

3, 1879, 43 U.S.C. 31 and Executive Order 12906.

DATES: The Program Announcement and application forms for this program are expected to be available on or about February 1, 1999. Applications must be received on or before March 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Program Announcement No. 99HQPA0005 for the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program may be obtained through the Internet at <www.usgs.gov/contracts/index.html>. Copies of the Program Announcement may also be obtained by writing to: Ms. Karen Staubs, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-7372, FAX (703) 648-7901. Requests for paper copy must be in writing. Telephonic requests will not be honored.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program contact Ms. Kathleen Craig, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; (703) 648-7357, fax (703) 648-7901.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program proposals are to be directed towards either of two types of effort. The first is the creation of descriptions (metadata) of 'framework' digital geospatial data sets and serving those descriptions for search and retrieval through the distributed, electronically connected network of public internet-based clearinghouses—the National Spatial Data Infrastructure National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. The second type of effort is providing clearinghouse/metadata technical assistance to organizations to enable the documentation and serving of metadata for 'framework' data. The geographic data themes known as 'framework' data are transportation, hydrography, elevation, digital orthoimagery, government boundaries, geodetic control, and cadastral information.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

Richard E. Witmer,

Chief, National Mapping Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1220-00]

Sonoma-Gerlach and Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of comment period extension.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is given that the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the management of the West Arm of the Black Rock Desert, located in Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: A 30 day extension to the comment period has been granted. Written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be postmarked by February 15, 1999.

A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, ATTN: Gerald Moritz, Project Manager, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection at the following additional locations: Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada; Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, Nevada; Pershing County Public Library, Lovelock, Nevada; Washoe County Public Library, Reno, Nevada; Washoe County Branch Library, Gerlach, Nevada; Susanville Library District, Susanville, California; University of Nevada Library in Reno, Nevada; and the Sacramento City College Library, Sacramento. In addition, the entire document is available on the World Web at the following address: www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca/BlackrockEIS.htm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerald Moritz, Project Manager at the above Winnemucca Field Office Address or telephone (702) 623-1500.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

Les W. Boni,

Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-1489 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service

[MT-920-08-1220-00, 1617P]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an Off-Highway Vehicle Amendment to Resource Management Plans and Forest Plans

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior and Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (FS), Region 1, propose to amend their respective resource management plans and forest plans in Montana, North Dakota, and portions of South Dakota. This action is necessary so managing agencies can responsibly manage the land and meet people needs. With an increase of off-highway vehicle (OHV) traffic; i.e., motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles, etc., the BLM and the FS have observed the spread of noxious weeds, user conflicts, soil erosion, damage to cultural sites, and disruption of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The BLM and FS propose changing the areas currently open seasonally or yearlong to cross-country OHV use to a designation that allows for travel only on roads and trails. However, this amendment would not change most of the current limited or closed designations, or designated intensive off-road vehicle use areas. Exceptions for off-road travel will be considered in the analysis for game retrieval, camping, or disabled access. Access allowed under the terms and conditions of a federal lease or permit would not be affected by the proposal.

In the future, areas could be identified for intensive use and/or trail development. As joint lead agencies, the BLM and FS will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of this proposal and any alternatives. Travel planning currently under consideration at individual FS and BLM offices will continue and those analyses with recent decisions will remain in place under this proposal.

DATES: Comments and recommendations on this notice should be received in writing no later than March 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to OHV Plan

Amendment, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457-1160.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Majerus, 406-538-7461 or Dick Kramer, 406-329-1008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Montana/Dakotas BLM administers 8.5 million acres of public land within 10 field offices. Each office manages OHV use under a land use plan. These land use plans allow for three designations of vehicle use; open, limited, and closed. These land use plans vary considerably in OHV designations. More recent plans limit OHV use to existing or designated roads and trails in portions of the area, while older plans were developed prior to the increased use of OHVs and leave most areas open. Currently, 5 million acres are open for unrestricted travel, 3.4 million acres are limited seasonally or yearlong to existing or designated roads and trails, and 99,000 acres are closed.

