

recreational hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Alternatives

Alternative 1 proposes to maintain the status quo. The refuge would manage very intensively the water levels of the impoundments and the vegetation to create optimum habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and aquatic organisms. It would manage marshes with prescribed fire. The staff would survey sea turtles, waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds on a routine basis. The refuge would allow five of the six priority public use activities: Fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. The staff would conduct extensive environmental education and interpretation programs with the assistance of 25,000 hours of volunteer service every year. There would be one staff public use specialist stationed at the refuge. Staff from the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge would manage the refuge, administer budgets and contracts, maintain the facilities, manage impoundment and marsh habitats, and conduct wildlife surveys.

Alternative 2 proposes moderate program increases. The refuge would continue to manage very intensively the water levels of the impoundments and the vegetation to create optimum habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and aquatic organisms. It would manage for fall shorebird habitat. It would also manage marshes with prescribed fire. The staff would survey a wider range of wildlife on the refuge, adding regular surveys of land birds. The refuge would continue to allow five of the six priority public use activities, but would have the capacity to increase the number of opportunities. The staff would continue to conduct extensive environmental education and interpretation programs with the assistance of 30,000 hours of volunteer service every year. There would be five staff members stationed at the refuge, including an assistance refuge manager, biologist, two public use specialists, and a maintenance worker. Staff from the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge would still administer budgets and contracts and manage impoundment and marsh habitats.

Alternative 3 proposes optimum program increases. The refuge would continue to manage very intensively the water levels of the impoundments and the vegetation to create optimum habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and aquatic organisms. It

would manage for fall shorebird habitat. It would also manager marshes with prescribed fire. The staff would survey a wider range of wildlife on the refuge, adding regular surveys of land birds, wading birds, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians. The refuge would continue to allow five of the six priority public use activities, but would have the capacity to increase the number of opportunities. The staff would continue to conduct extensive environmental education and interpretation programs with the assistance of 35,000 hours of volunteer service every year. There would be twelve staff members stationed at the refuge, including an assistant refuge manager, biologist, three biological technicians, two public use specialists, and five maintenance workers. Staff from the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge would still administer budgets and contracts and manage marsh habitat.

Alternative 4 assumes vehicular access to the refuge on a paved road would be eliminated from the north, but access would be maintained from the south as far north as the visitor center. The alternative assumes that natural processes would dominate the area north of the visitor center and habitat for colonial nesting shorebirds would increase. The refuge would continue to manage impoundments and marshes. The staff would survey all wildlife on the refuge. The refuge would provide public use opportunities, but the number of visitors would decrease due to the limited access. Staffing would be the same as Alternative 3.

Alternative 5 assumes access to the refuge on a paved road would be totally eliminated. The Service would provide other means of accessing the refuge. The alternative assumes that natural processes would dominate the entire refuge and habitat for colonial nesting shorebirds would increase substantially. The refuge would continue to manage impoundments and marshes. The staff would survey all wildlife on the refuge. The refuge would provide public use opportunities, but the number of visitors would decrease due to the limited access. Staffing would be the same as Alternative 3.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

All five alternatives share the following concepts and techniques for achieving the goals of the refuge:

- Cooperating with State and Federal agencies, and non-government organizations, to evaluate the effects of dredging on Oregon Inlet and placement of dredge material on the refuge beaches;

- Cooperating with State and Federal agencies, and non-government organizations, to evaluate the effects of the maintenance of North Carolina Highway 12 on the refuge resources;

- Utilizing volunteers to execute the public use, biological, and maintenance programs on the refuge;

- Providing extensive public use opportunities in fishing, environmental education, interpretation, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography;

- Monitoring populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds, and vegetation in the refuge impoundments;

- Maintaining the vegetation in the marsh with prescribed fire; and

- Encouraging scientific research on the refuge.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, in northeastern North Carolina, consists of 5,000 acres, or which 1,375 acres are salt marsh, 790 acres are managed wetlands (impoundments), 565 acres are maritime scrub/shrub, and 450 acres are dune. These habitats support a variety of wildlife species including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, sea turtles, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

The refuge hosts more than two million visitors annually, who participate in fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: April 1, 2005.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

Note: This document was received at the office of the Federal Register February 1, 2006.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1020-PI-020H; G-06-0060]

Notice of Public Meetings for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of

1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Steens Mountain Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council will meet at the Bureau of Land Management Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, 97738, on March 16 and 17, 2006; August 24 and 25, 2006; October 12 and 13, 2006; and December 7 and 8, 2006. A meeting in Bend, Oregon, at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 62065 SE 27th Street, will be held May 11 and 12, 2006. All meeting sessions will begin at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at approximately 4:30 p.m., local time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 14, 2001 pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-399) and re-chartered in August 2003 and again in August 2005. The Steens Mountain Advisory Council's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the Bureau of Land Management regarding: new and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area; cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area; and preparation and implementation of a management plan for the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

Topics to be discussed by the Steens Mountain Advisory Council at these meetings include the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Travel, Comprehensive Recreation, Implementation, and Monitoring Plans; North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement and project implementation; Wildlands Juniper Management Area projects and partnerships; Steens Mountain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Plan; categories of interest such as wildlife, special designated areas, partnerships/programs, cultural resources, education, volunteer-based information, adaptive management, and socioeconomics; and other matters that may reasonably come before the Steens Mountain Advisory Council.

All meetings are open to the public in their entirety. Information to be distributed to the Steens Mountain Advisory Council is requested prior to the start of each Steens Mountain Advisory Council meeting. Public

comment is generally scheduled for 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, both days of each meeting session. The amount of time scheduled for public presentations and meeting times may be extended when the authorized representative considers it necessary to accommodate all who seek to be heard regarding matters on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, 97738, (541) 573-4400 or Rhonda_Karges@or.blm.gov.

Dated: January 30, 2006.

Dana R. Shuford,
Burns District Manager.

[FR Doc. E6-1576 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Proposed Reinstate of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease **WYW152678**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Section 371(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the lessee, Pennaco Energy, Inc., timely filed a petition for reinstatement of noncompetitive oil and gas lease WYW152678 in Carbon County, Wyoming. The lessee paid the required rental accruing from the date of termination, September 1, 2003.

No leases were issued that affect these lands. The lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals of \$5.00 per acre and royalties of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee for the reinstatement of the lease and \$166 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188(e)). We are proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to:

- The original terms and conditions of the lease;
- The increased rental of \$10.00 per acre; and
- The increased royalty of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, Pamela J. Lewis, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication, at (307) 775-6176.

Pamela J. Lewis,
Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication.

[FR Doc. 06-1065 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Proposed Reinstate of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease **WYW130285**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Section 371(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the lessee, Pennaco Energy, Inc., timely filed a petition for reinstatement of noncompetitive oil and gas lease WYW130285 in Campbell County, Wyoming. The lessee paid the required rental accruing from the date of termination, September 1, 2003.

No leases were issued that affect these lands. The lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals of \$5.00 per acre and royalties of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee for the reinstatement of the lease and \$166 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188(e)). We are proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to:

- The original terms and conditions of the lease;
- The increased rental of \$5.00 per acre; and
- The increased royalty of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bureau of Land Management, Pamela J. Lewis, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication, at (307) 775-6176.

Pamela J. Lewis,

Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication.

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