

[WY-010-1220-00]

Emergency Seasonal Closure of Public Land in the Bald Ridge Area, Park County, WY**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Emergency Seasonal Closure of Public Land in the Bald Ridge Area, Park County, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective March 18, 1996, the Bald Ridge area located south of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and west and north of Hogan Reservoir of Park County, Wyoming on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Worland District, Cody Resource Area, was closed from December 15 through April 30 to all use (such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, crosscountry skiing, and all motorized use) except permitted activities. This action is being taken for resource protection of essential wintering habitat of elk and mule deer. No access into this area will be allowed unless permitted by the Authorized Officer (BLM Cody Resource Area Manager).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This emergency seasonal closure was effective March 18, 1996 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Dieli, Recreation Planner or Duane Whitmer, Area Manager, Cody Resource Area, P.O. Box 518, 1002 Blackburn Avenue, Cody, Wyoming 82414-0518. Telephone (307) 587-2216.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cody Resource Area is responsible for the management of essential wildlife habitat in the Bald Ridge area of the Absaroka Front and other crucial habitat areas located throughout the Bighorn Basin. These essential habitat areas and management thereof are covered under the Cody Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was signed on November 8, 1990. "Seasonal restrictions will be applied as appropriate to surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and land uses on big game crucial habitat, including winter ranges and elk calving areas." (Cody RMP, p. 40)

The Bald Ridge area is crucial wintering habitat for big game. Increasing visitor activity, such as horseback riding, hiking, and antler hunters are causing unacceptable impacts to the wintering elk and deer herds. These activities are causing anxiety during a period when the animals are most susceptible to stress-related health affects that could cause

death. These activities also force the herds to be displaced from their winter habitat. The Cody Resource Area will analyze a proposal for facility development at Hogan Reservoir as well as travel management of the Bald Ridge area to be investigated in the near future. This emergency seasonal closure is needed to address an immediate concern.

The following described BLM-administered lands south of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and west of Hogan Reservoir are included in this seasonal closure: T. 56 N., R. 103 W., sections 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 from the west end of Hogan Reservoir. Hogan Reservoir remains open for fishing and nonmotorized travel within 100 yards of the reservoir's high-water line. Authority for closure and restriction orders is provided under 43 CFR subpart 8341.2 (a and b), 8364.1, 8372.0-7, 8372.1-2. Violations of this closure are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and (or) imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Dated: March 15, 1996.
Duane Whitmer,
Cody Resource Area Manager, Worland District.
[FR Doc. 96-7712 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

[MT-060-05-1990-01]

Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Zortman and Landusky Mines Reclamation Plan Modifications and Mine Life Extensions, Phillips County, Montana**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Zortman and Landusky mines reclamation plan modifications and mine life extensions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4327), and the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as lead agencies, have prepared, through a third party contractor, a Final EIS on the impacts of the Zortman Mining, Inc. proposal to expand mining and processing of ore reserves at the Zortman and Landusky mines. The Zortman and Landusky mines are located in southwestern Phillips County about 50 miles south of Malta, Montana, near the southern boundary of the Fort

Belknap Indian Reservation. The Final EIS presents a preferred alternative and six other alternatives including the company proposed action. The Final EIS discloses the possible environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

A number of changes have been made to the preferred alternative between the Draft EIS and Final EIS, largely in response to public comments. Major changes include: removal of the Peregrine Falcon reintroduction study for the pit highwalls, relocation of the limestone quarries to avoid impacts to northern drainages, routing of all post-reclamation pit runoff to the south, updating of the water quality improvement plan, completion of a Programmatic Agreement for mitigation of impacts to cultural resources, and the inclusion of an aquatic ecosystem mitigation plan.

DATES: A record of decision will be prepared no earlier than 30 days after the Notice of Receipt of the Final EIS is published in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Final EIS are available from the Bureau of Land Management, Phillips Resource Area, HC 65 Box 5000, Malta, Montana, 59538 or the State of Montana, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901. Public reading copies will be available for review at the following locations: Bureau of Land Management, Office of External Affairs, Main Interior Building, Room 5600, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC; Bureau of Land Management, External Affairs Office, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana; Bureau of Land Management, Phillips Resource Area, 501 South 2nd Street East, Malta, Montana; and the State of Montana, Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Robinson, Team Leader, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Hard Rock Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-1601 (406-444-2544) or Scott Haight, Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown District Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160 (406-538-7461).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 11, 1992, Zortman Mining, Inc. (ZMI) filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown District Office, and the Montana Department of State Lands (part of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality as of July 1, 1995), to expand mining operations at the Zortman Mine in the Little Rocky Mountains, Montana. The

proposal includes: expansion of existing mine pits to access sulfide ore; a 150-acre, 60-million ton waste rock disposal area; crushing facilities; a 2.5-mile conveyor system; a 200-acre, 80-million ton capacity leach pad; a new processing plant and ponds; a limestone quarry; and other associated facilities. Total disturbance would increase from the existing 401 acres to about 1,292 acres. The operation is located on private and public land. Issues include Native American religious concerns, acid rock drainage, reclamation, and socioeconomic.

