

the development and implementation of an integrated resource management plan for those lands and waters within the Corridor.

The meeting will convene on May 21, 2009 at 9 a.m. at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA for the following reasons:

1. Approval of Minutes.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. Executive Director's Report.
4. Financial Budget.
5. Public Input.

It is anticipated that about thirty people will be able to attend the session in addition to the Commission members.

Interested persons may make oral or written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made prior to the meeting to: Jan H. Reitsma, Executive Director, John H. Chafee, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895, Tel.: (401) 762-0250.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from Jan H. Reitsma, Executive Director of the Commission at the aforementioned address.

Jan H. Reitsma,

Executive Director, BRVNHCC.

[FR Doc. E9-8322 Filed 4-10-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[LLMT921 09 L51100000.GD0000
LVEMCE280000; NDM 97633]

Notice of the Availability of the BNI Coal, Ltd., Federal Coal Lease Application Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearing

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal coal management regulations at 43 CFR 3422 and 3425, the BNI Coal Lease by Application Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review and comment. A public hearing will be held to receive comments on the EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Fair Market Value (FMV), and Maximum Economic Recovery (MER) of the coal resources for BNI Coal, Ltd.'s (BNI) Federal Coal Lease Application NDM 97633.

DATES: The public hearing will be held at 9 a.m. on April 30, 2009. Written

comments must be received on or before 4:30 p.m. on May 13, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the BLM North Dakota Field Office Conference Room, 99 23rd Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota. Written comments on the FMV and MER should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101-4669. Written comments or questions on the EA should be sent to Angela Wetz, Natural Resource Specialist, North Dakota Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 99 23rd Avenue West, Dickinson, ND 58601. Copies of the EA are available at the North Dakota Field Office at the above address. The EA is also available on the Internet at http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north_dakota_field.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The land included in Coal Lease Application NDM 97633 contains an estimated 4.1 million tons of recoverable coal reserves. It is described as follows:

T. 142 N., R. 84 W., 5th P.M

Sec. 32: N2NW, SWNW, NWSW; 160.00 acres.

The land is adjacent to BNI's Center Mine, located in Oliver County, North Dakota.

The EA addresses the cultural, socioeconomic, environmental and cumulative impacts that would likely result from leasing these coal lands. Two alternatives are addressed in the EA:

Alternative 1: (Proposed Action) The tract would be leased, as applied for.

Alternative 2: (No Action) The application would be rejected or denied. The Federal coal reserves would be bypassed.

Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation of public comments. Data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on FMV and MER, except those portions identified as proprietary by the author and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday through Friday. Other comments will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, North Dakota Field Office, 99 23rd Avenue West, Dickinson, ND 58601 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

Written comments on the FMV and MER should address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resources;
2. The mining method or methods which would achieve MER of the coal including specifications of the seams to be mined, timing and rate of production, restriction to mining, and the inclusion of the tract in an existing mining operation;
3. The FMV appraisal including but not limited to the evaluation of the tract as an incremental unit of an existing mine, selling price of the coal, mining and reclamation costs, net present value discount factors, depreciation and other tax accounting factors, value of the surface estate, and any comparable sales data on similar coal lands. The values given above may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Hughes, Supervisory Industry Economist, (406-896-5057), Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101.

Phillip C. Perlewitz,
Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.
[FR Doc. E9-8353 Filed 4-10-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-R-2009-N0036; 30136-1265-0000-S3]

Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area, Located Throughout 8 Counties in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability: draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and draft environmental assessment (EA) for Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area (Kirtland's Warbler WMA) for public review and comment. In this draft CCP/EA we describe how we propose to manage Kirtland's Warbler WMA for the next 15 years. The Kirtland's Warbler WMA is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and is administered by the staff of Seney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by May 15, 2009. Special mailings, newspaper articles, internet postings, and other media announcements will inform people of the opportunities to submit written comments.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods. You may also drop off comments in person at Seney NWR.

- *Agency Web site:* View or download a copy of the document and comment at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Planning/kirtland/>

- *E-mail:* r3planning@fws.gov. Include "Kirtland's Warbler WMA Draft CCP/EA" in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* 906-586-3800.
- *Mail:* Attention: Refuge Manager, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 1674 Refuge Entrance Road, Seney, MI 49883.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracy Casselman, 906-586-9851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Kirtland's Warbler WMA, which we began by publishing a notice of intent April 21, 2006 (71 FR 20722). For more about the initial process and the history of this WMA, see that notice.

We established this WMA in the early 1980s due, in part, to the recommendations of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. The original goal was to acquire 7,500 acres of land on which habitat would be managed for the benefit of Kirtland's warbler. At present, the area contains 124 separate tracts totaling 6,582 acres.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires us to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for

each national wildlife refuge and wildlife management area. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving wildlife management area purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

CCP Alternatives and Our Preferred Alternative

Priority Issues

During the public scoping process, we, other stakeholders and partners, and the public identified several priority issues, which include habitat management, nuisance species control, and recreation opportunities and visitor services. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives during the planning process.

Alternative 1: Current Management Direction of Habitat Management (No Action)

The current management direction of Kirtland's Warbler WMA would be maintained under this alternative. For NEPA purposes, this is referred to as the "No Action" alternative, a misnomer as some changes will occur over the next 15 years. Nonetheless, in Alternative 1 intensive management of existing jack pine stands would continue to occur in close cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with the primary objective to produce dense jack pine plantations for Kirtland's Warbler breeding habitat. The WMA staff and Michigan DNR land managers would continue to monitor habitat prescription effects and make improvements in jack pine habitat management as it pertains primarily to Kirtland's Warbler. Public use would follow the current direction and be linked to uses of the surrounding state lands. Environmental education and outreach will be limited primarily to the annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival events.

