

Bureau of Land Management in Montana and Wyoming.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will conduct a public hearing on the use of helicopters and motor vehicles to gather wild horses from BLM-administered lands in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, Montana. The hearing will be held at the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Visitor Center, in Lovell, Wyoming, on Thursday, June 26, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Montana Billings Field Office has scheduled wild horse gathering operations to begin no earlier than July 7, 2003, and may continue through September 30, 2003. Concurrently, the Wyoming State Office will conduct a public hearing on the use of helicopters and motor vehicles to gather wild horses from all the BLM Wyoming's Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

The Wyoming BLM proposes to conduct gather operations using helicopters and motorized vehicles during the period starting July 15, 2003, through April 15, 2004. The 2003 schedule of Wyoming gathers has not been set, but will be scheduled based on priority needs. The Wyoming BLM will notify the public in advance of the gathering dates for its HMAs as they are determined.

The Wild, Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Act), as amended (Pub. L. 92-195) provides for the removal of excess wild horses from public land; and for the use of aircraft and motor vehicles by the BLM in all phases of the administration of the Act. The Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 4740.1 requires the BLM authorized officer to conduct a public hearing in the area where such use of helicopters and motorized vehicles is to be made. The June 26, 2003, meeting in Lovell, Wyoming, will serve as the BLM's required hearing addressing all HMAs in the entire State.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Land Management, Billings Field Office, Linda Coates-Markle, PO Box 36800, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59107-6800 and Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, Alan Shepherd, PO Box 1828, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Coates-Markle, Montana BLM State Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, telephone (406) 896-5013. Alan Shepherd, Wyoming BLM State Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, telephone (307) 775-6097.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Montana BLM completed the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Environmental Assessment (EA) and Wild Horse Gather and Removal Plan on April 16, 2003. The Prior Mountain Wild Horse Range EA and associated Plan are available for public review. Copies may be obtained from the above address or by accessing the BLM-MT Web site at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/whb/doc2.html>.

The Wyoming BLM has completed the following EAs and Wild Horse Gather and Removal Plans:

- EA for Wild Horse Gathering Inside and Outside Wild Horse Herd Management Areas and approved in the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for Wild Horse Gathering Inside and Outside Wild Horse Herd Management Areas, July 14, 1999, (WY-040-EA9-041). Also in the EA for Late Winter Gathering of Wild Horses in the Rock Springs Field Office Area and approved in the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Late Winter Gathering of Wild Horses in the Rock Springs Field Office Area. February 16, 2001, (WY-040-01-EA-019), Rock Springs Field Office, Rock Springs, Wyoming; (307) 352-0256.

- Maintaining Viable Populations of Wild Horses on Healthy Rangelands in the Adobe Town HMA in the Rawlins Field Office Jurisdiction (EA No. WY-030-02-EA-007). January 2002, Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming; (307) 328-4200.

Copies of these EAs are available by request from the Field Office that prepared the EA and plan or by accessing the BLM-WY Web site at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/wildhorses/docs.html>.

Dated: May 7, 2003.

Michael Madrid,
Acting State Director.

Dated: May 8, 2003.

Eddie Bateson,
Assistant Field Manager.
[FR Doc. 03-11976 Filed 5-13-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P; 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010-0135).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR part 208—Surety Requirements. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements. The ICR is titled “30 CFR 208.11 (a), (b), (d), and (e)—Surety Requirements (Forms MMS-4071 and MMS-4072).”

DATES: Submit written comments on or before June 13, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1010-0035), 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Mail or hand-carry a copy of your comments to Sharron L. Gebhardt, Regulatory Specialist, Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver, Colorado 80225. If you use an overnight courier service, our courier address is Building 85, Room A-614, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. You may also email your comments to us at mrm.comments@mms.gov. Include the title of the information collection and the OMB Control Number in the “Attention” line of your comment. Also include your name and return address. Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your email, contact Ms. Gebhardt at (303) 231-3211.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharron L. Gebhardt, telephone (303) 231-3211, FAX (303) 231-3781, email Sharron.Gebhardt@mms.gov. You may also contact Sharron Gebhardt to obtain a copy at no cost of the forms and regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR 208.11(a), (b), (d), and (e)—Surety Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0135.

Bureau Form Numbers: Forms MMS-4071 and MMS-4072.

Abstract: The Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for matters relevant to mineral resource development on Federal and Indian

lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 1923) and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1353) is responsible for managing the production of minerals from Federal and Indian lands and the OCS, collecting royalties from lessees who produce minerals, and distributing the funds collected in accordance with applicable laws. MMS performs the royalty management functions for the Secretary.

When the Secretary determines that sufficient need exists among small refining companies to justify taking royalty oil in kind and offering this oil for sale to eligible refiners, small refiners may apply to participate in this sale of Federal royalty oil and follow procedures under which contracts for

the purchase of royalty oil will be awarded. Completed applications to participate in the sale bid proposals, signed contracts, and surety instruments are submitted to MMS.

The application must be complete and timely filed, and applicants for royalty oil may be required to provide a surety instrument with their bid package. This surety instrument may be a Letter of Credit (Form MMS-4071) or a Royalty In Kind Contract Surety Bond (Form MMS-4072), or other acceptable commercial surety.

MMS is requesting OMB's approval to continue to collect this information. Not collecting this information would limit the Secretary's ability to discharge his/her duties. Without the surety protection, the government can lose money if a refiner does not pay for oil he has received. Proprietary information

submitted is protected, and there are no questions of a sensitive nature included in this information collection.

