

that it is the only woodpecker that excavates its roost and nest cavities in living pine trees. Each group member has its own cavity, although there may be multiple cavities in a single pine tree. The aggregate of cavity trees is called a cluster. RCWs forage almost exclusively on pine trees and they generally prefer pines greater than 10 inches diameter at breast height. Foraging habitat is contiguous with the cluster. The number of acres required to supply adequate foraging habitat depends on the quantity and quality of the pine stems available.

The RCW is endemic to the pine forests of the Southeastern United States and was once widely distributed across 16 States. The species evolved in a mature fire-maintained ecosystem. The RCW has declined primarily due to the conversion of mature pine forests to young pine plantations, agricultural fields, and residential and commercial developments, and to hardwood encroachment in existing pine forests due to fire suppression. The species is still widely distributed (presently occurs in 13 southeastern States), but remaining populations are highly fragmented and isolated. Presently, the largest populations occur on federally owned lands such as military installations and national forests.

In South Carolina, there are an estimated 681 active RCW clusters as of 1994; 67 percent are on Federal lands, 6 percent are on State lands, and 27 percent are on private lands. The populations on public lands are generally stable, and in some cases are increasing. The overall population trend on private lands in South Carolina, on the other hand, is downward. Most RCW populations on private lands are relatively small and isolated.

The Applicant's land in Orangeburg County hosts a small and isolated population of RCWs. As of 1995, there were 2 active RCW clusters; 1 breeding group and 1 solitary adult male. The nearest known RCW group occurs on private lands approximately 2.5 miles to the north of the Gasque/Felkel tract near Elloree. The nearest known RCW concentration (greater than 5 groups) occurs over 10–15 miles away on the Manchester State Forest/Shaw Air Force Base to the north in Sumter County, and on the privately-owned Norfolk Southern property located south of the Gasque/Felkel tract in Dorchester County. The Applicants propose to harvest timber on their property for supplemental income. Timber harvesting activities may result in death of, or harm to, any remaining RCWs through the loss of nesting and foraging habitat.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives, including the proposed action. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the incidental take permit and implementation of the HCP as submitted by the Applicants. The HCP will provide for the provisioning of 4 clusters with artificial starts and cavities on suitable habitat on the Sandhills State Forest in Chesterfield County. The Sandhills State Forest is part of a designated recovery population for the RCW in the South Carolina Sandhills Physiographic Province. The State Forest has a total of 46,000 acres of which 40,000 acres are manageable pine lands (predominately longleaf pine). The State Forest currently has 55 active RCW groups with a long-term goal of increasing the population to assist with the recovery of the South Carolina Sandhills population. The HCP will also involve the translocation of any juveniles produced by the breeding pair on the Gasque/Felkel property to the provisioned sites at the Sandhills State Forest. Finally, the HCP will involve monitoring the provisioned sites for a specified time period at the State Forest to determine success of the provisioning efforts. The HCP provides a funding source for the mitigation measures.

Dated: January 9, 1996.  
Noreen K. Clough,  
*Regional Director.*  
[FR Doc. 96–3566 Filed 2–15–96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

### **Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Service announces the dates and locations of the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest; the public is invited to attend.

**DATES:** 1. The 1996 contest opens for submission July 1, 1996.

2. The public may view the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp Contest entries on Tuesday, October 15, 1996, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Department of the Interior Auditorium.

3. This year's judging will be held from October 16–17, 1996, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, and continuing at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17.

4. Persons wishing to enter this year's contest may submit entries anytime after Monday, July 1, but *all* must be postmarked no later than midnight Sunday, September 15, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for complete copies of the regulations, reproduction rights and the display and participation agreements should be addressed to: Federal Duck Stamp Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Suite 2058, Washington, DC 20240.

Location of Contest: Department of the Interior Building, Auditorium (C Street entrance), 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Lita F. Edwards, Telephone (202) 208–4354 or Fax (202) 208–6296.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following *five* eligible species for the 1996–97 duck stamp contest are as follows:

- (1) Canada Goose
- (2) Greater Scaup
- (3) Green-Winged Teal
- (4) Northern Pintail
- (5) Black Duck

The primary author of this document is Mrs. Lita F. Edwards, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: February 6, 1996.  
John G. Rogers, Jr.,  
*Director.*  
[FR Doc. 96–3562 Filed 2–15–96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

### **Bureau of Land Management [CACA 35919]**

#### **California; Classification of Public Lands**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice, CA–35919.

**SUMMARY:** The following described lands have been examined and found suitable for classification for recreation and public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et. seq.). The Bureau of Land Management will reclassify 160 acres of public land in San Bernardino County to facilitate the Colorado River Law Enforcement Shooting Range Project.

