

anticipated that the gather operation will take approximately two weeks depending on the weather. Upon initiation, gather efforts will focus first on Sykes Ridge, then the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area "Dryhead" area, and finally Burnt Timber Ridge. As such, it will be necessary to individually close, including road access, either Burnt Timber Ridge or Sykes Ridge for a 3–4 day period during helicopter operation. Only one area will be affected at a time. Gather efforts within the "Dryhead" area will be coordinated through the National Park Service. This area will not be closed, but some traffic control may be in effect during actual days of helicopter operation. The public land affected by this rotating closure is located at:

#### **SYKES RIDGE**

##### **Principal Meridian, Montana**

T. 8 S., R. 28 E.,  
 Sec. 4: M&B  
 Sec. 5: M&B  
 Sec. 8: All  
 Sec. 9: M&B  
 Sec. 15: M&B  
 Sec. 16: All  
 Sec. 17: All  
 Sec. 20: All  
 Sec. 21: W2E2, W2  
 Sec. 28: W2  
 Sec. 29: All  
 Sec. 32: All  
 Sec. 33: W2, W2SE  
 T. 9 S., R. 28 E.,  
 Sec. 4: NWNE, S2NE, W2, SE  
 Sec. 5: All  
 Sec. 8: All  
 Sec. 9: All  
 Sec. 10: W2SW  
 Sec. 15: NWNW, S2NW, SW  
 Sec. 16: All  
 Sec. 17: All  
 Sec. 20: All  
 Sec. 21: All  
 Sec. 22: W2  
 Sec. 27: W2  
 Sec. 28: All  
 Sec. 29: All  
 Sec. 32: All  
 Sec. 33: All  
 Sec. 34: All

##### **6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming**

T. 58 N., R. 95 W.,  
 Sec. 17: M&B  
 Sec. 18: All  
 Sec. 19: All  
 Sec. 26: M&B  
 Sec. 27: M&B  
 Sec. 28: M&B  
 Sec. 33: M&B  
 Sec. 34: M&B

#### **BURNT TIMBER RIDGE**

##### **Principal Meridian, Montana**

T. 8 S., R. 27 E.,  
 Sec. 12: M&B  
 Sec. 13: M&B

Sec. 24: M&B  
 Sec. 25: M&B  
 Sec. 26: M&B  
 Sec. 35: M&B  
 Sec. 36: M&B  
 T. 9 S., R. 27 E.,  
 Sec. 1: All  
 Sec. 2: M&B  
 Sec. 11: M&B  
 Sec. 12: All  
 Sec. 13: All  
 Sec. 14: M&B  
 Sec. 23: M&B  
 Sec. 24: All  
 Sec. 25: M&B  
 Sec. 36: M&B  
 T. 8 S., R. 28 E.,  
 Sec. 6: E2E2  
 Sec. 7: M&B  
 Sec. 18: All  
 Sec. 19: All  
 Sec. 30: All  
 Sec. 31: All  
 T. 9 S., R. 28 E.,  
 Sec. 6: All  
 Sec. 7: All  
 Sec. 18: All  
 Sec. 19: All  
 Sec. 30: All  
 Sec. 31: All

##### **6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming**

T. 58 N., R. 95 W.,  
 Sec. 18: M&B  
 Sec. 19: M&B  
 Sec. 29: M&B

This closure is necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants and observers for this gather, and to protect the wild horses as a natural resource on public lands. Efforts will be made to avoid time periods, such as weekends, of heavier anticipated public use of the range. The helicopter contractor is available to work on weekends, however, and this may be necessary due to temporary weather shut-downs or other unforeseen circumstances.

**DATES:** Rotating closures will be in effect from on or about October 20, 1997 through the conclusion of the gather operation, anticipated to conclude November 1, 1997 depending on weather conditions.

##### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Burton D. Williams, Area Manager, BLM, Billings Resource Area Office, 810 E. Main, Billings, Montana 59105 or call (406) 238–1540.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Authority for this action is outlined in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Subparts 8364 (43 CFR 8364.1). Any person who fails to comply with this closure is subject to arrest and a fine up to \$1000 or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, or both. This closure applies to all persons except persons authorized by the Bureau of Land Management and involved in the gather process.

