

2002. That NRDA Plan was released in accordance with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulation Part 11.

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Draft Study Plan. Copies of the Draft Study Plan are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New York Field Office at 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045.

Additionally, the Draft Study Plan is available on the FWS Hudson River NRDA Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/HudsonRiver.cfm>. All comments received on the Draft Study Plan will be considered and a response provided either through revision of the Study Plan and incorporated into the Final Study Plan or by letter to the commentor. The Trustees will also prepare a Responsiveness Summary responding to public comments that will be released to the public.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Ms. Kathryn Jahn, New York Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 21, 2006.

**Marvin E. Moriarty,**

*Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-3724 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UTU-84198]

#### Notice of Invitation To Participate in a Coal Exploration Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is an invitation to participate in a Coal Exploration program. Ark Land Company has filed the application for the Muddy Canyon Tract. All qualified parties are invited to participate with Ark Land Company on a pro rata cost sharing basis in its program for the exploration of certain Federal coal deposits in the following described lands in Sevier County, Utah:

T. 20 S., R. 5 E., SLM, Utah  
Sec. 31, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

T. 21 S., R. 4 E., SLM, Utah  
Sec. 1, all;  
Sec. 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 14, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

T. 21 S., R. 5 E., SLM, Utah  
Sec. 6, all.

Containing 1,848.62 acres.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Buge, Salt Lake City, Bureau of Land Management, (801) 539-4086.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any party electing to participate in this exploration program must send written notice of such election to the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145, and to Mark Bunnell, Mine Geologist, Ark Land Company, Skyline Mine, HC 35 Box 380, Helper, Utah 84526. BLM must receive your written notice within thirty days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Any party wishing to participate in this exploration program must be qualified to hold a lease under the provisions of 43 CFR 3472.1 and must share all cost on a pro rata basis. An exploration plan submitted by Ark Land Company, detailing the scope and timing of this exploration program is available for public review during normal business hours in the public room of the BLM State Office, 440 W. 200 S., Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah, under serial number UTU-84198.

**Kent Hoffman,**

*Deputy State Director, Lands and Minerals.*

[FR Doc. E6-3749 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DK-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-1610-DP]

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision, West Mojave Plan, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management policies, the BLM announces approval of the West Mojave (WEMO) Plan and Record of Decision (ROD). The approved WEMO Plan/ROD amends the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan by providing management direction for approximately 3.3 million acres of public lands administered by the BLM's

California Desert District, located in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties in southern California. Approval of the WEMO Plan/ROD terminates all interim measures identified in the *Consent Decree in Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. BLM* (C-00-0927 WHA (JCS)) with regard to the West Mojave Planning area.

**DATES:** The approved WEMO Plan is effective upon signing of the ROD.

**ADDRESSES:** The WEMO Plan/ROD is available on the BLM Web site, <http://www.ca.blm.gov>. Copies of the WEMO Plan/ROD are also available upon request from the District Manager, California Desert District Office, located at 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Copies may be examined at the District Office in Moreno Valley, and at BLM's Ridgecrest Field Office, located at 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, and Barstow Field Office located at 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow CA 92311, during regular business hours from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Razo, California Desert District, at (951) 697-5217.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The approved WEMO Plan is associated with a multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan (HCP), encompassing 9.3 million acres in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties, to be conducted under the lead jurisdiction of San Bernardino County and the City of Barstow. The ROD approves only the WEMO Plan, which applies to the Federal lands managed by BLM. Approval of the HCP is dependent on future local government actions.

An approved WEMO Plan and HCP will provide a streamlined program for public agencies and private parties to comply with requirements of the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

BLM, San Bernardino County, the City of Barstow, and many other entities cooperated or participated in the WEMO Plan's development. Those entities include three other counties, 10 other cities, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Transportation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, four U.S. military bases, and numerous non-governmental organizations and businesses. Extensive public involvement occurred during scoping, draft WEMO Plan/EIS, and proposed WEMO Plan/Final EIS reviews.

BLM's approval of the WEMO Plan/ROD enables BLM, its partners, and its stakeholders to begin implementing

actions that will protect and conserve species and their habitats while providing for appropriate use of desert resources and the future growth and development of desert communities.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

**John S. Mills,**

*Acting Deputy State Director, Natural Resources Division.*

[FR Doc. E6-3758 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-40-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM-920-1310-06; NMNM 112261; NMNM 112262]

#### Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases NMNM 112261 and NMNM 112262

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

**ACTION:** Notice of reinstatement of terminated oil and gas leases.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, Elk Oil Company timely filed a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas leases NMNM 112261 and NMNM 112262 for lands in Chaves County, New Mexico, and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from October 1, 2005, the date of the terminations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Becky C. Olivas, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7609.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** No valid lease has been affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500.00 administrative fees and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the leases as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Lease Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the leases effective October 1, 2005, subject to the original terms and conditions of the leases and the increased rentals and royalty rates cited above.

**Becky C. Olivas,**

*Land Law Examiner, Fluids Adjudication Team 1.*

[FR Doc. E6-3710 Filed 3-14-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-FB-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 an information collection (1010-0071).

**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 in the regulations under 30 CFR 203, "Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates."

**DATES:** Submit written comments by May 15, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods listed below. Please use the Information Collection Number 1010-0071 as an identifier in your message.

- Public Connect on-line commenting system, <https://occonnect.mms.gov>. Follow the instructions on the Web site for submitting comments.

- E-mail MMS at [rules.comments@mms.gov](mailto:rules.comments@mms.gov). Identify with Information Collection Number 1010-0071 in the subject line.

- Fax: 703-787-1093. Identify with Information Collection Number 1010-0071.

- Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Process Team (RPT); 381 Elden Street, MS-4024; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference "Information Collection 1010-0071" in your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Cheryl Blundon, Rules Processing Team at (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Cheryl Blundon to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* 30 CFR 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0071.

*Abstract:* The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended by Public Law 104-58, Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA), gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the authority to reduce or eliminate royalty or any net profit share specified in OCS oil and gas leases to promote increased production. The DWRRA also authorized the

Secretary to suspend royalties when necessary to promote development or recovery of marginal resources on producing or non-producing leases in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude.

Section 302 of the DWRRA provides that new production from a lease in existence on November 28, 1995, in a water depth of at least 200 meters, and in the GOM west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude qualifies for royalty suspension in certain situations. To grant a royalty suspension, the Secretary must determine that the new production or development would not be economic without royalty relief. The Secretary must then determine the volume of production on which no royalty would be due in order to make the new production from the lease economically viable. This determination must be done on a case-by-case basis. Production from leases in the same water depth and area issued after November 28, 2000, also can qualify for royalty suspension in addition to any that may be included in their lease terms.

In addition, federal policy and statute require us to recover the cost of services that confer special benefits to identifiable non-federal recipients. The Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), OMB Circular A-25, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996) authorize MMS to collect these fees to reimburse us for the cost to process applications or assessments.

Regulations at 30 CFR part 203 implement these statutes and policy and require respondents to pay a fee to request royalty relief. Section 30 CFR 203.3 states that, "We will specify the necessary fees for each of the types of royalty-relief applications and possible MMS audits in a Notice to Lessees. We will periodically update the fees to reflect changes in costs as well as provide other information necessary to administer royalty relief."

MMS uses the information to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or net profit share. These decisions have enormous monetary impacts to both the lessee and the Federal Government. Royalty relief can lead to increased production of natural gas and oil, creating profits for lessees and royalty and tax revenues for the government that they might not otherwise receive. We could not make an informed decision without the collection of information required by 30 CFR part 203.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary