

Obyan Beach Resort Associates; (2) impacts are minimized during construction, and (3) incidental take is mitigated by the establishment of a wildlife mitigation bank and other measures specified in the Habitat Conservation Plan. This mitigation bank would be established in perpetuity for the protection of the endangered nightingale reed-warbler and other wildlife species. Alternative 2 entails developing the project as originally permitted by the local government. The impacts to nightingale reed-warblers on site would be greater under this alternative and a wildlife mitigation bank would not be established. Under Alternative 1, the no action alternative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not issue an incidental take permit. The area leased would then be likely to revert back to the Commonwealth government. None of the existing nightingale reed-warblers would be lost, at least immediately. After the land reverted back to the Commonwealth, it would then be available for other uses. These uses could have greater impacts to nightingale reed-warblers as a result of subdivision and the subsequent habitat fragmentation. Under the no action alternative, the mitigation sites would not be preserved as a wildlife mitigation bank.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: February 12, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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Bureau of Land Management

[WY-985-0222-66]

Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project in Natrona County, Wyoming; Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which analyzes the environmental consequences of the oil and gas operators proposal to continue to drill wells on their leased acreages within the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman oil and gas project area. This development area is located in Natrona County and generally located within Townships 36 and 37 North; Ranges 86 and 87 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 20/26 west of Casper, Wyoming; and, north of Waltman, Wyoming via county road 104. Access to the interior of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman project area is provided by a road system developed to service prior and on-going drilling and production activities.

DATES: Comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The EPA notice is expected on or about February 14, 1997. In addition, a public meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 1997. The meeting will be located at the University of Wyoming, Natrona County Cooperative Extension Building, 2011 Fairgrounds Road, Casper, Wyoming. The meeting will be in two parts beginning with an open house from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. followed by a public meeting from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Comments on the DEIS will be entertained during the open house and the public meeting.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS should be sent to Ms. Kate Padilla, Team Leader for the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project EIS, Bureau of Land Management, Casper District Office, 1701 East "E" Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS analyzes a proposed action, two (2) development alternatives, and the no action alternative. The proposal presented by the operators is to continue to drill additional wells on their leased acreage within this natural gas development area. The current oil and gas operators are Chevron U.S.A., Barrett Resources Corporation, Prima

Oil & Gas Company, Goldmark Engineering, Inc., W.A. Moncrief, Jr., Marathon Oil Company, and John P. Lockridge, Inc. The land ownership pattern of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman project area is 66 percent Private, 29 percent Federal (BLM), and 5 percent State of Wyoming. The mineral ownership is as follows, 20 percent Private, 77 percent Federal (BLM), and 3 percent State of Wyoming.

Over the next 10 years, the operators propose to drill up to 160 additional wells where approximately 40 wells are currently active to obtain maximum recovery of natural gas from existing Federal, State, and private oil and gas leases. The area was divided into four segments by the operators to allow for better definition of the Proposed Action with regard to well spacing and density, based on BLM's February 1996, preliminary geologic report. The two development alternatives analyze wells based on areas defined in the BLM's June 1996, final geologic report.

The DEIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socio-economic resources in and surrounding the project area. The focus of the impact analysis was based upon resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping. Potential impacts of concern from development were primarily concerned with raptor breeding and nesting, sensitive soils, and economics.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

Alan L. Kesterke,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-4097 Filed 2-19-97; 8:45 am]

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[UT-056-1430-01-24-1A]

Mountain Valley Management Framework Plan; Piute Co., UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend plan.

SUMMARY: This Notice of Intent is to advise the public that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to consider a proposal which would require amending an existing planning document.

DATES: The comment period for this proposed plan amendment will commence with publication of this notice. Comments must be submitted within the thirty day period commencing with the publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Henderson, Sevier River Resource Area Manager, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701. Existing