

and self-determination of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; and (5) develop the project in an environmentally sound manner that addresses and preserves traditional and cultural practices of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BIA has identified the following preliminary issues (in no particular order of importance): (1) *Visual resources*—The wind turbines and other project components would be new features on the landscape and visible from various distances, and would be a long-term change to the rural view shed. (2) *Traditional uses*—The proposed project may affect traditional, cultural practices and spiritual uses in the Bannock Creek area by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members. (3) *Wildlife*—Projects of this magnitude may have an effect on wildlife. Focal species studies will include migrating and resident raptors, waterfowl, upland game birds and large game species. (4) *Soils*—Project transportation required for the project are located in an area with highly erodible soils. (5) *Wildland Fire*—The project area is subject to repeated wildland fires. (6) *Socioeconomics*—The EIS will evaluate potential impacts on socioeconomic resources, including impacts to range uses, increases and diversification of Tribal revenues and employment opportunities.

The proposed project is expected to create a new revenue source and new employment opportunities on the Tribal lands as well as diversify the economic base for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Local communities such as American Falls, Pocatello, Power County, and the State of Idaho will also likely experience economic benefit. As a new economic opportunity for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, there are questions regarding the local economic benefits of the project and overall community support for the project.

Directions for Submitting Public Comments

Please include your name, return address, and the caption "EIS, Wheatgrass Ridge Wind Project" on the first page of any written comments you submit. You may also submit comments at the public scoping meetings.

Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the

mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** Section of this notice during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: This notice is published in accordance with sections 1503.1 and 1506.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), and section 46.305 of the Department of the Interior Regulations (42 CFR part 46) implementing the procedural requirements of the NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.1.

Dated: May 17, 2011.

Paul Tsosie,

Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2011-13618 Filed 6-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT921000-11-L13200000-EL0000-P; MTM 101688]

Notice of Invitation—Coal Exploration License Application MTM 101688

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Members of the public are hereby invited to participate with the Spring Creek Coal Company on a pro rata cost sharing basis in a program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in lands located in Big Horn County, Montana, encompassing 4,071.45 acres.

DATES: Any party seeking to participate in this exploration program must send written notice to both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Spring Creek Coal Company as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section below no later than July 5, 2011 or 10 calendar days after the last publication of this Notice in the *Sheridan Press* newspaper, whichever is later. This Notice will be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in the *Sheridan Press*, Sheridan,

Wyoming. Such written notice must refer to serial number MTM 101688.

ADDRESSES: The proposed exploration license and plan are available for review from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the public room at the BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana.

A written notice to participate in the exploration licenses should be sent to the State Director, BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669 and the Spring Creek Coal Company, P.O. Box 67, Decker, Montana 59025-0067.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Giovanini by telephone at 406-896-5084 or by e-mail at rgiovanini@blm.gov; or Connie Schaff by telephone at 406-896-5060 or by e-mail at cschaff@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The exploration activities will be performed pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations at 43 CFR part 3410. The purpose of the exploration program is to gain additional geologic knowledge of the coal underlying the exploration area for the purpose of assessing the coal resources. The exploration program is fully described and will be conducted pursuant to an exploration license and plan approved by the BLM. The exploration plan may be modified to accommodate the legitimate exploration needs of persons seeking to participate.

The lands to be explored for coal deposits in exploration license MTM 101688 are described as follows:

Principal Meridian, Montana

- T. 8 S., R. 39 E.,
 Sec. 4, lots 17 thru 24, inclusive;
 Sec. 26, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 35, E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 9 S., R. 39 E.,
 Sec. 1, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$,
 and W $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$;
 Sec. 11, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
 Sec. 12, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
 T. 9 S., R. 40 E.,
 Sec. 6, lots 5 thru 7, inclusive,
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and
 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 7, lots 1 thru 4, inclusive, NE¹/₄, E¹/₂W¹/₂, N¹/₂SE¹/₄, and SW¹/₄SE¹/₄.
Containing 4,071.45 acres.

The Federal coal within the lands described for exploration license MTM 101668 is currently unleased for development of Federal coal reserves.

Phillip C. Perlewitz,
Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 2011-13715 Filed 6-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOF03000 L16100000.DU0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Domestic Sheep Grazing Allotments for Term Grazing Permit Renewals in the Southern San Luis Valley, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), La Jara Field Office, La Jara, Colorado, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the potential renewal of domestic sheep grazing permits on 12 allotments and 1 cattle grazing allotment in the southern San Luis Valley. This notice initiates the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues relevant to the EIS.

DATES: Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until July 5, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the project by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc.html>.
- *E-mail:* slvplc_comments@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 719-655-2502.

• *Mail:* Saguache Public Lands Office, 46525 Highway 114, Saguache, Colorado 81149, Attention Mark Swinney.

Documents pertinent to this proposal are available at the BLM Saguache Public Lands Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Swinney, Project Manager, telephone 719-655-6105; address 46525 Highway 114, Saguache, Colorado 81149; e-mail mswinney@blm.gov.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Term permits on 12 sheep grazing and 1 cattle grazing allotments located in Conejos and Rio Grande Counties either are or will be expiring in the future. Existing permits allow grazing in or adjacent to Rocky Mountain big horn sheep habitat. In connection with the potential renewal of these permits, the BLM is initiating an EIS. The EIS will analyze domestic sheep grazing in or adjacent to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat and will consider potential mitigation measures that can be implemented in permit renewals for these 13 allotments. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis in the EIS, including alternatives, and guide the process. Preliminary issues identified by BLM personnel; Federal, state, and local agencies; and other stakeholders, include:

- Potential disease transmission from the interaction between Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and domestic sheep;
- History, distribution, location, and population trends of bighorn sheep herds in the project area;
- Protection of Threatened and Endangered and Special Status Species;
- Maintaining land health standards;
- Desired future conditions of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species and communities; and
- Protection of cultural resources and archaeological values (prehistoric and historic) of the area.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets.

Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment 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, 40 CFR 1506.10.

Helen M. Hankins,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 2011-13718 Filed 6-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMTB01000-L14300000.ET0000; MTM 79264]

Public Land Order No. 7768; Extension of Public Land Order No. 6861; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order extends the withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 6861 for an additional 20-year period. This extension is necessary to continue protection of Rattler Gulch Limestone Cliffs Area of Critical Environmental Concern for its educational and scientific values.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 6, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lonna Sandau, BLM Missoula Field Office, 406-329-1093, or Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, 406-896-5052.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose for which the withdrawal was first made requires this extension to continue protection of the educational and scientific values of the Rattler Gulch Limestone Cliffs Area of Critical