

requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On September 11, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 176, Page 47825, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Office of Marine Mammals Management, USFWS, Anchorage, AK for a permit (PRT-834120) to import specimen samples or carcasses of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) from the Russia Federation for the purpose of scientific research.

Notice is hereby given that on October 30, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Date: November 20, 1997.

**Mary Ellen Amtower,**

*Acting Chief Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 97-31201 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

*Specific public comments are requested as to:*

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the

bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

**Title:** Quality of life in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico.

**OMB Approval Number:** New Collection.

**Abstract:** This study is one part of an integrated study of public knowledge of, preferences for, and responses to tourism and recreation development on the Colorado Plateau. The correlated information is designed to assist Federal, state, and local land and resource managers in their management decisions by providing information about the knowledge, needs, and desires of the affected publics surrounding public lands. Natural resource land managers and county government officials in seven counties, working as partners in this research, can adjust management practices in response to citizens' knowledge and perceived values. The intended effect is to better inform managers and assist land managers in developing citizen involvement programs. This study is being conducted in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and as part of the Colorado Plateau Ecosystem Partnership Program (CPEPP). This study is part of a peer-reviewed research study plan of the Midcontinent Ecological Science Center in Fort Collins, Colorado and is part of the study plan of the CPEPP.

To build a picture of quality of life on the Colorado Plateau, we will measure the perceptions and preferences for the environment held by diverse residents at several locations in the region. Our objectives are to describe what resident populations perceive as the most salient elements of the region's natural landscapes, ecosystems, and human communities; what would have to be maintained, protected, or restored to attain conditions of community and ecosystem quality that residents desire. The first iteration of this research approach has been conducted by Utah State University for the Utah State Travel Council in partnership with the Canyon Country Partnership and U.S. Geological Survey. The goal of that

study was to help achieve the Travel Council's specific directive to relate tourism planning to local residents' quality of life. For this second iteration, surveys will be administered to a stratified random sample of citizens living in six counties in Colorado (Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, and San Juan) and in San Juan County, New Mexico. The sampling design is being developed in partnership with the combined U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management office in Durango, Colorado and Fort Lewis College.

Respondents will be given 12 exposure, one-time use, 35mm cameras and will be asked to photograph areas of their community that either add to or detract from their quality of life. Respondents will receive complete sets of their own photography, accompanied by a short mail-out survey instrument for the purposes of collecting demographic data and cross-check the quality of life factors reflected in the photographs.

**Bureau Form Number:** None.

**Frequency:** One time.

**Description of Respondents:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated completion time:** 25 minutes per respondent.

**Number of respondents:** 300 (400 cameras and mail-surveys).

**Burden hours:** 125 hours. (The burden hour estimate is based on a 70% return rate, with 15 minutes to take photographs and fill out the photo log and 10 minutes to complete the follow-up questionnaire.)

Dated: November 17, 1997.

**Dennis B. Fern,**

*Chief Biologist.*

[FR Doc. 97-31296 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-98-1320-01; COC 60941]

#### **Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments on Environmental Assessment, Maximum Economic Recovery Report, and Fair Market Value; Application for Competitive Coal Lease COC 60941; Colorado**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held to receive

comments on the environmental assessment, maximum economic recovery, and fair market value of federal coal to be offered. An application for coal lease was filed by National King Coal, LLC requesting the Bureau of Land Management offer for competitive lease 194.79 acres of federal coal in La Plata County, Colorado.

**DATES:** The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m., December 18, 1997. Written comments should be received no later than December 30, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearing will be held in the Federal Building, 701 Camino Del Rio, Room 110, Durango, Colorado 81301. Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Area Manager, San Juan Basin Resource Area, Federal Building, Room 203, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado 81301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cal Joyner, Area Manager, San Juan Basin Resource Area Office at the address above, or by telephone at (970) 247-1289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, Lakewood, Colorado, hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held on December 18, 1997, at 7 p.m., in the Federal Building at the address given above.

An application for coal lease was filed by National King Coal, LLC, requesting the Bureau of Land Management offer for competitive lease federal coal in the lands outside established coal production regions described as:

T. 34 N., R. 11 W., N.M.P.M.

Sec. 6, lots 1 to 5, inclusive, NESW, and NWSE;

Containing 194.79 acres.

The coal resource to be offered is limited to coal recoverable by underground mining methods.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments on the environmental assessment and on the following items:

(1) The method of mining to be employed to obtain maximum economic recovery of the coal,

(2) The impact that mining the coal in the proposed leasehold may have on the area, and

(3) The methods of determining the fair market value of the coal to be offered.

Written requests to testify orally at the December 18, 1997, public hearing should be received at the San Juan Resource Area Office prior to the close of business December 18, 1997. Those who indicate they wish to testify when they register at the hearing may have an opportunity if time is available.

In addition, the public is invited to submit written comments concerning the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the coal resource. Public comments will be utilized in establishing fair market value for the coal resource in the described lands. Comments should address specific factors related to fair market value including, but not limited to:

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resource.

2. The price that the mined coal would bring in the market place.

3. The cost of producing the coal.

4. The interest rate at which anticipated income streams would be discounted.

5. Depreciation and other accounting factors.

6. The mining method or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal.

7. Documented information on the terms and conditions of recent and similar coal land transactions in the lease area, and

8. Any comparable sales data of similar coal lands.

Should any information submitted as comments be considered to be proprietary by the commenter, the information should be labeled as such and stated in the first page of the submission. Written comments on the environmental assessment, maximum economic recovery, and fair market value should be sent to the San Juan Resource Area Office at the above address prior to close of business on December 18, 1997.

Substantive comments, whether written or oral, will receive equal consideration prior to any lease offering.

The Draft Environmental Assessment and Maximum Economic Recovery Report are available from the San Juan Resource Area Office upon request.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment, the Maximum Economic Recovery Report, the case file, and the comments submitted by the public, except those portions identified as proprietary by the commenter and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

**Karen A. Purvis,**

*Solid Minerals Team, Resource Services.*

[FR Doc. 97-31202 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

(AK-910-0777-51)

#### Iditarod Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Iditarod Advisory Council Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Iditarod Advisory Council will conduct an open meeting Wednesday, January 7, 1998, and Thursday, January 8, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the formation of a non-profit organization to assist in the management of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The meeting will be held at the BLM Anchorage District Office at 6881 Abbott Loop Road in Anchorage.

Public comments pertaining to management of the Iditarod National Historic Trail will be taken from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, January 7. Written comments may be submitted at the meeting or mailed to the address below prior to the meeting.

**ADDRESS:** Inquiries about the meeting should be sent to External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Teresa McPherson at (907) 271-5555.

Dated: November 18, 1997.

**Nick Douglas,**

*Anchorage District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-31204 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-923-1990-00]

#### Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws; Surface Management: Forms of Legal Financial Guarantees Allowable Under Nevada State Law

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) amended the surface management regulations at 43 CFR subpart 3809 on February 28, 1997 (62 FR 9093). The amendment requires each BLM State Director to consult with the appropriate State authorities to determine which financial instruments in 43 CFR 3809.1-9(k) are allowable under State law. Nevada State law