

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** July 28, 1997, through December 19, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins District Office, Great Divide Resource Area, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Calton, Range Management Specialist, (307) 328-4210.

**Kurt J. Kotter,**  
*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-16724 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-035-1110-00]

#### Revised Notice of Intent To Amend the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (RMP)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Revision of the original Notice of Intent to amend the Medicine Lodge RMP, and to prepare the supporting environmental assessment.

**SUMMARY:** In November, 1996, the BLM received requests from Fremont and Jefferson Counties to modify the terms and conditions of their existing rights-of-way for the Egin-Hamer Road. On December 19, 1996, the BLM published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to consider amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. The scoping process officially ended on January 31, 1997. The right-of-way modifications proposed by the Counties would eliminate the existing seasonal closure from December 1 through March 31 and allow the road to remain open year-round, subject to terms and conditions appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Modifying the seasonal limitations of the rights-of-way would require amending the Medicine Lodge RMP. An environmental assessment will be prepared to analyze the effects of the proposed right-of-way modifications and land use plan amendment.

Based on formal scoping a new alternative was developed following collaboration among the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, BLM and both Counties. The new alternative to be analyzed is based upon (a) eliminating the current seasonal road closure as the Counties desire, (b) seasonally restricting human entry to existing main roads only within approximately 200,000 acres of BLM-administered land on both sides of the Egin-Hamer Road and (c) terms and conditions

appropriate for protecting wintering elk. Securing a seasonal, area-wide closure on federal, state and private lands would require a combined effort by the BLM, Idaho Department of Lands and the Counties involved. County ordinances would be needed to enforce a closure on private lands. The contention is that such an alternative would allow year-round use of the road for the general public without increasing the net disturbance to wintering elk. Seasonal closure of land adjacent to the Egin-Hamer Road would also require amending the current land use plan and will, therefore, be considered in this Proposed Amendment/EA.

**DATES:** Although the scoping period has officially ended, several open houses are scheduled. Should unanticipated events require rescheduling any or all of the open houses, the changes will be noticed in local newspapers and letters to interested parties no less than 1 week prior to the revised date(s). Public open houses are scheduled to be held at the following locations and times:

(1) 7/17/97 (Thursday)—Fremont County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

(2) 7/18/97 (Friday)—Jefferson County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

(3) 7/21/97 (Monday)—Clark County Courthouse, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The open houses will allow the Counties, IDF&G and BLM to collectively provide information about the proposal to the public and to answer questions about the Counties' proposal prior to BLM completing and mailing the Proposed Amendment/EA. When completed (current time frame of August, 1997) the BLM will mail the Proposed Amendment/EA to members of the interested public for a 30-day review and comment period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Gardetto, Bureau of Land Management, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. (208) 524-7545.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1988, rights-of-way were issued to Fremont County and Jefferson County for use along the Egin-Hamer Road. The 10-mile gravel road connects the communities of Egin and Hamer in southeastern Idaho (T.7N., R.38E., Boise Meridian). As early as 1983 concerns about effects of vehicle travel on wintering elk populations prompted an eventual amendment to the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan. The September 1987 amendment closed the area to vehicle use from December 1 through March 31 of each year. The current seasonal closure of the Egin-Hamer Road, itself, was incorporated as one of the terms

and conditions to the rights-of-way issued to the Counties.

Dated: June 19, 1997.

**Joe Kraayenbrink,**

*Area Manager, Medicine Lodge Resource Area.*

[FR Doc. 97-16888 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-030-07-1820-00-1784]

#### Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; Resource Advisory Council meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (Southwest RAC) will meet on Thursday, July 10, 1997, in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** will not comply with the 15-day minimum notification period required by the Code of Federal Regulations at Title 41, Part 101-6.1015(b)(1). The notification period was not met because of difficulty in securing a meeting facility.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401; telephone 970-240-5335; TDD 970-240-5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The July 10, 1997, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Railroad Depot, 728 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte, Colorado. The agenda will include discussions on the proposed Gunnison sage grouse conservation plan and follow-up discussion on the Hartman Rocks motocross issue. Time will be provided for public comments.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Montrose District Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the

Montrose District Office (and on the Internet at [http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo\\_sw\\_rac.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo_sw_rac.htm)) and are available for public inspection and reproduction within thirty (30) days following each meeting.

