

Field area, allowing the Companies to provide natural gas to pipeline companies distributing and supplying natural gas to consumers. The Jonah Field currently has 17 producing wells. The existing wells, plus the additional wells, could result in development of between 150 and 450 natural gas wells within the Jonah Field II area with 300 wells the most likely development scenario. However, the level and rate of additional drilling and development will be contingent upon natural gas prices and delineation of the producing formation. Facilities at each new well site will include an individual separator, a dehydrator, and production units. Associated facilities will include access roads, a 3 to 4 inch diameter buried natural gas gathering system, replacement of existing 8 inch natural gas transmission pipeline with a 12 inch pipeline, and expansion of the natural gas powered compressor station.

An environmental assessment was prepared on natural gas development within the Jonah Prospect Field in 1994. The decision concluded that a certain level of development could be authorized without resulting in significant impact to the human environment. Additional delineation wells may be approved during preparation of the EIS so long as it remains within the scope of the existing environmental analysis and BLM policy on drilling exploration and delineation wells. Land and resource management issues and concerns associated with the construction of roads, well pads, and pipelines; the drilling and completion of wells, and the operation and maintenance of a producing natural gas field that will be analyzed in the EIS include:

- No surface occupancy within 1/2 mile of a ferruginous hawk nest.
- Potential impacts to nesting raptors.
- Threatened/Endangered/Candidate species (plant and animal).
- Potential impacts of sage grouse breeding, nesting, and winter range habitat.
- Potential impacts to Sublette antelope herd migration.
- Revegetation and restoration of short-term disturbances and long-term stabilization, and control of noxious weeds.
- Potential conflicts with livestock and range improvements.
- Potential impacts on cultural resources (prehistoric and historic resources).
- Increase drilling related traffic on Federal and State highways and increased public access to the area.

- Social and economic affects to the local communities (increased Federal, State, and local revenues).
- Potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources.
- Air quality and potential impacts to nearby Wilderness Areas.
- Potential impacts on wetlands and/or riparian areas.
- Potential impacts on paleontology.
- Hazardous substances.
- Potential impacts to wildlife habitat and fish habitat (Colorado River water depletions, if applicable).
- Human and domestic animal safety.
- Potential impacts to State Priority One bird and mammals.
- Cumulative impacts—from the company's proposal added to other energy-related activities that are on-going or planned in the vicinity of the Jonah Field II.
- Split-estate concerns.

Dated: July 23, 1996.

Alan R. Pierson,  
State Director.

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#### [AK-020-1220-04-P]

#### Recreation Fee Collection at Fortymile Management Area Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Developed Campgrounds

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will begin fee collection at the following campgrounds during the summer of 1996 (on or about 1 August):

Eagle Campground, Mile 162, Taylor Highway (Eagle, AK)

Walker Fork Campground, Mile 82, Taylor Highway

West Fork Campground, Mile 49, Taylor Highway.

Fees at all of the sites are \$6.00 per night, with golden age passport half-price.

Direct questions and responses to: Jeff Roach, Fortymile Management Area, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 309, Tok, Alaska 99780-0309, Tel: (907) 883-5121.

Dated: July 12, 1996.

Robert C. Burritt,

Team Lead, Fortymile Management Area.

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#### [AZ-050-06-1220-00-1610-00]

#### Arizona: Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (Yuma Desert) and Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment and Invitation to Participate in the Identification of Issues; Yuma District, AZ.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District (BLM), is preparing an Amendment/Environmental Assessment to the Yuma District and Lower Gila South (Goldwater Amendment) Resource Management Plans (RMP). The Goldwater Amendment established the 84,500-acre Yuma Desert and Sand Dunes Habitat Management Area and the 25,500-acre Gran Desierto Dunes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), emphasizing protection and enhancement of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat and a unique dune system. The proposed Amendment would expand these boundaries to form the Yuma Desert Management Area, modify and expand management prescriptions throughout the management area, designate a utility corridor between Interstate 8 and the Southerly International Boundary, and establish a mitigation and compensation policy within flat-tailed horned lizard habitat in Yuma District.

**DATES:** Written comments related to the identification of issues will be accepted until August 28, 1996. Due to the noncontroversial nature of the proposal, no public meetings are scheduled.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District Office, Attention: Brenda Smith, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, Arizona 85365.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Smith, Renewable Resources Advisor, Yuma District Office, Yuma, Arizona. Telephone (520) 317-3216.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** BLM has been working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and several other agencies to develop a conservation agreement to alleviate threats to the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), a species proposed for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As part of the management strategy for this species, these agencies have proposed establishing a management area for the flat-tailed horned lizard in the Yuma Desert, Yuma