

Prohibited Act

Motorized vehicles are not allowed in the closed area.

Exemptions

Persons who are exempt from these rules include BLM employees, Federal, State, or local officers, and members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty, and any person authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management.

Penalties

The authority for this closure is found under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Richard C. Prather,

Area Manager, Cascades Resource Area.

[FR Doc. 99-27703 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****Notice of Availability of Record of Decision**

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) approving the Colorado Sodium Products Development Project (Project), located in Rio Blanco County and Garfield County, Colorado. American Soda L.L.P. will be required to obtain the necessary federal, state, and local permits and approvals prior to commencing the project.

DATES: A thirty day appeal period will begin October 26, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: American Soda, L.L.P. (American Soda) intends to construct and operate a commercial hancolite solution mining operation in the northcentral portion of the Piceance Creek Basin in Rio Blanco, County, Colorado. Nahcolite is naturally occurring sodium bicarbonate that is found in association with oil shale deposits. After the hancolite is removed from the ground, it will be processed into a sodium carbonate solution and transported by a 44-mile pipeline south to a processing operation located at an existing industrial site in the Parachute Valley in Garfield County, Colorado.

There it will be further processed to commercial grade sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and other sodium products which would then be shipped from the processing facility via a 4-mile long dedicated rail spur to an interstate rail connection near the town of Parachute.

This Decision selects the Agency Preferred Alternative as described in the Final Environmental Statement (FEIS) which incorporates five monitoring plans as well as project modifications resulting from public comments, plus any additional changes that have occurred since the publication of the FEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Shults, White River Field Office, 73544 Highway 64, Meeker, Colorado 81641, Telephone (970) 878-3601.

Jim Cagney,

Acting Field Officer Area Manager, White River Field Office.

[FR Doc. 99-27867 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-040-00-1310-EJ]

Jonah Field Environmental Assessment, Sublette County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment and to conduct public scoping for a modified proposal for development of the Jonah Field Natural Gas Project.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and to conduct public scoping to address a proposed modification of the Record of Decision (ROD) issued April 27, 1998, for the Jonah Field II Natural Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (April 1998). In that decision, BLM approved development of the Jonah Field at one gas well per 80 acres. Project proponents, McMurry Oil Company and Amoco Production Company, have requested BLM approval of development of the field at one well per 40 acres.

Should the scoping process or the EA identify the potential for significant impacts, BLM would deem the EA to be a draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Further scoping would not be conducted. However, the public will be notified through newspaper articles and a subsequent **Federal Register** notice if significant

impacts are identified in the EA. BLM will also conduct a conformance review of the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) as part of the EA. Any needed changes in existing management or any new management actions to be prescribed for the area will be identified and, if necessary, the Pinedale RMP would be amended.

DATES: Public comments concerning this proposed modification will be accepted for 30 days following the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. A Public Notice will be distributed by mail to local media and known interested parties on or about the date of this notice.

BLM will hold an open house at the Sublette County Library (155 S. Tyler Street, Pinedale, Wyoming) on November 2, 1999, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to answer questions concerning the proposed project modification and to explain the National Environmental Policy Act process chosen for this action.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, ATTN: Arlan Hiner, Project Manager, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlan Hiner, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, Telephone 307-352-0206. Information and a copy of the Public Notice for the Jonah Field EA can be obtained from the following BLM offices: Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901; Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, PO Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941; and Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, PO Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Jonah Field Natural Gas Project is located approximately 32 miles south of Pinedale, Wyoming and 28 miles north of Farson, Wyoming, within Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 107, 108, and 109 West, Sublette County. The 30,320 acre project area includes 28,400 acres Federal surface, 640 acres private surface, and 1,280 acres State surface. The mineral estate includes 29,040 acres Federal minerals and 1,280 acres State minerals. Currently, 170 active gas wells out of 497 wells approved in the Jonah II EIS ROD have been drilled in the project area.

The project proponents would like to proceed with drilling gas wells within the area at a 40 acre spacing (16 wells per section) beginning in the summer of