

more acres would be targeted for restoration under this Alternative than under Alternative A. Opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography and environmental education and interpretation would be increased. In addition to the current wildlife-dependent public uses of the Columbia Dike Trail, the Service would officially open the portion of the trail on Steigerwald Lake Refuge to horseback riding, jogging, bicycling, and leashed pets. The Refuge would increase the number of staff-led tours of the Refuges. We would partner with the city of North Bonneville to promote wildlife viewing from an existing public trail adjacent to Pierce Refuge. Environmental education would be enhanced through coordination with local school teachers and classroom visits.

Alternative C has many features in common with Alternative B. The primary difference is that under Alternative C, the Service would seek to restore more of the historic (pre-Bonneville Dam) vegetation cover. At Pierce Refuge, artificially created wetlands and open water habitat would be reduced and pastures eliminated. The amount of pasture at Steigerwald Lake Refuge would be reduced to the minimum needed to support wintering Canada geese. The maximum amount of oak restoration would occur under Alternative C. Partnerships would be developed to monitor water quality, remove or modify fish barriers, and control or eliminate noxious weed populations. A Research Natural Area would be established at Franz Lake Refuge. Public uses would be similar to those proposed in Alternative B, with the exceptions of the classroom visits, teacher workshops, and the wildlife viewing trail adjacent to Pierce Refuge. These public uses would not be developed under Alternative C.

**Actions Common to All Alternatives**

The following components are proposed to be continued or implemented under all three alternatives.

*Steigerwald Lake NWR Gateway Center and Interpretive Trail.* Subject to

availability of appropriated funding, the Service would construct a Gateway Center and interpretive trail at Steigerwald Lake NWR, as described in the Service's EA and Finding of No Significant Impact signed in 1999. These facilities would serve an estimated 125,000 visitors annually.

*Steigerwald Lake Feasibility Study.* Acting under authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Act of 1986, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will direct the feasibility study phase of a project to reestablish hydrologic connections between the historic Steigerwald Lake, Columbia River, and Gibbons Creek.

*Western Pond Turtle Program.* The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will continue to release and monitor Western pond turtles on Pierce Refuge, and will also investigate the feasibility of introducing turtles to Steigerwald Lake Refuge.

*Mosquito Management.* The Service will consult and coordinate with local mosquito control districts to implement mosquito management on the Gorge Refuges. The objective will be to conduct a biologically sound program that maintains the ecological integrity of the Refuges while addressing legitimate human and fish and wildlife health concerns and complying with Service regulations and policy. The Skamania County Mosquito Control District will be allowed to monitor and treat mosquitoes at Franz Lake Refuge pursuant to the phased approach stipulated in the approved Compatibility Determination.

**Public Comments**

Public comments are requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach has included public meetings with affected agencies and groups, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. After the review and comment period ends for this Draft CCP/EA, comments will be analyzed by the Service and addressed in revised planning documents.

All comments received from individuals, including names and addresses, become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations 40 CFR 1506.6(f), and other Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

Dated: August 10, 2004.

**William F. Shake,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 04-19112 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Issuance of Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

**SUMMARY:** The following permits were issued.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

**Marine Mammals**

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
085780 .....	Tom J. Nieuwenhuis .....	69 FR 27947; May 17, 2004 .....	July 29, 2004.
086456 .....	Steven W. Stock .....	69 FR 27948; May 17, 2004 .....	July 29, 2004.
086723 .....	Robert D. Yajko .....	69 FR 30715; May 28, 2004 .....	July 29, 2004.
087099 .....	Terry N. Steinheiser .....	69 FR 30714; May 28, 2004 .....	August 3, 2004.
087596 .....	Lonnie R. Henriksen .....	69 FR 31834; June 7, 2004 .....	July 29, 2004.
087917 .....	Michael R. Traub .....	69 FR 33931; June 17, 2004 .....	August 4, 2004.
087960 .....	Richard G. Duggan .....	69 FR 33931; June 17, 2004 .....	July 30, 2004.
088995 .....	Bruce M. Golberg .....	69 FR 36095; June 28, 2004 .....	July 30, 2004.

Dated: August 6, 2004.

