

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Draft Safe Harbor Agreement With Assurances and Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit for the Houston Toad on the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)/Lost Pines Scout Reservation in Bastrop County, TX**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Boy Scouts of America/Capital Area Council (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permit, which is for a period of 15 years, includes a draft Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) for the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) in Bastrop County, Texas. We invite public comment.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before October 26, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the draft SHA or other related documents may obtain a copy by written or telephone request to Paige Najvar, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512-490-0057; Fax 512-490-0974). The documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Service's Austin office. Comments concerning the draft SHA or other related documents should be submitted in writing to the Field Supervisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758. Please refer to permit number TE-133115-0 when submitting comments. All comments received will become a part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paige Najvar at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512-490-0057; Fax 512-490-0974), or [Paige\\_Najvar@fws.gov](mailto:Paige_Najvar@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Applicant has applied to the Service for

a section 10(a)(1)(A) enhancement of survival permit for the endangered Houston toad in Bastrop County, Texas for a period of 15 years.

The Service has worked with the Applicant to design and implement conservation activities that are expected to have a net conservation benefit to the Houston toad in Bastrop County, Texas. Conservation activities the Applicant will undertake according to the SHA include: (1) Prescribed burning in every management area on the LCRA/Lost Pines Scout Reservation in order to control invasive woody understory species and decrease existing fuel load; (2) brush thinning activities in forested areas in the eastern, south, and southeastern areas of the property to control invasive woody understory species and to evaluate trends in forest floor plant diversity under different brush control management approaches; (3) restoring and replanting native vegetation in the eastern, south, and southeastern areas of the property to help facilitate Houston toad movement; (4) creating shallow, ephemeral ponds to facilitate and enhance Houston toad breeding success; and (5) treating red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) mounds at newly constructed ponds. These conservation activities are expected to (1) facilitate the establishment of native, herbaceous vegetation as well as expand and enhance potential breeding, foraging, and hibernating habitats for the Houston toad currently on adjacent and nearby properties; (2) protect and preserve habitat to enhance the movement of Houston toads among existing foraging and breeding areas to the south and southeast of the LCRA/Lost Pines Scout Reservation; (3) create Houston toad breeding habitat through pond creation; and (4) collect research data related to the effects of the conservation activities and planned enhancements to help design future management strategies for the Houston toad.

The incidental take of Houston toads may occur from (1) habitat management actions conducted in accordance with the conservation activities in the Agreement, (2) on-going Boy Scout camp activities that may have an increased chance of taking the species if toad numbers increase, as expected, and (3) cessation of the conservation activities, at some point in the future, if the Applicant exercises their authorization to do so under the permit.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C

4371 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**Christopher Todd Jones,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

**[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW173097]**

**Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Wyoming**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Invitation for Coal Exploration License Application, Ark Land Company, WYW173097, Wyoming.

**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 Ark Land Company 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 Campbell County, Wyoming:

T. 46 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
 Sec. 18: Lots 7 through 10, 14 through 17;  
 Sec. 19: Lots 7 through 10, 15 through 18;  
 Sec. 30: Lots 5 through 20;  
 Sec. 31: Lots 1, 5 through 19;  
 Sec. 32: Lots 5 through 8, 11 through 14.

Containing 2,274.14 acres, more or less.

**DATES:** Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice to both the Bureau of Land Management and Ark Land Company, as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section below, which must be received within 30 days after publication of this Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the exploration plan are available for review during normal business hours in the following offices (serialized under number WYW173097): Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003; and Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The written notice should be sent to the following addresses: Ark

Land Company, Attn: Mike Lincoln, P.O. Box 460, Hanna, WY 82327, and the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, Branch of Solid Minerals, Attn: Mavis Love, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** All of the coal in the above-described land consists of unleased Federal coal within the Powder River Basin Known Coal Leasing Area. The purpose of the exploration program is to gain additional knowledge of the coal underlying the exploration area for the purpose of assessing the reserves contained in a potential lease.

