

Statement, the proposed sale and requests public comment on the fair market value of certain coal resources it proposes to offer for competitive lease sale. The lands included in the delineated Federal coal lease tract ("The Pines") are located in Sevier County, Utah, approximately 5 miles northwest of Emery, Utah on public land located in the Manti-LaSal National Forest and are described as follows:

- T. 20 S., R. 5 E., SLM
 Section 35, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Section 36, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 21 S., R. 5 E., SLM
 Section 1, lots 3-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Section 2, lots 1-4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Section 3, lots 1-2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Section 10, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sections 11-14, all;
 Section 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Section 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sections 23-24, all;
 Section 25, N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Section 26, N $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 21 S., R. 6 E., SLM
 Section 19, lots 3-4 E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Section 30, lots 1-3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 Containing 7,311.43 acres more or less.

The Tract has one potentially minable coal seam, the Upper Hiawatha. The minable portions of the seam in this area are from 6 to 14 feet in thickness and average 10.9 feet. This tract contains an estimated 65-70 million tons of recoverable high-volatile C bituminous coal. The coal quality in the seam on an as received basis is as follows: 11,539 Btu/lb., 8.37 percent moisture, 8.78 percent ash, 36.87 percent volatile matter, 45.98 percent fixed carbon, and 0.5 percent sulfur. The public is invited to the hearing to make public or written comments on the environmental implications of leasing the proposed tract, and also to submit comments on the fair market value (FMV) and the maximum economic recovery (MER) of the tract.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Federal coal management regulations 43 CFR 4322 and 4325, a public hearing shall be held on the proposed sale to allow public comment on and discussion of the potential effects of mining and proposed lease. Not less than 30 days prior to the publication of the notice of sale, the Secretary shall solicit public comments on fair market value appraisal and maximum economic recovery and on factors that may affect these two determinations. Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation of public comments. Data so marked shall be

treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on fair market value and maximum economic recovery, except those portions identified as proprietary by the author and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday. Comments on fair market value and maximum economic recovery should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management and should address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resource.
2. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal, including specifications of seams to be mined and the most desirable timing and rate of production.
3. The quantity of coal.

4. If this tract is likely to be mined as part of an existing mine and therefore be evaluated on a realistic incremental basis, in relation to the existing mine to which it has the greatest value.

5. If this tract should be evaluated as part of a potential larger mining unit and evaluated as a portion of a new potential mine (i.e., a tract which does not in itself form a logical mining unit).

6. The configuration of any larger mining unit of which the tract may be a part.

7. Restrictions to mining which may affect coal recovery.

8. The price that the mined coal would bring when sold.

9. Costs, including mining and reclamation, of producing the coal and the time of production.

10. The percentage rate at which anticipated income streams should be discounted, either in the absence of inflation or with inflation, in which case the anticipated rate of inflation should be given.

11. Depreciation and other tax accounting factors.

12. The value of any surface estate where held privately.

13. Documented information on the terms and conditions of recent and similar coal land transactions in the lease sale area.

14. Any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

Coal quantities and the FMV of the coal developed by BLM may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market

conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

DATES: The public hearing will be held in the Salina City Hall located at 90 West Main Street in Salina, Utah, at 7:00 p.m. on March 3, 1999. Entrance to the building and parking is at the rear entrance. Written comments on fair market value and maximum economic recovery must be received at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, by March 17, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Max Nielson, 801-539-4038, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145-0155. Copies of an Environmental Impact Statement that considers leasing of this tract may be obtained by contacting Janette Kaiser, Forest Supervisor at the Manti-LaSal National Forest, 599 West Price River Dr. in Price, Utah (801-637-2817).

Dated: January 22, 1999.

Douglas M. Koza,

DSD, Natural Resources, Utah.

[FR Doc. 99-1989 Filed 1-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-09-1210-04]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Development Within the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Farmington District Office has written a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on proposed oil and gas development of two existing leases within the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area. The DEIS analyzes three alternatives of a proposal by Speerex, Ltd. To drill thirteen wells on leases they have held since 1991.

Copies of the DEIS can be requested by writing the Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, NM 87401, or by calling the Farmington Field Office at (505) 599-8900. Individuals, organizations, or companies who had previously responded to the Notice of Intent have been sent the DEIS and need not make a requisition.

DATES: Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted through the close of business April 30, 1999. Oral and/or written comments may also be presented at three public hearings to be held:

Albuquerque, NM, February 23, 1999, 7:00 p.m., Mountain View Holiday Inn, 2020 Menaul Blvd, NE

Santa Fe, NM, February 24, 1999, 7:00 p.m., Santa Fe Community College, 6401 Richards Ave.

