

central and eastern Idaho, has prepared a Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Direction Draft Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan Amendment/EIS) to consider management direction for fire, fuels, and related uses of vegetation. This planning process is in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (USDI *et al.* 1995, reviewed and updated in 2001). The Draft Plan Amendment/EIS is available for public review and comment.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Future meetings and any other opportunities for public involvement will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings. In addition, information on public meetings will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.id.blm.gov/planning/fmda/index.htm>. To receive full consideration, comments must be postmarked no later than the last day of the written comment period. (The last day of the written comment period will be also be identified in the internet address above, after publication of the Notice in the **Federal Register**.)

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft Plan Amendment/EIS are available upon request from the Pocatello Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204, phone 208-478-6340, or at <http://www.id.blm.gov/planning/fmda/index.htm> via the Internet. You may submit written comments on the draft document by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** FMDA Planning Team, Pocatello Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204.
- **E-mail:** ID_USRD_FMDA@blm.gov.
- **Fax:** 208-478-6376.

All public comments, including the names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Pocatello Field Office, in Pocatello, Idaho during regular business hours from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the final plan amendment/EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, please state

this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence. The BLM will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Limbach, FMDA Project Manager, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204, phone 208-478-6392, e-mail Eric_Limbach@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Direction Draft Plan Amendment/EIS was developed with broad public participation through a three year collaborative planning process. It addresses management on approximately 5.4 million acres of public land in the Upper Snake River District of the BLM, comprising the Burley, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and Shoshone Field Offices in south-central and eastern Idaho.

The Draft Plan Amendment/EIS would incorporate the National Fire Plan's Cohesive Strategy and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy into existing BLM land use plans. The draft EIS displays the environmental effects of implementing those amended plans.

The purpose of the proposed fire management plan amendment is to:

- Establish fire management guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions;
- Identify resource goals and methods, including desired future condition of the fire-related vegetation resources, and management actions necessary to achieve objectives;
- Form the basis to update fire management plans and integrate them with allotment management plans, wildlife management plans, recreation management plans, Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing, and other applicable plans, to the greatest extent possible; and
- Provide LUP level direction to enable incremental steps toward a long-term resource goal of conditions that minimize risk to human life and property and maintain or restore vegetation that is resistant to catastrophic wildfire.

Four alternatives are analyzed. Alternative A, the No Action alternative, reflects current Land Use Plan direction, emphasizes wildland fire suppression, and minimizes the use of wildland fire for resource benefit. Alternative B emphasizes the increased use of fire,

including prescribed fire and wildland fire use to more closely approximate the historical role of fire and prepare sites for restoration treatments. Alternative C would fully implement the Cohesive Strategy from the National Fire Plan (treats more acres with prescribed fire than the other alternatives). Alternative D, the Preferred Alternative, focuses on maintaining or restoring the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and its associated wildlife species, including sage grouse.

Dated: August 12, 2004.

K Lynn Bennett,

Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf, Central Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 194 (2005) Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for proposed Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Central Planning Area (CPA) Lease Sale 194. In this EA, MMS reexamined the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and its alternatives based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that were not available at the time the Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2003-2007; Central Planning Area Sales 185, 190, 194, 198, and 201; Western Planning Area Sales 187, 192, 196, and 200; Final Environmental Impact Statement; Volumes I and II (Multisale EIS) was completed in November 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. Dennis Chew, telephone (504) 736-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Multisale EIS analyzed the effects of a typical lease sale by presenting a set of ranges for resource estimates, project exploration and development activities, and impact-producing factors for any of the proposed CPA lease sales. The level of activities projected for proposed Lease Sale 194 falls within these ranges. No new significant impacts were identified for proposed Lease Sale 194

that were not already assessed in the Multisale EIS. Proposed CPA Lease Sale 194 is the third CPA lease sale scheduled in the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2002–2007. As a result, MMS determined that a supplemental EIS is not required and prepared a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI).

Public Comments: Interested parties may submit written comments on this EA/FONNSI within 30 days of this Notice's publication to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394. Comments should be enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on CPA Lease Sale 194 EA/FONNSI." You may also send comments to the MMS e-mail address: environment@mms.gov. All comments received will be considered in the decisionmaking process for CPA Lease Sale 194.

EA Availability: To obtain a copy of the EA, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394 (1–800–200–GULF). You may also view the EA on the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>.

Dated: September 13, 2004.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

[FR Doc. 04–24761 Filed 11–4–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf, Eastern Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 197 (2005) Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for proposed Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Eastern Planning Area (EPA) Lease Sale 197. In this EA, MMS reexamined the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and its alternative based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that were not available at the time the Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 189 and

197; Eastern Planning Area; Final Environmental Impact Statement; Volumes I and II (Multisale EIS) was completed in May 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394, Mr. Dennis Chew, telephone (504) 736–2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Multisale EIS analyzed the effects of a typical lease sale by presenting a set of ranges for resource estimates, project exploration and development activities, and impact-producing factors for either of the proposed EPA lease sales. The level of activities projected for proposed Lease Sale 197 falls within these ranges. No new significant impacts were identified for proposed Lease Sale 197 that were not already assessed in the Multisale EIS. Proposed EPA Lease Sale 197 is the second EPA lease sale scheduled in the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2002–2007. As a result, MMS determined that a supplemental EIS is not required and prepared a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI).

Public Comments: Interested parties may submit written comments on this EA/FONNSI within 30 days of this Notice's publication to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394. Comments should be enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on EPA Lease Sale 197 EA/FONNSI." You may also send comments to the MMS e-mail address: environment@mms.gov. All comments received will be considered in the decisionmaking process for EPA Lease Sale 197.

EA Availability: To obtain a copy of the EA, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394 (1–800–200–GULF). You may also view the EA on the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov>.

Dated: September 13, 2004.

Chris C. Oynes,

Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 194 in the Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the proposed notice of sale for proposed sale 194.

SUMMARY: The MMS announces the availability of the proposed Notice of Sale for proposed Sale 194 in the Central GOM OCS. This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 256.29(c) as a matter of information to the public. With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides the affected States the opportunity to review the proposed Notice. The proposed Notice sets forth the proposed terms and conditions of the sale, including minimum bids, royalty rates, and rentals.

DATES: Comments on the size, timing, or location of proposed Sale 194 are due from the affected States within 60 days following their receipt of the proposed Notice. The final Notice of Sale will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days prior to the date of bid opening. Bid opening is currently scheduled for March 16, 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Notice of Sale for Sale 194 and a "Proposed Sale Notice Package" containing information essential to potential bidders may be obtained from the Public Information Unit, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394. Telephone: (504) 736–2519.

Dated: November 1, 2004.

R.M. "Johnnie" Burton,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 197 in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (GOM)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.