This notice of invitation will be published in The News-Record of Gillette, WY, once each week for two consecutive weeks beginning the week of August 28, 2006, and in the **Federal Register**.

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

Dated: August 14, 2006.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

*Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.*  
[FR Doc. E6-15717 Filed 9-25-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-5101-ER-F345; N-78803]

#### Notice To Extend Public Comment Period for Reopened Public Scoping Process for the Proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice to Extend Public Comment Period for Reopened Public Scoping Process for the Proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project.

**SUMMARY:** Public comment period is being extended on the Proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project. The comment period is being extended due to extensive public comment and a high level of public interest.

**DATES:** The public comment period is being extended to October 17, 2006. Submissions should be in writing or by Fax (*see ADDRESSES* below).

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted in writing to: Penny Woods, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006 or by Fax to: 775-861-6466.

Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Nevada State Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. 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:** For further information or to have your name added to/removed from the EIS mailing list, contact Penny Woods at the Nevada State Office (*see ADDRESSES* above), telephone 775-861-6466.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Notice to Reopen the Public Scoping Process for the Proposed Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project was originally published in the **Federal Register** on July 19, 2006 (71 FR 138). Information concerning the reopening of scoping can also be found on the Nevada BLM Web site at <http://www.nv.blm.gov>.

**Amy Lueders,**

*Associate State Director.*

[FR Doc. E6-15725 Filed 9-25-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Notice of Public Hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold Public Hearings to solicit comments on the Draft EIS for the Proposed 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas 5-Year Leasing Program, as announced in the **Federal Register** notifying the availability of the Draft EIS on August 25, 2006.

Statements, both oral and written, will be received at the venues listed below. Persons wishing to speak may be put on the speakers' list by the MMS contacts in advance of the specific public hearing or may sign up at the hearing. Time limits may be set on oral testimony to allow time for all speakers to participate.

The following Public Hearings are planned for the DEIS.

#### Dates Locations for Public Hearings:

- September 25, 2006—Unalaska City Council Chambers, Unalaska, Alaska, 6:30 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- September 26, 2006—Cold Bay Community Center, Cold Bay, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- September 27, 2006—Allan Nelson Community Building, Nelson Lagoon, Alaska, 4:30 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- September 28, 2006—Centerpoint Building, 1st Floor Conference Room, 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, 5 p.m., contact: Mr. Fred King, (907) 334-5271.
- September 28, 2006—Sand Point City Council Chambers, Sand Point, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- October 9, 2006—City of Goodnews Bay Council Chambers, Goodnews Bay, Alaska, 5 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- October 10, 2006—Bristol Bay Borough Building, Naknek, Alaska, 6:30 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- October 11, 2006—Dillingham City Council Chambers, Dillingham, Alaska, 6:30 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- October 30, 2006—Marriott Houston Intercontinental at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, 18700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, Texas, 1 p.m., contact: Mr. Dennis Chew, (504) 736-2793.
- October 31, 2006—Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans-Elmwood, 5150 Mounes Street, Harahan, Louisiana, 1 p.m., contact: Mr. Dennis Chew, (504) 736-2793.
- November 1, 2006—Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 South Water Street, Mobile, Alabama, 1 p.m., contact: Mr. Dennis Chew, (504) 736-2793.
- November 8, 2006—Nuiqsut Community Center, Nuiqsut, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- November 10, 2006—Kaktovik Community Center, Kaktovik, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- November 13, 2006—Robert James Community Center, Wainwright, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- November 14, 2006—Norfolk, Virginia (exact venue will be announced in a subsequent **Federal Register** Notice, please also check our Web site at <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>), contact: Dr. Norman Froemer, (703) 787-1644.
- November 14, 2006—Point Lay Community Center, Point Lay, Alaska, 7 p.m., contact: Mr. Albert Barros, (907) 334-5209.
- November 15, 2006—Marriott Bay Point Resort, 4000 Marriott Drive, Panama City