

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Order Extending Temporary Closure to Non-Authorized Use of Certain Public Lands in Ward Valley, San Bernardino County, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office.

ACTION: Order extending for one year the temporary order of closure to non-authorized uses of certain public lands in Ward Valley.

SUMMARY: BLM is extending for one year the initial temporary closure of approximately 2,000 acres within Ward Valley, California, as published in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 1998, 63 FR 4467. The initial closure order was effective February 13, 1998, and was effective for a period of six months from that date. The lands involved in this extension and the scope of the closure are not changed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: By this extension, the closure order will continue in effect and will remain effective until August 13, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This order extending the closure to non-authorized uses of the Ward Valley lands is necessary to facilitate BLM management of authorized activities on the Ward Valley site, protect the desert tortoise and its critical habitat, and prevent unnecessary damage to sensitive natural resources. In light of questions raised regarding the authority of the California Department of Health Services to purchase the site, actions to proceed with on-site testing described in the initial order of closure will not go forward at present. However, lifting the closure would increase the likelihood of greater public use and the potential for adverse impacts from uncontrolled day and overnight activities. Such uncontrolled activities could generate additional traffic and litter; increase risk of fire, dust, and noise; adversely affect the desert tortoise and its critical habitat as well as other wildlife species and their habitats; damage vegetation; and pose additional environmental and safety problems. Therefore, continued closure of the affected lands would protect sensitive natural resources while allowing authorized users to continue to utilize the site under controlled conditions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Molly Brady, Needles Field Office Manager, U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management, Needles Resource Area, 101 West Spikes Road, Needles, California 92363, tel: (760) 326-7000.

Approved.

Ed Hastey,

BLM State Director, California State Office.

[FR Doc. 98-21011 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-921-08-1320-01; MTM 88405]

Notice of Coal Lease Application—MTM 88405—Spring Creek Coal Company

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice of Spring Creek Coal Company's coal lease application MTM 88405 for certain coal resources within the Powder River Coal Region.

The lands included in Coal Lease Application MTM 88405 are located in Big Horn County, Montana, and are described as follows:

T. 8 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.

Sec. 13: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 14: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 23: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 24: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

150.00 acres

Spring Creek Coal Company is the surface owner of all of the lands applied for.

The 150.00-acre tract contains an estimated 15.4 million tons of recoverable coal reserves. The area is bordered by the Spring Creek Mine to the South.

The application will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181, 35 seq.), and the implementing regulations at 43 CFR 3400. A decision to allow leasing of the coal resources in said tract will result in a competitive lease sale to be held at a time and place to be announced through publication pursuant to 43 CFR 3422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Spring Creek Coal Company is the lessee and operator of Coal Lease MTM 069782 at the Spring Creek Mine. The proposed lease area adjoins the current lease to the North and contains approximately 105 acres within the approved mine permit area.

On June 1, 1998, Spring Creek Coal Company received Federal Coal Exploration License MTM 87910 from

the BLM to conduct drilling on lands contained within the Spring Creek coal lease application tract. Data from the completed drilling program conducted under MTM 87910, and preceding drilling programs, will be or has been forwarded to the BLM, as required by the terms of the exploration licenses.

Due to its coal reserve base and configuration, the Spring Creek lease application tract is a logical step to extend the life of the Spring Creek Mine. With the current permitted reserves of coal, the current level of production at the Spring Creek Mine can be maintained for approximately 19 additional years.

The area applied for would be mined as an extension of the Spring Creek Mine and would utilize the same methods as those currently being used. The lease being applied for can extend the life of the mine by about 2 years and enable recovery of coal that might never be mined if not mined as a logical extension of current pits at the Spring Creek Mine.

Notice of Availability: The application is available for review between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59101, and at the Bureau of Land Management, Miles City Field Office, whose address is Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59103, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Good, Coal Coordinator, at telephone (406) 255-2828, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

Janet Singer,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-20961 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1320-00 [WYW139975]]

Ark Land Company Coal Lease Application, Carbon County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Notice of Public Hearing.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of a

DEIS for Ark Land Company Coal Lease Application Serial Number WY139975 in the Green River-Hams Fork Coal Production Region of Wyoming and the scheduled date and place for a public hearing pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.4. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit comments on the DEIS and on the fair market value (FMV) and Maximum Economic Recovery (MER) of the proposed lease tract.

DATES: The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. MDT, on September 9, 1998, at the Town of Hanna Administrative Office, 301 S. Adams, Hanna, Wyoming. There will be an informal session starting at 6 p.m. MDT, before the formal hearing, to answer questions regarding the Ark Land Company coal lease application and the coal leasing process. Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. We expect the EPA notice will be published on August 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments, or requests for copies of the DEIS to Area Manager, Great Divide Resource Area Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 2407, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Interested parties may direct questions, concerns, or obtain further information by contacting Karla Swanson, Great Divide Resource Area Manager, Brenda Vosika Neuman, Project Team Leader, or John Spehar, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at the Bureau of Land Management Office, P.O. Box 2407, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, or by telephone at: (307) 328-4200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of 43 CFR 3425.1, Ark Land Company, St. Louis, Missouri, filed an application with the BLM on September 20, 1996, to obtain a Federal coal lease on 4145.15 acres of Federal coal lands located in Carbon County, Wyoming.

The lease application area is located in the Carbon Basin, approximately 40 miles east of the town of Rawlins, 5 miles northwest of the town of Elk Mountain, 13 miles southwest of the town of Medicine Bow, and 12 miles southeast of the town of Hanna. The BLM has recommended that 1280 acres containing approximately 59 million tons of in-place coal reserves be included in the lease tract to allow a reasonable underground mine plan with enough reserves for a new mine start. The BLM has also recommended that 190 acres with no in-place coal reserves

be removed from the original lease application.

One hundred and sixty acres of land were eliminated from the lease application because they lie outside of the outcrop line and contain no Hanna Formation coals. Thirty acres of land located in the Medicine Bow River floodplain were determined to be unsuitable for coal mining. The original lease application was for the following lands:

Sixth Principal Meridian

- T. 20 N., R. 79 W.,
Sec. 6, lot 5.
- T. 20 N., R. 80 W.,
Sec. 4, lots 1, 2, and 3;
Sec. 6, lots 1 and 2, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 21 N., R. 79 W.,
Sec. 20, N $\frac{1}{2}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 30, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E $\frac{1}{2}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;
Sec. 32, NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 21 N., R. 80 W.,
Sec. 26, All;
Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 32, E $\frac{1}{2}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 34, All.

The lands described contain 4145.15 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following lands be excluded from the application:

Sixth Principal Meridian

- T. 20 N., R. 80 W.,
Sec. 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 21 N., R. 79 W.,
Sec. 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The lands described contain 190 acres, more or less.

The BLM has recommended that the following additional lands containing approximately 59 million tons of in-place coal reserves be included in the application:

Sixth Principal Meridian

- T. 21 N., R. 80 W.,
Sec. 22, All;
Sec. 24, All.

The lands described contain 1280 acres, more or less. The tract, as amended by the BLM, contains a total of 5235.15 acres and approximately 149.7 million tons of in-place coal. On May 13, 1998, Ark Land Company agreed with BLM's recommendations and revised their original lease application to reflect the changes stated above. All lands included in the lease application have been evaluated in the document "Environmental Assessment for Coal Planning Decisions in the Carbon Basin Area of the Great Divide Resource Area, BLM 1998". BLM has determined these lands are suitable for further consideration for coal leasing and development.

Coal mining would be conducted by Arch of Wyoming, Inc. (Arch), an affiliate of Ark Land Company, if it is successful in obtaining a Federal coal lease in the proposed project area. Arch has operated coal mines in the Hanna Basin Region of Carbon County since 1972. The depletion of recoverable coal reserves in the Hanna Basin has led Arch to identify additional (local) coal resources in the Carbon Basin area that could utilize the existing infrastructure and meet existing contracts or long-term commitments. The Carbon Basin area, an area with a mixture of private, State, and Federal lands, is close to the Hanna Basin coal fields and provides a logical continuation of the Hanna Basin mining operations.

The DEIS analyzes two alternatives. The No Action Alternative is a "no Federal leasing" alternative rather than a "no mining" alternative. The "no mining" alternative is not analyzed in detail because 79 percent of the surface-minable coal within the coal project area is privately owned and BLM believes that the private surface coal could be economically mined even if the Federal coal is not leased. However, if no Federal coal were leased, the non-Federal underground coal reserves would become uneconomical to mine due to the checkerboard pattern of mineral ownership existing in the center of the basin. Under the Proposed Action, the BLM preferred alternative, the BLM would hold a competitive lease sale for surface-minable and underground-minable Federal coal. The Proposed Action includes the analysis of leasing Federal coal for both surface (Elk Mountain) and underground (Saddleback Hills) mining operations and examines 10 options for transporting coal to processing/loadout facilities.

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. OSM is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Freedom of Information

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the addresses listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment.

Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

Alan L. Kesterke,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-21013 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-066-1220-00-21 1A]

Notice To Limit Off Road Vehicle Use of Public Lands; Wood River Ranch Sikes Act Management Area, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office.

ACTION: Notice to limit off-road vehicle use of public lands.

SUMMARY: Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Bureau of Land Management is restricting all motorized vehicle traffic to the designated county and BLM roads/trails on all lands within the property commonly known as the Richard E. Wood Watchable Wildlife Area or Wood River Ranch Sikes Act Management Area. This property includes approximately 2,000 acres and is located in Chouteau County, Montana and is further described as follows:

LOCATION: This property is located south of US Highway 87, 0.4 mile south of Loma, MT and 10.5 miles northeast of Fort Benton, MT. The property starts at the confluence of the Marias and Missouri Rivers, and extends upstream on the Missouri River for 3.0 miles.

Legal Location

T. 25 N, R. 9 E., P.M.M.

Section 13: SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 23: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 24: N $\frac{1}{4}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 25 N., R. 10 E., P.M.M.

Section: NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ West of Missouri River

Section: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ West of Missouri River, S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section: S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$

Section: W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

All vehicle traffic is restricted to designated county and BLM roads/trails. However, this would not restrict vehicles from parking within 50 feet of

designated roads on established grass or grain stubble.

This restriction is being implemented to protect public resources and prevent the spread of noxious weeds. This restriction will remain in place until March 1, 1999, unless ORV restrictions are made permanent sooner.

Persons exempted from such restrictions are all MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and BLM personnel during the performance of their duties on described lands. Also exempted are cooperators in the management of agricultural lands, at such time as they are working on described lands to prepare fields, plant crops, control weeds, or harvest crops.

Copies of maps showing open roads are posted at various locations in Loma, on the property, and at BLM offices in Havre, Fort Benton and Great Falls.

Any persons in violation of these off-road vehicle regulations will be subject to all applicable penalties, including fines not to exceed \$1,000 and/or one year imprisonment.

DATES: These restrictions will become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** and last until March 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Assistant Field Manager, Havre Field Station, 1704 2nd Street West, Havre, MT (406) 265-5891.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

David L. Mari,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-21056 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-931-1430-01; MIES-047394]

Public Land Order No. 7353; Revocation of Executive Orders Dated April 3, 1847 and December 9, 1852, Michigan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order revokes two Executive Orders insofar as they affect 10.54 acres of public land withdrawn for use by the United States Coast Guard for lighthouse purposes. The land is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was withdrawn.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 8, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Ruda, Natural Resource Specialist, BLM Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston

Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, 703-440-1671.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Orders dated April 3, 1847 and December 9, 1852, which reserved public land for use for lighthouse purposes, are hereby revoked insofar as they affect the following described land:

Michigan Meridian

T. 58 N., R. 30 W.,

(a) sec. 6, lots 5 (6.54 acres) and 6 (1.89 acres);

(b) sec. 6, lot 7 (2.11 acres).

The area described contains 10.54 acres in Keweenaw County.

2. The land described in paragraph 1(a) has been conveyed out of Federal ownership with no mineral reservations.

3. The land and minerals described in paragraph 1(b) have been determined to be "property" within the meaning of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 472 (1994), and will not be returned to the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: July 22, 1998.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 98-21050 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-1430-00; COC-61230]

Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification and Application for Conveyance for Public Purposes, COC-61230; Colorado

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following public lands in San Juan County, Colorado have been examined and are suitable for classification for lease or conveyance under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP), as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The purpose of the classification and application for conveyance is to allow for the use of the property described herein for an expansion of a cemetery by the Town of Silverton, Colorado.

New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 41 N., R. 7 W.,