We have also changed the title of this ICR to clarify the regulatory language we are covering under 30 CFR part 208.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 10 purchasers.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: 10 burden hours.

The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. Therefore, we consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

RESPONDENT ANNUAL BURDEN HOUR CHART

30 CFR section	Reporting requirement	Burden hours per response	Annual number of responses	Annual burden hours
208.11(a), (b), (d), and (e)	The eligible purchaser, prior to execution of the contract, shall furnish an "MMS-specified surety instrument," in an amount equal to the estimated value of royalty oil that could be taken by the purchaser in a 99-day period, plus related administrative charges * * *. The purchaser or its surety company may elect not to renew the letter of credit at any monthly anniversary date, but must notify MMS of its intent not to renew at least 30 days prior to the anniversary date * * *. The "MMS-specified surety instrument" shall be in the form specified by MMS instructions or approved by MMS. All surety instruments must be in a form acceptable to MMS and must include such other specific requirements as MMS may require adequately to protect the Government's interests.	1	10	10
Total	10	10

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-hour" Cost Burden: We have identified no "non-hour" cost burdens.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA requires each agency * * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *. Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of

the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

To comply with the public consultation process, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 2002 (67 FR 71979), announcing that we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. We received no comments in response to the notice.

If you wish to comment in response to this notice, you may send your comments to the offices listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days.

Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by June 13, 2003.

Public Comment Policy. We will post all comments in response to this notice on our Web site at http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/InfoColl/InfoColCom.htm. We will also make copies of the comments available for public review, including names and addresses of respondents, during regular business hours at our offices in Lakewood, Colorado. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the public record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you request that we withhold your name and/or address, state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not

consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208–7744.

Dated: April 10, 2003.

Cathy J. Hamilton,

Acting Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 03–11948 Filed 5–13–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010–0154).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements under the Endangered Species Act Biological Opinions, issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) and is titled: “Notices to Lessees and Operators Numbers 2002–G07, 2003–G06, and 2003–G07.”

DATE: Submit written comments by July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elen Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817. If you wish to e-mail comments, the address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference “Information Collection 1010–0154” in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team (703) 787–1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no

cost, of the Notices to Lessees that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Notices to Lessees and Operators Numbers 2002–G07, 2003–G06, and 2003–G07.

OMB Control Number: 1010–0154.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation’s energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

The Department of the Interior, MMS, as a Federal agency, has a continuing affirmative duty to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This includes a substantive duty to carry out any agency action in a manner that is not likely to jeopardize protected species as well as a procedural duty to consult with the FWS and NOAA Fisheries before engaging in a discretionary action that may affect a protected species.

The MMS follows these procedural requirements by conducting formal consultations with FWS and NOAA Fisheries prior to lease sales. Consultations on OCS lease sales 181, 184, and the 5-year multisale (2002–2007) program in the Central and Western Planning Areas of the Gulf of Mexico resulted in no-jeopardy biological opinions from the FWS and NOAA Fisheries. In their biological opinions, NOAA Fisheries determined that some activities associated with the proposed action (lease sale and related exploration, development, and production activities) may adversely affect (harm) sperm whales and sea turtles in the action area and that certain reasonable and prudent measures are necessary to minimize the potential for incidental take of these animals. To be exempt from the prohibitions of Section 9 of the ESA (which prohibits taking listed species), MMS must implement and enforce nondiscretionary terms and conditions. The ESA also requires monitoring and reporting. Monitoring

programs resulting from ESA interagency consultations are designed to (1) detect adverse effects resulting from a proposed action, (2) assess the actual level of incidental take in comparison with the level of anticipated incidental take documented in the biological opinion, (3) detect when the level of anticipated take is exceeded, and (4) determine the effectiveness of reasonable and prudent alternatives and their implementing terms and conditions.

To provide supplementary guidance and procedures, MMS issues Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) on a regional or national basis. Regulation 30 CFR 250.103 allows MMS to issue NTLs to clarify, supplement, or provide more detail about certain requirements. To implement the nondiscretionary terms and conditions of these biological opinions, the MMS issued three NTLs:

- NTL 2002–G07 (Addendum 1)—Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures
- NTL 2003–G06—Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination
- NTL 2003–G07—Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting

The MMS will use the information collected to report annually to NOAA Fisheries the effectiveness of mitigation, any adverse effects of the proposed action, and any incidental take, in accordance with 50 CFR 402.14(i)(3). The MMS engineers, geologists, geophysicists, environmental scientists, and other Federal agencies (FWS, NOAA Fisheries, etc.) also will analyze the information and data collected under these NTLs to better evaluate the potential impacts to listed species and to plan operations in a manner that will further reduce and/or avoid adverse impacts to protected species in the OCS.

On March 26, 2003, the OMB approved our request under emergency processing procedures to collect the information required by these NTLs and assigned OMB Control Number 1010–0154. Emergency processing permits the collection of information for 180 days. This notice announces our intention to request a 3-year extension for this information collection. As the programs in these NTLs develop further, MMS acknowledges there may be some revisions to the collection of information. MMS is now more fully developing the observer training and reporting programs associated with NTL 2002–G07 (Addendum 1), Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures, and with NTL 2003–G07, Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting. MMS is currently working