

made to the same tables in Section 3.A of the C&S Form.)

- To accommodate the request proposing additional instructions for questions the NPS will create annotated versions of the forms to provide additional guidance.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility.

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (LWCF Act) (54 U.S.C. 200305 et. seq.) was enacted to help preserve, develop, and ensure access for the public to outdoor recreation opportunities. Among other programs, the LWCF Act provides funds for and authorizes federal assistance to the

States for planning, acquisition, and development of needed land and water areas and facilities for outdoor recreation purposes. In accordance with the LWCF Act, the National Park Service (we, NPS) administers the LWCF State Assistance Program, which provides matching grants to States,

LWCF grants are provided to states (including the 50 states; the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; the District of Columbia; and the Territories of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa) on a matching basis for up to 50 percent of the total project-related allowable costs. Grants to eligible insular areas may be for 100 percent assistance. Payments for all projects are made to the state organization that is authorized to accept and administer funds paid for approved projects. Local units of government participate in the program as sub-grantees of the state with the state retaining primary grant compliance responsibility. The following updates are included as revisions to this collection:

1. *New Requirement—Standard Form SF-429.* In accordance with DOI's regulations at 2 CFR 1402, the SF-429 Real Property Status Report Cover Sheet and Attachment B, Request to Acquire, Furnish, or Improve, is required for projects requesting LWCF assistance for land acquisition. For post-grant completion stewardship reporting, the Cover Sheet and Attachment A, General Reporting are required.

Title of Collection: Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program.

OMB Control Number: 1024-0031.

Form Number: NPS Forms 10-902A, 10-903, 10-904, 10-904A, 10-905 and Standard Form SF429.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: States Governments; the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; the District of Columbia; and the territories of Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 423.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 7,797.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 56,249.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

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.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Phadrea Ponds,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
National Park Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Notice of Availability of the 2024–2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: BOEM is announcing the availability of the Proposed Final Program (PFP) for the 2024–2029 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2024–2029 Program, National OCS Program, or Program), as well as the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the 2024–2029 Program (Final Programmatic EIS).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the 2024–2029 Program process or BOEM's policies associated with this notice, please contact Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief, National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, at (703) 787-1613 or Kelly.Hammerle@boem.gov. For information on the 2024–2029 Final Programmatic EIS, please contact Jennifer Bosyk, Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination, at (703) 787-1834 or Jennifer.Bosyk@boem.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BOEM is responsible for administering the leasing program for oil and gas resources on the OCS and advising the Secretary of the Interior on the National OCS Program. The PFP is the last in a series of three proposals made by the Secretary, pursuant to section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, before final action may be taken to approve the 2024–2029 National OCS Program. The three analytical phases used to develop a new National OCS Program are the (1) Draft Proposed Program (DPP); (2) Proposed Program; and (3) PFP.

The first proposal, the DPP, was published on July 3, 2017 (82 FR 30886), and was followed by a 60-day comment period. The second proposal, the Proposed Program, was published

on January 8, 2018 (83 FR 829). A notice of availability announcing the Proposed Program was published in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 2022, initiating a 90-day public comment period (87 FR 40859). Following publication of the Proposed Program, BOEM received more than 760,000 comments from interested parties including governors, Federal agencies, State agencies, local agencies, energy and non-energy industries, Tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, and the general public (see Appendix A of the PFP document for more information).

After careful consideration of the OCS Lands Act section 18(a) factors, as well as input from governors and the public,

the Secretary’s final proposal, the PFP, includes three potential lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Program Area (which contains the Western GOM Planning Area and the portions of the Central and Eastern GOM planning areas not currently under Presidential withdrawal—see Figure 1). An option for a potential lease sale in the northern portion of the Cook Inlet Planning Area was identified in the Proposed Program and analyzed as part of the PFP. Based on careful consideration of section 18 requirements and factors, no Cook Inlet sale is included in the PFP.

In the PFP, the Secretary has decided to require that all leases issued under the 2024–2029 Program will include, as

lease stipulations, programmatic mitigation measures to protect topographic features and pinnacle trends. Applying these stipulations at the National OCS Program development stage is consistent with current practice and continues the effective protection of these biologically sensitive areas, should they be offered in the three potential lease sales scheduled under this PFP.

The schedule shown in Table 1 reflects the potential lease sales for the 2024–2029 PFP. Figure 1 depicts the program area included in the 2024–2029 PFP.

TABLE 1—2024–2029 PROPOSED PROGRAM LEASE SALE SCHEDULE

Count	Sale No.	Year	OCS region and program area
1	262	2025	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area.
2	263	2027	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area.
3	264	2029	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area.

The Secretary’s final proposal, as described in the PFP, is the proposed action evaluated in the Final Programmatic EIS. BOEM has elected to prepare the Programmatic EIS to help describe and analyze the potential environmental impacts that could result from leasing, exploration, production, and decommissioning associated with lease sales under the National OCS Program for 2024–2029. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Park Service are

Cooperating Agencies on the Final Programmatic EIS.

Please go to <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/national-program/> for additional information about the Final Programmatic EIS and the National OCS Program for 2024–2029.

Next Steps in the Process: BOEM will submit the PFP and Final Programmatic EIS to the President and Congress at least 60 days prior to Secretarial approval of the 2024–2029 Program.

