

permit number PRT-817371 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Orms at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue or amend permits to take endangered wildlife species when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are in 50 CFR 17.22.

Applicant

Bon Terre-B, Ltd. plans to develop 35.8 acres of the 128.2-acre tract in Lake Pointe IV. The proposed development will be located approximately 11.8 miles southwest of Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action will eliminate approximately 35.8 acres of habitat and three warbler territories. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of golden-cheeked warbler habitat by establishing 92.4 acres as a conservation area on site.

The conservation area will be added to the already established 145-acre Lake Pointe Preserve and will increase the protected acreage in the South Lake Austin macrosite. Alternatives to this action were rejected because selling or not developing the subject property with federally listed species present was not economically feasible.

Lynn B. Starnes,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico

[FR Doc. 96-27931 Filed 11-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-2822-00-N355: GP7-0009]

Closure of Public Lands

AGENCY: Prineville District, Deschutes Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately, the Skeleton Fire Area as legally described below is closed to all motorized vehicle use, except those defined as open roads. The purpose of this closure is to protect wildlife, vegetation, and watershed resources. Exemptions to this closure will apply to administrative personnel of the Bureau of Land Management. Other exemptions to this closure may be made on a case by case basis by the authorized officer. This closure will remain in effect until May 1, 1998.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: This closure order applies to all public land within the area of Township 18S, Range 13E, Sections 14-36, Township 18S, Range 14E, Section 31, Township 19S, Range 13E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 25, Township 19S, Range 14E, Sections 6, 7, 18, and 19, WM, Deschutes County, Oregon. Only two roads will remain open during the closure period;

—BLM Road 6516 from Old Highway 20 south to Forest Road 2015.

—Stokey Flat Road, from the intersection of Gosney Road and Arnold Market Road in a southeast direction to the intersection with BLM Road 6516.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Schmidt, Wildlife Biologist, BLM Prineville District, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754, telephone 541-416-6784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8341.2 and 43 CFR 8364.1 Violations of this closure order are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

Dated: October 23, 1996.

James Hancock,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-28342 Filed 11-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

[WY-920-07-1320-01]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale; Antelope Tract, WYW128322

October 24, 1996.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the Antelope Tract described below in Converse County, Wyoming, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 4, 1996. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the First Floor Conference Room (Room 107) of the Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mavis Love, Land Law Examiner, or

Eugene Jonart, Coal Coordinator, at (307) 775-6258 and (307) 775-6257, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application filed by Antelope Coal Company of Gillette, Wyoming. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following-described lands located in Converse County approximately 55 miles north of Douglas, Wyoming and 60 miles south of Gillette, Wyoming:

T. 41 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Sec. 30: Lots 15 thru 18;

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M. Wyoming
Sec. 25: Lots 5 thru 8, 13, 14;
Sec. 26: Lots 9 thru 11, 14, 15.

Containing 617.20 acres

Of the total acreage, approximately 155 acres are unsuitable for mining due to the presence of County Road 37 and the Burlington Northern/Chicago and Northwestern railroad right-of-way along the north side of the eastern half of the tract.

The tract is adjacent to the Antelope Mine and contains surface minable coal reserves in both the Anderson and the Canyon seams currently being mined in the existing mine. The Anderson seam averages about 40 feet thick and outcrops in the eastern half of the tract. The deeper Canyon seam averages about 33.5 feet thick.

The overburden above the Anderson seam averages about 94 feet thick while the overburden above the Canyon seam east of the Anderson outcrop averages about 130 feet thick. The interburden between the two seams averages about 31 feet thick. The total in-place stripping ratio (BCY/ton) of the two seams varies from about .5:1 to about 4:1, but is generally between 1:1 and 2:1 over most of the tract.

The tract contains an estimated 60,364,000 tons of minable coal with 31,929,000 tons coming from the Anderson seam and 28,435,000 tons coming from the Canyon seam. This estimate of minable reserves does not include any tonnage from the 155 acres unsuitable for mining, nor does it include tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal. The coal in both seams is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality of the two seams averages 8779 Btu/lb., 4.22 percent ash, 25.7 percent moisture, 1.21 percent sodium, and .23 percent sulfur. These quality averages place these coal reserves near the top end of coal quality currently being mined in the southern Powder River Basin.