

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****Fair Market Value Meeting for the Summit Creek Coal Tract, Carbon County, Utah**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and call for public comment on the proposed sale and fair market value and maximum economic recovery consideration for Coal Lease Application UTU-79975.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a public meeting on April 22, 2004, for the proposed competitive sale, of the Summit Creek Coal Tract. BLM requests public comment on the fair market value and environmental effects of this tract. The BLM signed a Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record dated April 9, 2004 that discusses the environmental effects of mining this tract. The lands included in the delineated Federal coal lease tract are located in Carbon County, Utah approximately 5 miles north of Price, Utah on public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM Price Field Office and are described as follows:

SLM, Carbon County, Utah

T. 12 S., R. 11 E.,
Section 29, SWSW, SWSE;
Section 30, Lots 4, 12, 14-16;
Section 31, Lots 1, 2, 7-11;
Section 32, W2NE, E2NW, NWNW, NESW.

Approximately 702.73 acres more or less.

Andalex Resources submitted the application for the coal lease. The company plans to mine the coal as an extension from their existing Aberdeen mine if the lease is obtained. The Summit Creek coal tract is minable in the Aberdeen coal bed. The minable portions of the coal beds in this area are from 6 to 10 feet in thickness. The tract contains more than 5 million tons of recoverable high-volatile C bituminous coal. The coal quality in the seams on an "as received basis" is as follows: 12,756 Btu/lb., 5.95 percent moisture, 4.63 percent ash, 44.73 percent volatile matter, 45.69 percent fixed carbon and 0.44 percent sulfur. The public is invited to the meeting to make public and/or written comments on the environmental implications of leasing the proposed tract, and also to submit comments on the Fair Market Value and the Maximum Economic Recovery of the tract.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Federal coal

management regulations 43 CFR 3422 and 3425, the public meeting is being held on the proposed sale to allow public comment on and discussion of the potential effects of mining and proposed lease. The meeting is being advertised in the Sun Advocate located in Price, Utah and the Emery County Progress located in Emery, Utah. 43 CFR 3422 states that, No less than 30 days prior to the publication of the notice of sale, the Secretary shall solicit public comments on the Fair Market Value appraisal and Maximum Economic Recovery and on factors that may affect these two determinations. Proprietary data marked as confidential may be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management in response to this solicitation of public comments. Data so marked shall be treated in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on fair market value and maximum economic recovery, except those portions identified as proprietary by the author and meeting exemptions stated in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office during regular business hours (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) Monday through Friday. Comments on the Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management and should address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information.

1. The quality and quantity of the coal resource;

2. The mining methods or methods which would achieve maximum economic recovery of the coal, including specifications of seams to be mined and the most desirable timing and rate of production;

3. Whether this tract is likely to be mined as part of an existing mine and therefore should be evaluated on a realistic incremental basis, in relation to the existing mine to which it has the greatest value;

4. Whether the tract should be evaluated as part of a potential larger mining unit and evaluated as a portion of a new potential mine (*i.e.*, a tract which does not in itself form a logical mining unit);

5. Restrictions to mining that may affect coal recovery;

6. The price that the mined coal would bring when sold;

7. Costs, including mining and reclamation, of producing the coal and the time of production.

8. The percentage rate at which anticipated income streams should be discounted, either with inflation or in

the absence of inflation, in which case the anticipated rate of inflation should be given;

9. Depreciation, depletion, amortization and other tax accounting factors;

10. The value of any surface estate where held privately;

11. Documented information on the terms and conditions of recent and similar coal land transactions in the lease sale area;

12. Any comparable sales data of similar coal lands; and coal quantities and the Fair Market Value of the coal developed by BLM may or may not change as a result of comments received from the public and changes in the market conditions between now and when final economic evaluations are completed.

DATES: The public meeting is being held on Thursday, April 22, 2004 at the BLM Price Field Office, 125 So. 600 W, Price, Utah, starting at 7 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written comments on the Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery must be received by May 14, 2003 and should be addressed to Mr. Jeff McKenzie, 801-539-4038, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Division of Lands and Minerals, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0155. Information on the Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record can be obtained by contacting Mr. Jeff McKenzie, 801-539-4038, or Mr. Steve Falk, 435-636-3605 at the BLM Price Field Office. The appeal periods for the Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record document and the appeal period for BLM's decision to lease will end on May 9, 2004. Any appeals must be postmarked as of these dates.

