

- Few restoration projects integrate an interdisciplinary scientific approach into project implementation, limiting the opportunities to learn restoration.

In 2004, following approval of CALFED Bay-Delta Program grant funding, River Partners and an interdisciplinary team began studies to examine measures to protect the PCGID–PID pumping plant and fish screen facility and develop restoration options for the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit.

River Partners initiated a cooperative process with the Service and the PCGID–PID to address complex and potentially controversial issues associated with restoration activities and pumping plant and fish screen facility protection measures. MBK Engineers completed the Llano Seco Unit Sacramento River Mile 178 Pumping Plant Protection Feasibility Study in August 2005 to identify alternatives that meet the PCGID–PID's pumping plant and fish screen protection objectives.

In 2005, River Partners prepared a Riparian Feasibility Study for the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit to investigate the feasibility of restoration and other management options for this area. Approximately 500 acres of the site was found to be dominated by nonnative plants, with poor wildlife habitat values, and suitable for restoration.

In 2010, Ayres Associates refined the alternatives identified in the MBK study, identifying the most feasible alternatives that should be considered for protection of the PCGID–PID facility.

### Summary of Alternatives

#### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, only the ongoing removal and management of invasive plant species would occur at the Riparian Sanctuary. No active restoration of native plants would occur. Maintenance activities for the PCGID–PID pumping plant and fish screens would continue, but no new actions would be taken to prevent river meander.

#### Action Alternatives

A full range of reasonable alternatives will be developed based on the River Partners 2005 feasibility study, the 2010 Ayres feasibility study, and public input received during this scoping period. The 2005 River Partners study identified restoration measures consisting of full plantings or site-specific plantings of the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit. The 2010 Ayres feasibility study identified the following measures to

protect the PCGID–PID pumping plant and fish screen facility: Construction of spur dikes, traditional riprap revetment, traditional riprap with a low berm, and traditional riprap with removal of existing revetment. A combination of these measures will be used to develop a range of alternatives.

### Public Comment

We are furnishing this notice in accordance with section 1501.7 of the NEPA implementing regulations to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. We invite written comments from interested parties to ensure identification of the full range of issues.

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the 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.

### Public Scoping Meeting

In addition to providing written comments, the public is encouraged to attend a public scoping meeting to provide us with suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider when drafting the EIS/EIR. A public scoping meeting will be held on the date shown in the **DATES** section.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact us at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section no later than 1 week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request. We will accept both oral and written comments at the scoping meeting.

### NEPA Compliance

Information gathered through this scoping process will assist us in developing a range of alternatives to address restoration of the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit and protection of the PCGID–PID pumping plant and fish screen facility. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. The EIS/EIR will identify the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts

of the alternatives on biological resources, cultural resources, land use, air quality, water quality, water resources, and other environmental resources. It will also identify appropriate mitigation measures for adverse environmental effects.

We will conduct environmental review in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other applicable regulations, and our procedures for compliance with those regulations. The environmental document will be prepared to meet both the requirements of NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CDFG is the CEQA lead agency. We anticipate that a draft EIS/EIR will be available for public review in the fall of 2011.

Dated: April 6, 2011.

**Alexandra Pitts,**

*Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT921000–11–L13200000–EL0000–P;  
MTM 101687–MTM 101688]

### Notice of Invitation–Coal Exploration License Applications MTM 101687 and MTM 101688

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Members of the public are hereby invited to participate with the Spring Creek Coal Company on a pro rata cost sharing basis in a program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in lands located in Big Horn County, Montana, encompassing a combined 9,011.61 acres.

**DATES:** Any party seeking to participate in this exploration program must send written notice to both the Bureau of Land Management and Spring Creek Coal Company as provided in the “**ADDRESSES**” section below no later than May 12, 2011 or 10 calendar days after the last publication of this Notice in the *Sheridan Press* newspaper, whichever is later. This Notice will be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in the *Sheridan Press*, Sheridan, Wyoming. Such written notice must refer to serial numbers MTM 101687 or MTM 101688.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed exploration license and plan are available for review

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the public room at the BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana.

A written notice to participate in the exploration licenses should be sent to the State Director, BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669 and Spring Creek Coal Company, P.O. Box 67, Decker, Montana 59025-0067.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Giovani by telephone at 406-896-5084 or by e-mail at [rgiovani@blm.gov](mailto:rgiovani@blm.gov); or Connie Schaff by telephone at 406-896-5060 or by e-mail at [cschaff@blm.gov](mailto:cschaff@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The exploration activities will be performed pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations at 43 CFR part 3410. The purpose of the exploration program is to gain additional geologic knowledge of the coal underlying the exploration area for the purpose of assessing the coal resources. The exploration program is fully described and will be conducted pursuant to an exploration license and plan approved by the BLM. The exploration plan may be modified to accommodate the legitimate exploration needs of persons seeking to participate.

The lands to be explored for coal deposits in exploration license MTM 101687 are described as follows:

**Principal Meridian, Montana**

T. 8 S., R. 38 E.,  
Sec. 24, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
T. 8 S., R. 39 E.,  
Sec. 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 5, lots 13 thru 26, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 8, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 9;  
Sec. 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 17, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 20, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 21, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 22, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 27, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 29, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Containing 5,260.16 acres.

The Federal coal within the lands described for exploration license MTM 101667 is currently unleased for development of Federal coal reserves.

The lands to be explored for coal deposits in exploration license MTM 101688 are described as follows:

**Principal Meridian, Montana**

T. 8 S., R. 39 E.,  
Sec. 26, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 35, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
T. 9 S., R. 39 E.,  
Sec. 1, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , and W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 11, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 12, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
T. 9 S., R. 40 E.,  
Sec. 6, lots 5-7, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 7, lots 1-4, inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Containing 3,751.45 acres.

The Federal coal within the lands described for exploration license MTM 101668 is currently unleased for development of Federal coal reserves.

The Spring Creek Coal Company has requested that the BLM's decision associated with exploration license MTM 101688 be deferred for approximately 9 months after the decision on exploration license MTM 101687.

**Phillip C. Perlewitz,**

*Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLWYD010000-L13110000-EJ0000]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project, Sublette County, WY**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Field Office (PFO), Pinedale, Wyoming, and the BLM Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO), Rock Springs, Wyoming, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

for the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) Natural Gas Development Project and by this notice are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until May 12, 2011. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media outlets and through the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfdocs/npl.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided on publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the NPL Natural Gas Development Project by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* [NPL\\_EIS\\_WY@blm.gov](mailto:NPL_EIS_WY@blm.gov);
- *Mail:* P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941; or
- *Hand delivery:* 1625 W. Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming.

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 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:**

Kellie Roadifer, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Pinedale Field Office, 1625 W. Pine Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941; 307-367-5309; [Kellie\\_Roadifer@blm.gov](mailto:Kellie_Roadifer@blm.gov). Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Pinedale Field Office and will be posted online at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfdocs/npl.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NPL encompasses an area of 141,080 acres located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Infill Natural Gas Field. It is located within the BLM PFO and RSFO, High Desert District, in Sublette County, Wyoming. EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (EnCana) currently owns leasehold interests on more than 70 percent of this area and proposes to develop up to 3,500 wells ranging from a depth of 6,500 to 13,500 feet and