

of 12 separate BLM administrative units. These units include the Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and White River Field Offices in Colorado; the Moab, Monticello, Price, Richfield, and Vernal Field Offices, and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah; and the Kemmerer, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices in Wyoming. With the exception of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the ROD for this PEIS would direct which land use plans in affected BLM administrative units will be amended to make designated lands available for application for commercial leasing, exploration, and development of oil shale and tar sands resources.

Within the above-listed administrative units, and within the defined boundaries of the most geologically prospective resources of the Green River formation and the designated STSAs, public lands managed by the BLM where the Federal government owns full fee title are included in the scope of the PEIS analysis. Lands where the surface estate is owned by Tribes, States, or private parties but where the Federal government owns the subsurface mineral estate (i.e., split estate lands) are also included in the scope of this analysis. Tribal lands on which both the surface estate and subsurface mineral estate are owned by the Tribe are not included in the scope of analysis.

In the PEIS, three alternatives were analyzed for amending land use plans to make BLM-administered lands available for application for future commercial leasing of both oil shale and tar sands resources, including a No Action alternative. These alternatives were developed through issue identification during the scoping process. Such issues included air quality, water quality and quantity, socio-economic concerns, ecological concerns, cultural, paleontology, and non-Wilderness Study Area lands with wilderness characteristics. The BLM has identified Alternative B as the proposed plan amendment. Of the 3,540,000 acres in the study areas, the preferred alternative would amend plans to make approximately 2 million acres of lands containing oil shale resources available for application for commercial leasing and approximately 430,000 acres available for tar sands. Alternative A, the no action alternative, would not amend land use plans to identify lands as available for application for lease, but would leave 352,780 acres of lands available for lease application under existing plans. Alternative C, which is similar to the Alternative B, would amend land use plans to identify areas

available for application for lease comprising approximately 830,000 acres containing oil shale resources and approximately 230,000 acres available for tar sands.

This PEIS has been developed to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the three alternatives. The BLM's action of amending land use plans to open lands for application to lease oil shale and tar sands resources will not authorize issuance of any leases or ground disturbing activities. Future lease issuance and approval of development plans will be subject to additional NEPA analysis. As such, the BLM has determined that there are no environmental impacts associated with the amendment of land use plans. However, because BLM intends to establish a commercial leasing program to facilitate future development, BLM has included a broad, programmatic-level analysis of the potential impacts of oil shale and tar sands development technologies as they are currently known, in order to inform the land use planning decision as well as the development of this program.

Because developing this and other alternative energy resources is of strategic importance in enhancing our Nation's domestic energy supplies, the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior is the responsible official for these proposed plan amendments. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and its implementing regulations provide land use planning authority to the Secretary, as delegated to this Assistant Secretary. Because this decision is being made by the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, it is the final decision for the Department of the Interior. This decision is not subject to administrative review (protest) under the BLM or Departmental regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2).

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5-1.

Michael D. Nedd,

Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-090-1610-017J]

Notice of Availability of Monticello Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for the Monticello Field Office.

DATES: The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's PRMP/FEIS. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Monticello Field Office PRMP/FEIS were sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the PRMP/FEIS are available for public inspection at: Monticello Field Office, 365 N. Main, Monticello, UT 84535. Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84145.

Interested persons may also review the PRMP/FEIS on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/monticello/planning.html>. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following addresses:

Regular Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nick Sandberg, Monticello Field Office, 365 N. Main, Monticello, UT 84535; phone: (435) 587-1500; or e-mail at: Nick_Sandberg@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Monticello RMP planning area is located in southeast Utah. The BLM administers approximately 1.8 million acres of surface estate and 2.5 million

acres of Federal mineral estate within the planning area.

The Monticello RMP will provide future broad-scale management direction for land use allocations and allowable uses on public lands within the planning area. Implementation of the decisions of the PRMP would apply only to BLM-administered public lands and Federal mineral estate. In the Monticello Field Office Draft RMP/EIS

(DRMP/DEIS), which was released for a 90-day public review and comment period in November 2007, five alternatives were analyzed, including a No Action alternative. These alternatives were developed through issue identification during the scoping process. Such issues included: Recreation use and off-highway vehicles (OHVs), mineral development, special designations (ACECs and WSRs),

cultural resource management, and non-WSA lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

The PRMP/FEIS would designate two new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), and the continuation of five existing ACECs, totaling 74,430 acres. Resource use limitations that apply to the proposed ACECs include a range of different prescriptions as described in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

