

Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Applicants for the incidental take of the San Joaquin kit fox. Our final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: August 27, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Deputy Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 99-22987 Filed 9-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-320-1330-01-24 1A]

OMB Approval Number 1004-0103; Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On April 7, 1999, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 16994) requesting comments on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on June 7, 1999. BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM clearance officer at the telephone number listed below. OMB is required to respond within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration, your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be sent directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0103), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C St., NW, Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Nature of Comments

We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the Bureau of Land Management, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the 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 collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Mineral Materials Disposal.

OMB Clearance No.: 1004-0103.

Abstract: BLM proposes to extend the currently approved collection of information for the disposal through sale of mineral materials, such as sand, gravel, and petrified wood, on public lands. BLM uses the information that applicants provide to: (1) determine if the sale of the mineral materials is in the public interest, (2) mitigate any environmental impacts associated with mineral development, (3) get fair market value for the material sold, and (4) prevent the trespass removal of the resource. The collection also includes a sale contract form, BLM 3600-1.

Bureau Form: 3600-1 (combines forms 3600-4, Contract for Cash Sale of Mineral Materials, Appraised at Less Than \$2,000; and 3600-5, Contract for the Sale of Units of Materials, Appraised at \$2,000 or More)

Frequency: Once or twice per year.

Description of Respondents: Respondents are operators desiring sand, gravel, stone, and other mineral materials from lands under BLM jurisdiction.

Annual Respondents: 2,700.

Annual Responses: 2,800.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,475.

Collection Clearance Officer: Carole Smith, (202) 452-0367.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

Carole J. Smith,

Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-22977 Filed 9-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-700-99-5440-00-C023]

Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture. Responsible Officials: Ann Morgan, State Director, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield, Denver, CO 80215 and Robert L. Storch, Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, U.S. Forest Service, 2250 US Hwy 50, Delta, CO 81416.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of North Fork Coal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments on the DEIS, Maximum Economic Recovery Report, and Fair Market Value; for lease and exploration license applications of Federal coal in Delta and Gunnison Counties, Colorado (COC61209, COC61357, COC61945).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) announce the availability of the North Fork Coal DEIS for the Iron Point and Elk Creek Coal Lease Tracts for competitive leasing and the Iron Point Coal Exploration license for exploration drilling in accordance with 43 CFR 3425 and 3410. The scheduled date and place for a public hearing pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.4 is announced. 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 7:00 p.m. MDT, on October 14, 1999, at the Hotchkiss High School, Hotchkiss, Colorado. To assist the public in formulating their comments, there will also be an informal open house on October 7, 1999, starting at 7:30 p.m. MDT, at the Hotchkiss High School, Hotchkiss, Colorado to answer questions regarding the organization and technical content of the DEIS. Written comments on the DEIS, fair market value and maximum economic recovery 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 September 3, 1999. Written comments on the DEIS, fair market value and maximum economic recovery must be received by November 3, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions and comments on the DEIS to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Jerry Jones, 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401, or fax them to 970-240-5368. E-mail can be sent to Jerry_Jones@co.blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Jones at the above address, or phone: 970-240-5338.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a result of two applications for coal leasing and one application for a coal exploration license, the following lands were analyzed in this DEIS.

- T. 12 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.
 Sec. 31, lots 1 to 14, inclusive, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 32, lots 3 to 6, inclusive, lots 11 to 14, inclusive, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 12 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.
 Sec. 14, lots 7, 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 22, S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 23, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$, and that part of HES No. 133 lying in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 26, lots 1 to 5, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, that part of HES No. 133 lying in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and that part of HES No. 134 lying in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 27, all;
 Sec. 28, S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 29, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 32, lots 1, 2, 7 to 10, inclusive, lots 15, 16, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 33, lots 1 to 16, inclusive, and N $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 34, lots 1 to 16, inclusive, and N $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 35, lots 1 to 22, that part of HES No. 134 lying in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$; N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 36, lots 1 to 17, inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and that part of HES No. 134 lying in lot 1.
- T. 13 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.
 Sec. 5, lots 7 to 10, inclusive;
 Sec. 6, lots 8 to 17, inclusive.
- T. 13 S., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.
 Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 2, lot 1, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 4, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 5, lots 11 and 12, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 8, NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 9, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 11, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- The area described contains approximately 11,646 +/- acres.

