

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), policies, the BLM announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD)/Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Surprise Field Office. The California State Director has signed the ROD, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved RMP effective immediately.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD and RMP are available upon request from the Field Manager, Surprise Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 602 Cressler Street Cedarville, California 96104, or via the internet at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/planning.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Jeff Fontana, Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Land Management, 2950 Riverside Dr., Susanville, CA 96130, telephone (530) 257-0456, or e-mail your request to: necarmp@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Surprise Field Office includes approximately 1,220,644 acres in northeastern California and northwest Nevada. The geographic area includes BLM-administered lands within the counties of Modoc and Lassen, California, and Humboldt and Washoe, Nevada. The Surprise RMP was developed in coordination with the Alturas and Eagle Lake Field Office RMPs to provide a consistent framework for managing public lands and resource uses in northeast California and northwest Nevada.

BLM officially initiated the planning process for the Draft Surprise Resource Management Plan (RMP) with publication of a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 140). Issues related to resource management in the Surprise planning area were established during the scoping process consisting of public scoping meetings, field tours, socioeconomic workshops, and interactions with Federal, state, tribal, and county collaborators.

The RMP describes management actions to meet desired resource conditions for vegetation communities, wildlife habitats, and cultural and visual resources. It also outlines actions for recreation, protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources, livestock grazing, guidance for energy and mineral development, land tenure adjustments, and other planning issues raised during the scoping process. The Surprise RMP designated three Areas of

Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs): Massacre Rim ACEC (44,870 acres); Bitner ACEC (1,921 acres); and Rahilly-Gravelly ACEC/RNA (957 acres). The following types of resource use limitations apply to these ACECs: (1) New rights-of-way exclusion or avoidance; (2) Visual Resource Management Class II; (3) Certain restrictions to energy and mineral development; and (4) Motorized travel permitted only on designated open routes. The BLM's Draft Surprise RMP/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (April 2006) presented five alternatives to help the BLM and interested parties understand the various ways of addressing issues in the region. Upon evaluation of the alternatives and associated impacts described in the Draft RMP/EIS and based on public and agency comments on that document, the BLM prepared the Surprise Proposed RMP and Final EIS which was released on June 15, 2007. The Proposed RMP is comprised of the preferred alternative identified in the Draft RMP/EIS with small changes as a result of comments received. Six protest letters on the Surprise proposed RMP were received and resolved by the BLM Director. The BLM determined that the Proposed Action, as described in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, best meets the purpose and need for the project. The Governor of the State of California in his letter September 17, 2007 stated, "Pursuant to 43 CFR 1603-2, and after consulting with affected State and Local agencies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has not found any inconsistencies with any state or local plans, policies, or programs with regards to this [Proposed] Resource Management Plan."

The decisions identifying designated routes of travel for motorized vehicles are implementation decisions and are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) under 43 CFR Part 4. These decisions are contained in Chapter 2.14.4 and shown on Map TRAVEL-1 of the RMP. Any party adversely affected by the BLM's decision(s) to identify, evaluate, define, delineate, and/or select specific routes as available for motorized use within designated areas of travel as set forth in the Surprise Resource Management Plan may appeal within 30 days of publication of this Notice of Availability. The appeal must be filed with the Surprise Field Manager at the above listed address. Please consult 43 CFR Part 4 for further information on the IBLA appeal process.

Dated: December 10, 2007.

Shane Deforest,

Surprise Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. E8-9513 Filed 4-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-190-08-1220-PN]

Notice of Closure of BLM Public Lands Within the Clear Creek Management Area

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

ACTION: Notice of closure to all forms of entry and public use of approximately 31,000 acres of public lands within the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), referred to as the Serpentine Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) and portions of adjacent BLM-administered lands, located in southern San Benito County and western Fresno County, California.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), subpart 8364.1, an Order has been issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Hollister Field Office, closing to all forms of entry and public use certain BLM-administered public lands. This closure is necessary to protect public land users from human health risks associated with exposure to airborne asbestos in the CCMA based upon a final report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency that concludes that public use activities could expose an individual to excess lifetime cancer risks. The order will remain in effect while the BLM completes a Resource Management Plan for the CCMA to determine if and how visitor use can occur without associated excess health risks. This closure affects approximately 31,000 acres of public lands located within the Bureau of Land Management's Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA).

