

important to their culture and religious heritage.

- Evaluate cultural and paleontological resources for possible interpretation, preservation, conservation and enhancement.
- Management decisions will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values of resources and ensure responsiveness to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect multiple use resource principles.
- Address the social and economic impacts of the alternatives.
- Include management direction for public lands managed by BLM.
- Provide for public safety and welfare.

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-30101 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DQ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UTU 6443, UTU 012532, and UTU 0146037]

Opening of National Forest System Lands; Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action.

SUMMARY: Public Land Order No. 7708 partially revoked 3 Public Land Orders and revoked 1 Public Land Order in its entirety. This order opens part of those previously withdrawn lands to mining and opens the remainder to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands and to mining.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 20, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Flynn, BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1345, 801-539-4132.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. Public Land Order No. 7708 (73 FR 31880 (2008)) revoked Public Land Order No. 1391 (22 FR 1003 (1957)) insofar as it affected the lands described below. The United States Forest Service has decided that those previously withdrawn lands, described below, can be opened to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands, including location and entry under the United States mining laws:

Uinta National Forest

Uinta Special Meridian

- T. 1 N., R. 11 W.,
 Sec. 29, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄ and SE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 32, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, and E¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄.
 T. 1 S., R. 11 W.,
 Sec. 23, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄ and SE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄;
 Sec. 26, W¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ and E¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄.

The areas described aggregate 140 acres in Wasatch County.

2. Public Land Order No. 7708 (73 FR 31880 (2008)) revoked Public Land Order Nos. 4060 (31 FR 10033 (1966)), 4567 (34 FR 1139 (1969)), and 4664 (34 FR 8915 (1969)) insofar as they affected the lands described below. The United States Forest Service has decided that those previously withdrawn lands, described below, can be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws:

Uinta National Forest

Uinta Special Meridian

- T. 3 S., R. 12 W.,
 Sec. 23, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, S¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
 Sec. 26, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, N¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, and NW¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄.

Salt Lake Meridian

- T. 4 S., R. 2 E.,
 Sec. 1, all lands West of the 7,600 foot elevation contour in lots 1 and 8 (lands inside the Lone Peak Wilderness).
 T. 10 S., R. 2 E.,
 Sec. 3, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, and NE¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄.
 T. 12 S., R. 2 E.,
 Sec. 20, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, and SW¹/₄NE¹/₄.
 T. 7 S., R. 4 E.,
 Sec. 24, E¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, and NW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄.
 T. 8 S., R. 5 E.,
 Sec. 11, N¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ and SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄.

The areas described aggregate 287 acres in Utah and Wasatch Counties.

3. At 10 a.m. on January 20, 2009, the lands described in Paragraph 1 shall be opened to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands, including location and entry under the United States mining laws and the lands described in Paragraph 2 shall be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of lands described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized.

Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (2000), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Authority: 43 CFR 2091.6.

Dated: December 11, 2008.

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-29891 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UTU 42838]

Opening of National Forest System Lands; Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action.

SUMMARY: Public Land Order No. 7657 partially revoked the Secretarial Order dated December 15, 1906 and revoked the Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1907 in its entirety. This order opens those previously withdrawn lands to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands and to mining.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 20, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Flynn, BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1345, 801-539-4132.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. Public Land Order No. 7657 (71 FR 12712 (2006)) partially revoked the Secretarial Order dated December 15, 1906 and revoked the Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1907, in its entirety. The United States Forest Service has decided that those previously withdrawn lands, described below, can be opened to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands, including location and entry under the United States mining laws:
 a. Secretarial Order dated December 15, 1906.

Dixie National Forest

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 36 S., R. 7 W.,

sec. 7, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄ and NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄.
T. 38 S., R. 8 W.,
sec. 12, lots 3 and 4 and W¹/₂SE¹/₄.
The areas described aggregate approximately 200 acres in Garfield and Kane Counties.

b. Secretarial Order dated July 27, 1907

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 36 S., R. 7 W.,
sec. 8, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ and SW¹/₄;
sec. 17, NW¹/₄.

