

between Houston, Texas, and the Louisiana state line in Chambers, Jefferson, and Galveston Counties, Texas. All four refuges include the Migratory Bird Conservation Act as a primary authority and purpose.

Moody NWR was established in 1961 and today consists of a conservation easement on approximately 3,516 acres of coastal marsh. Anahuac NWR was established in 1963 and contains 34,339 acres of coastal marsh and adjoining uplands in fee title ownership. McFaddin NWR was established in 1980 and is 58,861 acres of primarily coastal marsh in a mix of fee title and conservation easements. Texas Point NWR was established in 1979 and consists of 8,952 acres of coastal marsh in fee title ownership.

The integrated EIS contains two sets of alternatives addressing two separate but related Federal Actions: (1) Refuge management alternatives for development of a CCP for the Complex, and (2) alternatives for expansion of the refuge acquisition boundaries.

Five refuge management alternatives are proposed and evaluated for the Refuge Complex. The first management alternative is the "No Action" alternative, required by NEPA, which would continue the current refuge management activities. Current habitat management activities include (1) water management; (2) wetland, prairie, and woodlot restoration; (3) moist soil management units; (4) cooperative rice farming; (5) fire management; (6) controlled livestock grazing; and (7) exotic/invasive species management. The second management alternative emphasizes intensifying management of wetland habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other wetland-dependent migratory birds. The third management alternative emphasizes native habitat restoration and addressing threats from coastal land loss, altered hydrology, exotic species, and contaminants. The fourth management alternative, the Service's preferred alternative, emphasizes an integrated management approach combining (1) expanded habitat management and restoration programs, (2) new research and wildlife population monitoring, and (3) increased efforts to address major threats to ecosystem health. The fifth management alternative emphasizes a passive management approach. All five of these refuge management alternatives make wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Four refuge boundary expansion alternatives are proposed and evaluated. The first expansion alternative is the "No Action" alternative, required by NEPA, which would retain the current refuge acquisition boundaries. The second expansion alternative would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 5,050 acres; for Anahuac NWR by 20,500 acres; for McFaddin NWR by 7,190 acres; and for Texas Point NWR by 850 acres. The total expansion of 33,590 acres continues the historic focus on land acquisition primarily in coastal marsh and adjacent agricultural uplands. The third expansion alternative, the Service's preferred alternative, would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 7,920 acres; for Anahuac NWR by 47,750 acres; for McFaddin NWR by 7,190 acres; and for Texas Point NWR by 1,400 acres. The total expansion of 64,260 acres includes all of the coastal marsh and adjacent agricultural uplands from the second expansion alternative plus two important areas of native coastal prairie. The fourth expansion alternative would expand the refuge boundary for Moody NWR by 7,920 acres, for Anahuac NWR by 64,910, for McFaddin NWR by 29,890 acres, and for Texas Point NWR by 1,400 acres. The total expansion of 104,120 acres includes all of the lands in the third expansion alternative along with a large freshwater marsh north of the current McFaddin NWR and a near-coast bottomland hardwood area important to neotropical migratory birds. Lands acquired in the future would be managed according to the strategies contained in the Service's preferred management alternative.

**Public Meetings:** The Service will hold at least two public meetings in Chambers and Jefferson Counties, Texas, 30 days after publication of this notice to present the draft document, answer questions, and receive formal public comments. Notice of the meetings will be posted in local newspapers and other media outlets and given through special mailings to individuals and organizations that have expressed interest in this planning effort.

Editorial note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register October 11, 2006.

Dated: April 3, 2006.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Acting, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. E6-17087 Filed 10-16-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 106-503, the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) will hold its fourteenth meeting. The meeting location is the Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory, 10002 Isleta Road, SE, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87117. The Committee is comprised of members from academia, industry, and State government. The Committee shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The Committee will provide guidance on the USGS's contributions to the Global Seismographic Network and report preparation.

Meetings of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee are open to the public.

**DATES:** October 30, 2006, commencing at 9 a.m. and adjourning at noon on October 31, 2006.

*Contact:* Dr. David Applegate, U.S. Geological Survey, MS 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6714, [applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov).

Dated: October 2, 2006.

