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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-033-99-1230-00-OHV1]

Temporary Closure of Public Lands: Nevada, Carson City District

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior Department.

ACTION: Temporary closure of affected public lands in Lyon, Storey, Churchill, Carson, Douglas, Mineral and Washoe Counties on and adjacent to Off Highway Vehicle race course routes. Races are conducted at various times from May through November, 1999:

1. May 8 & 9, 1999: Virginia City Grand Prix—Permit Number NV-030-99504A.
2. May 30, 1999: Yerington 300 Desert Race—Permit Number NV-030-96510A.
3. June 6, 1999: Hungry Valley ORV Area—Permit Number NV-030-99028.
4. August 7, 1999: Top Gun Desert Race—Permit Number NV-030-96510B.
5. October 1, 1999: Vegas to Reno OHV Race—Permit Number (Pending).
6. October 31, 1999: Wassuks Motorcycle Race—Permit Number (Pending).
7. November 14, 1999: Dead Camels Race—Permit Number NV-030-99504B.
8. November 28, 1999: Prison Hill ORV Area—Permit Number (Pending).

SUMMARY: The Assistant Manager, Non-Renewable Resources announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under her administration. This action is taken to provide for public safety and to protect adjacent resources.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Listed above. Events may be cancelled or rescheduled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fran Hull, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701, Telephone: (775) 885-6161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bureau lands to be closed to public use include the width and length of those roads and trails identified as the race route by colorful flagging and directional arrows attached to wooden stakes. A map of each closure area may be obtained at the contact address. The event permittees are required to clearly mark and monitor the event routes during the closure periods. Closure period is from 6:00 a.m. race day until race finish. Spectator and support vehicles may be driven on open roads only and may observe the

races from safe locations as directed by event and BLM officials.

Exemptions: Closure restrictions do not apply to race officials, medical/rescue, law enforcement and agency personnel monitoring the event.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364 and 43 CFR 8372.

Penalty: Any person failing to comply with the closure orders may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 USC 3571, or both.

Dated: March 31, 1999.

Margaret L. Jensen,
Assistant Manager, Non-renewable Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-034-99-5440-00-CO23; COC61945, COC61357, COC61209]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Intent

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture.

Responsible Officials:

Ann Morgan, State Director, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield, Denver, CO 80215.

Robert L. Storch, Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, U.S. Forest Service, 2250 US Hwy 50, Delta, CO 81416.

ACTION: Notice of Intent and Notice of Scoping to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on lease and exploration license applications for Federal coal in Delta and Gunnison Counties, Colorado.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) will direct preparation of a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental effects of proposed actions to offer the Iron Point and Elk Creek Coal Lease Tracts for competitive bidding and the Iron Point Coal Exploration license for exploration drilling in accordance with 43 CFR parts 3425 and part 3410. The BLM will be the lead agency for preparation of the EIS and the FS will be a joint lead agency. The Office of

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will participate as a cooperating agency.

The original application for coal lease was filed in August 1997 by Bowie Resources Limited (Bowie) requesting the BLM to offer for competitive lease for approximately 3,403.27 acres of federal coal in Delta County, Colorado. It was designated the Iron Point Tract. In December 1997, the BLM received a competitive lease application from Oxbow Mining, Inc. (Oxbow), requesting for competitive lease approximately 3,702.81 acres of federal coal in Delta and Gunnison Counties, Colorado. The Tract delineation by the Uncompahgre Field Office resulted in the addition of 160 acres of federal coal for a total of 3,862.81 acres. This tract was designated the Elk Creek Tract. In addition, Bowie Resources, LTD submitted an application for a coal exploration license on unleased lands adjacent to the above coal lease application areas. The exploration lands contain approximately 6,053.00 acres. Lands affected by these applications are managed by both the BLM and Forest Service.

Separate Environmental Assessments (EA) were completed on the two lease applications, but not on the exploration license. As part of the NEPA public process, the BLM and USFS subsequently determined that the requirements of NEPA would be best served by preparing a single EIS for these coal applications.

DATES: The public has the opportunity to submit written comments on concerns or issues that the Agencies should address in processing these coal applications. The Agencies will accept written comments on the scope of analyses for the application areas at the address given below. Comments should be submitted by May 17, 1999, in order to be considered in the draft EIS. A public scoping meeting will be held April 21, 1999 at the Hotchkiss High School, 3535J 60 Lane, Hotchkiss, CO at 7:00 pm. At this time, it is estimated that a Draft EIS will be available in mid August 1999 and a Final EIS will be available in mid December 1999.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments, or concerns on the EIS to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Jerry Jones, 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO, 81401, or fax them to 970-240-5368.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Jones at the above address, or phone: 970-240-5338.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August of 1997, Bowie filed coal lease application COC61209 (Iron Point Tract)