The FS administers 18.2 million acres of land in Montana and the Dakotas located within nine national forests and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Each national forest manages OHV use as part of their forest plans. The OHV use is prohibited in all designated wilderness areas. Forest plans allow for three designations of use in other areas; open, restricted, and closed. Forest plans vary considerably in the amount of area designated for these uses. Some forests have many areas that are open while other forests have few open areas. Some forests restrict OHV use to designated roads and trails only. All forest plans were prepared prior to the recent increase in OHV use and the new development of all terrain vehicle technology.

One of the many opportunities on public land is traveling the backcountry for recreational pursuits, such as sight-seeing, wood cutting, fishing, hunting, and other activities as provided by the direction of existing land management and resource plans. Some of this use occurs on public lands where OHV use is currently limited to existing or designated roads and trails. It is the goal of both agencies to provide for a wide spectrum of dispersed recreation activities that will minimize environmental impacts and minimize conflicts between user groups.

However, there are large areas of public land that are open to cross-country travel off roads and trails. This unrestricted use has the potential to continue the spread of noxious weeds, create user conflicts, cause erosion, damage cultural sites, and disrupt wildlife and wildlife habitat. The

magnitude of these impacts is not known at this time. With an increase in OHV traffic and changes in OHV technology, the public and land management agencies recognize the need to evaluate the current management decisions for those areas where driving off roads and trails is allowed.

A change in management direction would be accomplished through an EIS and an interagency plan amendment. The plan amendment would address the use of wheeled, motorized vehicles designed for and/or capable of travel off roads and trails.

The BLM and FS propose changing the areas currently open seasonally or yearlong to cross-country OHV use to a designation that allows for travel only on roads and trails. However, this would not change most of the current limited or closed designations, or designated intensive use areas. Travel planning currently under consideration at individual FS and BLM offices will continue and those analyses with recent decisions will remain in place under this proposal. Exceptions for off-road travel will be considered for game retrieval, camping, or disabled access. Access allowed under the terms and conditions of a federal lease or permit would not be affected by the proposal. This broad scale decision as proposed would be an interim decision until revision or completion of travel management plans.

After the plan amendment is completed, the BLM and FS would continue to develop travel plans for geographical areas (i.e., landscape analysis, watershed plans, or activity plans). Through travel planning, roads and trails would be inventoried, mapped, and designated as open or closed. Travel planning may identify areas for trail development or further limit travel off roads and trails. Travel planning may require implementation over a 10 to 15 year period.

Snowmobile use will not be addressed in this particular proposal. The agencies agree that to do so would lengthen the process significantly. In addition, the resource impacts associated with snowmobile use are different enough to warrant a separate analysis. The agencies are currently exploring options for addressing snowmobile use.

The scoping period for the plan amendment and EIS will begin in January 1999, and open houses will be held in February 1999. The dates, times and locations of these open houses will be announced in local newspapers, and other news media, and available from the local offices of the BLM and FS. A

draft plan amendment and EIS should be available for review in June 1999, with public meetings in July 1999. The comment period on the draft plan amendment and EIS will be 90 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: Sec. 202, Pub. L. 94-579, 90 Stat. 2747 (43 U.S.C. 1712), Sec. 6, Pub. L. 94-588, 90 Stat. 2949 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

Larry E. Hamilton,
State Director.

Dale N. Bosworth,
Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-00]

Powder River Regional Coal Team Activities: Schedule of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Wyoming.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) announces that it has scheduled a public meeting for February 23, 1999, for the following purposes: (1) Review current and proposed activities in the Powder River Coal Region, (2) review new and pending coal lease applications (LBA), and (3) make recommendations on new coal lease applications.

DATES: The RCT meeting will begin at 9 a.m. MDT, on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, in the Centennial South Conference Room of the Radisson Northern Hotel, Broadway & 1st Ave. North, Billings, MT, 406-245-5121. The meeting is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Northern Hotel, Broadway & 1st Ave. North, Billings, MT, 406-245-5121. Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Schlagel, Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828 (MS-922), Cheyenne, WY 82003, 307-775-6257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss two new pending coal leases by application (LBA) from Jacobs Ranch Coal Company (Kennecott Energy Company) (WYW146744), filed on October 2, 1998, for an estimated 519 million tons and 4,821 acres, and the Spring Creek Coal Company (Kennecott Energy Company) (MTM88405) filed June 26, 1998, for an estimated 15.4 million tons and 150