

For background information on the Klamath Council, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: February 1, 2002.

John Engbring,

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Klamath Fishery Management Council Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss *et seq.*). The Klamath Fishery Management Council makes recommendations to agencies that regulate harvest of anadromous fish in the Klamath River Basin. The objectives of this meeting are to hear technical reports (including the ocean stock projection for Klamath River fall chinook in 2002), review the 2001 fishery season, and discuss and plan management of the 2002 season. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Klamath Fishery Management Council will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2002, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Detrich, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, California 96097, telephone (530) 842-5763.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For background information on the Klamath Council, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: February 1, 2002.

John Engbring,

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Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-029-1310-DS CBMP]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans (RMPs); Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Miles City and Billings Field Offices, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans (RMPs); Montana.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment jointly with the State of Montana (State). The BLM's planning area is the oil and gas estate administered by BLM in the Powder River and Billings RMP areas. The Powder River RMP area encompasses the southeastern portion of Montana consisting of Treasure and Powder River counties, and portions of Rosebud, Big Horn, Carter, and Custer counties. There are approximately 2,522,950 BLM-administered oil and gas acres in the Powder River RMP area. The Billings RMP area encompasses the south-central portion of Montana consisting of Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Yellowstone, and Carbon counties, and the remaining portion of Big Horn County. There are approximately 662,066 BLM-administered oil and gas acres in the Billings RMP area. BLM-administered oil and gas acreage in Blaine, Park, and Gallatin counties is not part of the BLM planning effort. The State's planning area is statewide.

DATES: The 90-day comment period on the Draft EIS and Amendment will begin the date the EPA files a notice in the **Federal Register** (anticipated February 15, 2002).

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand-deliver comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Mary Bloom, Project Manager, Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301. You may also comment electronically to: coalbed_methane@state.mt.us. Your name and return mailing address must

be included in your electronic message. BLM's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. 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 and businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Bloom, Coal Bed Methane Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301, (406) 233-3649.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft EIS and Amendment project is a joint effort between the BLM and the State. It is being prepared to analyze impacts to lands and resources as a result of proposed oil and gas development, primarily coal bed methane. The current Powder River and Billings RMPs, as amended by BLM's 1994 "Oil and Gas Amendment of the Billings, Powder River, and South Dakota RMPs", support limited conventional oil and gas development and limited coal bed methane exploration and production. About 9,500 conventional oil and gas wells (all ownership categories) are located in the planning area. An October 18, 2000 meeting of the Coal Bed Methane Coordination Group indicated that industry projects an interest in drilling approximately 10,000 coal bed methane wells in the Montana portion of the Powder River Basin over the next 10 years, in addition to an unspecified number of conventional oil and gas wells.

The Draft EIS and Amendment is being prepared to analyze this increased interest in oil and gas activity. Five alternative management scenarios developed by BLM and the State present a range of feasible management actions to address the issues: Alternative A—existing management (No Action); Alternative B—emphasize soil, water, air, vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources protection; Alternative C—emphasize coal bed methane development; Alternative D—encourage coal bed methane exploration and development while maintaining existing land uses; and Alternative E—the BLM and State Preferred Alternative, which combines features of Alternatives A