ACEC	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres
Alkali Ridge	Cultural	All cultural properties eligible for the NRHP would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection; where avoidance is not possible and adverse impacts may occur, BLM would develop appropriate mitigation measures; available for mineral leasing under controlled surface use except the National Historic Landmark which would be available under No Surface Occupancy; confine woodland harvest to specific areas if cultural resources are being impacted; OHV use limited to designated routes.	39,196
Hovenweep	Cultural	Visual Protection Zone: Available for mineral leasing with No Surface Occupancy; managed as VRM II.	2,439
	Cajon Pond: Available for mineral leasing and other surface uses with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy or surface disturbance during March 1–June 30 and excluded from livestock use yearlong within the fenced portion.	
	General Area: All cultural properties eligible for the NRHP would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection; where avoidance is not possible and adverse impacts may occur, BLM would develop appropriate mitigation measures; available for mineral leasing under controlled surface use; OHV use limited to designated roads and trails; unavailable for disposal of mineral materials, and excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited on-site collection of dead wood for campfires.	
Indian Creek	Scenic	Available for mineral leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy; unavailable for mineral material disposal; and unavailable for private or commercial use of woodland products including on-site collection of dead wood for campfires; managed as VRM I and closed to OHV use.	3,908
Lavender Mesa	Relict Vegetation	Excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of the plant communities, and restoration/reclamation activities; available for mineral leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy; campfires are not allowed; limit recreation use if vegetation communities are being adversely impacted; unavailable for mineral material disposal; unavailable for private or commercial use of woodland products including limited on-site collection of dead wood for campfires; unavailable for livestock grazing, including saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access; excluded from wildlife habitat improvements and watershed control structures; managed as VRM II; closed to OHV use; and excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment insofar as possible.	649
Shay Canyon	Cultural	OHV and mechanized travel limited to designated routes; no surface disturbance for vegetation, watershed, or wildlife treatments/improvements; manage as NSO for oil and gas; open to geophysical exploration as long as it is consistent with the objectives of the ACEC; grazing restricted to trailing only; with the exception of side canyons, hiking limited to designated trails; open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations to avoid impacts to cultural and paleontological resources; unavailable for disposal of mineral materials; closed to campfires; unavailable for private or commercial use of woodland products including on-site collection of dead wood for campfires; recreation use may be limited if cultural and paleontological resources are impacted; and closed to camping.	119

TABLE 1—EVALUATION OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN—Continued

ACEC	Values of concern	Resource use limitations	Acres
San Juan River	Scenic, Cultural, Wildlife, Natural Systems.	Vehicle access, including OHVs/mechanized, limited to designated routes; unavailable for private/commercial use of woodland products except for limited on-site collection of dead wood for campfires, driftwood collection only would be allowed within floodplains; available for livestock use October 1–May 31 and must incorporate rest-rotation and/or deferred management systems; available for oil and gas leasing subject to No Surface Occupancy; unavailable for mineral material disposal; recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry; limit recreation use if wildlife values are being adversely impacted; closed to camping in areas as necessary to protect cultural, wildlife and natural processes; managed as VRM I (parts) and VRM II (parts) and VRM III (parts); designated access trails to cultural sites as necessary to protect cultural resources; no camping in cultural sites; and ropes and other climbing aids not allowed for access to ruins, cultural sites, and nesting raptors.	5,258
Valley of the Gods	Scenic	Unavailable for mineral leasing; unavailable for mineral material disposal; OHV use limited to designated roads and trails; managed as VRM I and unavailable for private/commercial use of woodland products.	22,863

Comments on the Monticello Field Office DRMP/DEIS received from the public and internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the PRMP/FEIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use plan decisions.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the PRMP/FEIS may be found in the Dear Reader Letter of the PRMP/FEIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5–2. E-mailed and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mailed or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202–452–5112, and e-mails to *Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov*. All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the appropriate address, as set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Before including your phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 43 CFR 1610.2, 43 CFR 1610.5–1

Selma Sierra,
Utah State Director.

[FR Doc. E8–20670 Filed 9–4–08; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–448 and 731–TA–1117 (Final)]

Certain Off-the-Road Tires From China; Determination

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to sections 705(b) and 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671d(b) and 1673d(b)) (the Act), that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from China of certain off-the-road tires, provided for in subheadings 4011.20.10, 4011.20.50, 4011.61.00, 4011.62.00, 4011.63.00, 4011.69.00, 4011.92.00, 4011.93.40, 4011.93.80, 4011.94.40, and 4011.94.80 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that have been found by the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to be subsidized by the Government of China and sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV).^{2 3}

¹ The record is defined in section 207.2(f) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

² Vice Chairman Daniel R. Pearson dissenting.

³ The Commission also finds that imports subject to Commerce’s affirmative critical circumstances determination are not likely to undermine seriously the remedial effect of the antidumping duty order on China.

Background

The Commission instituted these investigations effective June 18, 2007, following receipt of a petition filed with the Commission and Commerce by Titan Tire Corporation, Des Moines, Iowa, and The United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL–CIO–CLC, Pittsburgh, PA. The final phase of the investigations was scheduled by the Commission following notification of a preliminary determination by Commerce that imports of certain off-the-road tires from China were being sold at LTFV within the meaning of section 733(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b(b)). Notice of the scheduling of the final phase of the Commission’s investigations and of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** of March 3, 2008 (73 FR 11437). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on July 8 and 9, 2008, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determination in these investigations to the Secretary of Commerce on August 28, 2008. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4031 (August 2008), entitled **Certain Off-The-Road Tires from China: Investigation Nos. 701–TA–448 and 731–TA–1117 (Final)**.

Issued: August 29, 2008.