

alternatives. Program objectives for all of the alternatives are based on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Renewable Natural Resources Management Plan (Management Plan) and associated NEPA document published in 1980, and include: (1) Maintaining a manageable feral horse and burro population (75 to 125 horses, 30 to 60 burros) in balance with other wildlife species for the enjoyment of Refuge visitors; (2) stopping range deterioration and improving wildlife habitat and watershed conditions, and reducing impacts on existing water resources; (3) ensuring that the Refuge range provides ample forage for all wildlife populations endemic to the area; and (4) reducing the spread of feral horses and burros into key wildlife areas. Alternative B, the Status Quo Alternative, is the Service's preferred alternative. The alternatives are briefly discussed below.

Alternative A, No Agency Action on Horse and Burro Management. Under Alternative A, the Refuge would discontinue the ongoing program of horse and burro population management. Program objectives from the 1980 Management Plan would not be met. Program elements such as gathering, providing interim care for and adoptions of the Refuge's horses and burros would no longer be conducted. Without any control, horse and burro populations on the Refuge could double approximately every four years, severely impacting Refuge lands, water sources, wildlife habitats and associated fish, wildlife and plant populations, and posing a safety risk along major public roads. Implementation of this alternative would likely prevent the Refuge from being managed to achieve the purposes for which it was established. The environmental effects of this alternative contrast with those of the three action-based alternatives; B, C, and D.

Alternative B, Status Quo. Under Alternative B, the Refuge's current horse and burro management program would continue until a CCP has been completed for the Refuge. Implementing this alternative would include minor improvements to the program through an adaptive management process. This alternative would place horses and burros up for adoption through several private adoption agents. Agents are screened and certified based on adequate facilities, appropriate knowledge on horse care and handling, successful record of prior horse adoptions, and interviews with character witnesses and a veterinarian. The adoption agents would screen potential homes for the horses and

burros, care for them in the intervening time, and coordinate transportation. The horses and burros would be shipped to the agents from the Refuge and then transported to their adopted homes. Refuge staff would use three methods to gather horses and burros: (1) Corrals set with bait (such as hay) to draw in burros; (2) horseback riders to herd horses into corrals; and (3) helicopters to herd horses into corrals. Management of horses and burros consumes staff time and funding, detracting from the Refuge's ability to conduct other programs necessary to achieve Refuge purposes as well as Refuge management objectives associated with native wildlife species and wildlife dependant public use. However, implementation of Alternative B would best accomplish current management objectives for horse and burro management and would be the most cost effective program.

Alternative C, Adoption of Horses and Burros through Individuals. Under Alternative C, Refuge staff would: screen individuals and organizations for suitability for potential adoption of gathered horses and burros; care for them until they are picked up by the adopter; coordinate brand inspections; secure health certificates; and facilitate transportation. Other aspects of the program would be the same as under Alternative B. Refuge staff would use three methods to gather horses and burros: (1) Corrals set with bait to draw in burros; (2) horseback riders to herd horses into corrals; and (3) helicopters to herd horses into corrals. Implementing this Alternative would require allocation of more staff time and resources which would detract from other Refuge programs, such as facility maintenance, working and meeting with the public, wildlife monitoring and studies, range and fire management, and law enforcement.

Alternative D, Conduct Horse and Burro Gathering by Bait and Horseback Techniques Only. Under Alternative D, using wranglers on horseback only to gather horses and burros is proposed, rather than using both helicopters and horseback. In addition, burros would be drawn into corrals with bait. An adoption agent would screen and select the adopters to ensure good homes, and care for the horses and burros in the intervening time. This Alternative, using bait and horseback gathering only, would be less efficient and less effective than using both helicopters and horseback riders. This approach would delay completion of the gather and achievement of other Refuge conservation objectives. Selection of this alternative would allow impacts from horse and burro populations to

continue for longer periods, and reduce funds available for other Refuge management and operations.

Public Comments

Public comments are requested on the draft Environmental Assessment for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Horse and Burro Management Program and its evaluation of the environmental effects of the four alternatives. Comments on the draft EA will be analyzed and addressed in final documents. All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record available for public review. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Freedom of Information Act, NEPA regulations, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures.

