

Dated: March 18, 1997.

Jo Simpson,

Assistant District Manager, External Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-7534 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

[CO-934-97-5700-00; COC56821]

Colorado; Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease COC56821, Huerfano County, Colorado, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from September 1, 1996, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms or rental and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee for the lease and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, (30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e)), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective September 1, 1996, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Patti Gillard of the Colorado State Office (303) 239-3777.

Dated: March 18, 1997.

Patti Gillard,

Land Law Examiner, Oil and Gas Management Team.

[FR Doc. 97-7801 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

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[MT-923-07-1020-04-WEED]

Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules To Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage or Pelletized Feed on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management-administered Lands in Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Montana State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a requirement that BLM visitors in Montana use certified noxious weed seed free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed

when visiting BLM-administered lands in Montana. This requirement will affect visitors who use hay, grain, cubes, straw or pelletized feed on the BLM-administered lands in Montana such as: recreationists using pack and saddle stock, ranchers with grazing permits, outfitters, and contractors who use straw or other mulch for reseeding or erosion control purposes. These individuals or groups would be required to purchase certified noxious weed seed free forage products, for use while on BLM-administered lands in Montana.

DATES: The comment period ends on April 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Director (923), USDI Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Noxious weeds are a serious problem in the western United States. Species like leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, and many others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to keep their populations in balance. Consequently, these undesirable weeds invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity, and destroy wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Furthermore, noxious weed invasions weaken reforestation efforts, reduce forage for domestic and wild ungulates occasionally irritate public land users by aggravating allergies and other ailments, and threaten federally protected plants and animals.

To curb the spread of noxious weeds, a growing number of western states have jointly developed noxious weed-free forage certification standards and, in cooperation with various federal, state, and county agencies, passed weed management laws. Because hay and other forage products containing noxious weed seed are part of the infestation problem, Montana has developed a state forage inspection-certification-identification process; participates in a regional inspection-certification-identification process; and encourages forage producers to grow noxious weed seed free products.

In cooperation with the State of Montana, and the Forest Service as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, the BLM is proposing—for all BLM-administered lands within Montana—a ban on hay, straw, mulch, cubes or pellets that have not been certified. This proposal includes a public information plan to

ensure that: (1) this ban (a.d.a. closure order) is well publicized and understood; and (2) BLM visitors will know where they can purchase state-certified hay or other products.

These supplementary rules will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The principal author of these proposed supplementary rules is Hank McNeel, Weed Management Specialist, BLM Montana State Office.

For the reasons stated above, under the authority of 43 CFR 8365.1-6, the BLM Montana State Office, proposes supplementary rules to read as follows: Supplementary Rules to Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage on BLM-Administered Lands in Montana:

(a)(1) To prevent the spread of weeds on BLM-administered lands in Montana, effective May 20, 1997, all BLM lands within the State of Montana, at all times of the year, shall be closed to possessing or storing hay, straw, or mulch that has not been certified as free of noxious weed seed.

(2) Certification must be by an authorized State Department of Agriculture official or designated county official.

(3) The following persons are exempt from this order: anyone with a permit signed by BLM's authorized officer at the BLM Resource Area Office specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission within that area.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of these supplemental rules regarding the use of noncertified noxious weed seed free hay, straw, mulch, cubes or pellets when visiting BLM-administered lands in Montana without authorization required, may be commanded to appear before a designated United States magistrate and may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 12 months, or both, as defined in 43 U.S.C. 1733(a).

Dated: March 14, 1997.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-7753 Filed 3-26-97; 8:45 am]

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Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.