

than the estimated fair market value to be established by appraisal. The City of Glendale proposes to use the lands for an expansion to the already existing landfill operation. The land will not be offered for sale for at least 60 days after the date of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona**

T. 2 N., R. 1 W.,  
Sec. 1, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 80 acres in Maricopa County.

The land described above is hereby segregated from appropriation under the public land laws including the mining laws, pending disposition of this action or 270 days from the date of publication of this notice, whichever occurs first. It has been determined that there are no known mineral values, therefore the mineral interests shall be determined suitable for sale under Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2727; 43 U.S.C. 1719) and may be conveyed simultaneously.

The conveyance document, when issued, will contain certain reservations to the United States and will be subject to any existing rights-of-way and any other valid existing rights. Detailed information concerning this sale is available for review at the Phoenix Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the Field Office Manager, Phoenix Field Office, at the above address.

In the absence of timely objections, this proposal shall become the final determination of the Department of the Interior.

Dated: July 14, 1998.

**Sandra R. Nelson,**

*Acting Assistant Field Manager, Support Services.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[AZ-010-98-1150-00]

**Arizona: Amend the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan, Arizona**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice to amend.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management has proposed to amend the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (RMP-1992), to modify RMP decisions to comply with the Endangered Species Act and to achieve the goals and objectives of the recovery plan for the Mojave population of desert tortoises, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened. Since the signing of the Record of Decision for the RMP, critical habitat has been designated, and the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (1994) has been approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

This amendment also addresses conservation and recovery of three other species federally listed as endangered: southwestern willow flycatcher, Virgin River chub, and woundfin minnows. Management of Virgin River chub and woundfin were addressed in the 1992 RMP. The RMP did not address southwestern willow flycatchers because the listing of southwestern willow flycatchers as endangered did not occur until 1995, after the RMP was finalized. Critical habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers was designated in 1997.

The proposed Decision Record documents approval of an amendment to the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan. This amendment supercedes decisions in the RMP. Decisions contained in the amendment apply only to areas that are: within desert tortoise habitat as categorized by the Bureau in the RMP; within critical habitat as designated by USFWS; within any one of the four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); or within pastures of livestock grazing allotments containing tortoise habitat (including portions of Nevada and Lake Mead NRA that are administered by the Arizona Strip BLM).

The proposed decision is to implement the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment AZ-010-95-01, with additional terms and conditions from USFWS biological opinion 2-21-96-F-132. The Proposed Action is designed to address tortoise recovery goals and objectives while reducing impacts on local communities and human activities that occur in the Mojave Desert.

BLM is proposing to designate three ACECs encompassing 169,300 acres (264.5 sq. miles) to be managed primarily for recovery of desert tortoises, and modify the prescriptions for the Virgin River ACEC (8,100 acres). Beaver Dam Slope ACEC: This would expand the existing ACEC to include tortoise habitat on public lands in Arizona north of I-15 and the Virgin

River but outside the Beaver Dam Wilderness Area, as categorized in the RMP. This area would complement management in Nevada and Utah and contain approximately 51,400 acres (80.3 sq. miles) in Arizona.

**Virgin Slope ACEC:** This area would include most tortoise habitat on public lands in Arizona between the Virgin River (or I-15) and the Virgin Mountains, as categorized in the RMP. A small portion of the Mesquite Community Allotment in Nevada would be managed consistent with the ACEC. This ACEC would contain approximately 41,375 acres (64.6 sq. miles) in Arizona.

**Pakoon ACEC:** This would include tortoise habitat on public lands in the Pakoon Basin. This area would contain approximately 76,525 acres (119.6 sq. miles). Activities administered by the Arizona Strip on Lake Mead NRA and on public lands in Nevada would be managed in accordance with ACEC prescriptions. This ACEC would be closed to livestock grazing.

**Virgin River ACEC:** There would be no change in the boundary of this ACEC (8,100 ac), although prescriptions would be modified to be consistent with the tortoise ACECs. BLM proposes to manage the following resources to reduce impacts on listed species and their habitats: mineral exploration and development, fire suppression, livestock grazing, vegetation harvest, lands and realty, transportation and access, off-highway vehicles, recreation, wild, free-roaming burros, wildlife management, and other surface-disturbing activities (such as military maneuvers and airports). Outside of the four ACECs there would be no change to decisions in the RMP, except that grazing would be managed in accordance with the grazing decisions issued August 11, 1995.

