

1. All valid existing rights documented on the official public land records at the time of lease/patent issuance.

2. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The classification for lease/purchase is consistent with the Bureau's planning for this area. Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land law except for Recreation and Public Purposes.

Dated: February 8, 2000.

**Eric K. Luse,**

*Associate Field Manager, Ely, NV.*

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BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NM050-1430ES]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Public Land in Socorro County, NM

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an RMPA/EA and intent to amend the Socorro Resource Management Plan dated August 1989, and invitation to participate in identification of issues and planning criteria.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the BLM, Socorro Field Office, in cooperation with the State of New Mexico, State Monuments Division (State), will prepare an RMPA/EA. The RMPA/EA will address whether approximately 126 acres of federal land between the towns of Socorro and Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico off of Federal Highway I-

25 can be classified for disposal, and transferred to the New Mexico State Monuments Division under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 as amended (R&PP). The purpose of the proposed transfer is to jointly construct (BLM and State) the proposed El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro International Heritage Center (Center). The RMPA/EA will also analyze various alternatives for special management prescriptions for public land surrounding the proposed Center that are needed to protect the scenic, cultural, watershed, air quality, soils, visual resource management, social and economic, and other values of the location identified in the site selection process. The RMPA/EA preferred alternative could result in an amendment to the Socorro Resource Management Plan approved in 1989 before the Center was considered a potential foreseeable development. Alternative management prescriptions could include, but are not limited to, limitations and/or special conditions for future permits or rights-of-way for such proposals as landfills, electrical transmission lines, communications towers, or multi-story buildings, in certain locations on federal land surrounding the Center.

The RMPA/EA will seek to identify whether impacts are likely to result from the proposed actions of classifying the selected land for disposal, transferring the land, construction of the proposed Center, and any possible management prescriptions of surrounding federal public land. If potential impacts are identified, the RMPA/EA will analyze and consider a range of mitigation measures and alternative to ensure that impacts are not significant. The BLM and State will conduct two public meetings to present the public with a description of the proposed action and to receive comments and questions from the public. The public will have the opportunity to identify any issues regarding the proposed action during the meetings, and written comments will be accepted through May 6, 2000.

**DATES AND LOCATIONS:** Dates and locations of the public meetings are listed below.

April 5, 2000—6 PM  
Holiday Inn Express, Conference Center,  
1100 N. California St., Socorro, NM  
April 6, 2000—6 P.M.  
Civic Center, 400 West Fourth St., Truth  
Or Consequences, NM

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Charles Carroll, BLM, 198 Neel Street, Socorro, NM 87801

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles Carroll, Team Leader, at 505-835-0412.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed action is the transfer of approximately 126 acres of public land administered by the BLM Socorro Field Office to the State Monuments Division and the Museum of the State of New Mexico for the purpose of constructing a new, jointly funded New Mexico Monument and BLM Interpretive Center. This project is a result of a culmination of years of cooperative effort between the BLM, State of New Mexico, and the towns and cities of the lower Rio Grande in New Mexico. The location of the proposed Center was selected through a detailed study conducted by Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. (ARC), funded by the BLM, State of New Mexico, and the towns of Los Lunas, Belen, Socorro, Truth Or Consequences, and Las Cruces. The site selection process is documented in the report entitled: "El Viaje: A Planning Study For The Camino Real Interpretive Center," 1994 ARC.

The location for the Center was selected from among six candidate sites along the Camino Real, in part, due to its relatively pristine surroundings and excellent panoramic views to natural landmarks which are of historical significance to the historic trail. An observation deck on the proposed Center museum, and trails to locations on the proposed 126-acre compound, will provide visitors with views and interpretation of the surrounding landscape. No changes in ranching or grazing activities are contemplated, except to fence the proposed 126-acre compound to separate cattle from visitors and buildings. This proposed enclosure would not affect the existing grazing permit. The RMPA/EA will review potential impacts to the land and natural resources on and surrounding the site and will consider a wide range of alternatives for other types of future actions on surrounding public land. Types of potential actions will be categorized as compatible or incompatible with the future operation of the Center. For example, the permitting of a lighted microwave tower in direct line of site between the observation deck and a historic natural landmark, might be found to be incompatible. If this were true, then management prescriptions might be defined to allow selective siting of high-visibility actions in certain defined areas of surrounding public land, to mitigate adverse effects upon the values of the Center. Conversely, it might be

found that locating a gravel pit in a location hidden from view of key locations of the Center, may have no potential adverse effect, and might be authorized with only routine stipulations. Therefore, a range of alternatives for both the geographic area and the types of potential future actions which could affect the Center will be considered. A full range of other resource considerations will be addressed, including threatened and endangered species, wildlife, lands and access, minerals, soils, air quality, water resources, Visual Resource Management, social and economics and so forth, which the public is welcomed to comment upon and help identify issues or concerns.

Dated: February 23, 2000.

**Kate Padilla,**

*Office Manager.*

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## 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 1010-0137).

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, MMS invites the public and other Federal agencies to comment on a proposal to extend the currently approved collection of information discussed below. We intend to submit this collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) 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.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by May 2, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual

respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must 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.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alexis London, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Alexis London to obtain a copy of the collection of information at no cost. For information on results of workshops held to discuss the Historical Well Data Cleanup Project, contact Warren Frederick, Gulf of Mexico Region, telephone (504) 736-2562

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Historical Well Data Cleanup (HWDC) Project—Notice to Lessees.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-0137.

*Abstract:* The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the responsibility to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS, consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments; ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; preserve and maintain free enterprise competition; and ensure that the extent of oil and natural gas resources of the OCS is assessed at the earliest practicable time. The OCSLA at 43 U.S.C. 1332(6) states that "operations in the [O]uter Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner by well-trained personnel using technology, precautions, and techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize the likelihood of blowouts, loss of well control, fires, spillages, physical obstruction to other users of the waters or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property, or endanger life or health."

On February 4, 2000, the OMB approved our request under emergency processing procedures to issue Addendum 2 to NTL No. 98-29. Emergency processing permits the

collection of information for 180 days. As the project is expected to last for several years, this Notice announces our intention to request a 3-year extension for this information collection.

The information we collect under NTL 98-29, Addendum 2, is missing data for wellbores that MMS has not assigned API numbers and other well data discovered as missing while completing the well database clean up project. We are not able to accurately manage and utilize data from drilling operations without the information for the missing wells. We will use the information to identify other well data (e.g., logs, surveys, tests) missing from our records, geologically map existing MMS data to the correct wellbore/location, and correctly exchange information with the operators and industry. Our geoscientists can use the information to evaluate resources for lease sales for fair market value. With respect to safety concerns, we believe that there may be anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 unidentified completed and abandoned wellbores (bypasses and sidetracks), some of which may contain stuck drill pipe or other materials. In approving permits and other operations in an area, it is important for us to know what may be adjacent to or near the vicinity of the activity we are approving to minimize the risk of blowouts, loss of well control, and endangerment to life, health, and the environment. This is particularly important as, over the years, the number of wells drilled constantly increases, thereby increasing the risk to adjacent activities if they are not aware of what might be in the area.

As announced in a "Special Information" release on February 2, 2000, we held two half-day workshops to share HWDC contract goals with the Gulf of Mexico OCS oil and gas industry and their services company vendors and contractors. The workshops were held from 9 a.m. till noon in Houston and New Orleans on February 17 and 23, 2000. For further information on the results of these workshops, you may contact Warren Frederick at (504) 736-2562.

We will protect information respondents submit that is considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and 30 CFR 250.196, "Data and information to be made available to the public." No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

*Frequency:* The frequency of reporting is on occasion.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Approximately 130