

CFR part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Opp, (907) 271-5669.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2650.7(d).

**Barbara J. Opp,**

*Land Law Examiner.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310--\$5-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW153467]

#### Coal Lease Exploration License, WY

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

**ACTION:** Notice of invitation for coal exploration license.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 2(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by section 4 of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 1083, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations adopted at 43 CFR 3410, all interested parties are hereby invited to participate with Triton Coal Company, LLC on a pro rata cost sharing basis in its program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following-described lands in Campbell County, WY:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 6: Lots 8-23;

Sec. 7: Lots 5-14;

Sec. 8: Lots 1-12, 16;

Sec. 9: Lots 1-8, 11-14;

T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 31: Lots 13-20;

T. 42 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming

Sec. 1: Lots 5-15, 19, 20.

Containing 2,816.14 acres, more or less.

All of the coal in the above-described land consists of unleased Federal coal within the Powder River Basin Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. The purpose of the exploration program is to obtain data on the Wyodak coal seam.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed exploration program is fully described and will be conducted pursuant to an exploration plan to be approved by the Bureau of Land Management. Copies of the exploration plan are available for review during normal business hours in the following offices (serialized under number WYW153467): BLM, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road,

P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003; and, BLM, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice of invitation will be published in "The News-Record" of Gillette, WY, once each week for two consecutive weeks beginning the week of June 11, 2001, and in the **Federal Register**. Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice to both the BLM and Triton Coal Company, LLC no later than thirty days after publication of this invitation in the **Federal Register**. The written notice should be sent to the following addresses: Triton Coal Company, LLC, North Rochelle Mine, Attn: Tim L. Thamm, 510 Reno Road, Gillette, WY 82718, and the BLM, Wyoming State Office, Branch of Solid Minerals, Attn: Mavis Love, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

The foregoing is published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 43 CFR 3410.2-1(c)(1).

Dated: May 29, 2001.

**Phillip C. Perlewitz,**

*Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.*

[FR Doc. 01-14924 Filed 6-14-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-01-1610-DL]

#### Proposed Order for Temporary Closure of Selected Routes of Travel or Areas in Imperial County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County, California

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

**SUMMARY:** Selected routes of travel or areas in two locations in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) will be temporarily closed to vehicle use pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1. The proposed closure is to provide interim protection for the desert tortoise, desert tortoise habitat, and other resource values from motorized vehicle use authorized under the CDCA Plan. By taking these interim actions, BLM contributes to the conservation of the endangered and threatened species in accordance with section 7(a) (1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). BLM also avoids making any irreversible or ir retrievable commitment of resources which would foreclose any reasonable and prudent alternatives which might be required as a result of the consultation on the CDCA plan in accordance with 7(d) of the ESA. These closures will remain in effect until

records of decision are signed for amendments to the CDCA Plan for the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert and the West Mojave Desert.

The vehicle route closures are as follows: 1. In the Edwards Bowl area vehicle use is restricted to specified routes. 2. In two areas of desert tortoise critical habitat in the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) planning area vehicle use is restricted to specified routes.

Exceptions to the vehicle closures include Bureau of Land Management (BLM) operation and maintenance vehicles, law enforcement and fire vehicles, and other emergency vehicles.

The Orders for closure will be posted in the appropriate BLM Field Office and at places near and/or within the area to which the closure or restriction applies (see Field Offices at end of this Notice).

**DATE:** No sooner than July 16, 2001, **Federal Register** Orders of final closure will be published for each of the two areas.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent to the appropriate Field Office, Attn: Route Closure, at the addresses listed below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 16, 2000, the Center for Biological Diversity, and others (Center) filed for injunctive relief in U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (Court) against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) alleging that the BLM was in violation of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the effects of adoption of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan), as amended, upon threatened and endangered species. On August 25, 2000, the BLM acknowledged through a court stipulation that activities authorized, permitted, or allowed under the CDCA Plan may adversely affect threatened and endangered species, and that the BLM is required to consult with the FWS to insure that adoption and implementation of the CDCA Plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species or to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of listed species.

Although BLM has received biological opinions on selected activities, consultation on the overall CDCA Plan is necessary to address the cumulative effects of *all* the activities authorized by the CDCA Plan. Consultation on the overall Plan is complex and the completion date is uncertain. Absent consultation on the entire Plan, the impacts of individual activities, when