Alternative 2: Management From an Ecological Perspective

Alternative 2 would seek to make changes from the current high intensity habitat management that produces jack pine plantations for Kirtland's Warbler by trenching and planting. Future management would be from a more ecologically broad and holistic jack pine ecosystem management standpoint based on benchmark conditions derived from jack pine stands regenerated by wildfire. This alternative would include management practices that place a greater emphasis on ecological integrity and better emulating wildfire-produced jack pine stand composition and structural patterns and resulting biodiversity. Timber harvests would try to better emulate wildfire-produced stand conditions, and a range of regeneration options would be used, including prescribed fire when and where possible. An increased emphasis would also occur within law enforcement and visitor use. Enforcement of hunting regulations, trespass, and other violations would likely require more staff time and year-round presence. Visitor use would be facilitated by marking some properties with signs and by outreach to surrounding communities and users.

Alternative 3: Ecological Management and Land Ownership Consolidation (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 3 would seek to manage existing lands as suggested in Alternative 2, but would also explore land exchanges with the state (and possibly U.S. Forest Service) to consolidate state and WMA parcels. Proposed land exchanges would likely increase the total area of land managed for Kirtland's Warbler, as well as increase management efficiency by both federal and state agencies. Existing lands and any new lands acquired through exchange would be managed to benefit the Kirtland's Warbler and other native flora and fauna of jack pine ecosystems. However, jack pine stand management would be shifted towards a more ecologically-based approach rather than the highly intensive manner of present habitat management that produces jack pine plantations. For instance, if consolidation would occur and the Service would obtain upland jack pine stands in the eastern Upper Peninsula, prescribed fire would be a more likely management tool.

Public Input

We will give the public an opportunity to provide comments upon release of the draft plan. You may

submit comments anytime during the comment period.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should know that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: March 3, 2009.

Charles M. Wooley,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. E9-8380 Filed 4-10-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan; Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Hawaii; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accord with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for updating the General Management Plan (GMP) for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The new GMP will include a wilderness eligibility assessment for the recently accessioned Kahuku District to evaluate if lands are potentially eligible for wilderness designation, as required by NPS Management Policies 2006 for newly acquired lands. The GMP will also outline a commercial services strategy to identify the appropriate role of commercial operators in helping the park provide opportunities for visitor use and enjoyment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the GMP. The GMP is intended to set forth the basic management philosophy for this unit of the National Park System and provide the strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives for that unit. The GMP serves as a “blueprint” to guide management of natural and cultural resources and visitor use during the next 15–20 years. One or more development concept plans, which guide more detailed, site-specific preservation and development, may also be included with the GMP.

Consistent with NPS Planning Program Standards, the updated GMP will: (1) Describe the park’s purpose, significance, and primary interpretive themes; (2) identify the fundamental resources and values of the park, its other important resources and values, and describe the condition of these resources; (3) describe desired conditions for cultural and natural resources and visitor experiences throughout the park; (4) develop management zoning to support these desired conditions; (5) develop alternative applications of these management zones to the park’s landscape (*i.e.* zoning alternatives); (6) address user capacity; (7) analyze potential boundary modifications; (8) ensure that management recommendations are developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and the public and adopted by NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, environmental impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action; (9) develop cost estimates implementing each of the alternatives; and (10) identify and prioritize subsequent detailed studies, plans and actions needed to implement the updated GMP.

Scoping Process: The purpose of scoping outreach efforts is to elicit early public comment regarding issues and concerns, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts (and as appropriate, mitigation measures), and preliminary alternatives which should be considered for the plan update. Through the outreach activities planned in the scoping phase, the NPS welcomes information and suggestions from the public regarding resource protection, visitor use, and land management. This notice formally initiates the public scoping comment phase for the EIS process. Questions to be asked during public scoping include: (1) What do you value most about Hawaii Volcanoes National Park? (2) What do you think are the important issues facing the park? (3) Imagine you are visiting Hawaii Volcanoes National Park 20 years from now: Describe what you would like to experience. (4) Do you feel that the purpose and significance statements capture the essence of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park? (5) Other comments or concerns you would like to share?

All scoping comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than June 30, 2009. You may submit your comments electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/havo> (select the General Management Plan from the list of projects). If it is more convenient, or

if you do not have access to a computer, you can hand-deliver your comments (see below) or send your written comments to: General Management Plan, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Attn: Cindy Orlando, Superintendent, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, P.O. Box 52, Hawaii National Park, HI 96718-0052.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Starting in late April a series of open houses will be hosted on Hawaii Island (including Hilo, Volcano, Naalehu and Kailua-Kona), one on Maui, and one on Oahu in Honolulu. Detailed information including times and specific locations for these meetings will be posted on the GMP Web site <http://www.nps.gov/havo/parkmgmt/plan.htm>. All attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments to the planning team. The GMP Web site will provide the most up-to-date information regarding the project, including project description, planning process updates, meeting notices, reports and documents, and useful links associated with the project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (park) was established in 1916 and is operating with a 30-plus year-old Master Plan written in 1975. Numerous major changes have occurred in NPS management, policy, land ownership, and practices that directly affect the park. The park needs a comprehensive management document that will address these changes and further develop strategies to protect, maintain or restore resources and address visitor access, services, and development. The following issues are among those to be addressed in updating the GMP:

Park Visitation and Visitor Facilities—Approximately 1.6 million people visit the park each year. Since 1983, lava flows have destroyed a number of facilities including a visitor center, campground, ranger residences, and have covered cultural sites, trails, and miles of highway. Changes in volcanic activity and gas emissions require creative management to protect visitor health and safety, while encouraging access and promoting outstanding visitor experiences.