

Containing 39.15 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following additional lands containing an additional estimated 9 million tons of coal reserves be included in the application:

T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Sec. 32: Lots 12 and 13.

Containing 81.16 acres, more or less.

The tract as amended by the BLM contains a total of 1481.93 acres and approximately 149 million tons of coal.

The lease application area is west of and contiguous with SMC Mining Company's existing North Rochelle Mine and with Thunder Basin Coal Company's Black Thunder Mine. The North Rochelle Mine began producing coal in 1990. There are no existing mine facilities or rail facilities at the North Rochelle Mine; however, these facilities are currently being permitted. Coal is produced from an existing Federal lease (WYW71692) by truck and shovel and the produced coal is hauled by truck from the mine site to a contracted buyer. Production from the existing lease is scheduled to meet the diligence requirements of Section 2(a)(2)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act in late 1996. The company has applied to lease the proposed North Rochelle Tract (initially called the North Roundup Tract) as a maintenance tract for the North Rochelle Mine.

The DEIS analyzes three alternatives. The Proposed Action is to lease the tract as applied for to the successful bidder. Alternative A is to lease the tract as modified by the BLM to the successful bidder. This is the Preferred Alternative of the BLM. The third alternative is the No Action Alternative, which assumes that the lease is not issued.

The North Rochelle tract does not contain enough coal to open a new mine. It would be logically mined by either the existing North Rochelle Mine or the existing Black Thunder Mine.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because the surface of some of the lands included in the tract is owned by the Federal Government and administered by the USFS as part of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is also a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS, because it is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining operations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Dated: November 1, 1996.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 96-29112 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

[WY-018-1220-00]

Emergency Closure of Certain Roads and Trails; Buffalo Creek Area, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of emergency closure of certain roads and trails in the Buffalo Creek Area, Washakie County, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective September 27, 1996, some roads and trails on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Worland District, Bighorn Basin Resource Area, will be closed to all vehicular use. These roads and trails are located in the Buffalo Creek area south and west of the Nowater Stock Drive (BLM road 1404), in Washakie County, Wyoming. As of the effective date, only roads designated by a "white arrow" are available for use. All roads and trails not designated with a "white arrow" are closed to motorized use. No off-road travel will be allowed in these areas other than by emergency vehicles or as allowed by the Bighorn Basin Resource Area Manager.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This emergency vehicle management is effective September 27, 1996 and will remain in effect until December 1998 unless modified or rescinded by the Bighorn Basin Resource Area Manager.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Baker, Outdoor Recreation Planner or Charles F. Wilkie, Area Manager, Bighorn Basin Resource Area, P.O. Box 119, 101 South 23rd Street, Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119. Telephone (307)347-5100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bighorn Basin Resource Area is responsible for off-road vehicle management in the entire resource area. The Buffalo Creek area experienced a large fire which began August 25, 1996 and burned about 46,000 acres of private, state, and federal lands. The purpose of this emergency closure is to eliminate unnecessary vehicle use while providing some access into the area for recreation. This order will help to aid in the area's rehabilitation after the fire. Vehicles traveling off-road in a burned area would damage re-emerging plants, increase erosion, and could spread noxious weeds.

The management of off-road vehicles is covered under the Washakie Resource Management Plan (RMP), signed September 2, 1988.

The Buffalo Creek area is an important wildlife habitat and hunting area. The recent fire burned more than 90 percent of the area leaving very little winter forage for wildlife. Keeping vehicle traffic on designated roads and trails for one or two growing seasons will help in the rehabilitation of the area. There is also a need to allow some vehicle access into the area in order for hunters to harvest big game animals that may perish due to a lack of winter forage. The Bighorn Basin Resource Area will analyze the effect of this road management in the summer of 1997 and the Bighorn Basin Resource Area Manager will extend the management until December 1998, if it is deemed necessary.

The following described BLM-administered lands south and west of the Nowater Stock Trail and east of the Sand Point Divide are included in this emergency closure: Sixth Principal Meridian, Township 43 North, Range 90 West, sections 25 and 36; Township 43 North, Range 89 West, sections 8, 9, 10, and 14 through 36; Township 42 North, Range 89 West; Township 42 North, Range 90 West, sections 1, 12, and 13. Authority to close roads and trail to off-road vehicles is provided under 43 CFR subpart 8341.2 (a and b), and 8364.1. Violations are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: November 5, 1996.

Charles F. Wilkie,

Bighorn Basin Area Manager, Worland District.

[FR Doc. 96-29086 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

National Park Service

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Commission Meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Commission Act that a meeting of the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, St. Croix, Advisory Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the following location and date.

DATES: December 4, 1996.

LOCATION: The Buccaneer Hotel, 5007 Estate Shoys #7, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820.