For the first time, helicopters will be used as the primary tool to gather horses into the Britton Springs Corral Facility at the south end of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. In order to use the helicopter in a safe and effective manner, it is necessary to close the affected area while the helicopter operation is underway. The wild horses are separated into social groups that occupy three fairly distinct geographic areas of the range including Sykes Ridge, Burnt Timber Ridge and the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area "Dryhead" area. Gather efforts will be selective and will focus on one subpopulation of horses at a time. It is estimated that use of a helicopter will facilitate the timeliness, such that an average of 3–4 days will be necessary to gather horses from each geographic area.

Dated: September 24, 1997.

**Timothy M. Murphy,**  
*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97–26308 Filed 10–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DN–P

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[UT–930–07–1320–00]

#### **Notice of Public Hearing and Call for Public Comment**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Utah; Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearing and call for public comment on fair market value and maximum economic recovery; coal lease application UTU–71307.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed coal lease 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 coal lease application UTU–71307 are located in Emery County, Utah, approximately 15 miles northwest of Huntington, Utah on public land located in the Manti-LaSal National Forest and are described as follows:

T. 16 S., R. 6 E., SLM  
 Section 1: SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
 Section 10: E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
 Section 11: All;  
 Section 12: All;  
 Section 13: All;  
 Section 14: All;  
 Section 15: E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
 Section 22: Lots 1, 2, 4–7, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
 SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
 Section 23: N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
 Section 24: N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>;  
 T. 16 S., R. 7 E., SLM

Section 6: Lots 5–8, S½SE¼;  
 Section 7: All;  
 Section 8: NW¼NW¼;  
 Section 18: Lots 1–2, NE¼.  
 Containing 5,563 acres more or less.

The Tract has two potentially minable coal seams including, the Hiawatha and the Blind Canyon. The minable portions of the seams in this area are from 6 to 12 feet in thickness. This tract contains an estimated 60–65 million tons of recoverable high-volatile bituminous coal. The range of coal quality in the seams on an as received basis is as follows: 12,800–13,300 Btu/lb., 4–5.25 percent moisture, 4.7–8.8 percent ash, 42–44 percent volatile matter, 45–46 percent fixed carbon, and 0.6–0.65 percent sulfur. The public is invited to the hearing to make public or written comments on the Environmental Analysis concerning the proposal to lease the Mill Fork 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 conference room at the Museum of the San Rafael (64 North 100 East) Castle Dale, Utah, at 7:00 p.m., on November 4, 1997. Written comments on fair market value and maximum economic recovery must be received at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, by November 17, 1997.

**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 the Mill Fork EA 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: September 29, 1997.

**Douglas M. Koza,**

*DSD, Natural Resources, Utah.*

[FR Doc. 97–26241 Filed 10–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DQ–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis; Helena & Deerlodge National Forests, MT Counties: Lewis and Clark, Powell, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher. State: Montana**

**AGENCIES:** Forest Service, USDA & Bureau of Land Management, USDI.

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of public review period for the draft supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Helena National Forest and Elkhorn Portion of the Deerlodge National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis.

**SUMMARY:** The period of public review for the draft supplement to the FEIS for the Helena National Forest and Elkhorn Portion of the Deerlodge National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis has been extended to October 29, 1997. The USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management as joint lead agencies agree to extend the public review an additional 30 days from September 29, 1997 to October 29, 1997.

**DATES:** This action is effective October 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Thomas J. Clifford, Forest Supervisor, Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, Mt. 59601; and Larry E. Hamilton, State Director, USDA—Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107–6800.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tom Andersen, Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, Mt. 59601; phone (406) 449–5201, ext 277.

Dated: September 26, 1997.

**Dwight Chambers,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor, Helena National Forest.*

Dated: September 29, 1997.

**Janet Singer,**

*Acting State Director, Montana State Office.*

[FR Doc. 97–26242 Filed 10–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M