

permit allows such activities. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits, and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits. A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes applicants to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of survival or propagation, or interstate commerce. Our regulations regarding implementation of section 10(a)(1)(A) permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the appropriate permit number (*e.g.*, Permit No. TE-123456) when requesting application documents and when submitting comments.

Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit TE-48847A

Applicant: Texas A & M University, Galveston, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for husbandry and holding of Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles within the Sea Life Center, Galveston, Texas.

Permit TE-42739A

Applicant: Sea Life, Tempe, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for husbandry and holding of green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles within the Sea Life Center, Arizona.

Permit TE-46978A

Applicant: U.S. Department of Agriculture, North Central Plant Introduction Station, Ames, Iowa.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to collect, propagate, and distribute for reintroduction seeds from *Helianthus paradoxus* (Pecos sunflower) from plants in Texas.

Permit TE-829761

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Applicant requests a renewal to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species within New Mexico:

- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).
- Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femeralis septentrionalis*).
- Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*).
- Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*).

Permit TE-52420A

Applicant: Pima County, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species within Pima County, Arizona:

- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).
- Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femeralis septentrionalis*).
- Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*).
- Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*).
- Interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*).
- California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*).
- Gila chub (*Gila intermedia*).
- Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*).

Permit TE-53840A

Applicant: David Griffin, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within New Mexico and Texas and northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femeralis septentrionalis*) within New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas.

Permit TE-168688

Applicant: Sarah Itz, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) within Texas.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed

activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

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.

Authority We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: October 3, 2011.

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

Regional Director, Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2011-26279 Filed 10-11-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT921000-11-L13200000-EL0000-P; MTM 97988]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the coal reserves in the lands described below in Musselshell County, Montana, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 11 a.m. on November 16, 2011. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 10 a.m. November 16, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the 920 Conference Room of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Fesko by telephone at 406-896-5080 or by e-mail at gfesko@blm.gov; or

Connie Schaff by telephone at 406–896–5060 or by e-mail at cschaff@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individuals during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Signal Peak Energy LLC. The Federal coal resource to be offered consists of all reserves recoverable by underground mining methods in the following described lands:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 6 N., R. 27 E.,

Sec. 4, lot 1, S¹/₂; NE¹/₄; SE¹/₄; NW¹/₄; S¹/₂;
Sec. 8, NE¹/₄; NE¹/₄ NW¹/₄; S¹/₂ NW¹/₄; S¹/₂;
Sec. 10, W¹/₂ NE¹/₄; SE¹/₄ NE¹/₄; NW¹/₄; S¹/₂;
Sec. 14, SW¹/₄ NE¹/₄; NW¹/₄; S¹/₂; and
Sec. 22, W¹/₂; SE¹/₄.

Containing 2,679.86 acres, more or less, in Musselshell County, Montana.

The tract (LBA MTM 97988) contains an estimated 35.5 million tons of recoverable coal reserves. The tract's coal reserves average 12.4 feet in thickness, 9,735 BTU per pound in heating value, 9.64 percent ash, and 0.87 percent sulfur content. The coal reserves to be offered are based on mining the Mammoth coal seam described in the proposed action in the Environmental Assessment and consists of all reserves recoverable by underground mining methods. The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds the BLM's estimate of the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

Sealed bids clearly marked "Sealed Bid for MTM 97988 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 11 a.m. on November 16, 2011" must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Montana State Office, at the address given above.

Prior to lease issuance, the high bidder, if other than the applicant, must pay to the BLM the cost recovery fees in the amount of \$132,739 in addition to all processing costs the BLM incurs after the date of this sale notice (43 CFR 3473.2). The bids should be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested,

or be hand delivered. The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 10 a.m. on November 16, 2011, will not be considered. If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed-bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the sale official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received. A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal mined by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. Bidding instructions for the tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Case file MTM 97988 is also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

Phillip C. Perlewitz,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 2011–26328 Filed 10–11–11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLUT030000–L17110000–PH0000–24–1A]

Notice of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee (GSENMAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The GSENMAC will meet Tuesday, November 15, 2011, (11 a.m.–6 p.m.) and Wednesday, November 16, 2011, (8 a.m.–1 p.m.) in Kanab, Utah.

ADDRESSES: The Committee will meet at GSENM Headquarters, 190 East Center Street, Kanab, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Crutchfield, Public Affairs Officer, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bureau of Land

Management, 190 East Center Street, Kanab, Utah, 84741; phone (435) 644–4310.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member GSENMAC was appointed by the Secretary of Interior on August 2, 2011, pursuant to the Monument Management Plan, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA). As specified in the Monument Management Plan, the GSENMAC will have these primary tasks: (1) Review evaluation reports produced by the Management Science Team and make recommendations on protocols and projects to meet overall objectives; (2) Review appropriate research proposals and make recommendations on project necessity and validity; (3) Make recommendations regarding allocation of research funds through review of research and project proposals as well as needs identified through the evaluation process above; and, (4) Could be consulted on issues such as protocols for specific projects.

Agenda topics to be discussed by the GSENMAC include operating procedures, establishing meeting guides, Charter, roles and responsibilities, Federal Advisory Committee Act, election of officers, Federal travel regulations, forming of subcommittees, facilitation needs, and future meeting dates.

The entire meeting is open to the public. Members of the public are welcome to address the GSENMAC at 5 p.m., local time on November 15, 2011. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit could be established. Interested persons may make oral statements to the GSENMAC during this time or written statements may be submitted for the GSENMAC's consideration. Written statements can be sent to: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Attn: Larry Crutchfield, 190 E. Center Street, Kanab, UT 84741. Information to be distributed to the GSENMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of the GSENMAC meeting.

All meetings are open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and