

Based upon BLM's recommendation, Ark amended their application to include an additional 1280 acres of Federal land containing approximately 59 million tons of in-place coal reserves and deleted 190 acres of Federal land which either contained no recoverable coal or were unsuitable for coal mining. These modifications to the lease tract were made to enable preparation of a reasonable underground mine plan with enough reserves for a new mine start. Ark's amended Federal coal lease application contains a total of 5235.15 acres and approximately 149.7 million tons of in-place coal. There are an estimated 235.9 million tons of private and State coal within the Project Area.

Coal mining would be conducted by Arch of Wyoming, Inc. (Arch), an affiliate of Ark, if it is successful in obtaining a Federal coal lease in the proposed Project Area. Arch has operated coal mines in the Hanna Basin Region of Carbon County since 1972.

The FEIS analyzes two alternatives in detail—the Proposed Action and a No Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action, the preferred alternative, the BLM would hold a competitive lease sale for surface-minable and underground-minable Federal coal. The Proposed Action analyzes leasing Federal coal for both the Elk Mountain surface mining operation and the Saddleback Hills underground mining operation and examines 10 options for transporting coal to processing/loadout facilities. The No Action Alternative analyzes no leasing of any Federal coal in the Project Area. A "no mining" alternative (no mining of any Federal, State, or private coal in the Project Area) is not analyzed in detail. Seventy-nine percent of the surface-minable coal within the Project Area is privately owned and BLM believes that the private surface coal could be economically mined even if the Federal coal were not leased. If no Federal coal were leased, the non-Federal underground coal reserves would be uneconomical to mine because of the difficulty of mining small tracts of intermingled private and State coal.

The United States Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. OSM is the Federal agency that administers surface coal mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was made available to the public on August 7, 1998. Thirteen written comment letters were received on the draft document. They are included, with the responses, in Chapter 8.0 of the FEIS.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

Alan R. Pierson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-489 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-09-1020-00]

New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting Cancellation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Cancellation of Council Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announced a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting was to be held on January 21 and 22, 1999 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM.

This is notice that the meeting is cancelled. There are seven vacancies on the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (NM/RAC) and to date no replacement appointments have been made by the Secretary of the Interior. Since the fifteen member RAC would not have a quorum if a meeting were held it is felt that the scheduled January 21-22, 1999 NM/RAC meeting should be cancelled and rescheduled when the seven vacant positions are filled.

The process of receiving nominations for appointments to the NM/RAC

occurred last May and it is those applications that were received that are under consideration now for appointment. Since it is not known when the seven appointments will be made the NM/RAC meeting scheduled for January 21-22, 1999 is cancelled. The next meeting will be rescheduled as soon as appointments are made and arrangements to hold the meeting can be completed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Armstrong, New Mexico State Office, Planning and Policy Team, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115, telephone (505) 438-7436.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Resource Advisory 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 public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: January 5, 1999.

M.J. Chavez,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-490 Filed 1-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-1430-01: WYW-143438]

Realty Action; Restricted Access to Public Right-of-Way, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action.

SUMMARY: The following public land in Teton County will be closed to public access from March 15 to September 1 of each year to provide a disturbance free area for raptor activity under Section 3 and Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 40 N. R. 116 W.

Section 34, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄.

These lands contain approximately 0.40 acres.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM proposes to put up a gate and sign to restrict public access on the above described land. This closure will protect raptor habitat.