Farmington, NM, February 25, 1999, 7:00 p.m., Jemez Room 1, San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd., Room 7103 (Computer Science Lecture Hall)

A Navajo translator will be available at the Farmington hearing.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Lee Otteni, Field Manager; Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office; 1235 La Plata Highway, Suite A, Farmington, New Mexico 87401. Proprietary data should be identified as such to ensure confidentiality.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher V. Barns at the address above, or call 505-599-6338.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The existing leases are found in the upper portions of Hunter Wash drainage in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area.

The Proposed Action would approve Applications for Permit to Drill (APD's) 13 oil and gas wells (5 Fruitland Coal wells and 8 Gallup wells) on two leases and grant 3 off-lease Rights-of-Way (ROW's) on Federal surface totalling 8,137 feet.

Alternative A would approve the APD's but deny the ROW's.

The No Action Alternative would deny both the APD's and ROW's.

There is no Preferred Alternative in the DEIS. The anticipated impacts to the environment by each alternative are analyzed both in terms of severity and duration. Various mitigative measures are outlined. Several alternatives that were considered but dropped from further consideration also are briefly discussed.

A Notice of Intent was filed in the **Federal Register** on January 27, 1998. Scoping meetings were held in Farmington, NM and Santa Fe, NM on February 24 and 25, 1998, respectively. Any comments presented throughout the process have been considered.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Michelle Chávez,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-1988 Filed 1-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-010-1610-00]

Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Worland Field Office, Wyoming, announces: (1) The availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grass Creek Resource Management Plan (RMP), (2) the approved Grass Creek RMP, and (3) notice of off-road vehicle designations for the Grass Creek Planning Area.

SUMMARY: The ROD documents the selection and approval of the Grass Creek RMP. The Grass Creek RMP provides multiple use management direction for approximately 968,000 acres of public land surface and 1,171,000 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the BLM in portions of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties in north central Wyoming.

The draft EIS for the Grass Creek RMP was made available for public review and comment in January 1995. Comments received on the draft EIS were considered in preparing the proposed Grass Creek RMP and final EIS which was made available for public review and protest in August 1996.

Planning and management decisions are presented in the Grass Creek RMP for all BLM-administered public land and resource values and uses within the planning area including air quality; cultural, paleontological, and natural history resources; fire; forestlands; hazardous materials and wastes; lands and realty; livestock grazing; minerals; off-road vehicle use; recreation; vegetation; visual resources; watershed; wild horses; wildlife and fish habitat; and areas of critical environmental concern. Since wilderness values are addressed in other documents, the Grass Creek RMP does not address them.

The Grass Creek RMP is a comprehensive land use plan providing for multiple use. It is a refinement of the preferred alternative presented in the draft EIS and the proposed RMP presented in the final EIS. While the intent and general content of the Grass Creek RMP are not different from the proposed RMP, comments from the public, review by BLM staff, and new information obtained since the distribution of the final EIS have prompted some wording clarifications in the RMP.

This **Federal Register** Notice serves as the notice for the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) designations for the Grass Creek Planning Area as identified in the Grass Creek RMP. The ORV designations are described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** in this notice.

ADDRESSES: Information on the Grass Creek RMP may be obtained from the Worland Field Office, P.O. Box 119 (101 South 23rd Street), Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119, (307) 347-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Ross, Planning Coordinator, at the Worland Field Office, P.O. Box 119 (101 South 23rd Street), Worland, Wyoming 82401-0119, (307) 347-5100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Thirteen protests were submitted to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management during the 30-day protest period for the Proposed Grass Creek RMP. Each protest letter was responded to and resolved by the Director. Resolution of the protests did not result in changes to any of the proposed land-use planning decisions.

The Grass Creek RMP includes the designation of the Upper Owl Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect fragile soils, alpine tundra, important wildlife habitat, and scenic values on approximately 16,300 acres of BLM-administered public lands. The management actions for the ACEC include limiting or prohibiting surface-disturbing activities and closing the area to, and pursuing withdrawal from, the staking and development of mining claims.

Three areas are designated special recreation management areas (SRMAs). These are the Absaroka Mountain Foothills (comprising about 68,000 acres of public land), Badlands (comprising about 208,600 acres of public land), and Bighorn River (comprising about 1,200 acres of public land). The remainder of the BLM-administered public lands in the planning area are designated an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).

In the course of conducting the planning effort and preparing the Grass Creek RMP, public lands along all waterways in the planning area were reviewed to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. No public lands were found to meet the eligibility criteria.

Management of wilderness values is not addressed in the Grass Creek RMP. The BLM's recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Grass Creek Planning Area have been made under separate documentation. These areas were addressed in separate