Bowie Resources, Ltd. and Oxbow Mining, Inc. applied to the BLM for the Iron Point and Elk Creek coal lease tracts respectfully to extend the production life of their existing underground mines. Similarly, Bowie applied to the BLM for an exploration license to further delineate coal resource in lands adjacent to their ongoing

mining. The requested Iron Point Tract and the exploration license area are adjacent to the presently approved permit area for the Bowie No. 2 Mine which is operated by Bowie. Likewise, the requested Elk Creek Tract is adjacent to the presently approved permit area for the Sanborn Creek Mine which is operated by Oxbow. These applications encompass federal coal on BLM and National Forest system lands.

The DEIS analyzes four alternatives. Besides the no-action alternative and the plans as submitted in the applications, two other alternatives were examined in the draft EIS. The other alternatives analyzed the possibility of multiseam mining and the restriction of subsidence due to underground mining activity in key areas to protect surface resources.

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 DEIS 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 or exploration of the coal 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 October 14, 1999, public hearing should be received at the BLM prior to the close of business on October 14, 1999. 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. Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation. This information should be labeled as such and stated in the first page of the submission. Data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. Comments on fair market value and maximum economic recovery should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management and should address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information:

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.

Substantive comments, whether written or oral, will receive equal consideration prior to any lease offering. Coal quantities and the FMV of the coal developed by BLM may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

The Draft EIS and Maximum Economic Recovery Report are available from the Uncompahgre Field Office upon request. A copy of the DEIS, 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 BLM Uncompahgre Field Office.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be sixty (60) days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. It is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions, *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the Draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the Final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts, *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (e.d. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the agencies at a time when they can meaningfully consider them and respond to them. To assist the agencies in identifying and

considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

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. Proprietary data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information.

Dated: August 25, 1999.

Jerald L. Jones,

EIS Project Manager.

[FR Doc. 99–22773 Filed 9–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–JB–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–961–1020–00]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Central Montana Resource Advisory Council will meet September 22 and 23, 1999, at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, in Great Falls, Montana.

The September 22 portion of the meeting will begin at 8:00 am. The day's business will include an introduction of new council members, field manager

updates, BLM presentations about public land features in the Missouri River Breaks (current management, issues, future management, etc.) and a report about the formation of a council sub-group. A primary entry on the day's agenda will be accepting public comments concerning the future management of public lands in the Missouri River Breaks area of north central Montana. The BLM is interested in maintaining the special cultural, historical and scenic values of these lands and is considering a designation of some level as a means of recognizing while maintaining these values as well as benefiting local communities and lifestyles. The council will hear presentations from groups and organizations from 12:45 pm through 5:00 pm. Then from 7:00 pm through 9:00 pm that evening, the council will host a public comment period for individuals.

The September 23 portion of the meeting will begin at 9:00 am. From 9:00 am through 11:00 am, the council will continue the public comment period for individuals concerning the future management of public lands in the Missouri River Breaks. The remainder of the day will consist of a discussion of business topics along with council members' reports on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and administrative arrangements for the council's next meeting.

DATES: September 22 and 23.

LOCATION: Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phillips Field Manager, 501 S. 2nd St. E., HC 65, Box 5000, Malta, Montana 59538.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public and there will be a formal comment period for groups and organizations and two public comment periods as detailed above.

David L. Mari,

Lewistown Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99–22976 Filed 9–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DN–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–910–09–0777–30]

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting Location and Time

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Councils' meeting location and time.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda for the September 27, 1999 meeting includes: approval of minutes of the previous meeting, Standards and Guidelines for wild horses, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild Fire and Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Updates, Pinyon-juniper Standards and Guidelines and subject matter for future meetings.

All meetings are open to the public. Citizens may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments.

Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend or need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Curtis Tucker, Special Projects Coordinator, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301–9408.

DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION: The time and location of the meeting is as follows: Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council meeting, September 27, 1999, starting at 9 a.m., Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV; public comments will be at 11:30 a.m.; tentative adjournment 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Curtis Tucker, Special Projects Coordinator, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301–9408, telephone 775–289–1841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues, associated with the management of the public lands.

Dated: August 24, 1999.

Helen Hankins,

Field Manager, Elko.

[FR Doc. 99–22980 Filed 9–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–M