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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY–100–07–1610–DP]

Supplement to Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pinedale Field Office To List Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Specific Associated Resource Use Limitations for Public Lands in Sublette and Lincoln Counties, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: A notice of availability for the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pinedale Field Office planning area in Sublette and Lincoln Counties, Wyoming was published in the **Federal Register**, volume 72, number 32, on February 16, 2007. This supplements that Notice with information on existing and potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) considered within the Draft RMP and EIS and also provides a 60-day comment period on the proposed ACECs as required by 43 CFR 1610.7–2.

DATES: The comment period will commence with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and end 60 days after its publication.

ADDRESSES: Comments on ACECs and resource use limitations (found on pages 2–106–2–110 and 2–153–2–155) must be received within 60-days of the date of publication of this notice. Written comments must be submitted as follows:

1. Comments may be provided via the Pinedale RMP Revision Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale*. The Web site is designed to allow commenter to submit comments electronically by resource subject directly onto a comment form posted on the Web site. Comments may be uploaded in an electronic file to the above Web site. Whenever possible, please include reference to either the page or section in the Draft RMP/EIS to which the ACEC-related comment applies. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, the BLM encourages commenters to submit comments in an electronic format though the Web site.

2. Written comments may be mailed or delivered to the BLM at: Pinedale RMP EIS, BLM Pinedale Field Office, 1625 W. Pine St., P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. All postal mail must be addressed to the post office box.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kellie Roadifer, Pinedale RMP Team Leader, BLM Pinedale Field Office, 1625 W. Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941; or by telephone at 307–367–5309.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft RMP/EIS addresses four alternatives and provides proposed management decisions and impact analysis of the alternatives. The number and acreages of ACECs that would be designated vary by alternative. The four alternatives include:

1. *Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative):* Continues the existing management strategy;

2. *Alternative 2:* Maximizes the production of resource commodities while providing an adequate level of environmental protection for wildlife habitat and other resource values;

3. *Alternative 3:* Provides a high level of environmental protection for wildlife habitat and other resource values while allowing the production of resource commodities; and

4. *Alternative 4 (BLM Preferred Alternative):* Optimizes the mix of resource outputs, including production of resource commodities and wildlife habitat, while providing an appropriate level of environmental protection for all resources.

There are two ACECs in the existing Pinedale Field Office land use plan: Rock Creek ACEC (5,300 acres) and Beaver Creek ACEC (3,590 acres). There are six potential new ACECs proposed in the Draft RMP/EIS. The ACECs are:

- *Trapper's Point ACEC* (550 acres [Alternative 2], 4,000 acres [Alternative 4], or 9,540 acres [Alternative 3]): Values of concern are big game migration corridors, cultural and historic properties, and livestock trailing. Within this ACEC, fence construction and surface disturbing activities would be prohibited with the exception of activities designed to increase big game migration viability. The ACEC would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing. Off-road vehicle use would be restricted to designated roads and trails and subject to a seasonal closure from November 15 through April 30 annually.
- *New Fork Potholes ACEC* (1,800 acres [Alternatives 3 and 4]): Values of concern are waterfowl, trumpeter swan, and riparian habitats. With the exception of those that would benefit wildlife habitat, surface disturbing activities would be prohibited. The ACEC would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing. Off-road vehicle use would be restricted to designated roads and trails.
- *Upper Green River ACEC* (12,270 acres [Alternative 3]): Values of concern are big game migration routes and migration bottlenecks, and high scenic and recreational values. The ACEC would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing. Off-road vehicle use would be restricted to designated roads and trails, and no net increase in miles of roads would be allowed.
- *White-Tailed Prairie Dog (WTPD) ACEC* (no acreage estimate available, [Alternative 3]): The WTPD ACEC would not have a specific area but would involve a number of townships where WTPD habitat is found in future surveys. The value of concern is habitat for the WTPD. Surveys for WTPD presence would be required prior to authorizing any activities. Anti-raptor perching devices would be required on any above-ground facilities located within ¼ mile of WTPD towns greater than 12.5 acres in size. Surface-disturbing activities would be prohibited in WTPD towns greater than 12.5 acres in size. Off-road vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails. Poisoning of WTPD would be prohibited except in cases of health and safety emergencies.
- *Ross Butte ACEC* (35,670 acres [Alternative 3]): Values of concern are significant cultural resources, archeological landscapes and Native American sacred sites, a unique community of Wyoming sensitive plant species, high-quality paleontological resources, open space and dispersed recreation opportunities, and unique geology and unstable soils. The ACEC would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing and closed to the placement of new communication sites. Off-road vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails. Surface occupancy and disturbance would be prohibited on erosive soils, sensitive plant species habitats, and on slopes greater than 10 percent.
- *CCC Ponds ACEC* (5,530 acres [Alternative 3]): Values of concern are a wildlife migration bottleneck on a well-defined mule deer migration route and recreational values including a developed, nonmotorized trail system, fishing ponds, and interpretive facilities. The ACEC would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing and would be closed to mineral location and land disposal. Off-highway vehicle use

would be limited to designated roads and trails.

