

307-775-6329. Copies of the EIS and ROD are available from the BLM at the following locations: Rawlins Field Office, P.O. Box 2407, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming, 82301; Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901; the Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82009; and on the Wyoming NEPA documents Web Site at www.wy.blm.gov./nepa/nfdocs.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, a Final EIS addressing a natural gas development project in Sweetwater and Carbon Counties, Wyoming, was issued by the BLM in December 1999. The Final EIS addressed the potential impacts of exploration and development of up to 3,000 natural gas wells and associated facilities. The BLM decision is to approve the Operators' development plan as described in the Proposed Action of the CD/WII Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the following modifications. Development will be reduced from the proposed 3,000 wells at 3,000 well locations to allow up to 2,130 wells at 2,130 well locations within the project area along with associated access roads, pipelines, a gas processing facility, and associated ancillary facilities. Allowance of the remaining 870 wells/well locations (not more than 435 wells or well locations on Federal lands, and/or Federal mineral estate) with associated facilities will be considered pending completion of a planning review of the Great Divide Resource Area Resource Management Plan for the Rawlins Field Office area.

This ROD will allow approximately 930 new wells/well locations within the jurisdictional boundary of the Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) area (not more than 465 wells or well locations on Federal lands and/or Federal mineral estate) and will allow 1,200 new wells/well locations within the jurisdictional boundary of the Rawlins Field Office (RFO) area (not more than 600 wells or well locations on Federal lands, and/or Federal mineral estate) for a total of 2,130 well locations. This is assuming 50 percent of the wells will be drilled on Federal lands and/or mineral estate. Should private/State land development trends exceed 50 percent of the wells, the number of wells permitted on Federal estate will be limited accordingly. The total amount of new roads and new pipelines, and the number of ancillary facilities will be reduced to accommodate the number of

wells drilled. This will include approximately 1,100 miles of access road, 1,100 miles of pipeline, 3-4 compressor stations, 3-4 water disposal wells, 7 water evaporation facilities, 36 water wells, and 1 gas processing facility.

Approval of the Proposed Action, as modified, provides for managing the CD/WII project area in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (Sec. 202(e)), in a manner that allows for natural gas development while continuing to provide for the existing principal and major uses recognized by the land use plans (*i.e.* domestic livestock grazing, wildlife development and utilization, mineral exploration and production, and outdoor recreation) for this area. The Proposed Action, as modified, sustains the long-term availability of other resources while promoting stability of local and regional economies, environmental integrity, and conservation of resources for future generations. The approved action, as modified, will also provide for complete conformance with BLM RMPs for both the RSFO and the RFO areas. Reducing the number of wells and associated facilities to be developed within the jurisdictional boundary of the RFO area will help ensure the project will comply with the current reasonably foreseeable oil and gas development scenarios projected in the GDRA RMP and the planning decisions these projections may have influenced. Furthermore, the reduction in the allowable wells and the associated development for this project provides an opportunity for other oil and gas activity to occur outside the project area while a review of the existing GDRA RMP is being completed. The decision is consistent with all Federal, State, and county authorizing actions required to implement the project and with National policy. More detailed rationale and justification for the decision to select the Proposed Action with modifications are outlined in the ROD.

Dated: June 14, 2000.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-15581 Filed 6-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY070-00-1310-EJ]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for oil and gas development in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming, in Campbell, Sheridan, Johnson and the northern portion of Converse Counties.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must analyze the impacts of actions we permit on Federal lands and minerals. As part of this analysis, the cumulative affects of the proposed action and other activities occurring in the area must be considered. Two Environmental Assessments (EAs) (Gillette North, and Lower Prairie Dog Creek) and two Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) (Gillette South and WYODAK) to address proposed coalbed methane (CBM) development have been completed in the area. A third EA, the WYODAK drainage EA, is currently underway. When the WYODAK EIS was completed in November of 1999, it became apparent there was a demand to drill additional wells above the 5,890 analyzed.