Douglas P. Bauer,

Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Minerals.

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BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-926-04-1420-BJ]

Montana: Filing of Plat of Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plat of survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings,

Montana, (30) days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Toth, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, telephone (406) 896-5121 or (406) 896-5009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the U.S. Forest Service and was necessary to delineate Forest Service lands. The lands we surveyed are:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 6 S., R. 2 E.

The plat, in three sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of portions of the east boundary and subdivisional lines, the subdivision of section 26 and the survey of a portion of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Boundary, Township 6 South, Range 2 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted April 9, 2004.

We will place copy of the plat, in 3 sheets, in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in three sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file this plat, in three sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

Thomas M. Deiling,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 04-8641 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310--SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Operational Changes in Support of Lake Cascade Fishery Restoration, Boise Project, Payette Division, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is canceling work on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for proposed operational changes at Lake Cascade, on the North Fork Payette River near Cascade, Idaho. Because of a potential for irrigation shortages, and a high probability of a reduction in salmon flow augmentation water as a

result of the proposal, both Reclamation and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) decided that the draining of Lake Cascade is not a viable option for sport fish restoration. The notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 41842, July 15, 2003).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steve Dunn, Snake River Area Office at telephone 208-334-9844, or e-mail sdunn@pn.usbr.gov. TTY users may call 208-334-9844 by dialing 711 to obtain a toll free TTY relay.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In early 2003, IDFG requested that Reclamation consider draining Lake Cascade to assist in a fishery restoration project to help rebuild the Lake Cascade sport fishery. IDFG had determined that the presence of large numbers of northern pikeminnow and largescale suckers in the lake were a major cause of the decline of the important yellow perch and trout fishery and would prevent recovery of the fishery unless their number were significantly reduced. IDFG had analyzed different methods to remove and/or reduce the numbers of northern pikeminnow and largescale suckers. They concluded the most economical method, with the highest probability for success, would entail lowering the reservoir's water level as much as possible and utilizing a fish toxicant (rotenone) to kill any remaining fish. The reservoir would then be restocked with yellow perch, trout and other gamefish.

Preliminary analysis of the draining proposal identified the potential for significant environmental and socioeconomic effects, and Reclamation concluded that an EIS, because draining the lake would be considered a Federal action, would need to be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In July 2003, Reclamation published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the **Federal Register** and to conduct public scoping meetings. Scoping meetings were held in southwest Idaho in early August 2003, and written comments were accepted into September. Over 340 distinct comments were received and reviewed.

The first analysis needed for the proposal was a complete understanding of the physical and logistical aspects of draining Lake Cascade and the reservoir's subsequent refill. Information was needed on how the project would affect irrigation deliveries, salmon flow augmentation supplies, the reservoir conservation pool, river flows and other uses of the Payette River drainage. Reclamation water operations experts conducted

reservoir drawdown and refill studies in the fall of 2003 and recently presented their findings. Major findings of the water studies concluded that the reservoir could be drained to accommodate the fishery renovation proposed by IDFG, but with varying impacts to irrigation deliveries and salmon flow augmentation, depending on hydrologic conditions in the months and years following the drawdown.

The water studies indicated that under one of the drawdown scenarios studied, irrigation deliveries would have little chance of being impaired. Another drawdown scenario identified possible irrigation impacts in the first irrigation season following the drawdown if it was a very dry year, and possibly for more than one year in successive dry years.

However, salmon flow augmentation supplies were likely to be affected by all of the drawdown scenarios analyzed. Impacts would occur in the first augmentation season following the drawdown and potentially for several years afterward. Reclamation has committed to provide up to 427,000 acre-feet of flows, as a result of consultation under the Endangered Species Act, to aid in juvenile salmon migration in the Snake and Columbia Rivers. The Payette River annually supplies approximately one-third of the salmon flow augmentation from Idaho and provides irrigation water to more than 100,000 acres of farmland.

Dated: March 1, 2004.

J. William McDonald,

Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

[FR Doc. 04-8627 Filed 4-15-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee will meet on May 13, 2004. The agenda for the meeting will include consideration of subcommittee recommendations and discussion of the CALFED Science Program, the Finance Options Report, the Draft Program Plans, the Delta Improvements Package, and implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program with State and Federal agency representatives.