

Extension includes allotted trust lands, the South Extension development plan would not be implemented if the BIA does not approve all surface use agreements between the allottee surface owners and WRI. The coal contained in the South Extension tract on the Crow Indian Reservation would not be mined. WRI would, however, receive approval from MDEQ and OSMRE to revise Absaloka Mine's existing mine and reclamation plan to include the Tract III Revision area. Under this alternative, approximately 13 million tons of additional coal would be mined and the mine life would be extended to about 2011.

Under the No Action Alternative, none of the proposed actions would occur and WRI would not implement the South Extension development plan. The remaining (already permitted) 14 million tons of in-place coal reserves would be mined by approximately 2009 at the current 6.5 to 7.0 million-ton annual production rate.

In addition to the BIA's proposed action alternatives described above, the EIS analyzes the proposed action for the EPA to issue a Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharges of storm water associated with the proposed mine expansion onto the Crow Indian Reservation. The proposed stormwater management alternative is for EPA Region 8 to issue an NPDES permit for the use of 24 sediment traps to contain the 2-year, 24-hour runoff event during the initial clearing and grubbing and during the reclamation phase. Supplemental internal sediment traps would be used during the operational phase to contain 10-year, 24-hour runoff volume in aggregate. Sediment traps would then be reduced in size to small depressions as a best management practice as reclamation is completed.

A second alternative analyzed is to issue an NPDES permit for the use of conventional sediment pond dams to detain the 10-year, 24-hour runoff event plus sediment storage. A third, is to issue an NPDES permit for the use of a single large dam on the main stem of Middle Fork Sarpy Creek, downstream of mine operations. The No Action Alternative for the proposed management corresponds with BIA alternatives that do not involve expansion of the mine onto the Crow Indian Reservation, in which case, EPA would not issue an NPDES permit.

The BIA has afforded government agencies and the public full opportunity to participate in the preparation of this EIS. The BIA published a notice of intent to prepare the EIS for the proposed action in the **Federal Register**

on November 28, 2006 (71 FR 68831); and held a public scoping meeting on December 14, 2006, in West Hardin, Montana. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 21, 2008 (73 FR 15189). The Draft was available for public comment until May 5, 2008, with an extension until June 4, 2008, published in the **Federal Register** on May 2, 2008 (73 FR 24304). The BIA held a public hearing on the Draft EIS on April 23, 2008, in West Hardin, Montana. This date was announced in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 2008 (73 FR 17995), in correction of an April 10, 2008, meeting date erroneously announced in the March 21, 2008, Notice of Availability (73 FR 15189).

Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BIA address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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: This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1–6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, via 516 DM 6.3 B. and Environmental Statement Memorandum ESM04–12.6(e).

Willie R. Taylor,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. E8–23784 Filed 10–9–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–W7–P

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to The Kuskokwim Corporation, Successor in Interest to Lower Kalskag Incorporated. The lands are in the vicinity of Lower Kalskag, Alaska, and are located in:

Seward Meridian, Alaska

T. 16 N., R. 60 W.,
Secs. 27 to 30, inclusive.
Containing approximately 2,254 acres.

T. 16 N., R. 61 W.,
Secs. 25 to 29, inclusive.
Containing approximately 3,145 acres.

T. 16 N., R. 63 W.,
Secs. 8, 17, and 19.
Containing approximately 1,821 acres.

T. 14 N., R. 64 W.,
Secs. 1, 2, and 3;
Secs. 10 to 16, inclusive.
Containing approximately 4,949 acres.
Aggregating approximately 12,169 acres.

The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Calista Corporation when the surface estate is conveyed to The Kuskokwim Corporation. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Tundra Drums.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until November 10, 2008 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907–271–5960, or by e-mail at ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F-14888-A; AK-965-1410-KC-P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

Robert Childers,

Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication II.

[FR Doc. E8-24133 Filed 10-9-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT030-4310-DS]

Notice of Availability of Draft Monument Management Plan Amendment and Draft Rangeland Health Environmental Impact Statement for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Planning Area in Kane and Garfield Counties, UT and Coconino County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared Draft Monument Management Plan Amendment and Draft Rangeland Health Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (hereafter referred to as the 'Draft Rangeland Health Amendment') and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft Rangeland Health Amendment within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* UT_GSENM_NEPA@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* (435) 644-4350.
- *Mail:* Draft Rangeland Health Amendment Comments—Attention Paul Chapman, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, 190 East Center Street, Kanab, Utah 84741.

Copies of the Draft Rangeland Health Amendment are available in the BLM

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument main office at the above address; the BLM Utah State Office in Salt Lake City; and may be viewed and downloaded in PDF format at http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning/existing_plans.html. Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and email addresses of respondents will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the planning project mailing list, contact Paul Chapman, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, 190 East Center Street, Kanab, Utah 84741, telephone: (435) 644-4309, or e-mail: UT_GSENM_NEPA@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Escalante, Paria, Vermilion and Zion Management Framework Plans (MFPs) provided the planning analysis baseline for this Draft EIS. This baseline will be carried forward as the Rangeland Health Amendment into the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan (MMP) through a Plan Amendment. Once approved, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Rangeland Health Amendment will modify or replace all existing livestock management determinations for the planning area.

The planning area includes all of the public land grazing allotments managed or administered by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah and Coconino County, Arizona. The planning area encompasses public lands currently managed under the Grand Staircase-Escalante National MMP, and portions of lands managed or administered under the Escalante, Paria, Vermilion, and Zion MFPs. Under Public Law 92-593, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument administers grazing on a portion of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area,

which is managed by the National Park Service under the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area General Management Plan. The planning area includes approximately 2.2 million acres of lands on which BLM administers livestock grazing in the three county areas, including approximately 250,000 acres in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Draft Rangeland Health Amendment analyzes five alternatives. The alternatives present differing management balances between the various resources and uses, and vary in both context and intensity. The alternatives are:

Alternative A (No Action): The current level of resource use and protection would be maintained. Grazing permits would be renewed with existing Terms and Conditions.

Alternative B: Rangeland Health Standards, with minimal stocking adjustments and improved livestock distribution and management, would be emphasized. Rangeland restoration and the future installation of structural improvements would be assessed. Grazing permits would be renewed with modified Terms and Conditions consistent with the actions proposed in this alternative.

Alternative C (Preferred Alternative): Rangeland Health Standards would be achieved over the life of the MMP by making allotment specific modifications to grazing management. These management changes would include distribution of adjustments, stocking adjustments, and temporary suspensions on less than 10% of allotments when Rangeland Health Standards assessments and monitoring indicate such actions are needed to meet resource objectives. This alternative includes the range restoration and future structural improvements assessed under Alternative B. Grazing permits would be renewed with modified Terms and Conditions consistent with the actions proposed in this alternative.

Alternative D: Rangeland Health Standards would be achieved over the life of the MMP by making modifications to grazing management including temporary grazing suspensions on allotments which fail to meet Utah BLM's Rangeland Health Standards for upland soils or desired specifics. Range restoration and the installation of structural range improvements would be assessed under this alternative, but to a lesser degree than in Alternatives B and C. Grazing permits would be renewed with modified Terms and Conditions consistent with the actions proposed in this alternative.