

lower elevations between Libby Dam and Bonners Ferry, Idaho, was somewhat earlier, peaking in late May. Combined flows were often in excess of 1700 cubic meters per second (m³/s) [60,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)]. During the remainder of the year, river flows declined to basal conditions of 113 to 226 m³/s (4,000 to 8,000 cfs). Annual flushing events re-sorted river sediments providing a clean cobble substrate conducive to insect production and sturgeon egg incubation. Side channels and low-lying deltaic marsh lands were unimpounded at this time, providing productive, low velocity backwater areas. Nutrient delivery in the system was unimpeded by dams and occurred primarily during spring runoff. Floodplain ecosystems like the Kootenai River are characterized by seasonal floods that promote the exchange of nutrients and organisms among a mosaic of habitats and thus enhance biological productivity.

Modification of the Kootenai River white sturgeon's habitat by human activities has changed the natural hydrograph of the Kootenai River, altering white sturgeon spawning, egg incubation, nursery, and rearing habitats, and reducing overall biological productivity. These factors have contributed to a general lack of recruitment in the white sturgeon population over the past 22 years.

Recovery of the Kootenai River white sturgeon is contingent upon re-establishing natural recruitment, minimizing additional loss of genetic variability to the population, and successfully mitigating biological and physical habitat changes caused by the construction and operation of Libby Dam. This draft recovery plan proposes conservation actions to benefit white sturgeon within the entire Kootenai River watershed in Canada and the United States. However, recovery tasks proposed for the Canadian portion of the white sturgeon's range are only recommendations since the Act does not impose any restrictions or commitments on Canada. The draft recovery plan also proposes a strategy for improving coordination and cooperation between the United States and Canada on the operation of Libby Dam with the operation of other hydroelectric facilities within the Kootenai River basin and elsewhere in Canada.

The draft plan was developed by a recovery team composed of representatives of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Canadian Department of

Fisheries and Oceans, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, and the Service. Short-term recovery objectives proposed are: a) prevent extinction and b) begin to re-establish successful natural recruitment to the Kootenai River population of white sturgeon. Proposed recovery actions include providing additional Kootenai River flows necessary for natural recruitment and using aquaculture, i.e. hatchery propagation, to prevent extinction. The long-term objectives are to provide suitable habitat conditions to ensure a self-sustaining Kootenai River population of white sturgeon. Specific delisting criteria are not determinable or proposed at this time.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: June 25, 1996.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, OR.

[FR Doc. 96-16806 Filed 7-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-017-1610-00]

Availability of White River Resource Area's Proposed Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for the White River Resource Area. The PRMP/FEIS describes and analyzes the proposed management for 1,455,900 acres of public land and 365,000 acres of federal mineral estate in portions of Rio Blanco, Moffat and Garfield Counties in western Colorado.

Decisions generated as a result of this planning process will supersede and/or incorporate decisions of earlier land use plans, including the 1975 White River Management Framework Plan, the 1981

White River Resource Area Coal Amendment to the White River Management Framework Plan, the 1981 White River Resource Area Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement, and the 1987 White River Resource Area Piceance Basin Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: Protests of the proposed plan must be received by August 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written protests on the PRMP/FEIS should be addressed to: Director (480), Bureau of Land Management, Resource Planning Team, 1849 "C" Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

Copies of the PRMP/FEIS will be available for review at the following locations: (1) Bureau of Land Management, White River Resource Area Office, 73544 Highway 64, Meeker, Colorado 81641; (2) Bureau of Land Management, Craig District Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado 81625; and (3) Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Denver, Colorado 80215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bill Hill, RMP Team Leader, White River Resource Area Office, Meeker, Colorado 81641, (970) 878-4160.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRMP/FEIS addresses issues identified through public scoping and internal Bureau of Land Management review, including: (1) Salinity in the Colorado River; (2) mineral development throughout the resource area; (3) the spread of noxious and problem weeds; (4) reintroduction of the black-footed ferret; (5) unrestricted motorized travel throughout the resource area; and (6) habitat competition among wild horses, livestock and big game. Four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS that was published in October 1994. The Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement combines ecosystem concepts, public comments, and components from the four alternatives described in the Draft.

