations

- Collect and organize all comments received from the public and other entities related to the Central Coast DEIS/LUPA
- Catalog each comment and forward to the CCFO Planning & Environmental Coordinator
- Assist with responding to comments on oil and gas litigation and related NEPA that require California State Office (CASO) response
- Prepare quarterly litigation report for the Solicitor's Office
- Pull together and index all documentation found in the CASO for transfer of the LUPA to the CCFO
- Facilitates the transfer of the CASO record to the CCFO
- Prepare responses to the Bakersfield LUP litigation as they arise
- Participate in coordination meetings, calls, etc. related to any oil and gas leasing matter and prepares a summary of meeting notes
- Work closely with the Solicitor's Office to prepare a response to inquiries related to ongoing oil and gas litigation matters.
- Scrub the FEIS for the South Coast Plan for the most robust language addressing lessons learned from the Central Coast and Bakersfield oil and gas litigation

BLM Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant
Program
Physical Scientist – Occupational Series 0301/1301/1350

GSA Project ID: 2017656

Project Title: Physical Scientist/Geologist Resource Assistant

Location: BLM Las Vegas Field Office

Related Degree: Geology, mine engineering or any physical/earth science related

Project Mentor: Evan Allen

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Project Description

The BLM Las Vegas Field Office (LVFO) currently has 13 mineral material community pits in a pending status. These community pits were established at various times between 1992 and 2006 but the work to authorize them was never completed. The LVFO has been asked, by the Nevada State Office (NSO) and the Washington Office, to take the necessary steps to either authorize or close these pending community pits. The intern will serve as a member of the Minerals Division in the BLM LVFO. This job will require the intern to coordinate with other Minerals Division staff and NSO, Title and Land Status Support personnel. The intern will be expected to work independently to review the casefiles associated with each of the pending community pits; visit each of the community pits to conduct a site inspection; compose reports summarizing the findings of their casefile reviews and site visits; make recommendations on whether the community pit should be left in a pending status, authorized or closed; and then take the necessary steps to close any community pits identified for closure. For the community pits identified for closure, the intern will prepare the appropriate documentation for updating the Master Title Plats associated with the lands the community pits are found on, compose closure memorandum for the Assistant Field Manager's (AFM) signature, ensure all documentation is in the casefile in chronological order, and update the LR2000 action codes to reflect the changes made. A list of the 13 community pits has been prepared and the casefiles have been gathered. The Supervisory Geologist and Minerals Division staff will provide support, guidance and mentoring. Applicants should have a high level of motivation, communication skills, dependability, organizational skills, and the ability to work in both office and outdoor environments, although outdoor activities will be limited. Applicants must possess a valid drivers license and be able to operate a company motor vehicle independently on paved road and unmaintained dirt roads. Additional skills include: proven experience with computers, Microsoft Word, writing, proof-reading, and working independently with minimal supervision. A minimum of one year experience in geology or mine engineering education is preferred.

Project Expectations

- Review the casefiles for each of the 13 mineral material community pits in a pending status. Determine and document where the community pits are located, the location of the boundaries for the community pits and how to get to the community pits.
- Identify any documentation found in the casefiles that may prevent or aid in the closure or authorization of the community pits
- Make site visits to each of the 13 mineral material community pits in a pending status.
- compose an inspection report documenting their observations and findings and route it for Supervisor or AFM review and signature.
- For each community pit identified for closure, prepare a closure memorandum for the AFM's signature and the required documentation to have the community pit removed from the Master Title Plats.