Dated: June 24, 1997.

**Mark W. Stiles,**  
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-16990 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-933-07-1990-00]

#### Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws; Surface Management: Forms of Legal Financial Guarantees Allowable Under Idaho State Law

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) amended the surface management regulations at 43 CFR subpart 3809 on February 28, 1997 (62 FR 9093). The amendment requires each BLM State Director to consult with the appropriate State authorities to determine which financial instruments in 43 CFR 3809.1-9(k) are allowable under State law. Idaho State law allows surety bonds, cash, irrevocable letters of credit, certificates of deposit, and negotiable United States Government, State, and Municipal securities or bonds as forms of financial guarantees related to reclamation requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This list is effective May 30, 1997.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry Maley, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, Division of Resource Services, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709-1657, 208-373-3820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Land Management has consulted with appropriate Idaho State authorities to determine which of the financial instruments in § 3809.1-9(k) are allowable under Idaho State law to satisfy the financial assurance requirements related to mining reclamation requirements. The State of Idaho, Idaho Department of Lands has determined the following forms of financial guarantees are allowable under Idaho State Law: Surety bonds, cash, irrevocable letters of credit, certificates of deposit, and negotiable United States

Government, State, and Municipal securities or bonds.

**Martha G. Hahn,**  
State Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310-GG-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-00-4120-14; North Rochelle Tract, WYW127221]

#### Competitive Coal Lease Sale Offering, WY

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of competitive coal lease sale.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the North Rochelle Tract (formerly known as the North Roundup Tract) described below in Campbell County, Wyoming, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

**DATES:** The lease sale will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 1997. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., Monday, July 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the 1st Floor Conference Room (Room 107) of the Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. Sealed bids clearly marked "Sealed Bid for North Rochelle Tract, WYW127221—Not to be opened before 2 p.m., on Tuesday, July 29, 1997", must be submitted to the Cashier, Wyoming State Office, at the address given above or P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Steele, Land Law Examiner, or Melvin Schlagel, Coal Coordinator, at 307-775-6200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application filed by Bluegrass Coal Development Company (formerly, SMC Mining Company), a subsidiary of Zeigler Coal Holding Company of Evansville, Indiana. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following described lands located approximately 46 miles south-southeast of the City of Gillette, Wyoming, and about 13 miles southeast of Reno Junction just north of the Reno County Road:

T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
Sec. 4: Lots 5-16, 19 and 20;

Sec. 5: Lots 5-16;  
T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
Sec. 32: Lots 9-16;  
Sec. 33: Lots 11-14.  
Containing 1,481.930 acres

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining. The surface estate of the tract is controlled by Arco Coal Company, Powder River Coal Company, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The North Rochelle Tract, located in Campbell County, Wyoming, is adjacent to the existing North Rochelle and Black Thunder Mines and contains surface minable coal reserves in the Wyodak seam currently being recovered in the existing mines. The Wyodak seam averages about 57 feet thick with an additional minable rider seam above the main seam that averages about 7 feet thick. There are no coal outcrops on the tract.

The overburden above the rider seam ranges from 100-200 feet thick while the overburden above the main Wyodak seam where no rider seam exists ranges from 175-250 feet thick. The total in-place stripping ratio (BCY/ton) of the coal seams is 2.91:1.

The tract contains an estimated 157,610,000 tons of minable coal in the Wyodak and rider seams. This estimate of minable reserves does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal.

The coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality is 8680 BTU/lb, 4.91 percent ash, 27.72 percent moisture, and .23 percent sulfur. These quality averages place the coal reserves near the low end of coal quality currently being mined in the far southern Powder River Basin south of Wright, Wyoming. The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. The surface is not held by a qualified surface owner as defined in the regulations, 43 CFR 3400.0-5.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid equals or exceeds the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bid should be sent by "Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested", or be hand delivered. The Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 4 p.m., Monday, July 28, 1997, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale.