

procedures to supplement Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, the FONSI must be available for public review if the proposed action is located in a floodplain or wetland, pursuant to Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, respectively. The designation of critical habitat includes the 100-year floodplain, therefore, the Service will allow 30 days for public review before the final designation of critical habitat can be implemented.

DATES: The 30 day public review period ends on December 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Reed E. Harris, Utah Field Supervisory, Ecological Services Field Office, Lincoln Plaza, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115, or at (801) 524-5001. Copies of final documents are available from the Field Office. All comments and materials received regarding the proposed designation of critical habitat will be available upon request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 9, 1999, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 43026) a notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment of Designation of Critical Habitat for the Woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*) and Virgin River Chub (*Gila seminuda*) within the Virgin River Basin. At that time we also solicited input on the Draft EA from the public, governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry and other interested parties. Comments were accepted from August 9, 1999, through September 8, 1999. All comments received on the Draft EA were given due consideration during the formulation of the Final EA and FONSI.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Keith L. Rose, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 764 Horizon Drive Suite 228, Grant Junction, CO 81506. Mr. Rose may also be reached at (970) 243-4552.

Authority

The authorities for this action are the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532 *et seq.*)

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-30323 Filed 11-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Wolf Lake Area Natural Gas Project

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Wolf Lake Area Natural Gas Project is available for public review. During the 60-day review and comment period, there will be two public hearings on the DEIS as described below. The DEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of constructing a natural gas pipeline, related production facilities, and additional anticipated natural gas development in the Wolf Lake area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. This notice is being furnished pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

DATES: The public hearing dates are:

1. November 30, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC.

2. December 15, 1999, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Soldotna, Alaska.

Written comments must be received by January 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing locations are:

1. Washington, DC—Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

2. Soldotna—Soldotna Senior Center, 197 W. Park Avenue, Soldotna, Alaska.

Comments should be addressed to: Regional Director, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian L. Anderson (907) 786-3379.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Marathon Oil Company has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a right-of-way grant to construct a natural gas pipeline and associated production facilities upon lands of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, a Conservation System Unit established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (Sec. 303, Pub. L. 96-487, 16 U.S.C. 668dd). The right-of-way application is being evaluated under regulations (43 CFR 36) implementing Title XI of ANILCA: Transportation and Utility Systems in and Across, and Access into, Conservation System Units in Alaska.

The proposed project would be located in the northwest section of the

Kenai Peninsula, generally between Beaver Lake and the Swanson River Road (T7N, R10W and T7N, R9W, Seward Meridian, Alaska). The surface estate within the project area is owned by the United States and is managed by the USFWS. The subsurface oil, gas and coal mineral estate is owned by Cook Inlet Region Incorporated (CIRI), an Alaska Corporation established under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (Sec 7, Pub. L. 92-203, 43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). Under Title XI, CIRI is entitled to adequate and feasible access to their valid inholding for economic and other purposes, subject to reasonable regulations necessary to protect the natural and other values of the refuge.

As an operator under lease to CIRI, Marathon Oil Company proposes to develop natural gas production from two or more well sites including the existing Wolf Lake #2 well site, and Galena well site. Development would include construction of a gas gathering pipeline connecting the well sites to existing production facilities at Marathon's Beaver Creek gas field. The applicant's proposed pipeline right-of-way is approximately 5.5 miles long, and would include primary and secondary products pipelines, a water disposal pipeline, and communications and electric power lines, all of which would be buried. Pipeline construction would take place during the 2000/2001 winter season and is anticipated to take 30 to 40 days. No maintained roads would be constructed within the pipeline right-of-way, and the area will be allowed to revegetate naturally. Existing roads would be used for access to the well sites. Several small gas conditioning units and process/control buildings would be located at each well site. The DEIS also addresses the potential impacts of anticipated future gas well development in the vicinity that would utilize the proposed pipeline.

The environmental review is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (Public Law 91-190, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and the pertinent regulations of the USFWS. Concurrently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating the proposed project under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), the public

notice of which is included as an appendix to the DEIS.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-30650 Filed 11-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-1020-PG]

Call for Nominations for Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of nomination.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for a vacant Category 1 position on the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Category 1 includes: holders of Federal grazing permits or leases, transportation/rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation activities, off-highway vehicle users, commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry representatives, or energy or mineral development representatives. The term of the position will expire in September of 2001.

The RACs provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on land use planning and management of public lands within their geographic areas. Public nominations will be considered for 45 days after publication of this notice. Individuals may nominate themselves or others; nominees must be residents of Montana. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience on issues and knowledge of the geographic area covered by the Western Montana RAC. Nominees should have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, and any other information that addresses the nominee's qualifications.

DATE: All nominations must be received by the BLM Western Montana Zone no later than January 10, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Nelson-Dean, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Western Montana Zone, 106 North Parkmont, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702; 406-494-5059.

Dated: November 10, 1999.

Merle Good,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-30635 Filed 11-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-KP-00-1310-EJ]

Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project, Sublette County, Wyoming

AGENCY: Lead Agency—Bureau of Land Management, Interior. Cooperating Agencies—US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, US Army Corps Of Engineers, State of Wyoming.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project DEIS which evaluates, analyzes, and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts from continued exploration for, and development of, natural gas resources in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) in Sublette County, Wyoming. The DEIS analyzes a proposal by the Project operators to drill new exploration and development wells in their leased acreage within the PAPA (approximately 197,345 acres) in western Wyoming. The PAPA operators include Alpine Gas Company, Anschutz Exploration Corporation, B-P Amoco Production Company, HS Resources, Inc., Jonah Gas Gathering Company, McMurry Oil Company, Questar Exploration & Production, Ultra Resources, Inc., Western Gas Resources, Inc., Yates Petroleum Corporation, and other companies (collectively referred to as the PAPA Operators). Lands associated with the new drilling program are located between the town of Pinedale, Wyoming, and the Jonah Natural Gas Field located 30 miles south of Pinedale, and between the Green River and Wyoming Highway 191.

DATES: Comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their Notice of Availability of this DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is anticipated to be published on November 26, 1999. The BLM asks that those submitting comments on the DEIS make them as specific as possible. Comments are more

helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision making process.

A formal public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on January 12, 2000, at the Pinedale High School Auditorium, 101 E. Hennick, Pinedale, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing will be to afford the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed natural gas exploration and development DEIS.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Bill McMahan (Project Coordinator), 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901, or they can be e-mailed to

rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov

A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to those persons who responded to the BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations:

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS analyzes a proposal by the PAPA Operators to drill new exploration and development wells in their leased acreage within the 197,345 acre PAPA. The PAPA is located within Townships 29 through 33 North, Ranges 107 through 110 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 191 and Wyoming Highway 351. Access to the interior of the PAPA is provided by an existing county and BLM road network developed to service homes and ranches located along the Green and New Fork Rivers, livestock operations, recreation use, and past and current drilling and production activities.

Collectively, the Pinedale Anticline Operators' proposal would provide for the continued exploration for natural gas and, where discoveries occur, the development of the gas resource by drilling up to 900 new wells to achieve 700 producing locations over the next 10 to 15 years. Drilling estimates were based on the operators', BLM's, and State of Wyoming's reasonable expectations that the "tight-gas"