

management regulations at 43 CFR 3422 and 3425, not less than 30 days prior to publication of a notice of sale, the Secretary shall solicit public comments on the proposed sale, fair market value, and maximum economic recovery on the proposed lease tract. Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation of public comments. Data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on fair market value and maximum economic recovery, except those portions identified as proprietary by the author and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59102, during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59017-6800, and should include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resources;

2. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal including specification of the seams to be mined, timing and rate of production, restriction to mining, and inclusion of the tract in an existing mining operation; and

3. The fair market value appraisal including but not limited to the evaluation of the tract as an incremental unit of an existing mine, selling price of the coal, mining and reclamation costs, net present value discount factors, depreciation and other tax accounting factors, value of the surface estate, and any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

The values given above may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

The EA addresses the cultural, socioeconomic, environmental and cumulative impacts that would likely result from leasing these coal lands. The Proposed Action and two alternatives are addressed in the EA:

Proposed Action—would involve leasing the coal tracts containing about 82 million tons of state and federal coal. Certain coal leasing unsuitability designations for wildlife habitat concerns attached to the federal lease

tract would require mitigation in order to lease the coal.

Alternative A (Preferred Alternative)—would involve leasing the coal tracts as well as redesignating certain coal leasing unsuitability designations established for wildlife habitat concerns adjacent to the proposed lease tracts and to the Spring Creek Mine property in general.

Alternative B—would reject or deny the federal coal lease application. The federal coal lands would not be offered for lease.

The lands included in the coal lease applications are located in Big Horn County, Montana and are described as follows:

Federal Lease Tract MTM 88405

T. 8 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 13: SW¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,
SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄;

Sec. 14: S¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,
S¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄,
NW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄,
NW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;

Sec. 23: NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄,
N¹/₂SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄;

Sec. 24: NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄,
N¹/₂SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, N¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄.
150 acres, more or less.

State of Montana Lease Tracts

Lease C-1099-XX.

T. 8 S., R., 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 14: S¹/₂S¹/₂NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄.

Lease C-1100-XX.

T. 8 S., R., 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 15: NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄,
N¹/₂SE¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄.

Lease C-1101-XX.

T. 8 S., R., 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 23: N¹/₂N¹/₂NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄.
479.16 acres, more or less.

The BLM and Montana DNRC are also coordinating the preparation of a mineral evaluation pursuant to 77-3-312, MCA, covering the state coal tracts. This document is available for review and comment from Montana DNRC. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the mineral evaluation, contact Monte Mason, Montana DNRC, phone (406) 444-3843.

Dated: June 26, 2000.

Timothy M. Murphy,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-17218 Filed 7-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1990-EX]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Oil-Dri Corporation Reno Clay Project Plan of Operations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, Carson City, Nevada

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Oil-Dri Corporation Reno Clay Project mining plan of operations; and notice of scoping period and public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office will direct the preparation of an EIS to be produced by a third-party contractor on the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) of a proposed clay mining operation in Washoe County, Nevada. The BLM invites comments on the scope of the analysis.

DATES: One public scoping meeting will be held on August 8, 2000 to allow the public an opportunity to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS. Representatives of the BLM and Oil-Dri Corporation will be available to answer questions about the proposed Reno Clay Project and the EIS process. Comments will be accepted until August 21, 2000.

The scheduled public meeting is: Reno, NV (5:30-7:30 p.m.)—August 8, 2000. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, North Meeting Room B-1, 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV.

A Draft EIS (DEIS) is expected to be completed by December, 2000 and made available for public review and comment. At that time a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DEIS will be published in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the DEIS will be 60 days from the date the NOA is published.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Scoping comments may be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. ATTN: Clay EIS Project Manager. For additional information, write to the above address or call Terri Knutson, EIS Project Manager at (775) 885-6156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In July 1999 Oil-Dri Corporation of Nevada submitted a plan of operations to the BLM Carson City Field Office for a clay mining operation in Hungry Valley. The plan of operations was held in abeyance pending a determination of locatability

under the mining law until May 2000 when the clay mineral was determined locatable by BLM mineral examiners. At that time processing of the plan of operations commenced and BLM managers determined an environmental impact statement (EIS) would be prepared to analyze potential impacts resulting from the mining operations. The proposed mining operation would occur in phases over 20 years, in two pits, on a total of 340 acres of the 6,000 acres of mining claims Oil-Dri holds in the area. The processing plant for drying, crushing, and packaging of the clay material (cat litter) would be located on Oil-Dri private land located to the south of the mine area. Initially, the mine and processing plant would employ approximately 50 individuals, with an increase to 100 employees over time with expanded production.

The EIS will address issues brought forth through scoping comments and will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of specialists. A range of alternatives and mitigating measures will be considered to evaluate and minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands.

Federal, state, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the BLM decision on the proposed plan of operations are invited to participate in the scoping process with respect to this environmental analysis. These entities and individuals are also invited to submit comments on the DEIS.

It is important that those interested in the proposed activities participate in the scoping and commenting processes. Comments should be as specific as possible.

The project schedule is as follows:
Begin Public Comment Period—July, 2000.

Issue Draft EIS—December 2000.

Issue Final EIS—May 2001.

Issue Record of Decision—June 2001.

The BLM's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) Identification of issues to be addressed; (2) identification of viable alternatives; (3) notification of interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues, or other issues, can be obtained.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday and may be published as part of the EIS. 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. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. 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: July 10, 2000.

John Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 00-17838 Filed 7-13-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-930-1060-JJ-241E]

Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: A public hearing is scheduled at the Bureau of Land Management State Office. A formal hearing will be conducted to receive statements from the public concerning the use of helicopters and motor vehicles in wild horse gather operations within Idaho for calendar year 2000.

DATE AND TIME: July 27, 2000, 6–8 p.m.
Location at the B.L.M.'s Idaho State Office, Sagebrush/Ponderosa Room, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Courtney, Rangeland Management Specialist, Salmon Field Office, Highway 93 South, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467, telephone (208) 756-5469, or Sam Mattise, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705, telephone (208) 384-3356.

The meeting is open to the public and interested persons may make oral statement on the subject. All statements will be recorded.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Kate Kitchell,

Lower Snake River District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-921-1430-ET; WYW 67917]

Public Land Order No. 7458; Revocation of Bureau of Land Management Order Dated August 17, 1948, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order revokes, in its entirety, a Bureau of Land Management order insofar as it affects 7,016.29 acres of public lands withdrawn for the Bureau of Reclamation's Missouri Basin Project, Big Horn Unit No. 3. The lands are no longer needed for reclamation purposes. Of the lands included in this revocation, 4,536.29 acres will not be opened to surface entry and mining until the completion of a planning review. These lands have been and will remain open to mineral leasing. The remaining 2,480 acres have been conveyed out of Federal ownership and the revocation on this portion is a record-clearing action only.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 14, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet Booth, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 N. Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828 (MS-921), Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, 307-775-6124.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Bureau of Land Management Order dated August 17, 1948, which withdrew the following described lands for the Bureau of Reclamation's Missouri Basin Project, Big Horn Unit 3, is hereby revoked in its entirety:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 49 N., R. 92 W.,

Secs. 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31.

T. 49 N., R. 93 W.,

Sec. 12, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and S¹/₂SE¹/₄

Secs. 13, 24, 25, and 36.

The areas described aggregate 7,016.29 acres in Big Horn County.

2. The following described public lands, which are included in paragraph 1, will not be opened to until a planning review and analysis are completed to determine if any of these lands need special designation and protection or have exchange potential:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 49 N., R. 92 W.,

Sec. 18, lots 6 to 9, inclusive;