Alternative 1 proposes to maintain the status of the two existing ACECs identified in the 1988 Pinedale RMP. Alternative 2 proposes to eliminate the two existing ACECs, and establish a new ACEC at Trapper's Point (550 acres). Alternative 3 proposes to maintain the existing Rock Creek and Beaver Creek ACECs, and establish all of the new ACECs listed above (6).

As a result of public scoping and the alternative development process, Alternative 4 (Preferred Alternative) proposes to maintain the status of the existing Beaver Creek ACEC, maintain but reduce slightly in size the existing Rock Creek ACEC, and establish two new ACECs at Trapper's Point (4,000 acres) and New Fork Potholes.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and e-mail addresses of respondents will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS were sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and interested parties when the document first became available. Additional copies have been supplied to interested parties on request. There are a limited number of hard copies available upon request. The document was posted electronically, and is still available for public review on the following Web site: *http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale/*. Copies of the Draft RMP EIS are also available for public review at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.
- Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 1625 W. Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Robert A. Bennett,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The OCS Policy Committee will meet at the Washington Dulles Crowne Plaza Hotel in Herndon, Virginia.

DATES: Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, March 6, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Washington Dulles Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2200 Centreville Road, telephone (703) 471–6700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jeryne Bryant at Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4001, Herndon, Virginia 20170–4187. She can be reached by telephone at (703) 787–1211 or by electronic mail at *jeryne.bryant@mms.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OCS Policy Committee represents the collective viewpoint of coastal states, local government, environmental community, industry and other parties involved with the OCS Program. It provides policy advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the MMS on all aspects of leasing, exploration, development, and protection of OCS resources.

The agenda for Wednesday, March 5 will cover the following principal subjects:

Status of the 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Results to Date. This presentation will provide an update on the 2007–2012 Leasing Program and lease sales results in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. The OCS Policy Committee's 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Subcommittee will also report on its activities and future plans.

A State's Perspective on Alternative Energy. This presentation will provide an opportunity for a non-OCSPC member state to share its alternative energy experience and future plans.

Status of OCS Alternative Energy Program. This presentation will provide an update on the MMS's OCS Alternative Energy Program that has been authorized to manage access and balance competing uses of the OCS while ensuring appropriate environmental safeguards. The OCS Policy Committee's OCS Alternative Energy Subcommittee will also report on its activities and future plans.

State Members' Round Table Discussion of Offshore Energy Issues. State representatives to the OCS Policy Committee will discuss offshore energy development (conventional and alternative) issues from the perspective of their respective states. This session will provide Committee members, MMS representatives, and other participants with a better and more comprehensive understanding of the various issues as perceived by the states and provide an update on their activities.

Importance of OCS to Nation's Future Energy Security. This presentation will examine the contributions the OCS can make towards the production of energy.

Legislative Update. This presentation will address legislative activity pertinent to the OCS program.

Committee Forum. Time has been set aside for the Committee members to have an open discussion on topics of interest in their respective fields.

The agenda for Thursday, March 6 will cover the following principal subjects:

MMS Regional Issues. The Regional Directors will highlight activities off the California and Alaska coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

Status of Marine Minerals Program. This presentation will provide an update on the MMS's Marine Minerals Program. The OCS Policy Committee's Hard Minerals Subcommittee will also report on its activities and future plans.

Ultra Deepwater—Advances in Drilling and Development. This presentation will provide an update on the current state of technology.

Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). This presentation will provide an update on the MMS's responsibilities under GOMESA and highlight issues related to its revenue sharing provision.

OCS Scientific Committee Update. This presentation will address current activities of the OCS Scientific Committee and its subcommittees.

The meeting is open to the public. Approximately 100 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Upon request, interested parties may make oral or written presentations to the OCS Policy Committee. Such requests should be made no later than February 29, 2008, to Jeryne Bryant. Requests to make oral statements should be accompanied by a summary of the statement to be made. Please see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for address and telephone number.

Minutes of the OCS Policy Committee meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at the MMS in Herndon, Virginia.