

According to the application filed for the Belle Ayr 2000 tract, the maintenance tract would be mined to maintain production at the existing Belle Ayr Mine. The tract is also contiguous to an existing lease at the Caballo Mine.

The Belle Ayr 2000 tract is bounded on three sides by existing coal leases at the Belle Ayr and Caballo Mines. Under the approved mining plans for these two mines, a large portion of the tract will be disturbed when the adjacent leases are mined in order to recover all of the coal in those leases.

The Draft EA analyzes two alternatives. The Proposed Action is to issue a maintenance lease for the Belle Ayr 2000 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 Belle Ayr 2000 tract is rejected.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EA because it is the Federal agency that would recommend approval or disapproval of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) mining plan for the Belle Ayr 2000 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 application included: The potential for conflicts with recovery of coalbed methane resources in the coal; potential cumulative impacts of increasing mineral development in the PRB; validity and currency of resource data; public access; potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern; potential cumulative air quality impacts; potential impacts of nitrogen oxide emissions resulting from blasting of coal and overburden; and cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable actions such as the construction and operation of the DM&E railroad in the cumulative analysis.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final EA. 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. Such requests will be honored to the

extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Alan Rabinoff,

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-910-0777-XX]

Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice: Joint meeting of the Front Range, Northwest, and Southwest Resource Advisory Councils.

SUMMARY: The next meeting of the three Colorado Resource Advisory Councils will be held on Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1, 2001, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado.

DATES: The joint meeting will be held Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: For further information on the joint meeting, contact Sheri Bell, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado; Telephone (303) 239-3670. For information on the Southwest RAC, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at (970) 240-5335. For information on the northwest RAC, contact Lynn Barclay at (970) 826-5096. For information on the Front Range RAC, contact Ken Smith at (719) 269-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The three Colorado Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) will meet on January 31 and February 1, 2001, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, Colorado. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, ending at 4:30 p.m. that same day. The meeting will reconvene Thursday, February 1 at 8 a.m., ending at approximately 12 noon. Discussion will include fire management, off-highway vehicles, recreation guidelines and processes for coordinating multi-council efforts. In addition, several topics of general interest will be presented to the councils by guest speakers. Time will be made available for the RACs to meet

individually, if needed, at the end of the joint meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at the meeting. Time for public comment will be provided at 4 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2001. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of council meetings are maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Offices in Craig, Grand Junction, Montrose, and Canon City, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: December 22, 2000.

Duane Johnson,

Acting Little Snake Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-26-241A]

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting and tour of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting and tour will be held on January 25-26, in Yuma, Arizona. The business meeting will be held in the BLM Yuma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road. It will begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The agenda items to be covered include the review of the December 12, 2000 meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on legislation, regulations and statewide planning efforts; Update on National Off-Highway Vehicle Use Strategy and RAC Discussion of OHV Guideline; Update on Wildland Urban Interface Issues and Outreach Efforts; Discussion of New RAC Working Group Assignments; Update Proposed Field Office Rangeland Resource Teams; Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation and Public Relations, Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion of future meetings. A public comment period will