

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Sybil Vosler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-035525-0 when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sybil Vosler at the above U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Bone Cave Harvestman. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

**APPLICANT:** Sultan and Kahn Partnership, Ltd. plans to construct two commercial developments on 5.94 acres (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) at RR 620 and Great Oaks Drive, Williamson County, Texas. This action will occur on less than 2.41 acres (Lots 1, 4, and portions of Lots 2 and 5) and will indirectly impact the ecosystem of Back Bat/Beck Crevice Cave and Beck Pride Cave, which contain the endangered Bone Cave Harvestman. The development will eliminate less than 1.6 acres of cave cricket habitat, upon which the Bone Cave Harvestman depends, and may cause deterioration of the cave ecosystem by encouraging fire ants, altering the surface and subsurface moisture and temperature regimes, and increasing human impacts. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of Bone Cave Harvestman habitat by planting a 30-foot-wide native plant landscape buffer between the development and the cave conservation area; monitoring and treating for introduced fire ants on the undeveloped portions of Lots 2, 3, and 5; restricting the use of pesticides and herbicides; and prohibiting the use of the premises for businesses that have the potential to contaminate sub-surface

karst and/or groundwater, such as gas stations and dry cleaners.

**Jeffrey L. Haskett,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 00-31891 Filed 12-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### **Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Colville Indian Reservation Integrated Resource Management Plan, Colville Confederated Tribes, Colville Reservation, Washington**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to file a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Indian Reservation, Washington, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and that the FEIS is now available for public review. The proposed action is BIA approval for the Colville Confederated Tribes to implement the IRMP for the period 2000-2014. Brief descriptions of the proposed action and seven alternatives are provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**DATES:** Written comments must arrive by January 15, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail or hand carry written comments to Jim Orwin, Acting Superintendent, Colville Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 111, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0111.

Persons wishing copies of this FEIS may contact the Colville Confederated Tribes, P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0150, Attention: William Nicholson, Acting Executive Director, telephone (509) 634-2238. Copies of the FEIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals that participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Orwin, (509) 634-2308, or William Nicholson, (509) 634-2238.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BIA is proposing to approve an IRMP for the management of natural resources on the Colville Indian Reservation for the period 2000-2014. This FEIS analyzes the impacts of seven alternatives, as follows:

Alternative 1, no action, would continue the existing management plan.

About 1,071.2 million board feet (MMBF) of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres, and the range management units and allotments on the reservation would be managed as they are now.

Alternative 2 calls for the harvesting of about 953.1 MMBF of timber across 156,989 acres and for a 15 percent general reduction in range use.

Alternative 3 calls for the harvesting of about 818.7 MMBF of timber across 119,683 acres and for the withdrawal of about 269,000 acres of range allotments.

Alternative 4 emphasizes intermediate harvesting to move the structural stage class of stands on the Reservation towards the desired future conditions. About 757.9 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres and allowable animal unit months (AUMs) would be doubled to 121,800.

Alternative 5 emphasizes regenerative harvesting in order to reduce the existing impacts of insects and disease. About 1,421.4 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres and AUMs would increase by 50 percent to 91,350.

Alternative 6 emphasizes forest and watershed health as well as fish and wildlife habitat. About 1,105.1 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 123,556 acres and AUMs would be reduced by 50 percent.

Alternative 7, the preferred alternative, is the IRMP. This emphasizes desired future conditions for all resources, including forest health, watershed health, range management, fish and wildlife management and land revenue goals. About 1,164.5 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 125,680 acres and AUMs would increase by 50 percent to 91,350.

#### **Public Comment Solicitation**

As an alternative to submitting written comments regarding the FEIS to the location identified in the **ADDRESSES** section, interested persons may instead comment via the Internet to jim.orwin@colvilletribes.com. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that your Internet message was successfully received, contact us directly at (509) 634-2308.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may

request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or 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. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. 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.

#### Authority

This notice is published pursuant to § 1503.1 of the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 437 *et seq.*) Department of the Interior Manual (510 DM1-7) and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: December 6, 2000.

