

north of Gillette, Wyoming, applied to lease the tract as a maintenance tract to extend the life of their existing mining operations under the provisions of the Leasing on Application regulations at 43 CFR 3425. This tract, case number WYW151634, is referred to as the West Hay Creek Coal tract.

On November 5, 2001, BLM received a request from Triton to modify the West Hay Creek Coal tract. The following lands in Campbell County, Wyoming are included in the tract as currently filed:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 52 N., R. 72 W.  
 Sec. 17, lot:  
 5(S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ )—10.265 acres  
 6(S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ )—10.265 acres  
 7(S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ )—10.3475 acres  
 8(S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ )—10.3475 acres  
 9—41.32 acres  
 10—41.32 acres  
 11—41.12 acres  
 12—41.12 acres  
 13—41.18 acres  
 14—41.18 acres  
 Sec. 18, lot:  
 13(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—21.035 acres  
 20(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—20.75 acres  
 Sec. 19, lot:  
 5(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—20.71 acres  
 12(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—20.84 acres  
 13(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—20.935 acres  
 20(E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—21.065 acres  
 Sec. 20, lot:  
 2(W $\frac{1}{2}$ ,W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—31.1175 acres  
 3—41.39 acres  
 4—41.28 acres  
 5—41.30 acres  
 6—41.41 acres  
 7(W $\frac{1}{2}$ ,W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—31.1325 acres  
 10(W $\frac{1}{2}$ ,W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ )—31.1475 acres  
 11—41.42 acres  
 12—41.32 acres  
 13—41.34 acres  
 14—41.44 acres  
 Total Acres: 838.0975

The tract as currently filed includes an estimated 130 million tons of in-place coal.

The Buckskin Mine is adjacent to the lease application area and has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Mine has an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming DEQ to mine up to 27.5 million tons of coal per year.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the DEIS. If the tract is leased as a maintenance tract, the new lease will be incorporated into the existing mining and reclamation plan for the adjacent mine. The Secretary of the Interior must approve the revision to the MLA (Mineral Leasing Act) mining plan

before the Federal coal can be mined. If the tract is leased, OSM is the Federal agency that would be responsible for recommending approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval of the revised MLA mining plan to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

The DEIS analyzes leasing the tract as applied for as described above as a separate Proposed Action. As part of the coal leasing process, BLM has identified and is evaluating other tract configurations which add, or subtract, Federal coal to avoid bypassing coal or to prompt competitive interest in the unleased Federal coal in this area. The tract configuration that BLM has identified is described and analyzed as a separate alternative in the DEIS. The DEIS also analyzes the alternative of rejecting the application to lease Federal coal as the No Action Alternative. The other two alternatives evaluate alternate tract configurations considered by BLM. Under these alternatives, a competitive sale would be held and a lease issued for Federal coal lands included in a tract modified by the BLM.

The Proposed Action and Alternatives being considered in the DEIS are in conformance with the "Approved Resource Management Plan for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management Buffalo Field Office" (April 2001), the USDA Forest Service "Final EIS for the Northern Great Plains Management Plans Revision" (May 2001) and the BLM "Platte River Resource Area Resource Management Plan" (1985).

Dated: January 17, 2003.

Alan L. Kesterke,

Associate State Director.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-110-6332-DQ; HAG-02-0284]

#### Notice of Availability of the Proposed Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the 27-Mile Section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River (From the Mouth of the Applegate River to Grave Creek)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office, Grants Pass Resource Area.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, a Recreation

Area Management Plan and FEIS have been completed for a portion of the Medford District. The FEIS describes and analyzes future options for managing the 27-mile section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River (from the mouth of the Applegate River to Grave Creek) in southern Josephine County, Oregon.

The Rogue River was one of eight rivers identified as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System when the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968. Designated rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational. The 27-mile stretch of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Hellgate Recreation Area from the confluence of the Applegate River to Grave Creek was classified as a recreational river.

The need for action is based on BLM visitor use reports that show increases in water-based visitor use activities, a recreation use study, and public scoping efforts, which identified visitor use conflicts, particularly between jet boaters and floaters during the summer months and between jet boaters and anglers during the fall fishing season. The purpose of the action is to: (1) Replace the 1978 Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Activity Plan for the Hellgate Recreation Section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, (2) provide management direction and guidance on the management of the Hellgate section pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, October 2, 1968), (3) conform with management direction contained in the 1995 Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, and (4) maintain a mix of river recreation uses and users common to the river since its designation in 1968 as a National Wild and Scenic river.

The FEIS analyzes five alternatives ranging from fewer watercraft and less visitor use to maximum watercraft and visitor use. The Proposed Action (Alternative E) manages the level of recreational use while protecting the environment and the outstandingly remarkable values. The Proposed Action minimizes potential impacts to the fisheries resource and increases fishing opportunities. The Proposed Action also maximizes floating opportunities. Except for commercial motorized tour boats, commercial motorized angling boats, and special boating events, overall recreational use levels would be unregulated and continue to increase until the use limit is reached. The number of permits for commercial motorized tour boats, commercial motorized angling boats, and special boating events is unchanged from the