I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under ADDRESSES. Please include the Federal Register notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under ADDRESSES. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see DATES) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see ADDRESSES).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under ADDRESSES. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Phoenix Herpetological Society, Scottsdale, AZ; PRT–10934B & 11018B

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female American crocodiles (crocodylus acutus) from the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary in Belize, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Applicant: Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA; PRT–032027

The applicant requests amendment and renewal of the permit to rescue, rehabilitate, and release southern sea otters (Enhydra lutris nereis) that are stranded along the California coast for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species section 10(a)(1)(A) and as per section 109(h)/112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The request also includes authorization for euthanasia of animals too ill or injured for recovery. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the Federal Register, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal
Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Brenda Tapia,
Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
[S1D1SS080110000SX066A000 67F1345180110; S2D2SS080110000SX066 A00033F13XS501520]

Notice of Intent To Initiate Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Area F of the Rosebud Coal Mine, Rosebud and Treasure Counties, Montana

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to initiate public scoping and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, and the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) NEPA regulations, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Western Region (WR), Denver, Colorado, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS, to be prepared in conjunction with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and its implementing rules, will analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed action to permit the operation and reclamation of the proposed Area F expansion of the Rosebud Coal Mine. A single EIS that meets the requirements of both MEPA and NEPA and evaluates all components of the proposed project will be prepared. This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS. At this stage of the planning process, site-specific public comments are being requested to determine the scope of the analysis and identify significant issues and alternatives to the proposed action. OSM and DEQ are requesting public comments on the scope of the EIS and significant issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: The public scoping period will be 45 days in length. Comments concerning the proposed action must be postmarked by October 11, 2013, to be considered in preparing the draft EIS. OSM, in conjunction with DEQ, will hold a public scoping meeting in Colstrip, Montana, on Thursday, September 12, 2013, from 3pm–7pm at the Isabel Bills Community Learning Center. The meeting will include an open house from 3pm–4pm with the opportunity to view project information. There will be brief presentations from OSM regarding the EIS process and from Western Energy Company (WECO) regarding the proposed project. Presentations will begin at 4pm followed by the opportunity for the public to provide oral and/or written testimony. If you require reasonable accommodations to attend the meeting, contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT at least one week before the meeting. The draft EIS is expected to be released for public comment in the second quarter of 2014, and the final EIS is expected by the second quarter of 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted in writing or by email. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your email message, please indicate that the comments are “Rosebud Mine Area F EIS Comments.” All comments received must contain: name of commenter, postal service mailing address, and date of comment. Comments sent as an email message should be sent as an attachment to the message. Email your comments to: osm-western-energy-area-f-eis@osmre.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Franklin Bartlett, Project Coordinator, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region, Casper Area Office, Dick Cheney Federal Building, PO Box 11018, 150 East B Street, Casper, WY 82601–7032.

Rosebud Mine

The Rosebud Mine is a 25,576-acre surface coal mine producing low-sulfur subbituminous coal. The proposed permit area for Area F would add 6,746 acres (4,287 acres would be disturbed by the mining operations, highway reduction, soil storage, scoria pits, haul road construction, and other miscellaneous disturbances) in Township 2 North, Range 38 and 39 East, and Township 1 North, Range 39 East. If approved, Area F would add coal reserves to the existing Rosebud Mine and extend mine life by an estimated 19 years.

Current land uses include grazing land, pastureland, cropland, and wildlife habitat. Tributaries of Horse Creek and West Fork Armells Creek, including Black Hank Creek, Donley Creek, Robbie Creek, and McClure Creek (all of which lie within the drainage of the Yellowstone River), drain the proposed mine area. A ridge in the western portion of the proposed mine area divides the Horse Creek and West Fork Armells Creek drainages.

Proposed Action

Beginning in 2015, WECo proposes to mine 2,164 acres within the proposed 6,746-acre Area F permit area and would complete mining operations by...