**Kevin Gover,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW146744]

#### Federal Coal Lease Application

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and notice of public hearing on the north Jacobs ranch federal coal lease application in the decertified Powder River federal coal production region, Wyoming.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations and other applicable statutes, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of a DEIS for the North Jacobs Ranch Coal Lease Application, BLM serial number WYW146744, in the Wyoming Powder River Basin, and announces the scheduled date and place for a public hearing pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.4. The DEIS analyzes the impacts of issuing a Federal coal lease for the proposed North Jacobs Ranch Federal

coal tract. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comments on the DEIS, the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed competitive sale of the coal included in the proposed North Jacobs Ranch Federal coal tract. The North Jacobs Ranch tract is being considered for sale as a result of a coal lease application received from Jacobs Ranch Coal Company (JRCC) on October 2, 1998. JRCC is a subsidiary of Kennecott Energy Company. The tract as applied for includes about 4,821.19 acres containing approximately 519 million tons of Federal coal reserves in Campbell County, Wyoming.

**DATES:** A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. MDT, on January 17, 2001, at the Clarion Western Plaza Motel, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, WY. An open house will start at 6:30 p.m., prior to the hearing, to answer questions related to the leasing process and this coal lease application. Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. We expect that the EPA will publish that notice on December 15, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address questions, comments or requests for copies of the Draft EIS to the Casper Field Office, BLM, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82601; or you may e-mail them to the attention of Nancy Doelger at casper\_wymail@blm.gov; or fax them to 307-261-7587.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address, or phone: 307-261-7600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The application for the North Jacobs Ranch tract was filed as a maintenance tract coal lease-by-application (LBA) under the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1

On October 2, 1998, JRCC filed coal lease application WYW146744 for the North Jacobs Ranch Federal coal tract with the BLM for the following lands:

*T. 44 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Campbell County, Wyoming*

- Sec. 26: Lots 9 and 10;
- Sec. 27: Lots 1-16;
- Sec. 28: Lots 1-16;
- Sec. 29: Lots 1-16;
- Sec. 30: Lots 5-20;
- Sec. 31: Lots 5-20;
- Sec. 32: Lots 1-16;
- Sec. 33: Lots 4, 5, 12, 13.

*T. 44 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M., Campbell County, Wyoming*

Sec. 25: Lots 1-16.  
Total surface area applied for: 4,821.19 acres.

The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed this competitive lease application at public meetings held on February 23, 1999, in Billings, Montana; October 27, 1999, in Gillette, Wyoming; and October 25, 2000, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. At these meetings, the RCT recommended that BLM process this LBA, pending resolution of the conflicts between proposed coal mining and existing and proposed oil and gas development, including proposed coalbed methane (CBM) development on the tract.

The Jacobs Ranch Mine, which is adjacent to the lease application area, has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ to mine up to 38 million tons of coal per year through 2001, and 50 million tons of coal per year to be mined in 2002 through 2004. According to the application filed for the North Jacobs Ranch tract, the maintenance tract would be mined to extend the life of the existing mine. JRCC estimates that, under the current mine plan, the existing recoverable reserves at the Jacobs Ranch Mine will be mined out in about 7 years at an average production rate of 30 million tons per year. The Black Thunder Mine is also contiguous to the lease application area.

JRCC previously acquired a maintenance coal lease (serial number WYW117924, issued effective October 1, 1992), containing approximately 1,709 acres adjacent to the Jacobs Ranch Mine using the LBA process.

The DEIS analyzes four alternatives. The Proposed Action is to lease the North Jacobs Ranch tract as applied for to the successful bidder at a competitive sealed bid sale. The second alternative, Alternative 1, is the No Action Alternative, which assumes that the application for the North Jacobs Ranch tract is rejected. The third and fourth alternatives evaluate issuing a lease for a tract that has been modified to avoid bypassing coal in the future and/or to reduce multiple mineral development conflicts with existing oil and gas development.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS because it is the Federal agency that would recommend approval or disapproval of the mining plan for the North Jacobs Ranch LBA tract to the Secretary of the Interior, if a lease is issued for the tract.

During the scoping process, the issues that were identified related to this lease