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

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, 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. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the District Manager, Las Vegas District, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for the senior, middle, and elementary schools. 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 lands for school sites.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 4, 1998.

Mark R. Chatterton,

Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 98–3683 Filed 2–12–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–960–1990–00]

Resource Management Plan Amendment, Jefferson County, Whitetail/Pipestone Area, Montana

AGENCY: Butte District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) Travel Plan Amendment in cooperation with the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks that establishes comprehensive program guidance for the use of motorized vehicles within the Whitetail/Pipestone Management Area.

SUMMARY: The Headwaters Resource Area is initiating an RMP Amendment/Environmental Assessment to evaluate the effects of alternative strategies for managing motorized vehicle uses on public lands in the Whitetail/Pipestone area. This area is bordered on the west by I–15, running from Butte to Boulder, on the east by the Whitetail road running from Boulder to Whitehall, and on the south by Highway 2 running from Whitehall to Butte. Issues that are anticipated are: numbers of motorized users (ATVs and motorcycles) and their effect on grazing, soils (water quality), wildlife, non-motorized recreation users, and cultural values. Range, wildlife, cultural, soils and recreation resources will be analyzed for impacts.

It is planned that changes to existing RMP direction will not have significant effects and therefore Category 1 amendment procedures will be utilized at the onset.

This area-specified plan will be jointly prepared and implemented with the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest with input from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Its primary goal will be to provide quality motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities that are compatible with established management objectives for the area. Issue development and alternative analysis is being coordinated with all interested/affected individuals, interest groups and government agencies.

DATES: Public scoping is underway and alternative development will continue into winter. Field trips have been held in the past. The existing condition and alternatives will be sent to interested participants this winter with a decision planned for the fall of 1998. The final travel plan amendment is scheduled for public review in November 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, Butte District Office, Darrell L. McDaniel, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, MT 59702, telephone (406) 494–5059.

Orval T. Hadley,

Associate District Manager.

[FR Doc. 98–3688 Filed 2–12–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DN–P–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico; Notice of Leasing Systems, Sale 169

Section 8(a)(8) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8)) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that, at least 30 days before any lease sale, a Notice be submitted to the Congress and published in the **Federal Register**:

1. Identifying the bidding systems to be used and the reasons for such use; and

2. Designating the tracts to be offered under each bidding system and the reasons for such designation.

This notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. *Bidding systems to be used.* In the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 169, blocks will be offered under the following two bidding systems as authorized by section 8(a)(1) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)), as amended: (a) Bonus bidding with a fixed 16⅔ percent royalty on all unleased blocks in less than 200 meters of water; and (b)(i) bonus bidding with a fixed 16⅔-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in 200 to 400 meters of water with potential for a royalty suspension volume of up to 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent; (ii) bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in 400 to 800 meters of water with potential for a royalty suspension volume of up to 52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent; and (iii) bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in water depths of 800 meters or more with potential for a royalty suspension volume of up to 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent.

For bidding systems (b)(i), (ii), and (iii), the royalty suspension allocation rules are described in the Interim Rule (30 CFR Part 260) addressing royalty relief for new leases that was published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12022).

a. *Bonus Bidding with a 16⅔-Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA. This system has been used extensively since the passage of the OCSLA in 1953 and imposes greater risks on the lessee than systems with higher contingency payments but may yield more rewards if a commercial field is discovered. The relatively high front-end bonus payments may encourage rapid exploration.

b.(i) *Bonus Bidding with a 16⅔-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. This system complies with Sec. 304 of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA). An incentive for development and production in water depths of 200 to 400 meters is provided through allocating royalty suspension volumes of 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent to eligible fields.

b.(ii) *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 400 to 800 meters proposed for the Central Gulf of Mexico (Sale 169) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The 12½-percent royalty rate is used in deeper water because these blocks are expected to require substantially higher exploration, development, and production costs, as well as longer times before initial production, in comparison to shallow-water blocks. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for this water depth category.

b.(iii) *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 800 meters or more proposed for the Central Gulf of Mexico (Sale 169) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for these deep-water depths.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* The selection of blocks to be offered under the four systems was based on the following factors:

a. Royalty rates on adjacent, previously leased tracts were considered to enhance orderly development of each field.

b. Blocks in deep water were selected for the 12½-percent royalty system based on the favorable performance of this system in these high-cost areas in past sales.

c. The royalty suspension volumes were based on the water depth specific volumes mandated by the DWRRA.

The specific blocks to be offered under each system are shown on the ''Lease Terms, Bidding Systems, and Royalty Suspension Areas, Sale 169'' map for Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 169. This map is available from the Public Information Unit, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394.

Approved:

Thomas A. Readinger,

Acting Associate Director, Minerals Management Service.

Dated: February 6, 1998.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 98–3531 Filed 2–12–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Central Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 169

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service.

ACTION: Final notice of sale.

1. *Authority.* The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is issuing this Final Notice of Sale under the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331–1356, as amended) and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR Part 256).

A ''Sale Notice Package,'' containing this Notice and several supporting and essential documents referenced in the Notice, is available from the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Public Information Unit (see paragraph 15 of this Notice).

2. *Filing of Bids.* Bidders must comply with the following requirements. Times specified hereafter are local New Orleans times unless otherwise indicated.

(a) *Filing of Bids.* Sealed bids must be received by the Regional Director (RD), Gulf of Mexico Region, MMS, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) until the Bid Submission Deadline at 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 1998. If the RD receives bids later than the time and date specified above, he will return the bids unopened to bidders. Bidders may not modify or withdraw their bids unless the RD receives a written modification or written withdrawal request prior to 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 1998.

(b) *Bid Opening Time.* Bid Opening Time will be 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana. The MMS published a list of restricted joint bidders, which applies to this sale, in the **Federal Register** at 62 FR 52771, on October 9, 1997.

(c) *Natural Disasters.* In the event of widespread flooding or other natural disaster, the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office may extend the bid submission deadline. Bidders may call (504) 736–0537 for information about the possible extension of the bid submission deadline due to such an event.

3. *Method of Bidding.*

(a) *Submission of Bids.* For each tract bid upon, a bidder must submit a separate signed bid in a sealed envelope labeled ''Sealed Bid for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 169, not to be opened until 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 1998.'' The total amount bid must be in a whole dollar amount, any cent amount above the whole dollar will be ignored by the MMS. Details of the information required on the bid(s) and the bid envelope(s) are specified in the document ''Bid Form and Envelope'' contained in the Sale Notice Package (see paragraph 15 of this Notice).

Bidders are advised that the MMS considers the signed bid to be a legally binding obligation on the part of the bidder(s) to comply with all applicable regulations, including paying the ⅕th bonus on all high bids. A statement to this effect will be included on each bid (see the document ''Bid Form and Envelope'' contained in the Sale Notice Package).

Bidders must execute all document in conformance with signatory authorizations on file in the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office. Partnerships also must submit or have on file a list of signatories authorized to bind the partnership. Bidders submitting joint bids must state on the bid form the proportionate interest of each participating bidder, in percent to a maximum of five decimal places, e.g., 33.33333 percent. The MMS may require bidders to submit other documents in accordance with 30 CFR 256.46. The MMS warns bidders against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860 prohibiting unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders.

(b) *Submission of the ⅕th Bonus Payment.* Bidders must submit the ⅕th cash bonus using one of the following options: