the receipt of fair value. Because of the unanticipated and excessive unanticipated workload, MMS needs this extension to properly give all high bids a full and appropriate review, to ensure the receipt of fair value. Therefore, we find an extension to assure that adequate time is available to give all high bids a full and appropriate review, to ensure the receipt of fair market value, and ultimately to increase natural gas and oil supplies is warranted and in the public interest. The MMS will complete evaluating all the bids received in this sale by August 22, 1996.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Chris C. Oynes,
Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 157—Extension

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice to extend postsale evaluation period for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157.

SUMMARY: This notice extends by 15 working days to August 12, 1996, the postsale evaluation period for the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 157. Because of the unexpected and unprecedented response to Sale 157, MMS needs this extension to properly evaluate the bids received and to ensure the receipt of fair value.

DATES: The postsale evaluation period ends on August 12, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Marshall Rose, Chief, Economic Evaluation Branch, telephone (703) 787-1536.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The MMS published the lease notice for Sale 157 in the Federal Register on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12078). The time to accept or reject bids is established under the regulations at 30 CFR 256.47. Normally, the authorized officer must accept or reject the high bids within 90 days after the bid opening. Any bid not accepted within that period is deemed rejected. This regulation was recently amended to allow the authorized officer authority to extend the time period for 15 working days or longer when circumstances warrant (61 FR 34730, dated July 3, 1996). In amending the rule, we noted that recent examples include floods and furloughs; but specifically stated that other circumstances, such as an excessive unanticipated workload, might arise which could warrant the need for a longer time for bid evaluation.

In the Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 157, held April 24, 1996, we received 1,381 bids on 924 tracts, 632 of which passed to Phase 2 for detailed reviews. This unprecedented response by industry in Sale 157 resulted from the enactment of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (Pub. L. 104–58) and other factors, such as higher natural gas and oil prices. Consequently, MMS is unable to conduct and complete the entire bid review process within the 90 days, i.e., by July 22, 1996. Without an extension before the 90 days expire for Sale 157, dozens of high bids received on tracts offered in this sale might be rejected because of our inability to complete the statutorily mandated review for fair market value. The alternative of rejecting high bids not evaluated because of insufficient time does not serve the overall best interest of the companies or the Government. Therefore, we find an extension to assure that adequate time is available to give all high bids a full and appropriate review, to ensure the receipt of fair market value, and ultimately to increase natural gas and oil supplies is warranted and in the public interest. The MMS will complete evaluating all the bids received in this sale by August 22, 1996.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Chris C. Oynes,
Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

National Park Service

Channel Islands National Park; Santa Rosa Island Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Resources Management Plan; Notice of Extended Comment Period

EXTENSION FOR COMMENTS: The comment period for the Santa Rosa Island Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Resources Management Plan (DEIS) was originally scheduled to end on July 23, 1996. In deference to public interest expressed to date, the National Park Service is extending the comment period for the DEIS for 45 more days. Written comments and suggestions now must be received no later than September 9, 1996. Comments or/and requests for copies of the DEIS should be addressed to the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

PUBLIC MEETING: To facilitate public review and comment regarding the DEIS, a public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 1996. This public meeting will be held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, beginning at 9 a.m. In addition to oral comments, written responses to the DEIS may also be submitted at the meeting. Additional information may be obtained by phoning the park at (805) 658–5700.

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Stanley T. Albright,
Field Director, Pacific West Area.

Cleetwood Cove Development Concept Plan/Environment Impact Statement, Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environment Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Due to water levels dropping in Crater Lake, in June 1992, the National Park Service began studies for the redesign of boat docking facilities at the base of the Cleetwood Cove trail. The studies included the possibility of repair and/or replacement of facilities at the trail head, and the replacement of old and decaying retaining walls along the trail. As the studies progressed, it became clear that the project had potential for significant environmental impacts so a decision was made to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the various alternatives.

Scoping is the term given to the process by which the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS is identified. Representatives of Federal, State and local agencies, American Indian tribes, private organizations and individuals from the general public who may be interested in or affected by the proposed EIS are invited to participate in the scoping process by responding to this Notice with written comments. In addition, a letter seeking ideas on issues involved with this project will be...
Notice of Availability of Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) that describes and analyzes a proposal and two alternatives for the future management, use, and development of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

The Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument was released for public review on November 17, 1995 (60 FR 222, p. 57716; 60 FR 229, p. 61270). The public review period was extended to 113 days, ending March 8, 1996 (61 FR 25, p. 4483; 61 FR 42, p. 8061). A total of 63 letters of comment were received during the review period, and a total of 60 people participated in public meetings in Hagerman, Twin Falls, and Boise, Idaho.

Because of the nature of the comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS, the Final GMP/EIS was prepared in an abbreviated format pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 1503.4. To substantially reduce printing costs, the full text of the draft document has not been reprinted, and the Final GMP/EIS must be used as a companion document with the draft. The Final GMP/EIS responds to public comments and includes copies of the comment letters, clarifying text changes in response to the public comments, and factual corrections. Changes made in the Final GMP/EIS (a) clarify important points regarding hunting, road and trail access, and other issues, and (b) delete services or facilities from the proposed action that can be accomplished through partnerships or the private sector and therefore will not require federal funds, further reducing costs.

Based upon the analysis contained in the Draft GMP/EIS, and taking into account all the comments received during the public review, alternative 2 remains the proposed action. As described in the Draft GMP/EIS and modified somewhat in the Final GMP/EIS, alternative 2 along with statements of the purpose and significance of the monument, management objectives, desired future conditions, management zoning, and interpretive themes constitutes the proposed General Management Plan for the monument. Alternative 2 would provide a plan for comprehensively meeting the monument's legislative mandate to provide a center for paleontological research and education, including the construction of a fully functional research center and museum. The National Park Service would perform professional research, educational, and resource management functions as peers and partners with various persons, institutions, and organizations that would help to staff, fund, equip, and implement these functions.

Two other alternatives were examined in detail. The no-action alternative would continue the present course of action with only minor changes from existing conditions. It would provide only for basic resource stewardship and limited interpretation functions and would not meet the monument's legislative mandate. In alternative 1, the present course of action would change only as much as necessary to meet the minimum requirements of the monument's legislative mandate. A research center and museum would be built and operated at a basic level, but most research and education functions would depend on non-NPS sources.

Major impact topics assessed for the proposed action and the alternatives include natural and cultural resources (including paleontological resources), the socioeconomic environment, facilities and infrastructure, access, visitor experience, National Park Service programs, and cumulative effects.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The no-action period on this Final GMP/EIS will extend for 30 days from the date the notice of availability is published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register. After the 30-day period, a Record of Decision is expected to be signed by NPS representatives. The responsible officials are Pacific West Area Field Director Stanley Albright, Deputy Field Director William Walters, and Superintendent Neil King.

For copies of the Final GMP/EIS or for further information, please contact: Superintendent, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, P.O. Box 570, 221 N. State Street, Hagerman, Idaho 83332; telephone (208) 837-4793. Copies will also be available at: Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC; at National Park Service, Columbia-CASCADES System Support Office, 909 First Ave., Seattle, WA; and at public libraries in the Hagerman area.

Dated: July 11, 1996.
William C. Walters,
Deputy Field Director, Pacific West Area, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 96–18365 Filed 7–18–96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–70–P