

on a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation and flood control reservoir. “\* \* \* shall be administered by him (Secretary of the Interior) directly or in accordance with cooperative agreements \* \* \* and in accordance with such rules and regulations for the conservation, maintenance, and management of wildlife, resources thereof, and its habitat thereon, \* \* \*.” 16 U.S.C. 715d (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act). During the comprehensive planning process, management goals, objectives, and strategies will be developed to carry out the purpose of the Refuge and to comply with laws and policies governing refuge management and public use of refuges. Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge is open to public use.

The Service requests input as to which issues affecting management or public use should be addressed during the planning process. The Service is especially interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

—What do you value most about this Refuge?

—What problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of this Refuge?

—What changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of this Refuge?

The Service has provided the above questions for your optional use. The Service has no requirement that you provide information. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate gathering information about individual issues and ideas. Comments received by the Planning Team will be used as part of the planning process.

Opportunities for public input will also be provided at public meetings during the week of May 19, 2003. Exact dates and times for these public meetings are yet to be determined, but will be announced via local media.

All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings (e.g., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings) becomes part of the official public record. If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: March 3, 2003.

**John A. Blankenship,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[(WY–060–1320–EL), WYW151634]**

#### **Notice of availability of West Hay Creek Coal Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Federal Coal Notice of Hearing, Wyoming**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on a maintenance lease for a Federal coal tract in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming, and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the West Hay Creek Coal DEIS and announces a public hearing pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.4.

The DEIS analyzes and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of issuing a Federal coal lease in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin. The BLM is considering a coal lease issuance as a result of an August 31, 2000 application made by Triton Coal Company, LLC to lease approximately 838 acres (approximately about 130 million in-place tons of coal) of Federal coal near the Buckskin Mine in Campbell County, Wyoming.

The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit comments on the DEIS on the proposed competitive sale of the Federal coal in the West Hay Creek Coal tract, and on the fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 60 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes their NOA of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. MST, on April 16, 2003, at the Clarion Hotel, 2009 South Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. Requests to be included on the mailing list and to receive copies of the DEIS and notification of the comment period and hearing date should be sent to the

address, facsimile number, or electronic address listed below.

The BLM asks that those submitting comments on the DEIS make them as specific as possible with reference to page numbers and chapters of the document. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response; however, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address questions, comments, or concerns to the Casper Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Patricia Karbs, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604, fax them to 307–261–7587, or send e-mail comments to the attention of Patricia Karbs at

[casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:casper_wymail@blm.gov). A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies; persons, and entities identified as potentially being affected by a decision to lease the Federal coal in this tract; and persons who indicated to the BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations: BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009; and BLM Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Lane, Casper, Wyoming 82604.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Casper Field Office at the address listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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 or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia Karbs or Mike Karbs at the above address, or telephone: 307–261–7600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 31, 2000, Triton Coal Company, LLC, (Triton) filed a coal lease application for a maintenance tract containing approximately 130 million tons of Federal coal covering approximately 838 acres. Triton, the operator of the Buckskin Mine approximately 12 miles