

record for the analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the BLM Burns District Office during normal business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Douglas Linn (541) 573-4543 at the BLM Burns District Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project is a landscape-level project proposing to utilize a combination of western juniper treatments (mechanical and nonmechanical methods) and wildland (prescribed and natural) fire to treat fuels and to restore habitat.

Implementation of the project would reduce the increased influence of western juniper and related fuels in mountain big sagebrush, low sagebrush, quaking aspen, mountain mahogany, old growth juniper (established before 1870), and riparian plant communities.

Section 113(c) of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 states, "The Secretary shall emphasize the restoration of the historic fire regime in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the resulting native vegetation communities through active management of western juniper on a landscape level. Management measures shall include the use of natural and prescribed burning."

The Resource Management Plans for the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the Andrews Management Unit contain overall direction and guidance for proposed management actions such as those analyzed in the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement. Management actions analyzed include seeding of native species, reduction of western juniper (established before 1870), fencing, and management of wildland fire.

Preliminary issues and management concerns were identified by BLM and through public scoping. Major issues addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement include management of woodlands, rangeland vegetation, Steens Mountain Wilderness, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic river corridors, wildlife habitat, special status species, wildland fire/fuels, recreation, cultural resources, noxious weeds, water quality, aquatic resources, fisheries, biological soil crusts, and social and economic values. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement

considered American Indian traditional practices.

Cooperating agencies having specific expertise or interests in the project were invited to participate. The public and interest groups also participated and will continue to have every opportunity to participate during formal comment periods. The public and interest groups will also have opportunities for participation through the regularly scheduled Steens Mountain Advisory Council meetings.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement contains five alternatives. The Continuation of Current Management No Action Alternative does not propose any increase above current levels of western juniper management or fuels reduction within the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project area. Private lands could still be treated according to landowner management objectives. Management of naturally occurring wildland fires would still occur in the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project area under this alternative, but management would be for purposes of restoring natural fire to the Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

The No Treatment No Action Alternative does not propose any fuels reduction through western juniper treatments. This alternative is not consistent with the Andrews Management Unit or Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Resource Management Plan direction. This alternative does not meet the objectives of the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project but is analyzed for purposes of effect analysis and comparison. Under this alternative, encroaching juniper would not be managed in the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project area. Natural wildland fires would still occur in the project area and would be managed in a manner consistent with the Resource Management Plans and the BLM Burns District's Fire Management Plan.

The Partial Landscape Alternative proposes active fuels reduction and juniper management on private and public lands outside of wilderness, wilderness study areas, and wild and scenic river corridors. Management of naturally occurring wildland fires would still occur in the aforementioned areas under this alternative.

The Limited Landscape Alternative incorporates many of the description and features of the Partial Landscape Alternative. Management of naturally occurring wildland fires would occur in wilderness, wilderness study areas, and wild and scenic river corridor areas under this alternative and would

include the use of prescribed wildland fire for western juniper management and fuels reduction and restoration of natural fire regimes.

The Full Landscape Alternative incorporates many of the description and features of the Partial Landscape Alternative and Limited Landscape Alternatives. The Full Landscape Alternative proposes active, landscape-level, western juniper management and fuels reduction on private and public lands including wilderness, wilderness study areas, and wild and scenic river corridors. Management of naturally occurring wildland fires would occur in the aforementioned areas under this alternative. Management could include the use of prescribed wildland fire, nonmotorized hand tools and nonmechanized transportation for western juniper management and fuels reduction. Additional treatment methods, including the use of other tools following publication of a minimum requirement decision guide, could be considered after a project review occurring on a 3- to 5-year basis.

Public input during scoping as well as internal scoping identified at least 20 issues for analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement. These issues are outlined in Chapter 1 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Opportunities for public involvement have included two separate public scoping periods. Along with participation by the Steens Mountain Advisory Council, the BLM Burns District has worked with Harney County Court, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Harney Soil and Water Conservation District.

Dana R. Shuford,

BLM Burns District Manager.

[FR Doc. E6-1869 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-1020-PK]

Notice of Public Meeting, Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

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), Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: A meeting will be held March 22, 2006, at the Ft. Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, 243 Ft. Keogh Road, Miles City, Montana, 59301, beginning at 8 a.m. The public comment period will begin at 11:30 a.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in eastern Montana. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time 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. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below. The Council will hear updates on the Miles City Resource Management Plan, the Pumpkin Creek land exchange, the coal bed natural gas SEIS, weed funding, and other issues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Apple, Resource Advisory Council Coordinator, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana, 59101, telephone 406-896-5258 or Sandra S. Brooks, Field Manager, Billings Field Office, telephone 406-896-5013.

Dated: February 1, 2006.

Sandra S. Brooks,
Billings Field Manager.
[FR Doc. E6-1824 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-922-06-1310-FI-P; NDM 87262]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NDM 87262

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Per 30 U.S.C. 188(d), Valentine Peck timely filed a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease

NDM 87262, Slope County, North Dakota. The lessee paid the required rental accruing from the date of termination, September 1, 2005.

No leases were issued that affect these lands. The lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals and royalties of \$10 per acre and 16 2/3 percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate. The lessee paid the \$500 administration fee for the reinstatement of the lease and \$155 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessee met the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). We are proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to:

- The original terms and conditions of the lease;
- The increased rental of \$10 per acre;
- The increased royalty of 16 2/3 percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate; and
- The \$155 cost of publishing this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen L. Johnson, Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section, BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, 406-896-5098.

Dated: February 2, 2006.

Karen L. Johnson,
Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section.

[FR Doc. E6-1872 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-923-1430-ET; COC-28576]

Public Land Order No. 7655; Partial Revocation of Executive Order dated July 2, 1910; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This order partially revokes an Executive Order insofar as it affects 40 acres of public land withdrawn for the Bureau of Land Management's Power Site Reserve No. 32. This order also opens the land to surface entry subject to valid existing rights and other segregations of record.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 12, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doris E. Chelius, BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093, 303-239-3706.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action will allow for completion of a pending land exchange and clear the records of an unneeded withdrawal. The land is open to mining under the provisions of the Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act, 30 U.S.C. 621 (2000). Since this act applies only to land withdrawn for power purposes, the provisions of the act are no longer applicable to the land included in this revocation order.

Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (2000), and pursuant to the determination by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in DVCO-561-000, it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Order dated July 2, 1910, which established the Bureau of Land Management's Power Site Reserve No. 32, is hereby revoked insofar as it affects the following described land:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 1 S., R. 80 W.,
Sec. 34, SE^{1/4}NW^{1/4}.

The area described contains 40 acres in Summit County.

2. At 9 a.m. on May 12, 2006, the land described in Paragraph 1 will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received on or prior to 9 a.m. on May 12, 2006, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

3. The State of Colorado, with respect to the land described in Paragraph 1, has a preference right for public highway rights-of-way or material sites until May 11, 2006, and any location, entry, selection, or subsequent patent shall be subject to any rights granted the State as provided by the Act of June 10, 1920, section 24, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 818 (2000).

4. The land described in Paragraph 1 has been open to mining under the provisions of the Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act of 1955, 30 U.S.C. 621 (2000), and these provisions are no longer applicable.

Dated: January 25, 2006.

Mark Limbaugh,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. E6-1894 Filed 2-9-06; 8:45 am]

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