

were appointed by Secretary Norton on May 4, 2004.

At their second business meeting, the PAWG established seven resource-or activity-specific Task Groups, including one for reclamation. Public participation on the Task Groups was solicited through the media, letters, and word-of-mouth.

The agenda for these meetings will include information gathering and discussion related to developing a reclamation monitoring plan to assess the impacts of development in the Pinedale Anticline gas field, and identifying who will do and who will pay for the monitoring. Task Group recommendations are due to the PAWG in February, 2005. At a minimum, public comments will be heard just prior to adjournment of the meeting.

Dated: December 2, 2004.

Priscilla E. Mecham,
Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 04-27211 Filed 12-10-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-05-1310-DB]

Notice of Meeting of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group's Air Quality Task Group

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) Air Quality Task Group (subcommittee) will meet in Pinedale, Wyoming, for a business meeting. Task Group meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The next PAWG Air Quality Task Group meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2005, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. A second meeting will occur on January 25, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The January 4 PAWG Air Quality Task Group meeting will be held in the Questar office at 907 W. Wilson St., Pinedale, WY. The January 25 meeting will be held in the Shell office at 205 S. Entertainment Lane, Pinedale, WY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Caplan, BLM/Air Quality TG Liaison, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353

Yellowstone Rd., Cheyenne, WY, 82009, or PO Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY, 82003; (307) 775-6031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) was authorized and established with release of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project on July 27, 2000. The PAWG advises the BLM on the development and implementation of monitoring plans and adaptive management decisions as development of the Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Field (PAPA) proceeds for the life of the field.

After the ROD was issued, Interior determined that a Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA) charter was required for this group. The charter was signed by Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, on August 15, 2002, and renewed on August 13, 2004. An announcement of committee initiation and call for nominations was published in the **Federal Register** on February 21, 2003, (68 FR 8522). PAWG members were appointed by Secretary Norton on May 4, 2004.

At their second business meeting, the PAWG established seven resource-or activity-specific Task Groups, including one for Air Quality. Public participation on the Task Groups was solicited through the media, letters, and word-of-mouth.

The agenda for this meeting will include information gathering and discussion related to developing an air quality monitoring plan to assess the impacts of development in the Pinedale Anticline gas field, and identifying who will do and who will pay for the monitoring. Task Group recommendations are due to the PAWG in February, 2005. At a minimum, public comments will be heard just prior to adjournment of the meeting.

Dated: December 2, 2004.

Priscilla E. Mecham,
Field Office Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-600-05-1610-DF]

Notice of Public Meetings, Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held Jan. 21, 2005; Feb. 9, 2005; May 12, 2005; Aug. 11, 2005; and Nov. 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held Jan. 21, 2005, at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center, located at 530 Gunnison River Dr., Delta, CO; Feb. 9, 2005, at the Battlement Mesa Activity Center, located at 0398 Arroyo Drive, Parachute, CO; May 12, 2005, at the BLM White River Field Office, located at 73544 Hwy. 64, Meeker, CO; Aug. 11, 2005, at the Wattenberg Center, Jackson County Fairgrounds, located at 686 County Road 42, Walden, CO; and Nov. 10, 2005, at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office located at 2815 H Rd. in Grand Junction, CO. All Northwest Colorado RAC meetings, with the exception of the Feb. 9, 2005 meeting, will begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 3 p.m., and public comment periods regarding matters on the agenda will be at 2 p.m. during each meeting. The Feb. 9, 2005 meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and adjourn at 6 p.m. with a public comment period scheduled for 3 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jamie Connell, BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office Manager, 50629 Hwy. 6&24, Glenwood Springs, CO; telephone 970-947-2800; or Melodie Lloyd, Public Affairs Specialist, 2815 H Rd., Grand Junction, CO, telephone 970-244-3097.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northwest Colorado RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of public land issues in Colorado.

The purpose of the Feb. 9, 2005 meeting is to discuss resource management-related topics for the Roan Plateau Draft Resource Management Plan. Topics of discussion for all other Northwest Colorado RAC meetings may include the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy, committee reports, fire management, land use planning, invasive species management, energy and minerals management, travel management, wilderness, wild horse herd management, land exchange proposals, cultural resource management, and other issues as appropriate.

These meetings are open to the public. The public may present written

comments to the RACs. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Dated: December 7, 2004.

John E. Husband,

Little Snake Field Office Manager and Designated Federal Officer for the Northwest Colorado RAC.

[FR Doc. 04-27277 Filed 12-10-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Oil and Gas Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Oil and Gas Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Big Thicket National Preserve.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of an Oil and Gas Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (OGMP/DEIS) for Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas.

When the Preserve was created, surface ownership within the area was acquired by the U.S. Government. Private entities or the State of Texas retained the subsurface mineral interests in these lands. Thus, the federal government does not own any of the subsurface oil and gas rights in the Preserve, yet the National Park Service is required by its laws, policies and regulations to protect the Preserve from any actions, including oil and gas operations that may adversely impact or impair Preserve resources and values.

The OGMP/DEIS analyzes three alternatives that could be implemented over the next 15-20 years. Each alternative defines a direction for long-term management of existing and anticipated oil and gas operations associated with the exercise of nonfederal oil and gas interests underlying the Preserve, and existing transpik oil and gas pipelines and activities in their associated rights-of-way, while protecting Preserve resources, visitor use and experience, and human health and safety, and preventing impairment to Preserve

resources and values. This is a programmatic management plan. No ground-disturbing operations would result directly from the management decisions made in this document. Prior to approving individual projects, further environmental analysis, in accordance with NEPA, would be completed.

Alternative A, No Action, is required under the National Environmental Policy Act and establishes a baseline for comparison with the two action alternatives, B and C. No Action is based on Current Legal and Policy Requirements (CLPR) and is a continuation of current oil and gas management direction in the Preserve. Performance standards and specific resource protection goals would continue to be applied on a case-by-case basis under the No Action alternative. Geophysical exploration operations may be permitted on 80,670 acres (91 percent of the Preserve) of which 52,272 acres (59 percent of the Preserve) would have timing stipulations; and drilling and production operations may be permitted on 80,639 acres (91 percent of the Preserve). No operations would be permitted within 500 feet of waterways.

Alternative B, the agency Preferred Alternative, defines Preserve-wide resource-specific performance standards that would be applied to all existing and new oil and gas operations. In this alternative, Special Management Areas (SMAs) would be formally designated for areas where Preserve resources and values are particularly susceptible to adverse impacts from oil and gas operations, and operating stipulations specific to each SMA would be applied. Nonfederal oil and gas operations could be permitted under CLPR in all other areas of the Preserve that are not designated as SMAs. Geophysical exploration operations may be permitted on 76,620 acres (87 percent of the Preserve) of which 52,272 acres (59 percent of the Preserve) would have timing stipulations; and drilling and production operations may be permitted on up to 41,859 acres (47 percent of the Preserve). No operations would be permitted within 500 feet of waterways.

Alternative C, the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, also defines park-wide resource-specific performance standards that would be applied to all current and new oil and gas operations. Similar to Alternative B, SMAs would be designated with specific operating stipulations for oil and gas operations. Geophysical exploration may be permitted on 48,475 acres (55 percent of the Preserve) and with a timing stipulation on 52,272 acres (59 percent of the Preserve); and drilling and production operations may be permitted

on 41,859 acres (47 percent of the Preserve). No operations would be permitted within 500 feet of waterways.

Impacts are analyzed on the following topics: nonfederal oil and gas development, air quality, geologic resources, water resources, floodplains, vegetation, wetlands, fish and wildlife, species of special concern, cultural resources, visitor use and experience, and adjacent land uses and resources.

DATES: The National Park Service will accept comments from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a minimum of 60 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: The OGMP/DEIS will be available for public review and comment at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent, Big Thicket National Preserve Headquarters, 3785 Milam Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701-4724, Telephone: 409-839-2690, ext. 223.
Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, Telephone: 505-988-6095.
Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80228, Telephone: 303-969-2377.
Office of Public Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: 202-208-6843, <http://www.nps.gov/bith/pphtml/documents.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Dansby, EIS Project Manager, Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, telephone 505-988-6095.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of the following methods: You may mail comments to Linda Dansby, EIS Project Manager, Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, telephone 505-988-6095. You may also comment via the Internet to bith_eis@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Big Thicket National Preserve DEIS/O&GMP" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at 505-988-6095. You may also go to the Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>