The area described contains 360 acres in Garfield County.

2. At 10 a.m. on January 20, 2009, the lands described in Paragraph 1 shall be opened to such forms of disposition as may by law be made of National Forest System lands, including location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. Appropriation of lands described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted appropriation, including attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (2000), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acts required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Authority: 43 CFR 2091.6.

Dated: December 11, 2008.

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-29894 Filed 12-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas Oil and Gas Lease Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and announcement of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the proposed Federal actions addressed in this DEIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-055) is to offer for lease areas in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that may contain economically

recoverable oil and natural gas resources. These lease sales would provide qualified bidders the opportunity to bid on certain blocks in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea OCS to gain conditional rights to explore, develop, and produce oil and natural gas.

This DEIS is a draft of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis that will enable the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to make informed decisions on the configuration of the lease sales and the applicable mitigation measures. In the DEIS, the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed sales and alternatives, including projected exploration and development and production activities on the physical, biological, and human environments in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea areas, are analyzed.

The DEIS integrates the biological assessment elements required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (per Section 402.06 of the Act) for species under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DEIS reflects the information in the MMS Biological Assessment and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (dated July 17, 2008) for the bowhead, fin, and humpback whales.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the DEIS, the MMS has examined the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Actions and alternatives. The Proposed Actions (Alternative 2 for each planning area) are to conduct Beaufort and Chukchi Sea OCS Lease Sales 209, 212, 217, and 221 in the years 2010, 2010, 2011, and 2012, respectively. The resource estimates and scenario information included in the DEIS analysis are presented as a range of activities that could be associated with each sale, including exploration seismic surveying, on-lease ancillary activities, exploration and delineation drilling, development and production of OCS oil and natural gas resources, decommissioning, and lease abandonment.

The Proposed Actions combined would offer for lease approximately 13,449 whole and partial blocks (about 73.4 million acres) identified as the program areas in the 2007-2012 5-Year Program. The proposed Chukchi Sea Sale area excludes a zone within 25 miles of the Chukchi Sea coast. Water depths in the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea sale areas vary from approximately 10 meters (33 feet) to approximately 3,800 meters (12,467 feet).

Alternative 1 (No Lease Sale) for each sale area is equivalent to cancellation of a Proposed Action as scheduled in the approved 5-Year Program. The opportunity to discover and develop the estimated oil and gas resources that could have resulted from a Proposed Action would be precluded or postponed, and any potential environmental impacts resulting from a Proposed Action would not occur or would be postponed.

Beaufort Sea Alternative 3 (Barrow Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 15 whole or partial blocks along the Beaufort coastline east of Barrow beginning at the three-mile limit. This alternative was developed to reduce potential impacts to bowhead whale subsistence hunters as well as various wildlife species and associated habitats. Beaufort Sea Alternative 4 (Cross Island Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 41 whole or partial blocks north and east of Cross Island. This alternative was developed to protect a portion of the Nuiqsut Bowhead whale subsistence hunting area. Beaufort Sea Alternative 5 (Eastern Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 80 whole or partial blocks along the coastline east of Kaktovik. This alternative was developed to provide protection for a portion of the Kaktovik's bowhead whale subsistence hunting area. Beaufort Sea Alternative 6 (Deepwater Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 4,357 whole or partial blocks in areas off the continental shelf. This alternative defers areas that are generally deeper than 100 meters.

Chukchi Sea Alternative 3 (Coastal Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 882 whole or partial blocks near the eastern or shoreward edge of the program area. This alternative was developed as the Corridor II deferral for Sale 193 to reduce potential impacts to subsistence hunting. Chukchi Sea Alternative 4 (Ledyard Bay Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding the area comprising approximately 191 whole or partial blocks of the proposed sale area that is within the Ledyard Bay Critical Habitat. This alternative was developed to protect the designated critical habitat area for the federally listed threatened spectacled eider. Chukchi Sea Alternative 5 (Hanna Shoal Deferral) is the Proposed Action excluding an area comprising approximately 241 whole or partial blocks at Hanna Shoal. This