

(50) additional natural gas wells in the project area over the next 10 years. The project area encompasses approximately 12,352 acres of Federal, State, and private lands located approximately 3 miles west of the town of Baggs in Carbon County, Wyoming, within the administrative jurisdiction of the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Approximately 43 oil and gas wells have been drilled within the project area to date.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is expected to be published May 14, 1999.

BLM has scheduled a public meeting for June 22, 1999, 7 p.m., at the BLM Rawlins Field Office conference room, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming, to obtain public comments on the proposed project and the DEIS. BLM will also hold an open house from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on June 22, 1999, at the same location to answer any questions interested parties may have regarding the proposed project.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Larry Jackson, Team Leader, Rawlins Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1300 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, or e-mail to Larry\_Jackson@blm.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Jackson, phone 307-328-4231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project DEIS analyzes the impacts of drilling from 40 (Alternative A) to 90 (Alternative B) natural gas wells along with constructing access roads, pipelines, and other ancillary facilities (compressor station, water disposal sites, etc.) on 10,067 acres of Federal land and 2,285 acres of non-Federal lands. The exact numbers of additional wells, the locations of those wells, and the timing for drilling them are contingent upon drilling success, production technology, and economic considerations. The No Action Alternative analyzes the current level of drilling and development (43 wells) in the South Baggs Project area and continuation of that level of activity into the future. The Proposed Action would be denied under the No Action Alternative.

Based upon issues and concerns identified during the scoping process, this DEIS focuses on the impacts to air quality, biological and physical resources, transportation, socio-economics, and cumulative effects. The DEIS, in compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, incorporates the Biological

Assessment for the purpose of identifying endangered or threatened species which may be affected by the proposed action.

Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM office listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspections in their entirety.

Dated: May 7, 1999.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-12210 Filed 5-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-070-1310-00]

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wyodak Coalbed Methane Project

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

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations, and other applicable statutes, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the potential impacts and cumulative effects of proposed coalbed methane (CBM) development on Federal lands and minerals for areas north and south of the city of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming. BLM anticipates that an additional 3,000 CBM wells may be drilled and developed by numerous lessees and operators on Federal and non-Federal lands north and south of Gillette by the year 2007 if development success continues. This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also serve as a planning analysis to evaluate the reasonably foreseeable development

scenario in the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP).

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 45 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. We expect EPA will publish that notice on May 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Richard Zander, Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Zander, phone 307-684-1161.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information from five prior environmental analyses of coalbed methane development in the project area—four Environmental Assessments (EA) (Pistol Point, Marquiss, Lighthouse, and North Gillette) and one EIS (Gillette South)—was used to develop the proposed action and alternatives in this DEIS. When preparation of the Gillette South CBM EIS began in June of 1996, the BLM had developed a proposed action to analyze a total of 640 CBM wells. That proposed action was based on the best available information BLM had from industry at that time. It took into account potential development based on depth to coal and what industry knew at that time about the potential to produce methane from the coal. The proposed action also included the prior Marquiss and Lighthouse CBM projects to address developmental changes which had occurred since these two projects had been analyzed in EAs. When the Gillette South CBM EIS was completed in October of 1997, the apparent success of the coalbed methane play was drawing additional operators into the basin.

BLM held a meeting with CBM companies on November 19, 1997, to discuss the implications of the recently signed Record of Decision for the Gillette South EIS. This meeting covered the mitigation steps that would be required of those operators developing Federal minerals. Specifically covered were monitoring requirements, use of the Water Well Agreement, and the formation of a groundwater monitoring group similar to the coal industry's Gillette Area Groundwater Monitoring Organization (GAGMO) Group. CBM companies indicated that an additional 2,600 to 3,000 CBM wells north and south of Gillette could be developed by the year 2007 if development success continues as it has been. With this information and the results of a public scoping meeting held on February 5, 1998, in Gillette, Wyoming, BLM

decided a new EIS would be necessary to address this additional interest.

Project issues include: loss of hydraulic head of groundwater associated with the coal seam; lowering of water levels and increased pumping costs; effects of coalbed methane development on air quality; possible hazardous emissions and pollutants from compressors; erosion and weed infestations from disposal of produced water; royalties on past venting of methane; water table drawdown and other potential hydrologic impacts; cumulative impacts of CBM development; potential impacts to threatened and endangered species, raptors, and fisheries; and potential impacts to ranching and agriculture.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: May 7, 1999.

**Alan L. Kesterke,**

*Associate State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO-010-07-1020-00-241A]

#### Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The next meeting of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday June 15, 1999, at the Bureau of Land Management Office in Grand Junction, Colorado.

**DATES:** Tuesday, June 15, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information, contact David Atkins, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northwest Center, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; Telephone (970) 244-3074.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Northwest Resource Advisory Council will meet on June 15, 1999, at the Bureau of Land Management Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and include discussions of the proposed statewide recreation guidelines, Service First, participation of the U.S. Forest Service in the Northwest Resource Advisory Council, grazing permit renewals, fire planning, and wilderness review.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements following the meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of council meetings are maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Office in Grand Junction. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: May 10, 1999.

**Mark T. Morse,**

*Center Manager, Northwest Center, Department of the Interior.*

[FR Doc. 99-12209 Filed 5-13-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-952-09-1420-00]

#### Arizona; Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey

1. The plats of survey of the following described land were officially filed in the Arizona State Office, Phoenix, Arizona on the dates indicated:

A plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the Principal Meridian (west boundary), a portion of the Third Standard Parallel North, (north boundary), a portion of Mineral Surveys No. 1769 and 3768 and a portion of Homestead Entry Survey No. 340, the subdivision of Section 6 and a metes-and-bounds survey in Section 6, Township 12 North, Range 1 East of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted February 23, 1999 and was officially filed March 4, 1999.

This plat was prepared at the request of the U.S. Forest Service, Prescott National Forest.

A plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the north boundary and a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of Section 4, and the metes-and-bounds survey in Section 4, Township 39 North, Range 7 East of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona was accepted October 1, 1998 and was officially filed October 8, 1998.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office.

A plat representing the survey of the Ninth Standard Parallel North, (south boundary), the east boundary, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, Township 37 North, Range 19 East, of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted October 5, 1998, and was officially filed October 16, 1998.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office.

A plat representing the survey of the west and north boundaries, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, Township 38 North, Range 19 East, of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted April 8, 1999, and was officially filed April 22, 1999.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office.

A plat representing the survey of the Ninth Standard Parallel North, (south boundary), the east and north boundaries and a portion of the subdivisional lines, Township 37 North, Range 20 East, of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted October 5, 1998, and was officially filed October 16, 1998.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office.

A plat representing the survey of the Fifth Guide Meridian East, (east boundary), the west and north boundaries, and the subdivisional lines, Township 38 North, Range 20 East, of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted April 8, 1999, and was officially filed April 22, 1999.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office.

A plat representing the survey of the Ninth Standard Parallel North, (south boundary), Township 37 North, Range 21 East, of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona, was accepted April 5, 1999, and was officially filed April 15, 1999.