

Approximately 371,000 acres of the Okefenokee Swamp wetlands are incorporated into the refuge; and 353,981 acres within the swamp were designated as wilderness by the Okefenokee Wilderness Act of 1974, making it the third largest National Wilderness Area east of the Mississippi River. In 1986, Okefenokee Refuge was designated by the Wetlands Convention as a Wetland of International Importance.

The swamp is considered the headwaters of the Suwannee and St. Marys Rivers. Habitats provide for threatened and endangered species, such as red-cockaded woodpeckers, wood storks, indigo snakes, and a wide variety of other wildlife species. It is world renowned for its amphibian populations that are bio-indicators of global health. By combining Okefenokee Refuge with Osceola National Forest, private timberlands, and state-owned forests, more than 1 million contiguous acres provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Nearly 400,000 people visit Okefenokee Refuge each year making it the 16th most visited refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. In 1999, the economic impact of tourists in Charlton, Ware, and Clinch Counties in Georgia was more than \$67 million.

Implementing the comprehensive conservation plan will enable the refuge to fulfill its critical role in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources within southeast Georgia, maintain wilderness qualities, and provide quality environmental education and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for refuge visitors.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**  
*Acting Regional Director.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register November 29, 2006.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application Westmoreland Savage Corporation, MTM 95948 Montana

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Invitation.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 2(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by Section 4 of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 1083, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations adopted as 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3410, all interested Qualified parties, as provided in 43 CFR 3472.1, are hereby invited to participate with Westmoreland Savage Corporation on a pro rata cost sharing basis in a program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following-described lands in Richland County, Montana:

T. 20 N., R. 57 E., PM, Montana  
Sec. 26.

Containing 640 acres, more or less.

**DATES:** Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice referring to serial number MTM 95948 to both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Westmoreland Savage Corporation as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section below. The notice must be received by them within 30 days after publication of this Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register** or 10 calendar days after the last publication of this Notice in the Ranger Review newspaper, whichever is later. This Notice will be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in The Ranger Review, Glendive, Montana.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the exploration plan as submitted by the applicant is available for public review at the BLM, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana, during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday. The written notice should be sent to the following addresses: State Director, BLM, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, and Westmoreland Savage Corporation, P.O. Box 30, Savage, Montana 59262.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Connie Schaff, Land Law Examiner, Branch of Solid Minerals (MT-921), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana State Office, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, telephone.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed exploration program will be conducted pursuant to an exploration plan which must be approved by the Bureau of Land Management.

The foregoing is published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 43 CFR 3410.2-1(c)(1).

**Glenwood F. Kerestes,**  
*Acting Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-020-1610-DO]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplement to the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, is preparing a supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for the Northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

**DATES:** Comments regarding the concerns of the public on issues of interest, particularly recommended mitigation measures, should be received in writing by January 8, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding additional mitigation measures should be submitted to: Northeast NPR-A Planning Team Leader, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to request that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as: Internet address, fax or phone number) from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you should prominently state at the beginning of your comment that you wish to request confidentiality. While you can ask in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Jim Ducker (907-271-3130) by phone or by mail at 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513-7599.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM published the Northeast NPR-A Amended IAP/EIS in January 2005 and issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for Northeast NPR-A planning area based upon the IAP/EIS on January 11, 2006. On September 25, 2006, the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska vacated