

email at ak.blm.conveyance@blm.gov. Persons who use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the BLM during normal business hours. In addition, the FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the BLM. The BLM will reply during normal business hours.

Dina L. Torres,

Land Transfer Resolution Specialist, Branch of Land Transfer Adjudication II.

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reserves to be offered consist of all D seam reserves recoverable by underground mining methods in the following described lands located in Gunnison County, Colorado:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 13 S. R. 90 W.,

Sec. 3, lots 8, 9, and 16;

Sec. 4, lots 5 to 16, inclusive;

Sec. 5, lots 12, 13, 20, and 24.

Containing approximately 725.90 acres, more or less.

The tract contains an estimated 3.96 million tons of recoverable coal reserves. The underground minable coal is ranked as bituminous B coal. The estimated coal quality on an as-received basis for the seam is as follows:

D SEAM:

British Thermal Unit (BTU).	12,005 BTU/lb.
Volatile Matter	34.72%
Moisture	7.47
Fixed Carbon	45.87
Sulfur Content	0.67
Ash Content	11.27

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid meets or exceeds the BLM's estimate of the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

The sealed bids should be sent by certified mail, return-receipt requested, or be hand delivered to the Cashier, BLM Colorado State Office, at the address given above and clearly marked "Sealed Bid for COC-70615 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 10 a.m., May 15, 2012." The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 10 a.m., May 15, 2012, will not be considered. If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed-bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the sale official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

Prior to lease issuance, the high bidder, if other than the applicant, must pay to the BLM the cost recovery fees in the amount of \$10,347.10 in addition to all processing costs the BLM incurs after the date of this sale notice (43 CFR 3473.2).

A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an

annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States of 8 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods.

Bidding instructions for the LBA tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale and available from the BLM Colorado State Office at the address above. Case file documents, COC-70615, are available for inspection at the BLM Colorado State Office Public Room.

Steven Hall,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCO921000-L51100000-GA0000-LVEMC09CC005, COC-70615]

Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain coal reserves in the Elk Creek East Tract described below in Gunnison County, Colorado, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m., May 15, 2012. The sealed bid must be submitted on or before 10 a.m., May 15, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Colorado State Office, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt Barton, Land Law Examiner, at 303-239-3714, or kbarton@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Oxbow Mining, LLC. The Federal coal

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWY93000 L16100000.DU0000]

Notice of Intent To Amend the Resource Management Plan for the Rawlins Field Office and Associated Environmental Assessment, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO), Rawlins, Wyoming, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment with an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the RFO and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP amendment with associated EA.

Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until May 11, 2012. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins.html>. In order to be included in the analysis, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation, as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Rawlins RMP Visual Resource

Management Amendment and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Documentation/EA by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/rawlins.html>.

- *Email:*

BLM_WY_RL_RMP_VRM@blm.gov.

Please reference "Rawlins VRM Review" in the subject line.

- *Fax:* 307-328-4224

- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407.

All comments must include a legible full name and address on the envelope, letter, fax, postcard, or email.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, Rawlins, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact John Spehar, Rawlins Field Office Plan Amendment Team Leader, telephone 307-328-4200; address, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407; email, jspehar@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM RFO, Rawlins, Wyoming, intends to prepare an RMP amendment with an associated EA for the RFO, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Albany, Carbon, Laramie and eastern Sweetwater counties, Wyoming, and encompasses approximately 3.5 million acres of BLM-administered public land and 4.5 million acres of Federal sub-surface mineral estate.

The BLM completed the Rawlins RMP revision in December 2008. However, the BLM's resolution of two protest issues—one regarding visual resource management (VRM) and the other regarding Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)—required the RFO to conduct additional planning. In response to the first issue, the RFO has updated the visual resources inventory within the planning area. The BLM will use this updated

inventory as a baseline to consider, analyze, and designate VRM classes for BLM-administered lands in the planning area.

This review will not include the decision area for the Chokeycherry/Sierra Madre wind energy project, however, as a VRM amendment to the Rawlins RMP is being separately considered in the NEPA process associated with that project's review. Second, the BLM received nominations for ACECs from the public that were not reviewed or considered during the RMP revision process. The BLM will use this planning process to review and consider these nominations for potential designation as ACECs.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the plan amendment area have been identified by BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. The issues include: Energy development; special designations; resource accessibility; public land-urban interface; special status species; water quality; vegetation management; recreation, cultural resource, and paleontological resource management.

Preliminary planning criteria include:

- The RMP amendment will focus only on VRM class designations and review of previously submitted ACEC nominations;
- The RMP amendment will comply with NEPA, FLPMA, and other applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and policy;
- The RMP amendment will recognize valid existing rights;
- Lands covered in the EA for the plan amendment include any/all lands that may affect, or be affected by, the management occurring on the BLM-administered public lands in the RFO. However, planning decisions in the RMP and the VRM-targeted amendment will apply only to the BLM-administered public lands and Federal mineral estate in the planning area; and
- A collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach will be used, where possible, to jointly determine the desired future condition and management direction for the public lands. To the extent possible and within legal and regulatory parameters, the BLM management and planning decisions will complement the planning and management decisions of other agencies, State and local governments, and Native American tribes, with jurisdictions intermingled with, and adjacent to, the planning area.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments by the close of the 30-day scoping period or within 30 days of the last public meeting, whichever is later.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan amendment;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan amendment.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP Amendment/EA as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plan amendment. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach during the plan amendment process in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: Air quality, cultural resources, fire and fuels management, forest management, lands and realty, rangeland management, minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics, and wild horses.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Larry Claypool,

Acting State Director, Wyoming.

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