

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.

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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.

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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 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent royalty on all unleased blocks in less than 200 meters of water; and (b)(i) bonus bidding with a fixed 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -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 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -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 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -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 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -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