

Development Project, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, will direct the preparation of an EIS on the potential impacts of a proposed natural gas field development project. Approximately 385 gas wells and associated facilities could be constructed on approximately 229,781 acres of primarily Federal land (some private and State included), over a 20-year development period. The project area is located in southwestern Carbon County and southeastern Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The proposed action may be modified, as a result of comments received during scoping or anytime during the preparation of the draft EIS, to include actions that may, upon review, require a plan amendment to the Green River and Great Divide Resource Management Plans. A planning review of existing land-use decisions would be conducted. Additionally an evaluation of potential relevant and important resource values in the Desolation Flats project area portion of the Monument Valley Management Area of the Rock Springs Field Office would be done. Any needed changes in existing management or any new management actions to be prescribed for the area will be identified and, if necessary, the Green River RMP amended. In accordance with 43 CFR 3420.1-2, this notice also serves as a call for coal and other resource information to solicit indications of interest and information on coal resource development potential in the proposed project area and on other resources which may be affected by the proposed project. Affected Federal lands are administered by the BLM Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices. The EIS will be prepared by a third-party contractor.

DATES: Comments on the project proposal will be accepted through June 23, 2000. Public scoping meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates, at the following locations:

- June 7, 2000, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North.
- June 8, 2000, in Rawlins, Wyoming, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, John Spehar, Team Leader, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, phone (307)

328-4200, or e-mailed to rawlins_wymail@blm.gov. Additionally, the Scoping Notice will be posted on the Wyoming BLM homepage at www.wy.blm.gov. Your response is important and will be considered in the environmental analysis process. If you do respond, we shall keep you informed of decisions resulting from the analysis. Please note that public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of the respondents will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentially. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, John Spehar, Project Manager, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, phone 307-328-4264, e-mail: John_Spehar@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Marathon Oil Company (Marathon) has notified the Bureau of Land Management that Marathon and other operators propose a 20-year field development project. The proposed project area, referred to as the Desolation Flats area, is generally located in Townships 13-16 North, Ranges 94-96 West, Sixth Principal meridian, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming.

The project area is located approximately 14 miles west and north of Baggs, Wyoming. The project area is approximately 229,781 acres in size. The vast majority of land and mineral ownership is Federal. The Federal land surface and Federally owned minerals are managed by the Rawlins and Rock Springs BLM Field Offices.

Marathon and other operators propose to drill 385 wells on 361 locations and construct associated facilities, including roads, well pads, pipelines, and compressor stations. Drilling of exploratory or confirmation/delineation wells on existing Federal leases will be permitted on a case-by-case basis during the preparation of the EIS. A site-

specific environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared for each individual drilling proposal.

The Desolation Flats project area contains lands covered by two existing natural gas development project EISs. The Mulligan Draw Unit EIS and the Dripping Rock/Cedar Breaks Area EA were approved for spacing of one well per section and for drilling in the Almond Formation. The intent of including the Mulligan Draw EIS area and the Dripping Rock/Cedar Breaks EA area within the Desolation Flats project area, as described by the operators, is to determine the feasibility and environmental impacts of a well-spacing density greater than the authorized one-well per 640-acre spacing.

This EIS will address cumulative impacts and will include consideration of affects of other oil and gas projects addressed in recently completed EISs for the Mulligan Draw Gas Field Project, the Creston/Blue Gap Natural Gas Project, the soon to be completed Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project, and the recently proposed Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project EA. Potential issues to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: impacts to wildlife populations and their habitats, access road development and transportation management, surface and ground water resources, impacts from additional drilling and production activities, reclamation, noxious weed control, conflicts with livestock grazing operations, protection of cultural and paleontological resources, threatened and endangered species, and cumulative impacts.

Dated: May 12, 2000.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 00-12496 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-010-0777-XQ]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Lower Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Boise. Potential agenda topics are the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the U.S. Air Force

Enhanced Training in Idaho project, sage grouse habitat management, implementation of rangeland standards and guidelines, off-highway vehicle management and other land management issues.

DATES: June 22, 2000. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Public comment periods will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lower Snake River District Office, located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry Rose, Lower Snake River District Office (208-384-3393).

Dated: May 12, 2000.

Howard Hendrick,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-12490 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-958-1430-ET; GP0-0014; OR-54087]

Public Land Order No. 7446; Withdrawal of Public Lands for the Desert Springs Seed Orchard; Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws 80 acres of public land from surface entry and mining for a period of 50 years and transfers administrative jurisdiction to the Forest Service to protect its investment in the development of a seed orchard. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 18, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles R. Roy, BLM Oregon/Washington State Office, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208-2965, 503-952-6189.

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. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described public land is hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1994)), to protect the proposed investment of Federal funds and related facilities for the Forest Service's Desert Springs Seed Orchard:

Willamette Meridian

T. 33 S., R. 18 E.,

Sec. 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 80 acres in Lake County.

2. Administrative jurisdiction of the land described in Paragraph 2 is hereby transferred to the Forest Service.

3. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those public land laws governing the use of the land under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of its mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

4. This withdrawal will expire 50 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1994), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

Dated: May 4, 2000.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 00-12478 Filed 5-17-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-1430-EU; WYW-146697]

Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following public lands located near Pinedale, Wyoming, have been examined and found suitable for classification for conveyance to Sublette County under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Sublette County intends to use the land as a shooting sports complex.

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 33 N., R. 109 W.,

Section 7, Lots 1 and 2.

T. 33 N., R. 110 W.

Section 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The land described above contains 132.67 acres.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the Pinedale Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 432 East Mill Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941, or contact Bill Wadsworth at (307) 367-5341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lands are not needed for Federal purposes.

Conveyance is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. The conveyances, when completed, will be subject to the following terms, conditions and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of patent issuance.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

4. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed conveyance or classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

The analysis may identify that an amendment to the Pinedale RMP is needed. If a plan amendment is needed, other notices, mailings, or media releases will announce a 30-day protest period on the proposed amendment.

Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the lands for a shooting sports complex. Comments on the classification should only address whether the land is physically suited for a shooting sports complex (as appropriate), whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific uses proposed in the conveyance applications and plans of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decisions, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a shooting sports complex. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any