

The grizzly bear was once a common inhabitant of the North Cascades ecosystem in the northern Cascade Mountains of Washington. Grizzly bears were removed from the North Cascades ecosystem by humans as they settled the area. Primary reasons for these removals included livestock protection, uncontrolled hunting, and trapping and shooting for sale of hides (Almack et al. 1993). From 1849 to 1851 Hudson Bay Company records show that at least 429 grizzly bear hides were processed at trading posts within or near the North Cascades area (Sullivan 1983). Recent records indicate a small population of grizzly bears remains in the North Cascades with 21 credible reports from 1964 to 1991 (Almack et al. 1993). In addition, grizzly bears still occur immediately north of the United States-Canada border in the Cascade Range of British Columbia. The grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in the conterminous 48 States in 1975 under the Act. The Recovery Plan Chapter for the North Cascades ecosystem outlines the necessary actions to recover the grizzly bear in this ecosystem. Alternative actions to recovery grizzly bears in the North Cascades ecosystem, including adding bears from other areas to the small number of bears currently existing within the ecosystem, would be considered through the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The public would be informed of the Service's intent to implement the NEPA process through press releases and a notice in the **Federal Register**.

References Cited

- Almack, J.A., W.L. Gaines, R.H. Naney, P.H. Morrison, J.R. Eby, G.F. Wooten, M.C. Snyder, S.H. Fitkin, and E.R. Garica. 1993. North Cascades Grizzly Bear Ecosystem evaluation; final report. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Denver, Colorado. 156 pp.
- Sullivan, P.T. 1983. A preliminary study of historic and recent reports of grizzly bears in the North Cascades area of Washington. Washington Department of Game, Olympia, Washington.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Grizzly bear recovery plan. Missoula, Montana. 181 pp.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: June 30, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Utah—Notice of Invitation To Participate in Coal Exploration Program; Beaver Brook Coal LLC—UTU-76558 Scofield East

Pursuant to section 2(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act of February 20, 1920, as amended by section 4 of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 1083, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations adopted as Subpart 3410, Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Beaver Brook Coal LLC in the proposed exploration of certain Federal coal deposits in the following described lands in Utah and Carbon Counties, Utah.

Utah County

- T. 11 S., R. 7 E., SLM, UT
Sec. 2, All;
Sec. 3, lots 1-3, 6, 7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, SE;
Sec. 9, E2;
Secs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, All;
Sec. 17, E2;
Sec. 20, E2;
Secs. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, All;

Sec. 29, E2;
Secs. 34, 35, All.

Carbon County

T. 12 S., R. 7 E., SLM, UT
Sec. 1, All;
Sec. 3, All;
Sec. 10, NE, NENW, E2SE, N2NWSE,
N2S2NWSE, N2NESE;
Sec. 11, NW, SESW, E2SWSW, N2N2SW,
E2S2N2SW, SENWSW;
Sec. 12, All;
Sec. 13, NE, SW, N2SE, SESE;
Sec. 14, SWSW;
Sec. 15, NW, SE, S2NE, NWNE;
Sec. 22, S2, NW, N2NE;
Sec. 23, S2, W2NW;
Sec. 26, N2, SW.

Utah County

T. 11 S., R. 8 E., SLM, UT
Secs. 18, 19, 30, 31, All.

Carbon County

T. 12 S., R. 8 E., SLM, UT
Secs. 6, 7, 8, All;
Sec. 9, S2;
Secs. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, All;
Sec. 29, N2;
Sec. 30, All;
Sec. 31, lot 1, 2, NE, E2NW.
Containing 27,100.06 acres, more or less:
Carbon County Acres: 11,938.00
Utah County Acres: 15,162.06.

Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice of such election to the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155 and to Gregory L. Hunt, Beaver Brook Coal LLC, 5367 East Mineral Circle, Littleton, Colorado 80122. Such written notice must be received within thirty days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Any party wishing to participate in this exploration program must be qualified to hold a lease under the provisions of 43 CFR 3472.1 and must share all cost of the exploration program on a pro rata basis. An exploration plan submitted by Beaver Brook Coal LLC, detailing the scope and timing of this exploration program is available for public review during normal working hours in the Public Room of the Bureau of Land Management State Office, 324 South State Street, Suite 400, Salt Lake City, Utah, under Serial Number UTU-76558.

Douglas M. Koza,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.
[FR Doc. 97-17706 Filed 1-7-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-030-1020]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Management Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cedar City, Utah, will prepare a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah.

DATES: To be of maximum use, all comments on the scope of the EIS and views pertaining to desired content of the GSENM Management Plan should be submitted not later than November 15, 1997, to the address below. Additional scoping opportunities, such as planning workshops, will be announced separately.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Pete Wilkins, Planning Coordinator, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Planning Office, Bureau of Land Management, 337 South Main, Cedar City, Utah 84270. Comments may be faxed to Pete Wilkins at 801-865-5170, or sent to him through E-Mail (p1wilkin@ut.blm.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Wilkins, Planning Coordinator, at the above address, or by phone at (801) 856-5100, or by E-Mail at p1wilkin@ut.blm.gov. The proclamation establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and other information about the Monument are available on the Internet BLM National Home Page (<http://www.blm.gov>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 18, 1996, the President signed Proclamation 6920, creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Monument encompasses approximately 1.7 million acres of public lands in Kane County and Garfield County, Utah. It was designated to preserve the extraordinary scientific resources and landscapes, as well as to protect objects of historic or scientific interest, including geological,

paleontological, archaeological, biological and historical features.

The proclamation states that the Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the BLM pursuant to applicable legal authorities and that the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the monument within 3 years of the proclamation date. The BLM will complete the mandate using existing planning authorities, primarily FLPMA and NEPA.

The Secretary of the Interior, with support from the Governor of Utah, has established a planning team composed of Federal, State, and local government professionals representing geology, paleontology, archeology, botany, wildlife biology, range and riparian ecology, wilderness, recreation, history, community planning and economics, realty, and geographic information systems.

This team will devote full attention to assembling information, preparing and analyzing management alternatives, and carrying out public involvement for the preparation of the Monument Management Plan and EIS.

The plan will be responsive to all of the provisions and directions set forth in the proclamation, including the protection of the listed values and the consideration of all valid existing rights now existing in the Monument.

The BLM is seeking the views and comments of all individuals, groups, organizations, agencies, and American Indian Tribal governments with an interest in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Participation in the planning process is encouraged from those at local, State, regional, national, and international locations. A policy of "inclusion" (meaning all views are welcome and considered) will be followed in accepting input and in obtaining comments from public reviews. Public participation can occur in a variety of forms, including informal notes, formal letters, responses to periodic update letters issued by the planning team, communications with the planning team by fax or E-mail or Internet home page soon to be established, use of a "vision kit" to be issued by the planning team during the summer of 1997, and appearance at public meetings. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the Monument.

BLM intends to gather public scoping comments and other information by November 1997 sufficient to formulate alternative management strategies. During the spring and summer of 1998, the team will host field discussions and