Part of the new analysis will be to determine if the Buffalo Resource Management Plan needs to be updated in order to support continued development.

Our recent reasonable foreseeable development scenario indicates we could see an additional 30,000 CBM wells and 3,000 oil wells or more in the Powder River Basin between now and the year 2010 if development success continues as it has been. These numbers include development on all ownerships.

DATES: Comments to be considered in the draft EIS should be submitted by June 30, 2000. The draft EIS should be available for public review by April 15, of 2001.

ADDRESSES: Questions or concerns should be addressed to Paul Beels in the BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Beels, phone 307-684-1100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following are some of the major issues raised during the preparation of the WYODAK CBM EIS and in addition, comments received for the WYODAK

drainage EA. These issues are provided to help you understand what has occurred in past environmental documents and perhaps stimulate additional thoughts, questions, and issues.

- People were concerned with the loss of hydraulic head related to groundwater associated with the coal seam. Concerns related to lowering of water levels and increased pumping costs because water would have to be pumped from greater depths.
- Questions were posed on what effects the coalbed methane development would have on air quality. Of concern were possible hazardous emissions and pollutants released as a result of compressor emissions.
- Disposing water on the surface raised concerns about water quality due to possible increased erosion and effects on irrigated lands.
- There were concerns about potential for increased weed infestations.
- There were concerns about long-term affects resulting from depletion of groundwater.
- Concerns were raised regarding impacts to threatened and endangered species, grouse, and raptors.
- Gas venting from recently drilled wells was a concern.
- Noise from operation of compressors was a concern.
- Concern was expressed about the effects of surface disposal of water and operating a ranch with ongoing methane development operations.

Public scoping meetings will be held on June 6, 2000, at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Sheridan, Wyoming; June 7, 2000, at 7 p.m. at Colonel Bozeman's in Buffalo, Wyoming; June 8, 2000, at 7 p.m. at the Thunder Basin Hotel in Gillette, Wyoming; and June 12, 2000, at 7 p.m. at the Best Western in Douglas, Wyoming. The purpose of the meetings is to solicit comments regarding the proposal and answer questions about issues or concerns you may have. We will use the feedback in the preparation of the EIS.

Dated: June 14, 2000.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-15582 Filed 6-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-56474]

Notice of Realty Action; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following described land in Elko County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for classification for lease/purchase under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The lands will not be offered for lease/purchase until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 34 N., R. 55 E.

Section 2, Lots 1-2, S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 164.09 acres, more or less.

DATES: The land will become segregated on June 21, 2000. Comments are due in this office by August 7, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Elko County School District intends to use the land for a transportation facility and school complex. The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States.

1. A right-of-way thereof for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States; Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).
2. All mineral deposits in the lands so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable laws and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

The lease/patent will be subject to all prior and existing rights.

The land is not required for any Federal purpose. The classification and subsequent lease/conveyance are consistent with the Bureau's planning for the area and would be in the public interest.

Upon publication of this Notice of Realty Action in the **Federal Register**, the subject lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including locations

under the mining laws, except for recreation and public purposes and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The segregative effect shall terminate upon issuance of a patent or as specified in an opening order to be published in the **Federal Register**, whichever occurs first.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the Field Manager, Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. Any objections will be evaluated by the State Director, who may sustain, vacate or modify this realty action. In the absence of timely filed objections, the classification of the lands described in this Notice will become effect 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Classification Comments: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposed Act. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a county transportation facility and school complex.

Dated: June 7, 2000.

David L. Stout,

Associate Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-15610 Filed 6-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-2000-1060-JJ]

Notice of Intent to Remove Stray Wild Horses

SUMMARY: The Wild, Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Pub. L. 92-95) requires that, among other things, horses that exceed the Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) established for them or stray from designated Herd Management Areas (HMAs) be removed. In order to accomplish that, the Rawlins and Lander Field Offices of the Bureau