

during this seasonal closure to protect sensitive wildlife from disturbance by motor vehicles and public traffic. Wintering bald eagles also occupy the area during the closure dates.

Closure signs will be posed at main entry points to this area. Maps of the closure area and information may be obtained from the Baker Field Office, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon.

DATES: This closure will take effect October 6, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penelope Dunn Woods, Bureau of Land Management, Baker Field Manager, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, OR 97814, Telephone (541) 523-1256.

Discussion of the Rules

Under 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management will enforce the following rule on public lands within the closed area. You must follow this rule: You must not enter the closed area between December 1st and May 1st.

Exemptions

Persons who are exempt from these rules include:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties, 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.

2. Any person traveling on the Salmon Creek Road (road numbers 9180 and 9180010) west of the locked gate located in the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 8, Township 9 South, Range 39 East.

3. Owners or lessees of private land accessible by the Salmon Creek Road.

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.

Penelope Dunn Woods,

Field Manager, Baker Resource Area.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-00-1220-EN]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 3R Minerals Coal Bed Canyon Mine

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for 3R Minerals Coal Bed Canyon Mine proposal on lands within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, has been prepared and is available for review and comment. This DEIS is prepared in response to the Notice of Intent to Revise Mining Operations filed by 3R Minerals in June 1999. It analyzes the anticipated impacts of 3R Minerals' proposed action and three alternatives to the proposal.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the following Bureau of Land Management Locations: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters, 180 West 300 North, Kanab, Utah 84741; Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Escalante Field Station, 755 West Main, Escalante, Utah; Utah State Office, 324 South State Street, Suite 301, Salt Lake City, Utah. Copies may be obtained by mail by contacting the Monument Headquarters at the above address or telephoning 435-644-4300.

DATES: Comments must be received by Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters, 180 West 300 North, Kanab, Utah 84741 by December 4, 2000. An open house will be held at the Conference Center at Ruby's Inn, located on Highway 63 near the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, on November 6, 2000 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The purpose of the open house is to clarify information in the DEIS. *IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A PUBLIC HEARING.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Chapman, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters, 435-644-4309, or Kate Cannon, Monument Manager, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters, 435-644-4330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS analyzes four alternatives summarized as follows: Alternative A is the Proposed Action as submitted by 3R Minerals; Alternative B is the BLM

Preferred Alternative which is to approve 3R Minerals proposed action with certain conditions of approval; Alternative C is the No Action Alternative which would be denial of 3R Minerals' Notice of Intent to Revise Mining Operations in which case 3R Minerals would continue to mine in accordance with the approvals from the State of Utah; and Alternative D, the No Mining alternative where 3R Minerals could not mine. Since mining under the approvals granted by the State of Utah is a valid existing right, the BLM has no statutory authority to select Alternative D but the alternative is presented as baseline with which to compare the other alternatives. Mining activity is based on a mineral lease issued by the Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration when the site was still State land. Although the lease was issued after the Monument was established, it occurred on State lands which were not affected by the Presidential Proclamation. 3R Minerals was granted approval to mine by appropriate State agencies and has been conducting limited mining activity on the site. Ownership of the land was exchanged to the Federal Government via the Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act of 1998. Language in that act preserved 3R Minerals' existing right to mine as approved by the State. Therefore, the decision to be made in this EIS is not whether mining should be allowed, but rather whether the Notice of Intent to Revise Mining Operations should be approved, approved with certain conditions, or denied.

Sally Wisely,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-960-1910-BJ-4489] ES-50828, Group 30, Illinois

Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Illinois

The plat of the survey of the Lock and Dam No. 26 and the Locks and Dam No. 26 Replacement acquisition boundaries, in Township 5 North, Ranges 9 and 10 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian, Illinois, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on November 9, 2000.

The survey was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.