Management of the ACECs would be consistent with the recommendations found in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Land use prescriptions within ACECs would affect livestock grazing, lands and realty actions, wild burros, recreation, and other activities.

**DATES:** BLM proposes to implement the proposed action on August 31, 1998. Closure of the Pakoon ACEC to grazing would occur following a two-year notification period.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Protest procedures described in 43 CFR 1610.5-2 give the public an opportunity to seek administrative review of perceived oversights or inadequacies in a proposed plan. Any proposed decision in the resource management plan amendment may be protested. The

protest may only raise issues that were submitted for the record while the plan amendment was being prepared. Any party who has participated in the planning process may file a letter of protest.

For proposed decisions in an EA-level plan amendment, a letter of protest to the Director must be filed within 30 days of this **Federal Register** notice. Letters of protest must be complete and respond to the content requirements established in 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(2).

If you wish to protest the proposed plan amendment, letters of protest must be mailed to: Director, Bureau of Land Management, *Attention:* Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, WO-210/LS-1075, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

The overnight mail address is: Director, Bureau of Land Management, *Attention:* Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator WO-210, 1620 L Street, N.W., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20240 [Phone: 202 452-5110].

Letters of protest must be filed within 30 days of this **Federal Register** notice. To expedite consideration, in addition to the original sent by mail or overnight mail, a copy of the protest may be sent by fax to 202/452-5112 or e-mail to bhudgens@wo.blm.gov

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ray Mapston, Program Manager, BLM Arizona Strip, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790, (435) 688-3200.

**Roger G. Taylor,**  
*Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 171

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**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, August 25, 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, August 25, 1998.

(b) *Bid Opening Time.* Bid Opening Time will be 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 26, 1998, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana (Cabildo Ballrooms A, B, and C). The MMS published a list of restricted joint bidders, which applies to this sale, in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 14473, on March 25, 1998.

(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) 736-0557 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 171, not to be opened until 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 26, 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 must execute all documents 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 1/5th Bonus Payment.* Bidders have the option of submitting the 1/5th cash bonus in cash or by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check with the bid, or by using electronic funds transfer (EFT) procedures. Detailed instructions for submitting the 1/5th bonus payment by EFT are contained in the document "Instructions for Making EFT 1/5th Bonus Payments" included in the Sale Notice Package.

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 1/5th bonus on all high bids. Bidders must include a statement to this effect on each bid (see the document "Bid Form and Envelope" contained in the Sale Notice Package).

#### 4. *Minimum Bid, Yearly Rental, and Bidding Systems.*

The following minimum bid, yearly rental, and bidding systems apply to this sale (the map "Lease Terms, Bidding Systems, and Royalty Suspension Areas, Sale 171" is included in the Sale Notice Package (see paragraph 1)):

**Note:** Example for Calculating Minimum Bid and Rental: If the block bid contains a fraction of an acre (for example, 3,010.2 acres), round up to the next whole acre (3,011 acres) and multiply by the applicable dollar amount to determine the correct minimum bid or rental. In this example, if the established minimum bid for the block is \$25 per acre, the minimum bid for the block would be \$75,275 (3,011 × \$25). If the rental rate for the block is \$5 per acre, the annual rental for the block would be \$15,055 (3,011 × \$5).

(a) *Minimum Bid.* Bidders must submit a cash bonus in the amount of \$25.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof with all bids submitted at this sale.

(b) *Yearly Rental.* All leases awarded on tracts in water depths of 200 meters and greater (i.e., tracts in any of the three royalty suspension areas), as depicted on the map "Lease Terms, Bidding Systems, and Royalty Suspension Areas, Sale 171," will require a yearly rental payment of \$7.50 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.

All leases awarded on other tracts (i.e., those in water depths of less than 200 meters) will provide for a yearly rental payment of \$5.00 per acre or fraction thereof until initial production is obtained.

(c) *Bidding Systems.* After initial production is obtained, leases will require a minimum royalty of the