

Douglas County Regional 10(a)(1)(B) Permit, and no action. The draft EA analyzes the onsite, offsite, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project and all associated development and construction activities and mitigation activities on the Preble's, other threatened or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, geology/soils, land use, water resources, air and water quality, or cultural resources. None of the proposed impacts occur within the riparian corridor. All of the proposed impacts are in upland areas outside of the 100-year floodplain. The Applicant, using the Service's definition of Preble's habitat, has determined that the proposed project would impact approximately 0.294 acres of potential Preble's habitat. The mitigation for the identified impacts may provide a net benefit to the Preble's and other wildlife by improving riparian habitat through planting of additional shrub vegetation.

The Preble's is the only known federally listed species that occurs on site and has the potential to be directly affected by the proposed project. The Applicant has agreed to implement the following measures to minimize and mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take of Preble's:

In order to compensate for the loss of Preble's habitat, a 0.59-acre area in the northeast corner of the property will be preserved and enhanced at a ratio of 2.0 to 1 by planting shrubs.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, the EA/HCP, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of Preble's. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than December 22, 2000.

Dated: November 15, 2000.

**Elliott Sutta,**

*Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-023-00-1310-MQ-029L-241A]

#### Establishment of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Research and Monitoring Advisory Team

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Establishment of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Research and Monitoring Advisory Team

**SUMMARY:** This notice is published in accordance with section 9(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463). Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior has established the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Research and Monitoring Advisory Team. The purpose of the Team will be to advise and assist the Manager of the Bureau of Land Management's Northern Field Office on issues pertaining to the adequacy and appropriateness of mitigative stipulations established in the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision of 1998.

The Team will be comprised of 11 members from the Bureau of Land Management; Minerals Management Service; Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey—Biological Resources Division; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management; oil and gas, or related, industry; nationally or regionally recognized environmental or resource conservation organization; academicians employed in natural resource management or the natural sciences; and the public at large.

The duties of the Team will include identification of research and monitoring needs; recommendations on priorities for these needs; recommendations on standards and guidance as to what constitutes acceptable, valid studies; review of proposals for studies or actions to meet identified needs; review and evaluation of results and interpretations of ongoing and recently completed studies; synthesis of information gained; review of the BLM's mitigation plan for effectiveness and appropriateness; recommendations to the BLM on mitigation plan improvement; and evaluation of the adequacy of compliance with stipulations, determination of the reasons for observed inadequacies, and recommendations for change to the BLM.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. David A. Yokel, Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, (907) 474-2314.

**Certification Statement:** I hereby certify that the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Research and Monitoring Advisory Team is in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities to manage the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: November 6, 2000.

**Bruce Babbitt,**

*Secretary of the Interior.*

[FR Doc. 00-29922 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-056-1430-ES; N-60868]

#### Notice of Realty Action: Segregation Terminated, Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes

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

**ACTION:** Segregation terminated, recreation and public purpose lease/conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada was segregated for exchange purposes on September 10, 1991 under serial number N-54981; on September 9, 1993 under serial number N-57773; on October 19, 1995 under serial number N-60073; on July 23, 1997 under serial number N-61855; and on July 23, 1997 under serial number N-66364. These exchange segregations will be terminated on November 22, 2001. The land has been examined and found suitable for lease/conveyance for recreational or public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). Clark County School District proposes to use the land for a high school.

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 22 S., R. 61 E.,

Sec. 34, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Containing 45.0 acres, more or less, located at Bermuda Road and W. Maryland Parkway.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The lease/conveyance is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest. The lease/patents, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will

contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and will be subject to:

1. Easements in accordance with the Clark County Transportation Plan.

2. Those rights for water pipeline purposes which have been granted to Las Vegas Valley Water District by Permit No. N-61268 under the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

3. Those rights for highway purposes which have been granted to Nevada Department of Transportation by Permit Nev-031066 under the Act of November 9, 1921 (42 Stat. 0216).

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

On November 22, 2000, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws, and disposal under the mineral material disposal laws.

On or before January 8, 2001, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the Las Vegas Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

#### Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a high school. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

#### Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to

the suitability of the land for a high school. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification of the land described in this Notice will become effective on January 22, 2001. The lands will not be offered for lease/conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Dated: November 14, 2000.

**Rex Wells,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Division of Lands, Las Vegas, NV.*

[FR Doc. 00-29797 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-HC-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Exploratory Drilling Activities in Federal Waters Offshore Santa Barbara County, California

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and announcement of public scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Minerals Management Service (MMS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify and assess potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with multiple projects. The projects include the sequential drilling of 5–8 delineation wells from a single mobile offshore drilling unit on existing leases in Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) waters in the Santa Maria Basin and western Santa Barbara Channel. Previously, 28 exploration wells have been drilled in the area where activities are proposed. The purpose of the proposed drilling is to further delineate oil and gas resources on leases or units that have previous commercial discoveries of oil and gas. Delineation wells are a type of exploration well. Notice is hereby given that the public scoping process has been initiated to prepare an EIS that will address the impacts of and alternatives to the proposal. The purpose of the scoping process is to solicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of issues and concerns, including a suitable range of alternatives, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures that should be addressed in

the EIS process. It is anticipated that a draft EIS will be available in Summer 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Questions concerning the draft EIS should be directed to Mr. Maurice Hill, Office of Environmental Evaluation, Pacific OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010-6064; phone 805.389.7815.

#### Background

Pursuant to the OCS Lands Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations at 30 Code of Federal Regulations, § 250.203 (Exploration Plan), the MMS reviews Exploration Plans (EP's) and revisions to those EP's to decide whether those plans or revisions should be approved; should be modified to be consistent with the provisions of the lease, the OCS Lands Act, and the implementing regulations; or should be disapproved. To meet the agency's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), MMS is preparing an EIS that will provide an assessment of the environmental effects of drilling 5–8 delineation wells offshore the Santa Barbara County coast in Federal waters.

#### Proposed Action

In accordance with 30 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 250.110(a)(1) (Suspension of Production or Other Operations), the MMS approved the lease operator's requests for suspension of production or operations and established milestones for the operators to submit revisions to their existing EP's by September 2001. All of the leases on which drilling could occur have EP's that have been previously approved by the MMS and granted consistency by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) according to 15 CFR 930.79. The approved EP's identify proposed well locations that have received CCC consistency concurrence but, to date, have not been drilled. Because a number of years have elapsed since these approvals, the MMS has established milestones for the operators of the leases to update their previously approved EP's through revisions. The EIS will address all the proposed delineation drilling activities on several leases. The multi-project activities will be subject to existing laws, regulations, and other requirements. The activities include sequential drilling of 5–8 delineation wells by a single mobile offshore drilling unit. The operators need the information from these wells to identify oil and gas characteristics, reservoir characteristics, and reservoir extent in