

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 12 noon, Tuesday, December 10, 2002, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value will be determined by the authorized officer after the sale.

If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed-bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the Sale Official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

A lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual rental of \$3 per acre, or fraction thereof; and a royalty payable to the United States of 12.5 percent of the value of coal mined by surface methods and 8.0 percent of the value of coal mined by underground methods. The value of the coal shall 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 included in the Detailed Statement of Lease Sale. Copies of the statement and the proposed coal lease are available at the Montana State Office. Casefile NDM 91647 is also available for public inspection at the Montana State Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Schaff, Land Law Examiner, or Rebecca Good, Coal Coordinator, at (406) 896-5060 or (406) 896-5080, respectively.

Dated: September 16, 2002.

Randy D. Heuscher,

Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 02-26552 Filed 10-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310--55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-02-1610-JP-064B]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for Off-Road Vehicle Trail (Route of Travel) Designations in the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) Portion of Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft amendment and associated environmental assessment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for off-road vehicle trail (route of travel) designations in the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) portion of Imperial County, California.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft Amendment and the Environmental Assessment will be accepted if postmarked within 45 calendar days from the date this Notice of Availability is published in the **Federal Register** by the Bureau of Land Management. Instructions for submitting comments are included below under Supplemental Information.

SUMMARY: The draft plan amendment will establish or revise designations of trails (routes of travel) for off-road vehicles in accordance with Part 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 8342. Trails (routes of travel) for inclusion in the State of California's Discovery Trail System and the route to be used as a segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail within the Western Colorado Desert (WECO) project area will be identified. The proposals will pertain to public lands addressed by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan in the WECO portion of Imperial County that lie west of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range (excluding the Imperial Sand Dunes and the western portion of the California Desert Conservation Area in San Diego County, California).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the document are being mailed to those who requested it. The document is available for review on line at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro> and is also available in a hard copy or a CD rom format at the following addresses and telephone numbers: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 337-4400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Arnold Schoeck, Bureau of Land Management, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243; (760) 337-4441.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Land Management published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 2002, the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment and to make a Plan Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan by making off-road vehicle trail (route of travel) designations in the Western Colorado Desert portion of Imperial County. The public scoping period for the project began March 25, 2002 and the comment period until has been expanded until October 7, 2002.

The publication of the Environmental Assessment will start a 45-day public comment period for the proposed designations and alternative plan amendments described in the environmental assessment. Public meetings and their locations for the public to make comments at will be announced in the local media and on the El Centro Field Office's Web site (<http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro>).

The public is invited to submit comments on the alternatives to the plan amendment and the Environmental Assessment. Written comments should be sent to the above address and must be post marked by December 2, 2002. E-mail comments may be sent to caecweco@ca.blm.gov but must be received by the close of business on December 2, 2002. Delays caused by the Internet, servers, and other related computer problems will not be cause for a time extension.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the El Centro Field Office during normal working hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays), and may be published as part of the Decision Record or other related documents. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

After the public comment period ends, (1) a Notice of the Proposed Decision, (2) the effective date for the proposed decision, and (3) the beginning of a 30 day protest period will be published. The procedures for

protesting a decision will be described at that time.

Greg Thomsen,

Field Manager, El Centro Field Office.

[FR Doc. 02-25949 Filed 10-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Extend Concession Contract for Services at Olympic, Big Bend, Mammoth Cave, and Isle Royale National Parks and Blue Ridge Parkway

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service intends to extend the concession contract authorizing continued food and beverage, general merchandise, automobile service, transportation, marina, gift shop, and overnight accommodations at Olympic, Big Bend, Mammoth Cave, and Isle Royale National Parks and Blue Ridge parkway. The extension will be for a term of not more than 3 years. This extension is necessary to avoid interruption of public services while the National Park Service evaluates the long-term needs of each park. This extension will be for a 3-year period beginning September 21, 2002. This notice is pursuant to 36 CFR Part 51, § 51.24(a).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The current concession contract for these parks expired on September 20, 2002. This contract is unique in that when it was executed in 1982, all parks were covered under one authorization. The extension will allow for individual park contracts to be developed, a prospectus to be released and a new, long-term contract awarded.

Information about this notice can be sought from: National Park Service, Concession Program Manager, 1849 C Street, NW., (2410), Washington, DC 20240 or call 202/513-7156.

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Richard G. Ring,

Associate Director for Park Operations and Education.

[FR Doc. 02-26603 Filed 10-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-02-930-1610-DS-005G]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, and proposed amendments to the Taos, Mimbres and White Sands Resource Management Plans, New Mexico.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management announce the availability of the *Draft El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. The plan provides alternative visions for managing the trail between El Paso, Texas, and San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. This plan also addresses Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments to the BLM's Taos, White Sands, and Mimbres RMP's related to protection of scenic values.

Added to the National Trails System in October 2000, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Road of the Interior) National Historic Trail (NHT) recognizes the primary route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan de Los Caballeros (1598-1600), San Gabriel (1600-1609) and then Santa Fe (1610-1821). The NHT, as designated, extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

This draft CMP/EIS focuses on the NHT's purpose and significance, issues and concerns related to current conditions along the NHT, resource protection, visitor experience and use, and long-term administrative and management objectives. Elements of the proposed plan have been developed in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies as well as nonprofit and non-governmental organizations—the entities that will form the core of partnerships with the NHT. Community meetings were held in Alcalde, Española, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Socorro, Truth or Consequences, Sunland Park and Las Cruces, New Mexico, as well as in El Paso, Texas. Meetings were held with several North American Indian Pueblos.

The plan provides a range of alternatives for management direction for the NHT, addressing management of BLM-administered lands within the Las Cruces, Socorro, Albuquerque and Taos Field Offices as well as opportunities on other federal, tribal, state, local or private lands. Issues addressed in the draft plan include three statutory requirements (recreation, interpretation and protection of historic values), as well as integration with tribal and community plans, visitor services, education, scenic values and international interests. The following alternatives are discussed in the draft plan:

Alternative A—This is the no-action alternative, which serves as the baseline for evaluating the changes and impacts of the other action alternatives. Under Alternative A, federal agencies would continue to manage their lands (through which the trail passes) based upon their existing management plans. There would be no overall administration or coordination of the NHT. There would be no effective coordination of the activities of an NHT association, private landowners, and federal, state, and local agencies. There would be no directed cooperation that would result in resource protection. Current visitor and recreational activities commemorating or interpreting the trail would continue.

Alternative B—Collaborative efforts by NHT administration and partners would be directed toward the protection of trail resources (historical, cultural, and natural) on both private and public land. Active stewardship and certification priorities would protect threatened trail resources. A coordinated visitor experience along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT would be provided and structured to promote public understanding and appreciation of NHT-related resources. An auto tour route would be established. Existing recreational opportunities that are not trail-related, but provided by private landowners and various agencies and organizations would continue.

Alternative C (preferred alternative)—An ambitious program of resource preservation and visitor use would be implemented under this alternative. Trail administration and partners would work cooperatively to provide coordinated programming and activities that integrate themes, resources, and landscapes at certified sites on private land or protected sites on public land. Resources that best illustrate the trail's significance would be identified and protected on both public and private land (high-potential sites and segments). Certification priorities would be placed