

falcon management population (*i.e.*, those birds originating from natal areas north of 54 degrees N. latitude), which was known to be healthy and able to sustain take. We constrained captures in this way to minimize take from the eastern and western management populations (*i.e.*, those originating from sites east and west, respectively, of 100 degrees W. longitude and south of 54 degrees N. latitude), which were still recovering from the negative population-level effects of pesticide contamination. We committed to evaluate whether our management strategy effectively focused take on the northern management population by collecting feathers from falconer-captured passage peregrine falcons, and analyzing deuterium levels in those feathers to estimate the latitude of origin.

Second, because we lacked credible estimates of the size of the northern passage peregrine falcon population in 2008, we consulted with the Canadian Wildlife Service and adopted an extremely conservative estimate of the number (*i.e.*, 3,590) of passage peregrine falcons for the northern management population. We derived this estimate from the number of known breeding pairs in the Arctic.

Finally, in our EA and in subsequent **Federal Register** notices (74 FR 36253, July 22, 2009; 75 FR 56555, September 16, 2010), we committed to reviewing data on peregrine falcons in the future at the request of the Flyway Councils to reassess the allowable take limits if data required or supported a change.

New Information

We have reviewed two recent scientific analyses that provide important new information relevant to the take of passage peregrine falcons. First, Franke (2016) used a mark-recapture model to generate an improved data-based estimate of the average number of passage peregrine falcons produced in the northern management population annually. Franke's (2016) data-based estimate of 21,000 is more than five times greater than the number we used to set take limits in the 2008 EA. Second, the Service and cooperators completed the analysis of deuterium levels in passage peregrine falcons captured in fall within the prescribed take area. The deuterium level analysis shows that the management strategy outlined in the 2008 EA is likely resulting in more than 75 percent of the falconer take coming from the northern peregrine falcon management population (Franke et al. 2017). This outcome is more protective than the objective outlined in the 2008

EA, which was that at least 65 percent of the passage peregrine falcons taken by falconers must originate from the northern management population. Overall, peregrine falcon populations remain healthy across North America, and indices such as the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) show the continental population increasing (BBS index for the period 2005–2015 = 6.4 percent per year, with a 95 percent credible interval of 0.45–13.45 percent) and no regional populations appear to be declining (Sauer et al. 2017).

The Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils reviewed this new information in 2017 and formally requested that we reevaluate and revise the passage peregrine falcon take limits based on the updated estimate of the number of passage peregrine falcons produced annually in the northern management population. Further, the Flyway Councils requested that we use the 10th quantile (*i.e.*, 18,000) of the probability distribution for the updated mean annual number of passage peregrine falcons exposed to take rather than the mean value (*i.e.*, 21,000). By using the 10th quantile, we expect there to be a 90 percent chance that the actual number is larger and, therefore, that we remain protective against overexploitation and account for the uncertainty in the production estimate. We undertook the analyses requested by the Flyway Councils by substituting 18,000 (the updated production estimate for the northern peregrine falcon management population) for 3,590 (the production estimate used in the 2008 EA) in the same models and using the same population-specific take rates as specified under the preferred alternative in the 2008 EA.

The updated analysis indicates that 144 passage peregrine falcons may be taken annually by falconers east of the 100th meridian between September 20 and October 20 consistent with the management strategy and the objectives of the selected alternative in the 2008 EA. In accordance with these findings, and consistent with the Flyway Councils' request, this notice announces that the annual take limits for passage peregrine falcons starting in the fall of 2017 will increase from 36 to 144, to be divided equally between the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways (*i.e.*, 48 per flyway).

The sole basis for this increase is the updated estimate for the northern management population. Thus, we consider this increase to be a technical update to incorporate new and better data. All other provisions outlined in the 2008 EA remain in effect (*e.g.*, the take rates and management objectives

are unchanged, the take season remains September 20 to October 20 annually, and the take of passage peregrine falcons is restricted to areas in the United States east of 100 degrees W. longitude). Therefore, the environmental impact of authorizing take of passage peregrine falcons under the preferred alternative will remain unchanged from that analyzed in the 2008 EA. Because this assessment addresses only take east of 100 degrees W. longitude, the general provisions for take of peregrine falcons west of 100 degrees W. longitude remain as described in our 2010 **Federal Register** notice (75 FR 56555, September 16, 2010).

