

0400, Telephone Number (202) 708-2290. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may also utilize HUD's TTY Number at (202) 708-1455 or the Federal Information Relay Service's TTY Number at (800) 877-8339. Aside from the "800" number, the telephone and TTY numbers listed are not toll-free.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title XIII, Subchapter C, Part I Section 1391 (Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities and Rural Development Investment Areas) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, Public Law 103-66, 107 Stat. 543, approved August 10, 1993, codified as 26 U.S.C. 1391, *et seq.*, authorized the designation of an aggregate of nine Empowerment Zones and 95 Enterprise Communities. Under this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development was authorized to designate up to six urban Enterprise Communities, and the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized to designate up to three rural Empowerment Zones and up to 30 rural Enterprise Communities.

Title IX, Subtitle F, Chapter 1, Section 952 (Designation of New Empowerment Zones) of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Public Law 105-34, 111 Stat. 885, approved August 5, 1997, amended 26 U.S.C. 1391 to add a new paragraph (g), that changed the eligibility criteria for 20 new Empowerment Zones, 15 of which are to be in urban areas and designated by the Secretary of HUD, and five of which are to be in rural areas and designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The 1997 Act also made some specific changes in the eligibility criteria for new Empowerment Zones.

(On January 7, 1998, the Secretary of HUD delegated his authority to designate two additional urban Empowerment Zones, in accordance with an amendment made by section 951 of the 1997 Act, to the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. Notice was given to the public of this delegation of authority by publication in the **Federal Register** on January 26, 1998 (63 FR 3761).)

Accordingly, the Secretary delegates authority as follows.

#### **Section A. Authority Delegated**

The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development delegates to the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development the authority to designate 15 additional urban Empowerment Zones, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 1391(g) as amended by Title IX, Subtitle F, Chapter 1, Section 952 (Designation of New Empowerment Zones) of the Taxpayer Relief Act of

1997, Public Law 105-34, 111 Stat. 885, approved August 5, 1997.

#### **Section B. Authority Excepted**

The authority delegated under Section A does not include the power to sue or be sued.

**Authority:** Section 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: December 30, 1998.

**Andrew Cuomo,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-442 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-32-P**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Notice of Intent To Issue a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Associated Environmental Assessment for Little River National Wildlife Refuge, Broken Bow, OK**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Assessment for the Little River National Wildlife Refuge, Broken Bow, Oklahoma, pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and its implementing regulations.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies may be obtained by writing to: April Fletcher, Refuge Program Specialist, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of the final document. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service has considered comments and advise generated in response to

draft documents prior to the preparation of this final CCP. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final document.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-272 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-U**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-030-1320-00 [WYW139975]]

#### **Ark Land Company Coal Lease Application, Carbon County, WY**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Bureau of Land Management announces the availability of the FEIS for Ark Land Company Coal Lease Application (WYW139975) in the Green River-Hams Fork Coal Production Region of Wyoming.

**DATES:** Written comments on the FEIS will be accepted for thirty (30) days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. We expect EPA will publish that notice on January 8, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address questions, comments, or requests for copies of the FEIS to Field Manager, Rawlins Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 2407, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Vosika Neuman, Project Team Leader, or John Spehar, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at the above address or by telephone at 307-328-4200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.1, Ark Land Company, St. Louis, Missouri (Ark), filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on September 20, 1996, to obtain a coal lease on 4145.15 acres of Federal coal lands located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The lease application area is located within the Carbon Basin Coal Project Area approximately 5 miles northwest of the town of Elk Mountain and 12 miles southeast of the town of Hanna. The Project Area encompasses 18,360 acres of intermingled Federal, State, and private lands.

Based upon BLM's recommendation, Ark amended their application to include an additional 1280 acres of Federal land containing approximately 59 million tons of in-place coal reserves and deleted 190 acres of Federal land which either contained no recoverable coal or were unsuitable for coal mining. These modifications to the lease tract were made to enable preparation of a reasonable underground mine plan with enough reserves for a new mine start. Ark's amended Federal coal lease application contains a total of 5235.15 acres and approximately 149.7 million tons of in-place coal. There are an estimated 235.9 million tons of private and State coal within the Project Area.

Coal mining would be conducted by Arch of Wyoming, Inc. (Arch), an affiliate of Ark, if it is successful in obtaining a Federal coal lease in the proposed Project Area. Arch has operated coal mines in the Hanna Basin Region of Carbon County since 1972.

The FEIS analyzes two alternatives in detail—the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action, the preferred alternative, the BLM would hold a competitive lease sale for surface-minable and underground-minable Federal coal. The Proposed Action analyzes leasing Federal coal for both the Elk Mountain surface mining operation and the Saddleback Hills underground mining operation and examines 10 options for transporting coal to processing/loadout facilities. The No Action Alternative analyzes no leasing of any Federal coal in the Project Area. A "no mining" alternative (no mining of any Federal, State, or private coal in the Project Area) is not analyzed in detail. Seventy-nine percent of the surface-minable coal within the Project Area is privately owned and BLM believes that the private surface coal could be economically mined even if the Federal coal were not leased. If no Federal coal were leased, the non-Federal underground coal reserves would be uneconomical to mine because of the difficulty of mining small tracts of intermingled private and State coal.

The United States Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. OSM is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was made available to the public on August 7, 1998. Thirteen written comment letters were received on the draft document. They are included, with the responses, in Chapter 8.0 of the FEIS.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION:** Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

**Alan R. Pierson,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-489 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-09-1020-00]

#### New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting Cancellation

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Cancellation of Council Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announced a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting was to be held on January 21 and 22, 1999 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM.

This is notice that the meeting is cancelled. There are seven vacancies on the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (NM/RAC) and to date no replacement appointments have been made by the Secretary of the Interior. Since the fifteen member RAC would not have a quorum if a meeting were held it is felt that the scheduled January 21-22, 1999 NM/RAC meeting should be cancelled and rescheduled when the seven vacant positions are filled.

The process of receiving nominations for appointments to the NM/RAC

occurred last May and it is those applications that were received that are under consideration now for appointment. Since it is not known when the seven appointments will be made the NM/RAC meeting scheduled for January 21-22, 1999 is cancelled. The next meeting will be rescheduled as soon as appointments are made and arrangements to hold the meeting can be completed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Armstrong, New Mexico State Office, Planning and Policy Team, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7436.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: January 5, 1999.

**M.J. Chavez,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-490 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-1430-01: WYW-143438]

#### Realty Action; Restricted Access to Public Right-of-Way, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action.

**SUMMARY:** The following public land in Teton County will be closed to public access from March 15 to September 1 of each year to provide a disturbance free area for raptor activity under Section 3 and Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

#### Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 40 N. R. 116 W.

Section 34, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

These lands contain approximately 0.40 acres.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM proposes to put up a gate and sign to restrict public access on the above described land. This closure will protect raptor habitat.