

commence with publication of this notice. For 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the BLM will accept comments on this proposal. There will also be opportunity for public comment during the planning process.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the BLM Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Avenue, Moab, Utah 84532.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Utah BLM Moab Field Office and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They may be published as part of the EA and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, 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 will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie Stevens, at the above address or telephone (435) 259-2100. Existing planning documents and information are also available at the Moab Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After interdisciplinary review, no specific planning criteria were determined necessary for this proposed plan amendment. The following preliminary issues have been identified for the proposed plan amendment; they represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management:

1. Managing the Recreation Area to maintain its visual quality following objectives established for visual resource management (VRM) classes in the BLM Visual Resource Management System. BLM has inventoried the area and found it to contain VRM Classes II and III. As a result of this analysis of visual resources, a potential impact could be that oil and gas leasing categories may change to ensure consistency. Currently, the Recreation Area contains 53,518 acres in Category 1 (open to oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations) and 46,040 acres in Category 2 (open to oil and gas leasing with special stipulations).

2. Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) designations for the Canyon Rims Recreation Area. The 1985 Grand RMP divided the Recreation Area into two OHV designations. The western portion of the area (40,656 acres) is "limited to

existing roads and trails," while the eastern portion (58,306 acres) is in the "open" category. As a result of this analysis of OHV designations, a potential impact is that OHV designations could change.

Dated: March 29, 2002.

Robert A. Bennett,

Acting State Director, Utah.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW151634]

Federal Coal, Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Scoping

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and notice of scoping for a lease application received from Triton Coal Company for Federal coal in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a competitive coal lease application from Triton Coal Company, LLC (Triton) on August 31, 2000, for a maintenance tract containing approximately 135 million tons of Federal coal and including approximately 933 acres in an area adjacent to the company's Buckskin Mine. This tract, assigned case number WYW151634, is called the West Hay Creek tract. On November 5, 2001, BLM received a request from Triton to modify the West Hay Creek tract to include about 840 acres and 130 million tons of Federal coal. The Buckskin Mine and West Hay Creek tract are located in Campbell County, Wyoming. The tract was applied for as a lease-by-application (LBA) under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1. Triton proposes to mine the tract as a maintenance tract for the Buckskin Mine. At the 2001 mining rate of about 19 million tons per year, mining the coal in the West Hay Creek tract would extend the life of the Buckskin Mine by approximately seven years.

The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed this lease application at a public meeting held on October 25, 2000, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The RCT recommended that BLM process the application. In order to process the application, BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA). BLM has determined that the requirements of NEPA would be best served by preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this lease application. The EIS process is beginning with this Notice of Intent and Notice of Scoping. The purpose of the public scoping period and public scoping meeting is to allow interested parties to submit comments and/or relevant information that BLM should consider in preparing a draft EIS and in evaluating the Fair Market Value (FMV) and Maximum Economic Recovery (MER) of the Federal coal included in this coal lease application.

DATES: The scoping period for this Federal coal lease application began on June 1, 2002, and will end July 31, 2002. Scoping comments should be submitted by July 31, 2002, in order to be fully considered in the draft EIS. A public scoping meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2002, at 7 p.m., at the Clarion Western Plaza Hotel, 2009 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming.

If you have concerns or issues that you believe the BLM should address in processing this coal lease application, you can express them verbally at the scoping meeting; or you can mail, e-mail or fax written comments to BLM at the addresses given below by July 31, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments, or concerns to the Casper Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Patricia Karbs, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604, fax them to 307-261-7587, or send e-mail comments to casper—wymail@blm.gov, attn: Patricia Karbs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Karbs or Nancy Doelger at the above address, or telephone 307-261-7600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 31, 2000, Triton filed a coal lease application for a maintenance tract containing approximately 135 million tons of Federal coal and including approximately 933 acres. This tract, case number WYW151634, is called the West Hay Creek tract. On November 5, 2001, BLM received a request from Triton to modify the West Hay Creek tract for the following lands in Campbell County, Wyoming:

T. 52 N., R. 72 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
 Section 17: Lots 5 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$), 6 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$), 7 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$), 8 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$), 9-14;
 Section 18: Lots 13 (E $\frac{1}{2}$), 20 (E $\frac{1}{2}$);
 Section 19: Lots 5 (E $\frac{1}{2}$), 12 (E $\frac{1}{2}$), 13 (E $\frac{1}{2}$), 20 (E $\frac{1}{2}$);
 Section 25: Lots 2 (W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$), 3-6, 7 (W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$), 10 (W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$), 11-14.

Containing 838.0975 acres, more or less.

The tract includes an estimated 130 million tons of coal in place. As part of the coal leasing process, BLM will evaluate the tract configuration, and may decide to add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to increase estimated fair market value.

The Buckskin 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). The mine has an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ to mine up to 27.5 million tons of coal per year.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. If the West Hay Creek LBA tract is leased to the applicant, the new lease must be incorporated into the existing mining plans for the adjacent mine, and the Secretary of the Interior must approve the revised mining plan before the Federal coal in the tract can be mined. OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised mining plan to the Secretary if the tract is leased.

A major issue the BLM has identified related to coal leasing in the Powder River Basin is the need to resolve conflicts between existing and proposed oil and gas development, including coal bed methane, and proposed coal mining on the West Hay Creek LBA tract. Other issues identified include the potential impacts to big game herds and hunting, the potential impacts to sage grouse, the size of the tract as applied for, the need for considering the cumulative impacts of this leasing decision, the validity and currency of the resource data to be used in analyzing the impacts, the impact on existing land uses, the potential impacts to sensitive and endangered species including prairie dogs and mountain plover, and the potential impacts on air and water quality. If you have specific concerns about these issues, or have other concerns or issues that BLM should consider in processing this application, please address them in writing to the above address. Written comments should be received by July 31, 2002, in order to be fully considered in the draft EIS.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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 or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: April 17, 2002.

Alan Rabinoff,

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–030–02–5101–ER–F333]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Tracy to Silver Lake Power Line Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, Nevada, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Tracy to Silver Lake Power Line Project (Project).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office intends to prepare an EIS, in cooperation with Washoe County and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to analyze the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from an electrical power line and two substations proposed by Sierra Pacific Power Company. The proposed Project includes the upgrade and extension of an electrical 120 KV transmission line, as well as the construction of two substations, from the existing power plant at Tracy, Nevada to the Silver Lake area near Stead in Washoe County, Nevada. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to identify the best possible alternatives and management decisions that will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. This NOI initiates the public scoping process to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice. Formal scoping will end 30 days after publication of this notice. Comments on issues and concerns

should be received on or before the end of the scoping period at the address listed below. Public meetings will be held throughout the scoping and preparation of the EIS. At least 15 days public notice will be given prior to meetings or activities where the public is invited to attend. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local and regional news media and the BLM Web site (www.nv.blm.gov/carson). In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities will be provided through comment on the Draft EIS (60-day comment period) and the Final EIS (30-day comment period).

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent via U.S. Mail to: BLM Carson City Field Office, Attn: Sierra EIS Project Manager, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. In addition, comments may be sent via fax at (775) 885–6147 or electronic mail to d2parker@nv.blm.gov. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. 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. However, we will not consider anonymous 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact David Parker (775) 885–6076 or Terri Knutson (775) 885–6156, BLM Carson City Field Office, Carson City, Nevada.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will address issues brought forth through scoping and will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of BLM, Washoe County, and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony specialists. A range of alternatives and mitigating measures will be considered to evaluate and minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed actions do not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands. Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may