**DATE:** Comments must be received by April 1, 1996. Adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director.

**ADDRESS:** Bureau of Land Management, Area Manager, Needles Resource Area, 101 W. Spikes Road, Needles, California, 92363.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George R. Meckfessel, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, (619) 326–3896.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 9, 1996 a decision was made

to lease the following lands to the Colorado River Law Enforcement Range Association to develop and operate a shooting range for the training of law enforcement officers.

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T8N, R23E, E $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 19, and W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 20

The lease/patent when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

Publication of this notice in the Federal Register segregates the public lands from appropriation under any other public land law, including location under the mining laws. The segregative effect will end either upon issuance of patent or with the termination of this lease.

In the absence of any adverse comments the classification will become effective 60 days from the publication of this notice.

Phil Damon,

*Acting Area Manager.*

[FR Doc. 96-3558 Filed 2-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

#### [MT-027-1320-00, MTM 83859]

#### **Notice of Amended Planning Area and Extension of Public Scoping Period, Coal Lease Application, MTM 83859, Spring Creek Coal Company**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana, Miles City District, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice of the initial Intent to Plan was published in the Federal Register (61FR1394) on Friday, January 19, 1996. This Notice amends the planning area and extends the public scoping comment period.

On November 9, 1995, Spring Creek Coal Company filed an amended lease application, MTM 83859, for federal coal resources within the Powder River Coal Region. The land included in the application is located in Big Horn County, Montana and is described as follows:

T. 8 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 22: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 25: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 26 S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

Sec. 27: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

T. 8 S., R. 40 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 30: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The 320.00 acre tract contains an estimated 37.8 million tons of recoverable coal reserves.

An environmental analysis will be prepared to analyze the proposed lease of the federal coal resource and the reasonably foreseeable consequences of this action as well as the impacts of development of the coal. The planning area has been amended and encompasses the Lease Application area and includes portions of the following described lands:

T. 8 S., R.39 E., P.M.M.

Sections 11 through 16, 21 through 28, and 34 through 36.

T. 9 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.

Sections 1, 2, and 12.

T. 8 S., R. 40 E., P.M.M.

Sections 19, 20, and 30 through 32.

T. 9 S., R. 40 E., P.M.M.

Sections 5 through 8.

This document will amend the Powder River Resource Area Resource Management Plan. It will be based on the existing statutory requirements and will meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** All interested parties including federal, state and local agencies are invited to participate in the environmental analysis scoping process. The scoping period which began January 19, 1996 has been extended and will end March 29, 1996.

The following issues and concerns have been identified:

- Possible impacts to the hydrologic resources;
- Potential for social and economic impacts to the area;
- Potential redesignation of crucial winter range for deer and antelope from unsuitable for mining to suitable for mining with stipulations;
- Cultural resources and traditional lifeway values;
- The level of environmental documentation necessary (EA or EIS).

The public is encouraged to present their ideas and views on these and other issues and concerns. All issues and concerns will be considered in the preparation of the environmental analysis.

The scoping process used to collect issues and concerns will involve one

public meeting and a written comment period. The written comment period will begin immediately and will close on March 29, 1996. The public meeting will be held February 29, 1996, at 7:00 P.M. at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, 335 West Alger Street, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** All comments and requests for further information should be addressed to Todd Christensen, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Powder River Resource Area, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301, telephone number (406) 232-4331.

Dated: February 9, 1996.

Glenn A. Carpenter,

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 96-3545 Filed 2-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

#### [OR-050-1220-00:GP6-0068]

#### **Grant County, OR; Visitor Restrictions**

February 8, 1996.

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI), Prineville District.

**ACTION:** Notice is hereby given that two BLM administered access roads located in Grant County, Oregon, one within Township 13 South, Range 26 East, Sections 3, 4, 9, 17, 20 and 28 and another within Township 13 South, Range 26 East, Section 24, NW $\frac{1}{4}$  are closed seasonally to motorized vehicles from December 1 to April 50.

The aforementioned lands located in Grant County, Oregon, near the town of Dayville, Oregon, are seasonally closed to motor vehicles from December 1 to April 30 each year. The purpose of this closure is to protect the road surface from vehicle damage during periods of muddy conditions, to protect soil and watershed resources from off-road vehicle damage, and to minimize harassment and poaching of wildlife.

Exemptions to this closure will apply to administrative and law enforcement personnel of the BLM or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and personnel performing law enforcement, firefighting, or other emergency duties.

The authority for this closure comes from 43 CFR 8364.1(a): Closure and restriction orders. Violation of this closure order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

A more specific location of public lands under this closure can be obtained at the BLM Prineville District Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**