

The tract includes an estimated 130 million tons of coal in place. As part of the coal leasing process, BLM will evaluate the tract configuration, and may decide to add or subtract Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to increase estimated fair market value.

The Buckskin Mine, which is adjacent to the lease application area, has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The mine has an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ to mine up to 27.5 million tons of coal per year.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. If the West Hay Creek LBA tract is leased to the applicant, the new lease must be incorporated into the existing mining plans for the adjacent mine, and the Secretary of the Interior must approve the revised mining plan before the Federal coal in the tract can be mined. OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised mining plan to the Secretary if the tract is leased.

A major issue the BLM has identified related to coal leasing in the Powder River Basin is the need to resolve conflicts between existing and proposed oil and gas development, including coal bed methane, and proposed coal mining on the West Hay Creek LBA tract. Other issues identified include the potential impacts to big game herds and hunting, the potential impacts to sage grouse, the size of the tract as applied for, the need for considering the cumulative impacts of this leasing decision, the validity and currency of the resource data to be used in analyzing the impacts, the impact on existing land uses, the potential impacts to sensitive and endangered species including prairie dogs and mountain plover, and the potential impacts on air and water quality. If you have specific concerns about these issues, or have other concerns or issues that BLM should consider in processing this application, please address them in writing to the above address. Written comments should be received by July 31, 2002, in order to be fully considered in the draft EIS.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to

withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: April 17, 2002.

Alan Rabinoff,

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-02-5101-ER-F333]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Tracy to Silver Lake Power Line Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, Nevada, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Tracy to Silver Lake Power Line Project (Project).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office intends to prepare an EIS, in cooperation with Washoe County and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to analyze the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from an electrical power line and two substations proposed by Sierra Pacific Power Company. The proposed Project includes the upgrade and extension of an electrical 120 KV transmission line, as well as the construction of two substations, from the existing power plant at Tracy, Nevada to the Silver Lake area near Stead in Washoe County, Nevada. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to identify the best possible alternatives and management decisions that will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. This NOI initiates the public scoping process to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice. Formal scoping will end 30 days after publication of this notice. Comments on issues and concerns

should be received on or before the end of the scoping period at the address listed below. Public meetings will be held throughout the scoping and preparation of the EIS. At least 15 days public notice will be given prior to meetings or activities where the public is invited to attend. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local and regional news media and the BLM Web site (www.nv.blm.gov/carson). In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities will be provided through comment on the Draft EIS (60-day comment period) and the Final EIS (30-day comment period).

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent via U.S. Mail to: BLM Carson City Field Office, Attn: Sierra EIS Project Manager, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. In addition, comments may be sent via fax at (775) 885-6147 or electronic mail to d2parker@nv.blm.gov. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact David Parker (775) 885-6076 or Terri Knutson (775) 885-6156, BLM Carson City Field Office, Carson City, Nevada.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will address issues brought forth through scoping and will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of BLM, Washoe County, and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony specialists. A range of alternatives and mitigating measures will be considered to evaluate and minimize environmental impacts and to assure that the proposed actions do not result in undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands. Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may

be interested in or affected by the BLM decision on the Tracy to Silver Lake Power Line Project are urged to participate in the EIS process. It is important that those interested in the proposed activities participate in the scoping and commenting processes of the EIS. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible.

Dated: May 14, 2002.

John Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 02-16005 Filed 6-24-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-110-1060-DU]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for an Amendment to the White River Resource Management Plan (RMP) Regarding Management of Wild Horses in the West Douglas Herd Area.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), White River Field Office proposes to prepare an EA and consider an amendment to the White River RMP regarding management of wild horses in the West Douglas Herd Area. The purpose of this planning process is to identify the most appropriate strategy for management of wild horses in the West Douglas Herd Area of the White River Resource Area, while protecting resource values, providing for multiple uses, and improving the health of public lands. The planning process will allow BLM, with integrated public involvement, to develop and conduct detailed analysis of a full range of alternatives specifically focused on wild horses and other resources within this herd area. BLM has determined that such detail and focus may not have been sufficiently addressed and documented in the current RMP, which has a resource-area-wide scope. BLM will hold public meetings in Rangely and Grand Junction, CO, to share information and identify specific concerns and issues pertaining to this plan amendment.

DATES: The official public scoping period for this planning effort commences with the publication of this notice. The public is invited to submit scoping comments to the address listed

below until August 26, 2002. BLM will publish exact dates, times, and locations for public meetings through media announcements, internet postings, and mailings at least 15 days in advance of the meetings.

ADDRESSES: Send scoping comments to the White River Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 73544 Hwy 64, Meeker, CO 81641, or e-mail scott_pavey@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The West Douglas Herd Area is located in Rio Blanco County, within the southwestern portion of the White River Resource Area in Northwestern Colorado. It contains 123,390 acres of public, and 4,754 acres of private land. The herd area also encompasses Texas and Oil Spring Mountains; portions of Douglas, Missouri, and Texas Creek Watersheds; a portion of the Oil Springs Mountain Wilderness Study Area; and a portion of the Canyon Pintado National Historic District.

BLM invites the public to identify issues that they feel should be addressed during the planning process. Thus far, BLM has identified the following preliminary issues:

Issue 1: Wild Horse Management. Have all reasonable management options been considered and analyzed? Do management alternatives meet statutory requirements?

Issue 2: Wilderness. Can wild horse management activities and wilderness values within Oil Spring Mountain Wilderness Study Area co-exist?

Issue 3: Oil and Gas Development. Will there be additional stipulations for oil and gas development? Will oil and gas development cause wild horses to disperse into areas outside of the herd area?

Issue 4: Forage Allocation. What proportions of available forage should be allocated to livestock, wild horses, and wildlife?

Public participation will be an essential component of this planning process. Anyone wishing to be placed on the BLM mailing list for this action should contact the person listed below or mail a letter containing contact information to the White River Field Office (address listed earlier in this notice). BLM will review all comments and take them into consideration when developing the Environmental Assessment and the plan amendment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Pavey, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, White River Field Office (970) 878-3831, E-mail: scott_pavey@co.blm.gov.

Dated: March 25, 2001.

James A. Cagney,

Associate Field Manager.

Editorial Note: This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on June 20, 2002.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-02-1220-AA]

Notice of Public Meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Public Laws 92-463 and 94-579, that the California Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, will meet in formal session on Friday, June 28, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Barstow Community College, located at 2700 Barstow Road, Barstow, California.

Agenda items for the Council meeting will include the following topics:

- Review of District Advisory Council charter, Council role and function
- Election of Officers
- Public Comment for items not on the agenda (Friday morning)
- Overview and update on the West Mojave Plan
- Status report on current District Planning efforts: Northern and Eastern Colorado Plan, Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan, Draft BLM Coachella Valley Plan Amendment—
- Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Western Colorado Plan, Draft Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Resource Management Plan
- Plan Implementation strategies and priorities
- Council involvement in future Districtwide projects
- Public comment (Saturday afternoon)
- Select future Council meeting date(s), location(s), and agenda topics

All Desert District Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Time for public comment is scheduled at the beginning of the meeting for topics not on the agenda, and will be made available by the Council Chairman during the presentation of various agenda items. Time for public comment is also scheduled at the end of the meeting.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the