DATES: The Order was issued and became effective on May 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Cooper, Hollister Field Manager, BLM, Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, California, 95023. Telephone: 831-630-5010 Fax: 831-630-5055, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CCMA is a remote area with hundreds of miles of roads and trails that were created to support historic timber harvesting and

mining activities. The 63,000 acre area is a popular location for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. A variety of other recreation activities also occur within the CCMA, including hunting, rock-hounding, wildlife watching, and hiking. This is a unique geological area with serpentine soils that contain naturally occurring asbestos.

BLM has issued the Closure Order in response to the results of a study conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that concludes public use activities could expose an individual to excess lifetime cancer risks.

Closure Order: Pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1, BLM has issued an Order closing approximately 31,000 acres of public land to all forms of entry and public use within the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA). The area is referred to as the Serpentine Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) and portions of adjacent BLM-administered lands in lower Clear Creek Canyon, located in southern San Benito County and western Fresno County, California. The lands include portions of Mount Diablo Principal Meridian: Township 17 South, Ranges 11 and 12 East; Township 18 South, Ranges 11, 12 and 13 East, and Township 19 South, Range 13 East.

This closure is necessary to protect public land users from human health risks associated with exposure to airborne asbestos in the CCMA based upon a final report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency that concludes that public use activities could expose an individual to excess lifetime cancer risks. The order will remain in effect while the BLM completes a Resource Management Plan for the CCMA to determine if and how visitor use can occur without associated excess health risks.

The following persons are exempt from the identified restrictions:

- (1) Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, while engaged in the execution of their official duties.
- (2) BLM personnel or their representatives while engaged in the execution of their official duties.
- (3) Any member of an organized rescue, fire-fighting force, or emergency medical services organization while in the performance of their official duties.
- (4) Any member of a federal, state, or local government agencies while in the performance of an official duty.
- (5) Any person in receipt of a written authorization of exemption obtained from the authorized officer.

Private landowners within the restricted area and persons with valid existing rights-of-way, mining claims, or leases must request in writing access

permission from Hollister Field Manager at the address listed below.

During the closure period the area will be clearly posted. Informational signs will be posted at main entry points to locations affected by this Order. Maps of the closed area will be posted with the Order at key locations that provide access to the closed area, and may also be obtained at the Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, California 95023.

Failure to comply with this order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months Pursuant to 43 CFR, subpart 8360.0–7.

Dated: April 3, 2008.

Rick Cooper,

Hollister Field Manager.

[FR Doc. E8–9681 Filed 4–30–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–920–1320–EL, WYW176446]

Coal Exploration License, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 2(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by section 4 of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 1083, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations adopted as 43 CFR 3410, all interested parties are hereby invited to participate with Black Butte Coal Company on a pro rata cost sharing basis in its program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following-described lands in Sweetwater County, WY:

T. 18 N., R. 101 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Sec. 2: Lot 4;
Sec. 4: Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

T. 19 N., R. 101 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming
Sec. 26: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
Containing 319.83 acres, more or less.

The purpose of the exploration program is to obtain structural and quality information of the coal. The proposed exploration program is fully described and will be conducted pursuant to an exploration plan to be approved by the Bureau of Land Management.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the exploration plan are available for review during normal business hours in the following

offices (serialized under number WYW176446): Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003; and, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901. The written notice should be sent to the following addresses: Black Butte Coal Company, Attn: Clark Fritz, P.O. Box 98, Point of Rocks, WY 82901, and the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, Branch of Solid Minerals, Attn: Mavis Love, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice of invitation will be published in the Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner once each week for two consecutive weeks beginning the week of April 28, 2008, and in the **Federal Register**. Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice to both the Bureau of Land Management and Black Butte Coal Company, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section above, no later than thirty days after publication of this invitation in the **Federal Register**.

The foregoing is published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 43 CFR 3410.2–1(c)(1).

Dated: April 21, 2008.

Larry Claypool,

Acting Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

[FR Doc. E8–9195 Filed 4–30–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office on Violence Against Women; Notice of Establishment

AGENCY: Office on Violence Against Women, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of establishment.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the establishment of the Violence Against Women in Indian Country Task Force (hereinafter “the Task Force”).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Justice hereby gives notice of establishment of the Violence Against Women in Indian Country Task Force, a statutorily mandated Federal Advisory Committee. The Attorney General has established the Task Force pursuant to the requirements of section 904 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), Public Law 109–162.

The Task Force will advise the National Institute of Justice and the