Some of the major decisions developed in the proposed management plan deal with: (1) Making mineral resources available for exploration, leasing and development, in compliance with environmental laws, regulations and policies; (2) protecting sensitive resources by designating certain areas as closed or limited to off highway vehicle use until a subsequent travel management plan can be developed; (3) releasing the river and stream segments inventoried for Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Management from further WSR consideration; (4) managing wild horse

herds in the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area to maintain 95 to 140 head of horses; and (5) designating eleven additional areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Public participation has occurred throughout the RMP/EIS process starting with a Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare a RMP in October 1990. Since that time, several open houses, public meetings, and public hearings were held to solicit comments and ideas. Public comments provided throughout the process were considered in the development of the document.

Robert Schneider,

Acting District Manager, Craig, CO.

[FR Doc. 96-16799 Filed 7-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-BY-M

[NM-070-5101-00-018]; NMNM 96322]

Notice of Right-of-Way Application; New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An application, serialized as NMNM 96322, was received for a 36 mile right-of-way for a 30-inch diameter pipeline.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by the Act of November 16, 1973, (37 Stat. 576), Williams Gas Processing Company (WGP) has applied for a right-of-way serialized as NMNM 96327 to construct 36 miles of 30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline across public land in San Juan and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico. This is part of a project that will loop existing lines and/or roads most of route (74%). In May 1996, WFS's Trunk S pipeline failed along a reach of its alignment beneath Navajo Lake. The failure of the line has interrupted service to 31 oil/gas producers in the San Juan Basin which effects the movement of approximately 210-235 MMSCF/D of natural gas and liquid recovery product. A land re-route is proposed to reconnect affected gas producers south of Navajo Lake to the Ignacio Plant in southwestern Colorado. The pipeline is urgently needed by WGP to meet contractual obligations with numerous producers affected by the Trunk S pipeline failure. The proposed line crosses the following lands in San Juan County.

New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 30 N., R. 6 W.,
Sec. 17, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 30 N., R. 7 W.,

Sec. 13, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 15, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 17, Lot 8;

Sec. 19, Lots, 10, 11, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 20, Lot 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 21, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

T. 30 N., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 5, lots 3, 4, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 6, lot 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 7, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 19, lot 8, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 20, lots 7, 8, 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 21, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 24, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 30 N., R. 9 W.,

Sec. 12, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 13, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 24, lots 2, 3, 5-8 inclusive.

T. 31 N., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 8, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 17, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 29, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 33, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 32 N., R. 7 W.,

Sec. 17, lots 4-7, inclusive;

Sec. 18, lots 2, 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 32 N., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 13, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 22, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 27, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 28, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 33, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Bureau will be deciding whether the right-of-way should be approved, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

Interested persons desiring to express their views should promptly send their name and address to the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, New Mexico 87401 within 14 days of publication of this notice. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Mary Jo Albin at (505) 599-6332.

Dated: June 25, 1996.

Robert Moore,

Acting Assistant District Manager for Resources.

[FR Doc. 96-16802 Filed 7-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

[MT-070-96-1430-01; MTM-83735]

Notice of Realty Action; Proposed Sale of Public Land; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The following land has been found suitable for direct sale under Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750, U.S.C. 1713), at not less than estimated fair market value. The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of this notice.

Principle Meridian, Montana

T. 7 N., R. 13 W.

Sec. 30, Lot 23.

Containing approximately 1.99 acres.

This land is being offered by direct sale to David Harris, Philipsburg, MT, and will resolve a long standing inadvertent unauthorized occupancy of the land. It has been determined that the reservation of minerals is interfering with appropriate nonmineral development of the lands; therefore, mineral interests may be conveyed simultaneously. Acceptance of the direct sale offer will qualify the purchaser to make application for conveyance of those mineral interests.

The patent, when issued, will contain certain reservations to the United States and will be subject to valid existing rights. Detailed information concerning these reservations as well as specific conditions of the sale are available for review at the Garnet Resource Area Office, Bureau of Land Management, 3255 Ft. Missoula Rd., Missoula, MT 59801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Ledger, Realty Specialist, Garnet Resource Area, at (406) 329-3914.

The land described is hereby segregated from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, pending disposition of this action or 270 days from the date of publication of this notice, whichever occurs first.

For a period of 45 days from the date of issuance of this notice, interested parties may submit comments to the Area Manager, Garnet Resource Area, at the above address. In the absence of timely objections, this proposal shall become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: June 4, 1996.

W. Delon Potter,

Acting Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-16800 Filed 7-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P