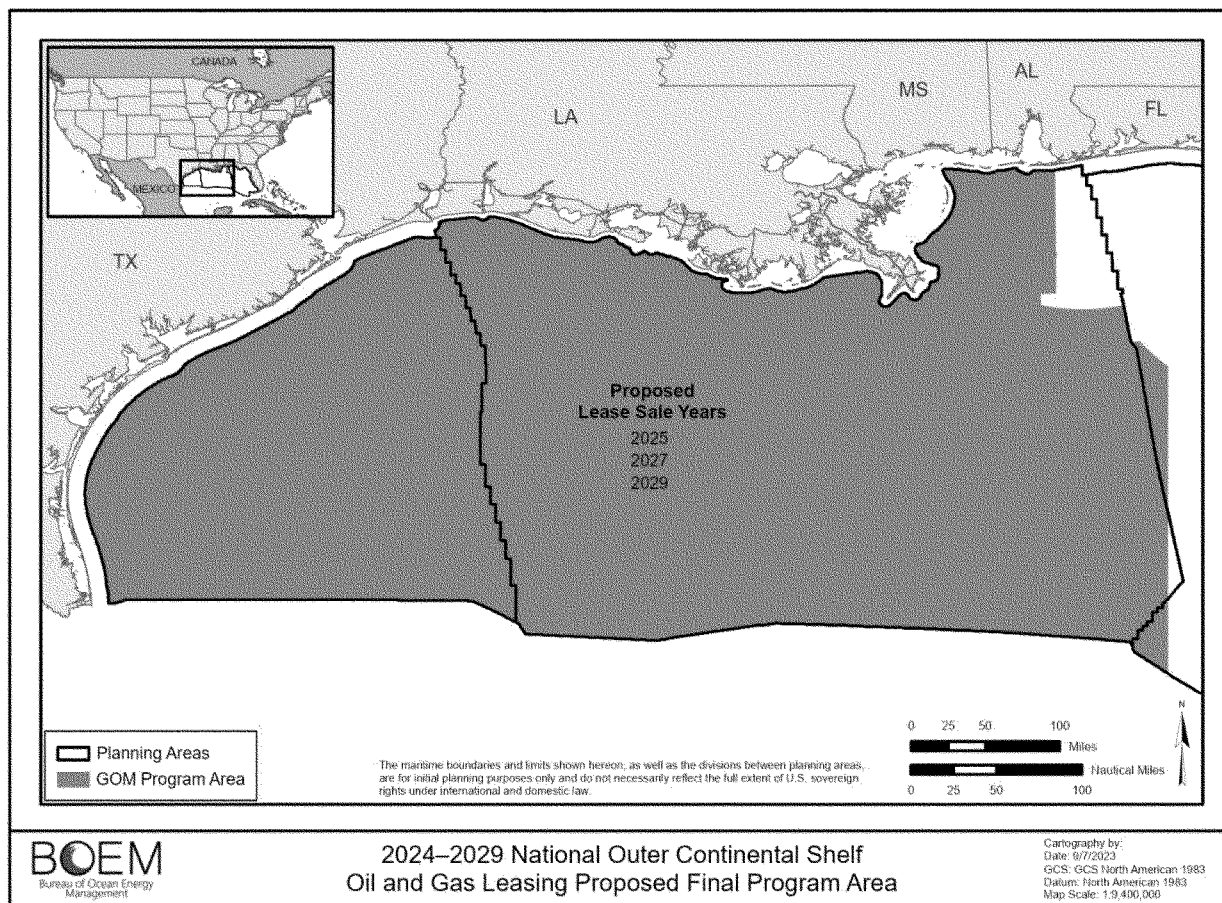
Authority: This Notice of Availability for the 2024–2029 PFP is published in

accordance with section 18 of the OCS Lands Act and its implementing regulations (30 CFR part 556 subpart B). This Notice of Availability for the 2024–2029 Final Programmatic EIS is published pursuant to the regulation (40 CFR 1506.20 and 43 CFR 46.415) implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Elizabeth Klein,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

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Figure 1: Proposed Final Program Map - Gulf of Mexico Program Area



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2023–0013]

Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 261

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of delay of sale.

SUMMARY: With this notice, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing the rescheduling of Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 261. Instead of holding the sale on September 27, 2023, as originally planned, BOEM will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in the sale on November 8, 2023, in accordance with the order issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on September 25, 2023. Additional information regarding the sale and a new Final Notice of Sale (NOS) package

will be available on BOEM’s website at least 30 days prior to the sale date at <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/leasing/lease-sale-261>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The New Orleans Office Lease Sale Coordinator, Greg Purvis, at BOEMGOMRLeaseSales@boem.gov or 504–736–1729.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 25, 2023, BOEM published in the **Federal Register** the Final NOS for Lease Sale 261. See 88 FR 58310. In that Final NOS, BOEM announced that the sale would be held on September 27, 2023. Two lawsuits then challenged the Final NOS in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, and plaintiffs in those cases sought preliminary injunctions to force BOEM to (1) include lease blocks previously excluded to protect the Rice’s whale and (2) remove provisions in Stipulation No. 4, “Protected Species” that BOEM had added to protect the Rice’s whale from certain oil and gas activities while BOEM engaged in a reintiated consultation under the Endangered Species Act. On September 21, 2023, six

days before the planned sale, the district court issued a preliminary injunction (Case No. 2:23–CV–01157) requiring BOEM to include the previously excluded blocks and modify the stipulation by removing the new Rice’s whale protections. The court also ordered BOEM to hold the sale on or before September 30, 2023. On September 22, 2023, the government filed an emergency motion in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, requesting an extension of time to allow BOEM to take the administrative steps necessary to hold the modified sale and provide the statutorily required notice to the public of the revised sale terms. On September 25, 2023, the Fifth Circuit issued an order (Case No. 23–30666) directing BOEM to hold Lease Sale 261 as required by the district court, but permitting BOEM until November 8, 2023, to hold the sale. The Fifth Circuit’s order stated that no further extensions will be granted.

BOEM is returning all bids submitted by bidders under the previously issued Final NOS and is rescheduling Lease Sale 261 for November 8, 2023. Bidders wishing to participate in Lease Sale 261