

coal lease at the Black Butte Mine. This mine is operated by Black Butte Coal Company, and is located east of Rock Springs in Sweetwater County, WY. On August 7, 2000, Black Butte Coal Company filed an application with the BLM to modify Federal lease WYW6266 by adding the following lands:

T. 19 N., R. 100 W., 6th PM, Wyoming  
Section 24: NWNW, W2NENW, N2SWNW.

This tract is adjacent to Black Butte Mine, Pit 10 and includes 80.00 acres more or less with an estimated 2.6 million tons of coal. This application was filed as a lease modification under the provisions of 43 CFR part 3432.

BLM believes that this lease modification serves the interest of the United States because it will avoid a bypass of Federal coal reserves. This area is a natural extension of the existing mine workings of the Black Butte Mine, Pit 10 of the current lease. This modification area is logically recovered as a part of the planned operations on the existing lease, and would avoid the bypass of these Federal coal reserves. This coal is ripe for recovery and is easily incorporated into Black Butte's current operation. If this coal is recovered in concert with the existing lease, it would result in minimal additional surface disturbance.

BLM further believes that there is no current competitive interest in the lands proposed for lease modification. Under the lease modification process, the modified lands would be added to the existing lease without competitive bidding. Before offering the lease modification the BLM will prepare an appraisal of the fair market value of the lease. The United States would receive fair market value of the lease for the added lands.

The proposed lease modification is within the mine permit area of the Black Butte Mine. No new facilities or employees would be needed to mine the coal. Physical extraction of these reserves would begin in 2004 and continue through 2007. BLM prepared a DR/FONSI for this action. If this tract is modified into the current lease, the new lands must be incorporated into the existing mining plans for the Black Butte Mine. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental document because it is the Federal agency that is responsible for any required actions necessary to incorporate these lands into the current mining plan.

In addition to preparing the DR/FONSI, BLM will also develop possible stipulations regarding mining

operations, determine the fair market value of the tract and evaluate maximum economic recovery of the coal in the proposed tract while processing this lease modification.

Comments on the DR/FONSI, the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed noncompetitive offer of the coal included in the proposed lease modification, will be available for public review at the address below 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: January 11, 2002.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT–929–1320–HN; MTM 88970]

#### Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment; Montana

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** A copy of an environmental assessment (EA) for the transfer of Federal mineral rights in lands designated as Otter Creek Tracts 1, 2, and 3 to the State of Montana is available for review. This EA assesses the impacts of the compliance by the Secretary of the Interior with Section 503 of Public Law 105–83 regarding the transfer of mineral assets to the State of Montana.

**DATES:** Comments must be post marked no later than February 27, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management (920), Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59102.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We welcome your comments on this

document. The Bureau of Land Management is collecting comments on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. We regret that as of February 4, 2002, we do not have internet capability. Therefore, this document is not posted on the internet and comments cannot be received through that medium. Copies of the EA are available at the BLM Montana State Office at the above address.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except during 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 request 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 available for public inspection in their entirety. Thank you for participating in the environmental process.

Dated: February 4, 2002.

**Roberta A. Moltzen,**

*Acting State Director, BLM Montana State Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–020–E01–18; WYW–134032]

#### Notice of Realty Action Direct Sale of Public Land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, Cody Field Office

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has determined that the following land is suitable for direct sale to Hawkins & Powers Aviation Inc. (H&P) under sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, (90 Stat. 2750, 2757), (43 U.S.C. 1713, 1719), (43 CFR 2711.3–3[1] and [5] and (43 CFR part 270) at not less than fair market value. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of this notice.