**Rama Kotra,**

*Acting Associate Director for Geology.*

[FR Doc. 06-8716 Filed 10-16-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4311-AM-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-060-1320-EL, WYW163340]

#### Notice of Intent (NOI) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Public Meeting on a Federal Coal Lease Application Filed by the Antelope Coal Company in the Decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

Casper Field Office announces its intent to prepare an EIS on the potential impacts of a proposal to surface mine a tract of Federal coal as requested by Antelope Coal Company (Antelope) in Lease-by-Application (LBA) case number WYW163340. Under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1, the Antelope Coal Company (Antelope) has submitted a competitive coal LBA for a maintenance tract of Federal coal. The tract is known as the West Antelope II Tract and is adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and gain understanding of the LBA process, the BLM will host a meeting on November 1, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the Best Western Douglas Inn, 1450 Riverbend Drive, Douglas, Wyoming. At the meeting, the public is invited to submit comments and resource information, plus identify issues or concerns to be considered in the LBA process. The BLM can best use public input if comments and resource information are submitted by December 1, 2006. The BLM will announce future public meetings and other opportunities to submit comments on this project at least 15 days prior to the events. Announcements will be made through local news media and the Casper Field Office's Web site, which is: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/cfo>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs, BLM Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. Ms. Doelger or Mr. Karbs may also be reached at (307) 261-7600.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit written comments or concerns to the BLM Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. Written comments or resource information may also be hand-delivered to the BLM Casper Field Office or sent by facsimile to the attention of Nancy Doelger at (307) 261-7587. Comments may be sent electronically to [casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:casper_wymail@blm.gov). Please put "West Antelope II LBA Tract/Nancy Doelger" in the subject line.

Members of the public may examine documents pertinent to this proposal by visiting the Casper Field Office during its business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 3425.1, Antelope submitted an application on April 6,

2005 for a competitive coal lease for a maintenance tract adjacent to the company's Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, Wyoming. A maintenance tract is a parcel of land containing Federal coal reserves that can be leased to maintain production at an existing mine. The tract is known as the West Antelope II Tract. Consistent with Federal regulations under NEPA and Minerals Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the BLM must prepare an environmental analysis prior to holding a competitive Federal coal lease sale. The Powder River Regional Coal Team reviewed this LBA at a public meeting held on April 27, 2005, in Gillette, Wyoming, and recommended that the BLM process it.

The West Antelope II Tract application includes approximately 429.7 million tons of in-place Federal coal underlying the following lands in Campbell and Converse counties, Wyoming:

- T. 40 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming
  - Section 5: Lot 18;
  - Section 8: Lots 1 through 3, 6 through 11, 14 through 16;
  - Section 9: Lots 2 through 16;
  - Section 10: Lots 5, 6, 11 through 14;
- T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming
  - Section 9: Lots 9 through 16;
  - Section 10: Lots 11 through 15;
  - Section 14: Lots 3 and 4;
  - Section 15: Lots 1 through 5, 12, 13;
  - Section 20: Lots 14 through 16;
  - Section 21: Lots 1 through 16;
  - Section 22: Lots 2, 7, 8, 14 through 16;
  - Section 27: Lots 6 through 11;
  - Section 28: Lots 1 through 8;
  - Section 29: Lots 1 through 3, 6 through 8. Containing 4,108.6 acres more or less.

Antelope proposes to mine the tract as a part of the Antelope Mine. At the 2005 mining rate of 30 million tons per year, the coal included in the West Antelope II Tract would extend the life of the Antelope Mine by as many as 14 years. In accordance with 43 CFR 3425.1-9, the BLM may modify the LBA adding or subtracting lands to avoid bypassing Federal coal or to increase potential competitive interest in the tract. The BLM has identified a study area that includes unleased Federal coal in and around the tract that will be evaluated for inclusion in the tract.

Lands in the application contain private surface estate overlying the Federal coal. In the study area, the surface estate overlying the Federal coal is both privately- and federally-owned. The federally-owned lands are part of the Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG), National Forest System administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (FS).

The Antelope Mine is operating under approved mining permits from the Land

Quality and Air Quality Divisions of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

The FS and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will be cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS. Before the tract can be leased the FS must consent to leasing the portion of the tract that is part of the TBNG. If the West Antelope II Tract is leased to the applicant, the new lease must be incorporated into the existing mining and reclamation plan for the adjacent mine. Before the Federal coal in the tract can be mined the Secretary of the Interior must approve the revised Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) mining plan. The OSM is the Federal agency that is responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised MLA mining plan to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. Other cooperating agencies may be identified during the scoping process.

The BLM will provide interested parties the opportunity to submit comments or relevant information or both. This information will help the BLM identify issues to be considered in preparing a draft EIS for the West Antelope II Tract. Issues that have been identified in analyzing the impacts of previous Federal coal leasing actions in the Wyoming Powder River Basin (PRB) include the need for resolution of conflicts between existing and proposed oil and gas development and coal mining on the tracts proposed for coal leasing; potential impacts to big game herds and hunting; potential impacts to sage grouse; potential impacts to listed threatened and endangered species; potential health impacts related to blasting operations conducted by the mines to remove overburden and coal; the need to consider the cumulative impacts of coal leasing decisions combined with other existing and proposed development in the Wyoming PRB; and potential site-specific and cumulative impacts on air and water quality.