Dated: April 11, 2007.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR 038-1220-AL-24-1A; HAG07-0036]

Call for Nominations for National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: This notice is to request nominations for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board. The seven member terms on the Board expired December 29, 2006. The Board provides advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on resource management issues associated with the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

DATES: Submit completed nomination forms and nomination letters to the address listed below no later than May 17, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Applications are available from, and candidates should send nominations to: Pam Robbins, OR-912, Bureau of Land Management, (pam_robbins@blm.gov), P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208, (503) 808-6306.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Robbins, (503) 808-6306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Individuals and organizations may

nominate themselves or one or more other persons to serve on the Interpretive Center Advisory Board. Council members serve two year terms. Meetings are usually held quarterly, or as needed to accomplish Board business. Nomination forms can be obtained from the BLM, (see address above). Nominations must include a completed nomination form, letter(s) of reference from the interests or organizations the nominee intends to represent, and other material showing the nominee's qualifications. The letter of nomination and the nomination form should identify the category the nominee would like to represent. Membership on the Board will be balanced among the following interest categories:

- (1) Federal, county and local governments;
- (2) The local business community;
- (3) Trail advocacy groups; and
- (4) The public-at-large.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board advises the BLM on the management of the Center. Each member will be a person who, as a result of training and experience, has knowledge or special expertise that qualifies them to provide advice from among the categories of interest listed above. Members serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for government employees.

Kathy Eaton,

Associate State Director, Oregon/Washington BLM.

[FR Doc. E7-7264 Filed 4-16-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Coastal Impact Assistance Program Allocations, Fiscal Years 2007-2008

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of recipient allocation amounts for fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is issuing this notice to advise the public of the availability of the individual allocation amounts available to each of the 73 eligible recipients of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The amounts are an important piece of information to be used by the States and Coastal Political Subdivisions in the completion of CIAP grant applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Colleen Benner, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4040, Herndon, Virginia 20170. You may also contact Ms. Benner by telephone at (703) 787-1710.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Act) has created CIAP by amending Section 31 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356(a)). Under the provisions of the Act, the authority and responsibility for the management of CIAP is vested in the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary). The Secretary has delegated this authority and responsibility to MMS. In the February 16, 2007, continuing resolution, Congress approved a 3 percent appropriation of the CIAP funds to be used by MMS to administer the program. Under Section 384 of the Act, MMS shall disburse \$250 million for each fiscal year 2007 through 2010 to eligible producing States (State) and coastal political subdivisions (CPS). The funds allocated to each State are based on the proportion of qualified Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues offshore the individual State to total qualified OCS revenues from all States. In order to receive CIAP funds, States are required to submit a coastal impact assistance plan (Plan) that MMS must approve prior to disbursing any funds. All funds shall be disbursed through a grant process. The guidance has been developed by MMS to provide the information necessary for States to develop a Plan and submit it to MMS. The allotment amounts and guidelines may be found on the MMS Web site at <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/CIAPmain.htm>.

Dated: March 28, 2007.

R. M. "Johnnie" Burton,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice on Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: List of restricted joint bidders.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Minerals Management Service by the joint bidding provisions of 30 CFR 256.41, each entity within one of the following groups shall be restricted from bidding with any entity in any other of the

following groups at Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales to be held during the bidding period May 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007. The List of Restricted Joint Bidders published in the **Federal Register** December 5, 2006 covered the period November 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

Group I

Exxon Mobil Corporation
ExxonMobil Exploration Company

Group II

Shell Oil Company
Shell Offshore Inc.
SWEPI LP
Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.
Shell Consolidated Energy Resources Inc.
Shell Land & Energy Company
Shell Onshore Ventures Inc.
Shell Offshore Properties and Capital II, Inc.
Shell Rocky Mountain Production LLC
Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc.

Group III

BP America Production Company
BP Exploration & Production Inc.
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

Group IV

TOTAL E&P USA, Inc.

Group V

Chevron Corporation
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
Chevron Midcontinent, L.P.
Unocal Corporation
Union Oil Company of California
Pure Partners, L.P.

Group VI

ConocoPhillips Company
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
ConocoPhillips Petroleum Company
Phillips Pt. Arguello Production Company
Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP
Burlington Resources Offshore Inc.
The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company
Inxeco Oil Company

Group VII

Eni Petroleum Co. Inc.
Eni Petroleum U.S. LLC
Eni Oil U.S. LLC
Eni Marketing Inc.
Eni BB Petroleum Inc.
Eni U.S. Operating Co. Inc.
Eni BB Pipeline LLC

Group VIII

Petrobras America Inc.