

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Application for Approval of Tungsten-Polymer Shot as Nontoxic for Waterfowl Hunting**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that Federal Cartridge Company (Federal) of Anoka, Minnesota, has applied for approval of tungsten-polymer shot as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Chief, or Carol Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Migratory Bird Management (MBMO), (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the mid-1970s, the Service has sought to identify shot that, when spent, does not pose a significant toxic hazard to migratory birds and other wildlife. Currently, only bismuth-tin and steel shot are approved by the Service as nontoxic. Tungsten-iron shot has received temporary conditional approval for the 1997-98 hunting season. The Service believes approval for other suitable candidate shot materials as nontoxic is feasible.

Federal submits their application for approval of tungsten-polymer shot as nontoxic pursuant to 50 CFR 20.134, Migratory Bird Hunting: Nontoxic Shot. The Service believes the candidate material shows promise and will consider the application.

Federal's candidate shot is made by physically mixing tungsten and polymer (Nylon 6), then melting the nylon. Cooling causes the nylon to cross-link and bind the mixture into a permanent shape. Shot made from this material has a density of approximately 11.2 gm/cc or approximately 100 percent the density of lead. The shot will contain nominally 95.5 percent by weight of tungsten and 4.5 percent by weight of polymer. An electronic device designed to distinguish between shotshells containing different shot materials will register tungsten-polymer shells as a nontoxic shotshell similar to bismuth shells.

Federal's application includes a description of the new shot, a toxicological report on the tungsten-polymer shot, and a 30-day test to assess the toxicity of this shot in game-farm mallards (Tier 1). The toxicological report incorporates toxicity information - a synopsis of acute and chronic toxicity data for mammals and birds,

acute effects, potential for environmental concern, toxicity to aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles; and information on environmental fate and transport - shot and/or shot coating alteration, environmental half-life, and environmental concentration. The toxicity study revealed no adverse effects when mallards were dosed with 8 BB size tungsten-polymer shot and monitored over a 30-day period.

The Service has requested the applicant submit the Tier 2 test plan for review. Once the Service approves the plan the applicant will conduct testing and submit an analysis of the results. After reviewing the results, the Service will either approve the shot as nontoxic or request further testing. The applicant plans to concurrently test this candidate shot with the temporarily approved tungsten-iron shot.

References

- Barr Engineering Company. 1997. Toxicology Report on New Shot. 24 pp.
 Bursien, S.J., M.E. Kelly, D.C. Powell, and R.J. Aulerich. 1996. Thirty-Day Dosing Test to Assess the Toxicity of Tungsten-Polymer Shot in Game-Farm Mallards. 1996. Report to Federal Cartridge Co. 78 pp.

Authorship

The primary author of this notice of application is Carol Anderson, Office of Migratory Bird Management.

Dated: October 16, 1997.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 97-28199 Filed 10-23-97; 8:45 am]

Billing Code 4310-55-F

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-921-08-1320-01; MTM 83859]

Coal Lease Offering

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Offering by Sealed Bid MTM 83859—Spring Creek Coal Company.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the coal resources in the lands described below in Big Horn County, Montana, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid. This offering is being made as a result of an application filed by Spring Creek Coal Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as

amended (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 11:00 a.m., November 13, 1997, in the Conference Room, Side A, on the Sixth Floor of the Granite Tower Building, Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59101. Sealed bids clearly marked "Sealed Bid for MTM 83859 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 1997", must be submitted on or before 10:00 a.m., November 13, 1997, to the cashier, Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Second Floor, Granite Tower Building, 222 North 32nd Street, Post Office Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An Environmental Assessment of the proposed coal development and related requirements for consultation, public involvement and hearings have been completed in accordance with 43 CFR 3425. The results of these activities were a finding of no significant environmental impact.

The coal resource to be offered consists of all recoverable reserves in the following-described lands:

- T. 8 S., R. 39 E., P.M.M.,
 Sec. 22: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 25: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 26: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 27: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 8 S., R. 40 E., P.M.M.,
 Sec. 30: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 320.00 acres, Big Horn County, Montana.

The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. The surface is not held by a qualified surface owner as defined in the regulations, 43 CFR 3400.0-5.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets the fair market value of the coal resource. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be 3 hand-

delivered. The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 1997, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the Sale Official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof; and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal mined by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal shall be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.250.

Bidding instructions for the tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Casefile MTM 83859 is also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bettie Schaff, Land Law Examiner or Edward Hughes, Coal Coordinator at (406) 255-2832 or 255-2830, respectively.

Dated: October 14, 1997.

Randy D. Heuscher,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 97-28209 Filed 10-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-08-1220-00: GP8-0019]

Call for Nominations for Oregon State Agency Representative on the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for an employee of an Oregon State agency which deals with natural resources for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council, established and

authorized in 1995 by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice and recommendations to the BLM and Forest Service on management of public lands. Public nominations will be received through November 28, 1997.

The Council, which was established in August, 1995, is made up of 15 members. The State Agency employee has resigned from the Council, and we are seeking nominees to replace this position for the balance of the term through August of 1999.

The Council, which covers southeastern Oregon, has identified a broad spectrum of resource-related issues that they will work on with the BLM and the Forest Service. In addition, the Council will continue to advise the BLM and Forest Service regarding standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management, the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan, and the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project.

This council is authorized under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to select 10 to 15 member citizen-based advisory councils that are established and authorized consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As required by the FACA, Resource Advisory Council membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of public lands.

These include three categories:

Category One: holders of federal grazing permits, representatives of energy and mining development, timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-road vehicle use and developed recreation.

Category Two: Representatives of environmental and resource conservation organizations, dispersed recreation, archeological and historic interests, and wild horse and burro groups.

Category Three: Representatives of State and local government, Native American tribes, academicians involved in natural sciences, employees of State agencies responsible for the management of natural resources, land, or water, and the public at large.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of the State of Oregon. The Southeast Oregon Council covers southeastern Oregon. A nomination form may be obtained from the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, 100 Oregon

Street, Vale, Oregon 97918 or by calling (541) 473-3144. Nominations must be received by November 28, 1997.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their experience in working for the state of Oregon in a natural resource capacity and their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the Council. Nominees must also have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications. The BLM Oregon/Washington State Director, the Forest Service Regional Forester, and the Oregon Governor's Office will forward the nominations to the Secretary of the Interior, who will make the appointment to the Council. This nomination period will also be announced through press releases issued by the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office. Nominations for Resource Advisory Councils should be sent to: Ed Singleton, Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Manager, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR, 97918.

DATES: All nominations must be received by the BLM Vale District on or before November 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonne Hower, Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918, (Telephone 541-473-6218).

Edwin J. Singleton,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-28201 Filed 10-23-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-050-08-1430-01; AZA 30069, AZA 30123, AZA 22763]

Arizona: Notice of Realty Action: Noncompetitive Sales of Public Lands in Yuma County, Arizona; Correction

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management published a document in the **Federal Register** of July 8, 1997, concerning lands found suitable for noncompetitive sale to three separate parties. The document did not contain a Bureau of Land Management case file number and the holder's name for one of the proposed sale parties.