

Amendment, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457-1160.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Majerus, 406-538-7461 or Dick Kramer, 406-329-1008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Montana/Dakotas BLM administers 8.5 million acres of public land within 10 field offices. Each office manages OHV use under a land use plan. These land use plans allow for three designations of vehicle use; open, limited, and closed. These land use plans vary considerably in OHV designations. More recent plans limit OHV use to existing or designated roads and trails in portions of the area, while older plans were developed prior to the increased use of OHVs and leave most areas open. Currently, 5 million acres are open for unrestricted travel, 3.4 million acres are limited seasonally or yearlong to existing or designated roads and trails, and 99,000 acres are closed.

The FS administers 18.2 million acres of land in Montana and the Dakotas located within nine national forests and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Each national forest manages OHV use as part of their forest plans. The OHV use is prohibited in all designated wilderness areas. Forest plans allow for three designations of use in other areas; open, restricted, and closed. Forest plans vary considerably in the amount of area designated for these uses. Some forests have many areas that are open while other forests have few open areas. Some forests restrict OHV use to designated roads and trails only. All forest plans were prepared prior to the recent increase in OHV use and the new development of all terrain vehicle technology.

One of the many opportunities on public land is traveling the backcountry for recreational pursuits, such as sight-seeing, wood cutting, fishing, hunting, and other activities as provided by the direction of existing land management and resource plans. Some of this use occurs on public lands where OHV use is currently limited to existing or designated roads and trails. It is the goal of both agencies to provide for a wide spectrum of dispersed recreation activities that will minimize environmental impacts and minimize conflicts between user groups.

However, there are large areas of public land that are open to cross-country travel off roads and trails. This unrestricted use has the potential to continue the spread of noxious weeds, create user conflicts, cause erosion, damage cultural sites, and disrupt wildlife and wildlife habitat. The

magnitude of these impacts is not known at this time. With an increase in OHV traffic and changes in OHV technology, the public and land management agencies recognize the need to evaluate the current management decisions for those areas where driving off roads and trails is allowed.

A change in management direction would be accomplished through an EIS and an interagency plan amendment. The plan amendment would address the use of wheeled, motorized vehicles designed for and/or capable of travel off roads and trails.

The BLM and FS propose changing the areas currently open seasonally or yearlong to cross-country OHV use to a designation that allows for travel only on roads and trails. However, this would not change most of the current limited or closed designations, or designated intensive use areas. Travel planning currently under consideration at individual FS and BLM offices will continue and those analyses with recent decisions will remain in place under this proposal. Exceptions for off-road travel will be considered for game retrieval, camping, or disabled access. Access allowed under the terms and conditions of a federal lease or permit would not be affected by the proposal. This broad scale decision as proposed would be an interim decision until revision or completion of travel management plans.

After the plan amendment is completed, the BLM and FS would continue to develop travel plans for geographical areas (i.e., landscape analysis, watershed plans, or activity plans). Through travel planning, roads and trails would be inventoried, mapped, and designated as open or closed. Travel planning may identify areas for trail development or further limit travel off roads and trails. Travel planning may require implementation over a 10 to 15 year period.

Snowmobile use will not be addressed in this particular proposal. The agencies agree that to do so would lengthen the process significantly. In addition, the resource impacts associated with snowmobile use are different enough to warrant a separate analysis. The agencies are currently exploring options for addressing snowmobile use.

The scoping period for the plan amendment and EIS will begin in January 1999, and open houses will be held in February 1999. The dates, times and locations of these open houses will be announced in local newspapers, and other news media, and available from the local offices of the BLM and FS. A

draft plan amendment and EIS should be available for review in June 1999, with public meetings in July 1999. The comment period on the draft plan amendment and EIS will be 90 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: Sec. 202, Pub. L. 94-579, 90 Stat. 2747 (43 U.S.C. 1712), Sec. 6, Pub. L. 94-588, 90 Stat. 2949 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

Larry E. Hamilton,
State Director.

Dale N. Bosworth,
Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-00]

Powder River Regional Coal Team Activities: Schedule of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Wyoming.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) announces that it has scheduled a public meeting for February 23, 1999, for the following purposes: (1) Review current and proposed activities in the Powder River Coal Region, (2) review new and pending coal lease applications (LBA), and (3) make recommendations on new coal lease applications.

