

describes, evaluates, and compares four alternatives for managing the natural resources and public use opportunities for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. One of the alternatives represents the Service's Proposed Action. The four alternatives are:

Alternative A. This alternative is the No Action alternative as required by National Environmental Policy Act regulations. Selection of this alternative would maintain the status quo; there would be no significant changes to current management practices. This alternative serves as the baseline from which to compare the other three alternatives.

Alternative B. This alternative represents the Service's Proposed Action; that is, the alternative currently recommended for approval. Selection of this alternative would include expansion of the Refuge by acquiring remaining islands and embayments, which total to over 8,000 acres. Alternative B would emphasize restoration and reforestation of native bottomland floodplain forest to the Ohio River. Opportunities for all six priority public uses would improve, including an increased importance on environmental education and outreach programs.

Alternative C. This alternative would increase Refuge habitat diversity with increased management of early successional habitat. This habitat would also be more favorable for many game species and associated expanded consumptive recreational uses. Fishing, hunting and trapping allowable by state laws regulations would be offered and promoted. Selection of this alternative would also increase acquisition to over 8,000.

Alternative D. This alternative would manage Refuge lands to provide and maximize undisturbed resting, feeding, and breeding areas for wildlife, especially migratory birds. All visitation would be tightly regulated and confined to certain designated areas. Hunting and fishing would be eliminated from all Refuge lands under this Alternative. Boating and shore use would also be prohibited on Refuge lands. Selection of this alternative would also increase acquisition to over 8,000 acres.

Dated: February 2, 2001.

G. Adam O'Hara,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 01-3692 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization to take polar bears incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities has been issued to the following company:

Company: BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

Activity: Production.

Location: Northstar.

Date Issued: January 9, 2001.

CONTACT: Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Letters of Authorization are issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (65 FR 16828; March 30, 2000)."

Dated: January 29, 2001.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-3736 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1430-EU]

Termination of Desert Land Entry Classification and Segregation; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action terminates the desert-land classification N-58996, dated April 8, 1982, and also terminates the segregation for desert-land entries N-24429, N-24431, and N-24432, dated December 18, 1996. The land will be opened to the operation of the public land laws, including location and entry under the mining laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary L. Figarelle, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, 775-623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The desert-land classification for N-58996 was made on April 8, 1982, pursuant to Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C., etc. seq.). When entry to the land was allowed on December 18, 1996 for desert-land entries N-24429, N-24431, and N-24432, the lands became segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the mining laws. All three desert-land entrymen withdrew their applications after failing to provide final proof by the deadline of December 28, 2000.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C., et. seq.), the desert land classification N-58996 made on April 8, 1982, and the desert-land entries allowed on December 18, 1996, are hereby terminated for the following described lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 41 N., R. 28 E.,

Sec. 2: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 3: S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 4: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 9: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 10: N $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 11: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains 960 acres in Humboldt County.

1. At 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, the land described above will be opened to the operation of the public land laws generally, subject to valid existing rights, the provision of existing withdrawals, other segregation of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing.

2. At 9 a.m. on March 16, 2001, the land described above will be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregation of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of any of the land described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (1988), shall best not rights against the United States. Acts

required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Dated: January 30, 2001.

Michael R. Holbert,

Associate Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 01-3747 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-058-01-1610-DG]

Notice of Availability

February 7, 2001.

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 103-621 (11/2/94) which expanded the boundaries of RRCNCA as designated in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Establishment Act (Public Law 101-621 11/16/90) and amends portions of the Act, the Las Vegas Field Office, BLM, has completed the Proposed General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/FEIS) for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

The Proposed Plan and FEIS is available to the public for a 30 day protest period. Originally the protest period was to begin on January 29, 2001 and continue through February 28, 2001. Due to delays in printing of the document, the new protest period will begin on March 1, 2001 and continue through March 30, 2001. The Proposed Plan may be protested by any person who participated in the planning process and who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Proposed Plan. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2).

All protest must be written and must be postmarked on or before March 30, 2001 and shall contain the following information:

The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.

A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

A statement of the part or parts of the document being protested.

A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues previously submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.

A concise statement explaining precisely why the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Director's decision is wrong.

Upon resolution of any protests, an Approved Plan and record of Decision will be issued. The approved Plan/Record of Decision will be mailed to all individuals who participated in this planning process and all other interested publics upon their request.

ADDRESSES: Protests must be filed with: Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attn. Ms Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Copies of the Proposed Plan may be obtained from the Las Vegas Field Office, W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108.

Public reading copies are available for review at the Clark County public libraries, all government repository libraries and the following BLM locations:

Office of External Affairs, Main Interior Building, Room 5000, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC;
Public Room, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV;
and the Las Vegas Field Office at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gene Arnesen, GMP Team Leader, at BLM's Las Vegas Field Office listed above or telephone (702) 647-5068.

Dated: February 7, 2001

Mark T. Morse,

Las Vegas Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 01-3746 Filed 2-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1430-EU, WYW148816]

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Scoping on Proposed Exchange, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Scoping on a proposal from The Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Co. to exchange privately owned lands and minerals in WY for Federal coal in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region.

SUMMARY: BLM received a proposal to exchange Federal coal in the WY Powder River Basin (PRB) for properties owned by Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Co. (P&M) on February 4, 1999. P&M is a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevron Corporation. The Federal coal P&M proposes to acquire is located in northern Sheridan County, WY. The lands and minerals P&M proposes to offer in exchange for the coal are located in Carbon, Lincoln, and Sheridan counties, WY. A portion of the lands being offered in Lincoln County are located within the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF), and would be administered by the U. S. Forest Service (FS) if an exchange is completed. The exchange would be processed under the provisions of 43 CFR 2200. The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed this exchange proposal at a public meeting held on October 27, 1999, in Gillette, WY. BLM has determined that the requirements of NEPA would be best served by preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this exchange proposal.

DATES: As part of the public scoping process, public scoping meetings are scheduled at the following times and places:

7 p.m., March 5, 2001, LaBarge Town Hall, LaBarge, WY

7 p.m., March 6, 2001, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY

7 p.m., March 7, 2001, Sheridan Holiday Inn, 1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan, WY

If you have concerns or issues that you believe the BLM should address in processing this exchange proposal, you can express them verbally at the scoping meetings; or you can mail, e-mail or fax written comments to BLM at the address given below by March 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments or concerns to the BLM Casper Field Office, attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, fax: 307-261-7587, or e-mail comments to the attention of Nancy Doelger at casper_wymail@blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address, or phone: 307-261-7600, or Jim Paugh at the BLM Wyoming State Office (921), P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828, 307-775-6306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 4, 1999, BLM received a proposal from P&M to exchange properties P&M owns in WY, including all minerals owned by P&M under these properties, for Federal coal in Sheridan