We will continue to review peregrine falcon population and take data for Canada, the United States, and Mexico every 5 years, or at the request of the Flyway Councils, to reassess the allowable take limits. We will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** if we determine that the take limits for peregrine falcons should be changed again in the future.

Literature Cited

- Franke, A. 2016. Population estimates for Northern juvenile peregrine falcons with implications for harvest levels in North America. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 7:36–45.
- Franke, A., J. Duxbury, H. Qi, T. Coplen, G.L. Holroyd, and B.A. Millsap. 2017. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report: hydrogen stable isotope analysis of peregrine falcons in the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Washington, DC.
- Sauer, J.R., D.K. Niven, J.E. Hines, D.J. Ziolkowski, K.L. Pardieck, J.E. Fallon, and W.A. Link. 2017. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966–2015, Version 2.07.2017. <https://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/atlas15.pl?03560&1&15&csrfmiddlewaretoken=3YKakk7LxT2ki6N5pl4mstudYCqdw02C>.

Dated: August 24, 2017.

Gregory J. Sheehan,

Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[178A2100DD/AAK001030/
AOA501010.999900 253G]

Advisory Board for Exceptional Children; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is announcing a public meeting of the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children (Advisory Board). The purpose of the meeting is to meet the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) for Indian children with disabilities.

DATES: Orientation training will be conducted for new Advisory Board members on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Thereafter, on Thursday, September 21, 2017, and Friday, September 22, 2017, all Advisory Board members will meet in-session from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the 1011 Indian School Rd. NW., Room 240, Albuquerque, NM 87104; telephone number (952) 851-5423.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jennifer Davis, Designated Federal Officer, Bureau of Indian Education, 2600 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, telephone number (505) 259-4731.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the BIE is announcing that the Advisory Board will hold its next meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Advisory Board was established under the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*) to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, on the needs of Indian children with disabilities. The meetings are open to the public.

The following items will be on the agenda:

- Introduction of Advisory Board members
- Report from Tony Dearman, Director, BIE Director's Office
- Report from Dr. Jeffrey Hamley Associate Deputy Director, BIE, Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA)
- Report from Donald Griffin, Supervisory Education Specialist, BIE, DPA/Special Education
- Board work on Priorities for 2017
- Public Comment (via conference call, Friday, September 22nd meeting only*).
- BIE Advisory Board—Advice and Recommendations
- *During the September 22, 2017, meeting, time has been set aside for public comment via conference call from 11:30–12:00 p.m. Mountain Time. The call-in information is:

Conference Number 1-888-417-0376, Passcode 1509140

Public Availability of Comments:

Before including your address, phone number, email 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: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 5; 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*

Dated: August 29, 2017.

Michael S. Black,

Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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BILLING CODE 4337-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLMT921000-17X-L51100000.GA0000-LVEME17CE530; NDM 107039; MO #4500107901]

Competitive Coal Lease Sale, North Dakota

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of coal lease sale.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in McLean County, North Dakota, 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 October 17, 2017. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 10 a.m. on October 17, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the 920 Conference Room of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana-Dakotas State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669. The Detailed Statement of Lease Sale, the proposed coal lease, and Casefile NDM 107039 are available at this address. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office, at this same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Fesko by telephone at 406-896-5080 or by email at gfesko@blm.gov; or Connie Schaff by telephone at 406-896-5060 or by email at cschaff@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device

for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. 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 the Falkirk Mining Company. The Federal coal resource to be offered consists of the Federal 50 percent interest in the mineable lignite coal in the following described lands:

T 146 N., R. 82 W., 5th P.M.
Sec. 10: E½.

The 320-acre tract, located in McLean County, North Dakota, contains an estimated 2.2 million tons of Federal in-place coal resources. The tract contains two mineable coal beds, the Hagel A and Hagel B beds. The Hagel A bed averages 7.6 feet in thickness with an average overburden depth of 89 feet, and the Hagel B bed averages 3.7 feet in thickness with an average interburden thickness of 36 feet. The coal quality for the Hagel A and Hagel B beds combined averages 6,320 BTU's per pound in heating value, 7.7 percent ash, and 0.59 percent sulfur content.

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. 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.

The sealed bids should be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, or be hand delivered to the Cashier, BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office, at the address given above and clearly marked "Sealed Bid for NDM 107039 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 11 a.m. October 17, 2017." The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 10 a.m. 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. 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 \$121,806 in addition to all processing costs the BLM incurs after