DATES: The RCT meeting will begin at 9 a.m. MDT, on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, in the Centennial South Conference Room of the Radisson Northern Hotel, Broadway & 1st Ave. North, Billings, MT, 406-245-5121. The meeting is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Northern Hotel, Broadway & 1st Ave. North, Billings, MT, 406-245-5121. Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Schlagel, Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828 (MS-922), Cheyenne, WY 82003, 307-775-6257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss two new pending coal leases by application (LBA) from Jacobs Ranch Coal Company (Kennecott Energy Company) (WYW146744), filed on October 2, 1998, for an estimated 519 million tons and 4,821 acres, and the Spring Creek Coal Company (Kennecott Energy Company) (MTM88405) filed June 26, 1998, for an estimated 15.4 million tons and 150

acres. This is the initial public notification of the pending applications listed above, in accordance with the "Powder River Operational Guidelines" (1991). Generally, a coal lease application filed under the LBA portion of BLM regulations (43 CFR 3425) takes 2-4 years to be processed to the competitive sale stage, depending on informational and environmental study requirements. The RCT may generate recommendation(s) for any or all of the new and pending LBAs.

The meeting will serve as a forum for public discussion on Federal coal management issues of concern in the Powder River Basin region. Any party interested in providing comments or data related to the above pending applications may either do so in writing to the State Director (925), Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003, no later than February 12, 1999, or by addressing the RCT with his/her concerns at the meeting on February 23, 1999. The draft agenda for the meeting follows.

1. Introduction of RCT Members and guests.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the April 23, 1997, RCT meeting held in Casper, WY.

3. Regional Coal Activity Status:

a. Current Production and Trend.

b. Activity Since Last RCT Meeting.

c. Status of pending LBAs previously reviewed by RCT:

—North Rochelle LBA—WYW127221

—Powder River—WYW136142

—Thundercloud—WYW136458

—Belle Ayr—WYW141568

d. Status of the Belco/Hay Creek Coal Exchange.

e. Environmental Status Check update.

f. Wetlands Unsuitability Criteria update.

g. Status of Coal Leasing Potential Report.

4. Lease Applicant Presentations:

—Spring Creek Coal Company

—Jacobs Ranch Coal Company

5. RCT Activity Planning Recommendations

—Review and recommendation(s) on pending lease Application(s)

6. Discussion of the next meeting.

7. Adjourn.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-1070 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-1310-00]

Notice of Intent for Planning Analyses

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

SUMMARY: The Jackson Field Office, Eastern States, will prepare a Planning Analyses (PA) for consideration of leasing two scattered tracts of Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. The PAs will be prepared in concert with Environmental Analyses (EA).

The notice is issued pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.7 and Title 43 CFR 1610.2(c). The planning effort will follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 1600.

The public is invited to participate in this planning process, beginning with the identification of planning issues and criteria.

DATES: Comments relating to the identification of planning issues and criteria will be accepted through February 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Bureau of Land Management, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, Mississippi 39206.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Quazi T. Islam, Physical Scientist, Jackson Field Office, (601) 977-5473.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM has responsibility to consider applications to lease Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. An interdisciplinary team will be used in preparation of the PA/EAs. Preliminary issues, subject to change as a result of public input, are (1) potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on the surface resources and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources.

Due to the scattered nature of the two tracts proposed for leasing, a separate analysis will be prepared for each tract. Tract locations, along with acreages, are listed below.

Alabama, Conecuh County, St. Stephens Meridian,

T 6 N, R 9 E, Section 33; 53 acres more or less.

Mississippi, Lowndes County, Huntsville Meridian,

T 16 N, R 18 W, Sections 31 and 32; T 16 S, R 19 W, Section 36; and T 17 S, R 18 W, Section 5; all within the boundary of the Columbus Air Force Base containing 1381.5 acres more or less.

Due to the limited scope of this PA/EA process, public meetings are not scheduled.

Bruce E. Dawson,

Field Manager, Jackson.

[FR Doc. 99-1495 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-050-99-1430-01; AZA 29964, AZA 29969-AZA 29975, AZA 2997-AZA 29983, AZA 29985-AZA 29989]

Arizona: Notice of Realty Action; Competitive Sale of Public Land in Quartzsite, La Paz County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Extension of notice.

SUMMARY: The following land in La Paz County, Arizona, has been found suitable for disposal under sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750, 43 U.S.C. 1713). The extension will allow additional time to complete the sale.

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 4N., R. 19W.,

Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 29, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Aggregating 260.00 acres, more or less.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 20, 1996, the Yuma Field Office published a notice for this public land sale in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 67342). This notice segregated the subject public land from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, pending disposition of the action or 270 days from the date of publication of the notice in the **Federal Register**. An Extension of the Notice for segregation was published in the **Federal Register** on September 23, 1997 (62 FR 49701). A second Extension of the Notice for segregation was published in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 1998 (63 FR 29746).

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** that segregation will be extended pending disposition of the action or for another 270 day period, whichever occurs first.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie DeBock, Realty Specialist, Uyma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, AZ 85365, (520) 317-3208.