In a March 9, 1994, Decision Record, the BLM and DEQ included the analysis of acid rock drainage corrective measures for the nearby Landusky Mine within the scope of the EIS for Zortman Mine expansion, since acid rock drainage has been a problem at both mines. The Final EIS addresses additional mining at the Landusky and Zortman mines, as well as modified reclamation plans for both facilities to address acid rock drainage.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register in November 1992 followed by a supplemental notice in April 1994 expanding the scope of the EIS for the Landusky Mine. Public meetings, informational mailings, and briefings were conducted to solicit comments for the scope of the EIS. About 400 copies of the Draft EIS were distributed to the public and other federal and state agencies. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on August 14, 1995. This was followed by a Notice of Receipt by the Environmental Protection Agency published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1995. The public comment period extended from August 18, 1995 through November 1, 1995 (75 days). During the public comment period the BLM and DEQ held five open houses/public hearings to receive oral and written comments. These meetings were also the forum for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to collect public comments on the Zortman Mining, Inc. 404 permit application for the Zortman and Landusky Mine expansions. In addition to oral comments, about 368 letters were received on the Draft EIS. All comments, written and oral, were reviewed and considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

Dated: March 19, 1996.

David L. Mari,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-7713 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-M

[WO-400-06-1310-00]

Green River Basin Advisory Committee Meeting, Colorado and Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting of the Green River Basin Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and agenda for a meeting of the Green River Basin Advisory Committee (GRBAC).

DATES: April 16, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. and April 17, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Sweetwater County Events Complex, 3320 Yellowstone, Rock Springs, WY 82902.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Trevino, GRBAC Coordinator, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003, (307) 775-6020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The topics for the meeting will include:

1. Discussion, categorizing, and prioritizing of identified issues.
2. Dissemination of GRBAC information requests.
3. Public comment

This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Committee or file written statements for the committee's consideration. The Committee will hear public comments on Tuesday afternoon, April 16, 1996. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should notify the GRBAC Coordinator, at the above address by April 9, 1996. The committee may establish a time for oral statements.

Alan R. Pierson,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 96-7748 Filed 3-28-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-M

[CA-010-1220-00]

Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Bakersfield, with a field trip to the Carrizo Plain Natural Area.

DATES: April 11-12-13-14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Washburn Ranch, Carrizo Plain Natural Area, April 11-12; Ramada Inn, 3535 Rosedale Highway, Bakersfield, California, April 13; BLM Bakersfield District Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, April 14.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council is a 12 member council appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to give counsel and advice regarding planning and management of public land resources to the District Manager of the Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield District Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, and then proceed by government vehicle to the Carrizo Plain Natural Area in eastern San Luis Obispo County.

On the way, the Council will visit the oil fields of western kern county, and be briefed on the Bureau's oil and gas program. After a tour of the Carrizo Plain and a discussion of the native plants of the area, the council will have dinner and spend the night at the Washburn Ranch, the administrative headquarters for BLM at Carrizo Plain. Friday, April 12, at the Washburn Ranch, the Council will receive training in rangeland management from BLM staff. The training will consist of 4 hours of classroom study, followed by a field discussion of standards and guidelines for grazing on federal land.

The council will return to Bakersfield Friday evening, and will meet at the Ramada Inn beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 13. The Council will hear testimony about Caliente Resource Area issues such as the impact of threatened and endangered species issues on land management decisions. A public comment period is scheduled for 11 a.m. The Council will spend Saturday afternoon discussing its role and responsibilities concerning grazing and land management issues. If necessary, the Council will continue its discussion beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday, April 14, at the BLM Bakersfield District Office.

The entire meeting of the council is open to the public. Please make arrangements in advance by calling the number below if you wish to attend any part of the meeting at the Carrizo Plain. Anyone wishing to address the Council about any public land issue may do so during the public comment period at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 1996 or at any time during the meeting at the discretion of the Council Chairman. Written comments may be submitted at the meeting, or to the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Mercer, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District, 3801 Pegasus Drive,