**Michael S. Moore,**

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,  
Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 04-19119 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-920-1320-EL, WYW150318]

#### Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale, Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Competitive Coal  
Lease Sale.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the Little Thunder Tract described below in Campbell County, WY, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

**DATES:** The lease sale will be held at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, September 22, 2004. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, September 21, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the First Floor Conference Room (Room 107), of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Cashier, BLM Wyoming State Office, at the address given above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Weaver, Land Law Examiner, or Robert Janssen, Coal Coordinator, at (307) 775-6260, and (307) 775-6206, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application (LBA) filed by Ark Land Company. The Federal coal tract being considered for sale is adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine operated by Thunder Basin Coal Company. Ark Land Company and Thunder Basin Coal Company are both subsidiaries of Arch Coal, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri. The coal resources to be offered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following-described lands located in southeast of Wright, Wyoming, in southeastern Campbell County approximately 6 miles east of State Highway 59, crossed by State Highway 450, and adjacent to the BNSF/UP joint rail line.

T. 43 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM, Wyoming

Sec. 1: Lot 16 (S<sup>1/2</sup>).

Sec. 2: Lots 5-20.

Sec. 11: Lots 1-16.

Sec. 12: Lots 2 (W<sup>1/2</sup>, SE<sup>1/4</sup>), 3-16.

Sec. 13: Lots 1-16.

Sec. 14: Lots 1-15, NW<sup>1/4</sup>NW<sup>1/4</sup>.

Sec. 24: Lots 1-16.

Sec. 25: Lots 1-16.

T. 44 N., R. 71 W., 6th P.M, Wyoming

Sec. 35: Lots 1-16.

*Containing:* 5,083.50 acres, more or less.

The tract is adjacent to Federal coal leases to the east held by the Black Thunder Mine, to State of Wyoming coal leases to the east and south held by Black Thunder Mine and to a Federal coal lease by a common section corner held by the Jacobs Ranch Mine to the northeast. It is also adjacent to additional unleased Federal coal to the north, west, and southwest.

All of the acreage offered has been determined to be suitable for mining except lands within 100 feet of the joint rail line right-of-way. Other features such as the county road and pipelines can be moved to permit coal recovery. In addition, temporary loadout facilities can be used at the end of the mine life to recover coal under the rail spur which also crosses the LBA tract. Finally, numerous oil and/or gas wells have been drilled on the tract. The estimate of the bonus value of the coal lease will include consideration of the future production from these wells. An economic analysis of this future income stream will determine whether a well is bought out and plugged prior to mining or re-established after mining is completed. Small portions of the surface estate of the tract are owned by B.N. railroad and a private trust, but most of the surface estate is controlled by the Black Thunder Mine and United States.

The tract contains surface mineable coal reserves in the Wyodak seam currently being recovered in the adjacent, existing mines. On the LBA tract, the Wyodak seam is generally a thick seam with one upper split, one lower split, and two thin deeper splits. These splits are not continuous over the LBA tract but are often merged into the main seam. The main seam ranges from 63-77 feet thick while the splits range from 0-15 feet thick for the upper one, from 0-15 feet thick for the lower one, and from 0-5 feet thick for each of the lower two. The overburden depths range from about 195-400 feet thick on the LBA. The interburden ranges from 0-125 feet thick between the upper split and the main seam, from 0-12 feet thick between the lower split and the main seam, and from 0-6 feet thick between the individual lower splits.

The tract contains an estimated 718,719,000 tons of mineable coal. This estimate of mineable reserves includes the main seam and splits mentioned above but does not include any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal. It does not include the State of Wyoming coal although these reserves are expected to be recovered by the Black Thunder Mine. The total mineable stripping ratio (BCY/Ton) of the coal is about 3.4:1. Potential bidders for the LBA should consider the recovery rate expected from thick seam and multiple seam mining. The Little Thunder LBA coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality on an as-received basis is 8884 BTU/lb with about 0.24% sulfur and 1.2% sodium in the ash. These quality averages place the coal reserves near the high end of the range of coal quality currently being mined in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin.

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 estimated fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or be hand delivered. The Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 4 p.m., on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale. The lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and of a royalty payment to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal produced by strip or auger mining methods and 8 percent of the value of the coal produced by underground mining methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.250.

Bidding instructions for the tract offered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are available from the BLM Wyoming State Office at the addresses above. Case file documents, WYW150318, are available for inspection at the BLM Wyoming State Office.

**Alan Rabinoff,**

Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands.

[FR Doc. 04-19153 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

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