

Department of Defense authorized by the Sikes Act; and 3,000 pounds for the Hatchery public fishing ponds.

Whirling disease was first detected in Colorado in 1987 and has since been detected in 13 major river basins, 16 State fish hatcheries, and the Leadville Hatchery. Reports that whirling disease was responsible for decreases in wild rainbow trout recruitment in the upper Colorado River in Colorado during 1994 and 1995, and population declines of wild rainbow trout in the upper Madison River, Montana beginning in 1991 caused significant concern over the disease's effects on wild trout populations in Colorado. Colorado Division of Wildlife has responded to this concern by adopting new policies and regulations in January 1997 which severely restrict the stocking locations of fish produced at hatcheries where whirling disease has been detected.

Nine alternatives for the disposition of the Leadville Hatchery were formulated utilizing input from the public, environmental organizations, and resource agencies. Each alternative was evaluated for consistency with Service priorities, compliance with Service operational and fish health policies, compliance with Colorado Division of Wildlife regulations, preservation of the historical value of the Hatchery, potential for spreading whirling disease and other fish diseases to native fish and wild fish in Colorado, and cost effectiveness. Alternative 1 (current program, no action) was used as a baseline for evaluation of the environmental impacts of the other alternatives.

The Service designated Alternative 2a as the preferred alternative. This is strictly a preliminary decision which will be reevaluated after comments from the public are received. Alternative 2a was chosen as the most feasible means of fulfilling fish stocking obligations while taking progressive action towards controlling whirling disease infection levels. Disease monitoring indicates that the earthen lakes and ponds used for fish production are the most significant sources of disease on the Hatchery. Lining these rearing units would vastly reduce tubifex worm populations at the Hatchery which host the disease. Alternative 2b (installing hatchery influent ozonation facility) will be considered in the future if funding can be attained.

Although construction costs are lower for Alternatives 3a and 3b, these alternatives would necessitate termination of production for Fryingpan-Arkansas Project waters. These alternatives are not as cost effective in the long run due to a

significant decrease in fish production and increase in cost per pound of fish produced.

Alternatives 4, 5a, and 5b emphasize production of native cutthroat trout utilizing spring water in the Hatchery building. Under current Service policies and Colorado Division of Wildlife regulations, such trout can only be certified as whirling disease-negative if all fish production utilizing open water supplies is terminated. Therefore, Alternative 4 (maintaining production using open water supplies) cannot be achieved under current Service policies and Colorado Division of Wildlife regulations. Alternatives 5a and 5b (ceasing all production using open water supplies) are not cost effective since only 500 to 3,000 pounds of trout could be achieved in producing whirling disease negative fingerlings due to the proximity of whirling disease to the Hatchery building. It would be more practical to use currently whirling disease-negative hatchery facilities to produce disease-free native cutthroat trout for restoration purposes.

Alternative 6 (closing the Hatchery and transferring ownership) was not chosen due to opposition from the general public, and because the Service desires to continue to honor the obligations for fish production currently being fulfilled by the Leadville Hatchery. Since the Leadville Hatchery stocks waters where there is no trout reproduction, where whirling disease already exists, and at considerable distances from uncontaminated waters, the Service believes that the most feasible means of fulfilling these obligations is by continuing to produce the fish at the Leadville Hatchery.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Mr. John Hamill (See ADDRESSES section) (telephone 303/236-8155, extension 252).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. *et seq.*).

Dated: June 12, 1998.

**Ralph O. Morgenweck,**

*Regional Director, Region 6, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans for 8 National Wildlife Refuges in the Southwest Region

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and other environmental documents for certain National Wildlife Refuges listed in the SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION section pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations.

**DATES:** The Service will be open to written comments through October 30, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments and requests for more information to: Mr. Lou Bridges, Project Coordinator, Research Management Consultants, Inc., 1746 Cole Blvd., Bldg. 21, Suite 300, Golden, CO 80401

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a CCP and other environmental documents for Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, Las Vegas, New Mexico; Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge, Maxwell, New Mexico; Muleshoe and Grulla National Wildlife Refuges, Muleshoe, Texas; Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Umbarger, Texas; Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Jet, Oklahoma; and Sequoyah and Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuges, Vian, Oklahoma. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy: (1) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and (2) to obtain suggestions

and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

Additional opportunities for written comments will be provided during the draft review process. If necessary, the Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and workshops. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general area near each refuge of the current status of the project as well as the time and place of any meetings to be conducted.

Review of these projects will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, including the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

The Service anticipates that draft CCP documents and any associated NEPA documents will be available by June, 1999.

Dated: June 12, 1998.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**  
*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–921–41–5700; WYW126102]

#### Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

June 10, 1998.

Pursuant to the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2–3(a) and (b)(1), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease WYW126102 for lands in Natrona County, Wyoming, was timely filed and was accompanied by all the required rentals accruing from the date of termination.

The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5,000 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively.

The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$125 to reimburse the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C.

188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease WYW126102 effective February 1, 1998, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

**Mavis Love,**

*Acting Chief, Leasable Minerals Section.*

[FR Doc. 98–16305 Filed 6–18–98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA–010–08–1430–01; CACA–39215, CACA–39714]

#### El Dorado and Amador Counties, California: Realty Action, CACA–39215 and CACA–39714

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action—Leasing of Public Lands; El Dorado and Amador Counties, California.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands in El Dorado County, California will be leased under the provisions of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and 43 CFR Part 2920. The lands will be leased for seasonal commercial use, including RV storage, primitive tent camping, a volleyball court, and RV camp sites (partial), to Ponderosa Park Campground.

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 11 N., R. 10 E.,

Sec. 18, portion of NWNENW.

Containing 5.0 acres, more or less.

In addition, the following described public lands in Amador County, California, will be leased under the provisions of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and 43 CFR Part 2920. The lands will be leased to Mr. Elton Rodman, of the Roaring Camp Mining Company, for seasonal recreation use associated with the Roaring Camp Mining Resort, including picnic facilities, vehicle parking, equipment storage, and a small assay office.

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 6 N., R. 12 E.,

Sec. 13, that portion of lot 5 lying west of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River.

Containing 5.0 acres more or less.

This action will resolve two inadvertent trespasses. The leases will be issued for 10 years, with the right to renew.

**DATES:** For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice,

interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed lease to the address under the **ADDRESSES** caption of this notice. Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the Field Manager who may vacate or modify this Realty Action and issue a final determination. In the absence of any action by the Field Manager, this Realty Action will become the final determination of the Bureau.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information or to submit comments regarding the proposed leases contact Karen Montgomery, Realty Specialist, or John Beck, Realty Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630, (916) 985–4474.

**D.K. Swickard,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98–16364 Filed 6–18–98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY–989–1050–00–P]

#### Filing of Plats of Survey; Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

#### Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 26 N., R. 71 W., accepted June 10, 1998

T. 23 N., R. 116 W., accepted June 10, 1998

T. 24 N., R. 116 W., accepted June 10, 1998

If protests against a survey, as shown on any of the above plats, are received prior to the official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest(s) and or appeal(s). A plat will not be officially filed until after disposition of protest(s) and or appeal(s).

These plats will be placed in the open files of the Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and will be available to the public as a matter of information only. Copies of the plats will be made available upon request and prepayment of the reproduction fee of \$1.10 per copy.

A person or party who wishes to protest a survey must file with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Cheyenne, Wyoming, a notice of protest prior to thirty (30) calendar days from