Your response is important and will be considered in the EIS process. If you do respond, we will keep you informed of the availability of environmental documents that address impacts that might occur from this proposal.

We release all comments to the public, including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other personal identifying information.

If you comment as a private individual in your personal capacity, you may ask us to withhold personal identifying information from the public.

You must do so prominently in writing at the beginning of your comments and must tell us precisely what you want us to withhold. You also must explain in detail why releasing that personal identifying information to the public would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. General assertions that are not supported by specific facts will not meet that burden.

We will withhold personal identifying information from release to the public in response to your request only where, in our judgment, you present sufficient factual justification for our doing so under current laws, regulations, and court decisions. Typically, notwithstanding your request, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, we will release to the public all of the personal identifying information that you submit.

If you comment as or on behalf of an organization or business, we will release your comments to the public in their entirety, including all personal identifying information. We will not consider a request from an organization or business, or anyone commenting on behalf of an organization or business, that we withhold any personal

identifying information from release to the public.

Dated: September 22, 2006.  
**Robert A. Bennett,**  
*State Director.*  
 [FR Doc. E6-17143 Filed 10-16-06; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-025-06-5870-EU; HAG 06-0165]

**Sale of Public Land; Harney County, OR**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the proposed sale of 24 parcels of public land, totaling 2905.42 acres, located in Harney County, Oregon at not less than appraised market value. These parcels are proposed to be sold through competitive and modified competitive procedures.

**DATES:** Written comments concerning the proposed sale must be received by the BLM on or before December 1, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all written comments to Joan Suther, Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738. Comments expressed verbally or in electronic format will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Skip Renchler, Realty Specialist, at (541) 573-4443.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following described public lands in Harney County, Oregon are suitable for sale under Sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750, 43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719). The lands are difficult and uneconomic to manage as a part of the public lands and are not suitable for management by another Federal agency. No significant resource values will be affected by this disposal. The parcels proposed for sale are identified as suitable for disposal in the Three Rivers Resource Management Plan, dated August 1992. All of the land described is within the Willamette Meridian. The parcels proposed for sale are identified as follows.

Serial No.	Legal description	Acres	Market value/minimum bid	Bidding procedure	Designated bidder(s)
OR-56577 ...	T.27 S., R.34 E., sec. 21, NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ....	40.00	\$3,400	Competitive	None.
OR-61541 ...	T.19 S., R.34 E., sec. 17, E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	80.00	16,000	Modified Competitive.	John and Judy Ahmann.
OR-61542 ...	T.22 S., R.30 E., sec. 7, lot 3, NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	119.53	22,700	Competitive	None.
OR-61543 ...	T.22 S., R.30 E., sec. 10, lot 1. ....	0.51	200	Modified Competitive.	Gerard J. LaBrecque
OR-61544 ...	T.24 S., R.33 E., sec. 30, NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	160.00	21,600	Competitive	None.
OR-61545 ...	T.24 S., R.33 E., sec. 33, E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ; sec. 34, N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> , NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	240.00	58,100	Competitive	None.
OR-61546 ...	T.25 S., R.32 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> E., sec. 13, W <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ..	80.00	9,100	Competitive	None.
OR-61547 ...	T.25 S., R.32 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> E., sec. 24, lot 2, NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	79.81	9,200	Competitive	None.
OR-61548 ...	T.26 S., R.30 E., South of Malheur Lake, sec. 35, E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ; T.27 S., R.30 E., sec. 2, lot 1.	119.76	19,100	Competitive	None.
OR-61549 ...	T.26 S., R.31 E., North of Malheur Lake, sec. 5, four unnumbered government lots in N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .	160.00	16,800	Competitive	None.
OR-61550 ...	T.26 S., R.31 E., North of Malheur Lake, sec. 5, S <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ; sec. 6, S <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ; sec. 7, NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> NE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	200.00	19,600	Competitive	None.
OR-61551 ...	T.26 S., R.31 E., North of Malheur Lake, sec. 9, S <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	80.00	8,000	Competitive	None.
OR-61552 ...	T.26 S., R.31 E., North of Malheur Lake, sec. 22, S <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	80.00	8,000	Competitive	None.
OR-61553 ...	T.26 S., R.33 E., sec 34, N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> NW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	80.00	9,800	Competitive	None.
OR-61554 ...	T.26 S., R.34 E., sec. 4, SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SW <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ; sec. 5, SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> SE <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .	80.00	6,800	Modified Competitive.	Bell A Grazing Cooperative, Thompson Ranches, Inc.