

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

[CO-933-01-1320-EL; COC 62920]

**Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments on Environmental Assessment, Maximum Economic Recovery Report, and Fair Market Value; Application for Competitive Coal Lease COC 62920; Colorado****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Public Hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held to receive comments on the environmental assessment, maximum economic recovery, and fair market value of federal coal to be offered. An application for coal lease was filed by National King Coal, LLC, requesting the Bureau of Land Management offer for competitive lease 1,304.51 acres of federal coal in La Plata County, Colorado.

**DATES:** The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m., May 15, 2001. Written comments should be received no later than May 22, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearing will be held in the San Juan Field Office, Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301. Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Calvin Joyner, San Juan Field Office Manager, San Juan Field Office, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cal Joyner, Field Office Manager, San Juan Field Office at the address above, or by telephone at 970-247-4874.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held on May 15, 2001, at 7 p.m., in the Public Lands Center at the address given above.

An application for coal lease was filed by National King Coal, LLC, requesting the Bureau of Land Management offer for competitive lease federal coal in the lands outside established coal production regions described as:

T. 35 N., R. 11 W., N.M.P.M.

Sec. 19, lots 4, 5, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 35 N., R. 12 W., N.M.P.M.

Sec. 24, lots 1, 2, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;Sec. 25, lots 1, 2, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;Sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , andSW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;Sec. 35, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 1,304.51 acres.

The coal resource to be offered is limited to coal recoverable by underground mining methods.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments on the environmental assessment and on the following items:

(1) The method of mining to be employed to obtain maximum economic recovery of the coal,

(2) The impact that mining the coal in the proposed leasehold may have on the area, and

(3) The methods of determining the fair market value of the coal to be offered.

Written requests to testify orally at the May 15, 2001, public hearing should be received at the San Juan Field Office prior to the close of business May 15, 2001. Those who indicate they wish to testify when they register at the hearing may have an opportunity if time is available.

In addition, the public is invited to submit written comments concerning the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the coal resource. Public comments will be utilized in establishing fair market value for the coal resource in the described lands. Comments should address specific factors related to fair market value including, but not limited to:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resource.

2. The price that the mined coal would bring in the market place.

3. The cost of producing the coal.

4. The interest rate at which anticipated income streams would be discounted.

5. Depreciation and other accounting factors.

6. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal.

7. Documented information on the terms and conditions of recent and similar coal land transactions in the lease area, and

8. Any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

Should any information submitted as comments be considered to be proprietary by the commenter, the information should be labeled as such and stated in the first page of the submission. Written comments on the environmental assessment, maximum economic recovery, and fair market value should be sent to the San Juan Field Office at the above address prior to close of business on May 15, 2001.

Substantive comments, whether written or oral, will receive equal consideration prior to any lease offering.

The Draft Environmental Assessment and Maximum Economic Recovery Report are available from the San Juan Field Office upon request.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment, the Maximum Economic Recovery Report, the case file, and the comments submitted by the public, except those portions identified as proprietary by the commenter and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215.

Dated: April 9, 2001.

**Karen A. Purvis,***Solid Minerals Staff, Resource Services.*

[FR Doc. 01-10209 Filed 4-24-01; 8:45 am]

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

[NV-030-1430-ES; N-66366]

**Realty Action: Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification; Washoe County, Nevada****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The following public land is Washoe County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for classification for lease/conveyance to Washoe County under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*):

**Mt. Diablo Meridian**

T. 20 N., R. 20 E.

Sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .Sec. 16, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

(containing 30 acres, more or less)

Washoe County proposes to use the land for a community park. The land is located in the eastern portion of Sun Valley, Nevada in the vicinity of Highland Ranch Parkway.

The land is not needed for federal purposes. Lease/conveyance is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. Issuance of a 5-year lease with a purchase option is proposed. The lease/patent when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the R&PP Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will

contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All mineral deposits in the land so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

And will be subject to:

Those rights for road purposes as have been granted to Washoe County its successors or assigns, by right-of-way grant N-60200.

The lands are currently closed to surface entry, except for conveyance under section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 or the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, and mining, but not mineral leasing. For a period of 45 days after publication of this notice, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance or classification to the Assistant Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701.

#### Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a community park. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

#### Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for community park.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective June 25, 2001. The land will not be offered for lease/conveyance until after the classification becomes final.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Carson City Field Office during regular business

hours. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your 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: This 2nd day of April, 2001.

**Richard Conrad,**

*Assistant Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Carson City Field Office.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-010-2810-HT]

#### Elko and Wells Resource Areas Management Plans, Nevada

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, Elko, Nevada.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent To Amend the Elko and Wells RMPs for Fire Management and Initiate a 30-day Public Review and Comment Period.

**SUMMARY:** The Elko and Wells Resource Management plans (RMPs) were completed in 1987 and 1983, respectively, for the former Elko and Wells Resource Areas of the Elko District of BLM. These two Resource Areas have since been combined into the Elko District which is managed by the Elko Field Office. Since inception, the Wells RMP has been amended for elk, utility corridor, and wild horse issues, while the Elko RMP has never been amended. Neither RMP addresses fire management issues in a comprehensive way, and this lack of coverage has created management challenges for the Elko Field Office in recent years. Neither RMP anticipated the growing importance of the role of wildfire in natural and managed ecosystems, nor the increase in wildfire occurrence, intensity, and numbers of acres burned in the Elko District. This increase in wildfire activity has had serious impacts on natural resources, as well as on public land users who rely on these resources.

The proposed plan amendment to revise the Elko and Well Resource Management plans will provide fire management guidance to address issues

raised by local state and federal agencies, county governments, Native Americans, ranchers, and environmental groups. Issues and planning criteria identified to date are listed in this Notice under

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

**DATES:** Meeting dates and other public participation activities will be announced in public notices, the local media, or in letters sent to interested and potentially affected parties. Persons wishing to participate in this amendment process must notify the Elko Field Office at the address and phone number below. Comments on the proposed issues and planning criteria must be submitted during the public review and comment period from April 23, 2001, to May 23, 2001. The public may review the Elko and Wells RMPs at the address below:

**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning the proposed fire management RMP amendment should be sent to the BLM Elko Field Office at 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joe Freeland, Project Manager, Elko BLM Field Office, at the above address or at (775) 753-0308.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice satisfies the requirements in the regulation at 43 CFR 1610.2(c) for amending Resource Management Plan. The 5th Year RMP Evaluation completed in FY 2000 for the Elko RMP identified fire management as an important issue that was not adequately addressed in the RMP, and for which an RMP amendment was recommended. A similar 5th Year RMP Evaluation will be completed for the Wells RMP in FY 2002. However, since the Wells RMP also lacks any substantive coverage of fire management issues, it is reasonable to recommend that a fire management amendment to this RMP be completed during the same process to amend the Elko RMP.

Issues regarding fire management identified to date include:

1. *Suppression Strategy:* The Elko Field Office RMPs currently offer little guidance on setting suppression strategies to balance maintenance of healthy ecosystems dependant on fire with protection of other resources. While some public land users advocate full fire suppression on all public lands, others feel that wildfire is a natural process that should be allowed in some areas. Many ranchers propose intensive livestock grazing as a strategy to reduce fuels in fire-prone areas, while other advocacy groups are concerned about the impacts from this proposed strategy on native vegetation and wildlife.