

boundaries of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Kemmerer Ranger District, Wyoming. The addition of this acreage to the National Forest System (NFS) would be consistent with, and managed under, the *Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*, (1990). This would also be consistent with USDA Forest Service national policy to acquire private in-holdings whenever possible to facilitate management and administration of NFS lands and resources. Acquisition of these parcels would be beneficial to wildlife species, would increase public recreation opportunities, and protect surrounding NFS lands from the impacts of human development.

The remaining parcels in Lincoln County are located outside of, and immediately adjacent to the Bridger-Teton National Forest and are contiguous to the 2,447 acres that would become part of NFS lands. The approximately 638 acres are due west of LaBarge, Wyoming, and would become public lands administered by the BLM, Pinedale Field Office. If the exchange is completed and BLM acquires the 638 acres of land, the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (1988) would be maintained to extend existing management direction to the Bridger Lands.

Lands and Surface Resources To Be Administered by USDA Forest Service

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 26 N., R. 116 W.,
Tracts 39, 41, and 42.
T. 26 N., R. 117 W.,
Tracts 37–43
T. 27 N., R. 117 W.,
Tracts 37–42.

Containing 2,447.88 acres more or less.

Lands and Minerals To Be Administered by BLM

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 26 N., R. 115 W.,
Tracts 49, 57, and 71.

Containing 638.37 acres more or less.

JO Ranch Lands, Carbon County, Wyoming

P&M is offering the parcel (1,233.55 acres) known as the “JO Ranch Lands” to the United States Government. The JO Ranch Lands are southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming. Cow Creek, an ephemeral drainage that drains the west foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains, flows through the JO Ranch Lands. This section of Cow Creek has riparian grassland habitat, and provides mule deer and elk crucial winter range. The JO Ranch Lands also include the JO Ranch or Rankin Ranch buildings, which are eligible for National Historic

Site status. The JO Ranch Lands offered by P&M are surrounded by public lands and resources administered by the BLM Rawlins Field Office. If the exchange is completed and BLM acquires these lands, the Great Divide Resource Management Plan, (1990) would be maintained to extend existing management direction to the 1,233.55 acres of JO Ranch Lands.

Because P&M does not own, and therefore cannot offer, any of the mineral estate underlying the JO Ranch lands, the subsurface estate and its resources would remain in private ownership.

Lands To Be Administered by BLM

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 16 N., R. 90 W.,
Sec. 6, lots 20, 23, 24, 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 17, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 18, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Tract 46.
T. 16 N., R. 91 W.,
Sec. 12, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 14, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 22, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing 1,233.55 acres more or less.

Welch Ranch Lands, Sheridan County, Wyoming

P&M is offering the United States Government the Welch Ranch parcel, approximately (1,538.70 acres). Approximately 1.5 miles of Tongue River frontage would be included. The Tongue River area of the “Welch Lands” contains significant wildlife and fisheries habitat and would provide the public access to the Tongue River and these resources. The Welch Lands are surrounded by private lands and private and Federal minerals that are administered by the BLM Buffalo Field Office. In addition to the identified Welch Lands, the United States Government would acquire ownership of about 807.69 acres of the coal estate currently owned by P&M. Upon acquisition, the coal would be administered by the BLM Buffalo Field Office. If the exchange is completed and the Welch Lands become public lands, BLM will prepare a site-specific plan for the 1,538.70 acres of Welch Ranch Lands that would amend the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (1985, updated 2001).

Lands To Be Administered by BLM

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 57 N., R. 84 W.,
Sec. 1, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 2, lots 2, 3, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 3, lots 3, 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 4, lots 1–4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing approximately 1,538.7 acres more or less.

Minerals To Be Administered by BLM

P&M owns and is offering to exchange the coal estate underlying the following lands:

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 57 N., R. 84 W.,

Sec. 1, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (excluding 25.51 acres),
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (excluding 1.2
acres);

Sec. 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ (excluding 5.6 acres);

Sec. 3, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 807.69 acres, more or less.

P&M does not own, and is not offering, to exchange any other mineral rights underlying the Welch lands.

In exchange for the above described lands, P&M proposes to acquire some portion of the Federal coal in the PSO Tract, described below. There are 6.41 acres of publicly owned surface estate included in the PSO Tract, which is not included in the exchange proposal. The remainder of the surface estate included in the tract is privately owned, primarily by P&M.

PSO Tract, Sheridan County, Wyoming

The Federal coal that P&M is proposing to acquire is located immediately north of the Welch Ranch, underlying mostly P&M's private surface (“PSO Tract”) in Sheridan County. The Federal coal is found in two mineable coal seams, the Dietz 1, and Dietz 3. Recent exploration samples indicate that the Dietz 1 coal seam has an average BTU value of 9,279, and that the Dietz 3 has an average BTU value of 9,352. Up to approximately 107 million tons of Federal coal may be exchanged depending on the final appraised value of both the land and coal resources that the United States Government would receive from P&M, and the value of the Federal coal.

The legal description of the Federal coal being considered for exchange is as follows:

6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming

T. 58 N., R. 84 W.,

- Sec. 15, lot 1;
Sec. 20, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 21, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;
Sec. 22, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 23, lots 3 and 4;
Sec. 27, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 28, All;
Sec. 29, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 33, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Containing 2,045.53 acres more or less.