

Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. appendix 1, The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on June 14–16, 2000, at the Quality Inn, 1043 Camino del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM.

There will be an optional all day field trip on Wednesday, June 14, 2000, to the Wild Rivers area to look at vegetation and on the ground events. The optional tour will start at the Quality Inn, in Taos, NM, at 8 am and end back in Taos, NM, about 5 pm. Transportation will be provided for RAC members.

The meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2000, starts at 8 a.m. and will end about 5 pm. The three established RAC Subcommittees may have late afternoon or evening meetings on this day. The exact time and location of the Subcommittee meeting will be established by the Chairperson of each Subcommittee earlier in the day during the RAC meeting. The meeting on Friday, June 16, 2000, starts at 8 a.m. and will end about 3 pm. The ending time of 3 p.m., for the meeting, may be changed depending on the work remaining for the RAC. The draft agenda for the RAC meeting includes an agreement on the meeting agenda, any RAC comments on the draft minutes of the last RAC meeting on April 26 through 28, 2000, in Lordsburg, NM, a check in from the RAC members (the following are planned presentations that also include discussions) a Standards and Guidelines update presentation, an update on the Lesser Prairie Chicken, Threatened and Endangered Species comprehensive approach on border issues, elk management on BLM, Forest Service, and private land, a Vermijo Park wildlife presentation, a Willow Flycatcher presentation, BLM Field Office Managers State of the Field Office presentations with emphasis on wildlife and the Willow Flycatcher, RAC Subcommittee reports from the Urban/Lands Subcommittee, the Oil and Gas Subcommittee, and the Roads and Trails Subcommittee, a public comment period to the RAC, RAC discussions and any RAC recommendations, develop draft agenda items and select a location for the next RAC meeting, and a RAC assessment on the current meeting. The time for the public to address the RAC is on Friday, June 16, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The RAC may reduce or extend the end time of 12:00 noon depending on the number of people wishing to address the RAC. Anyone wishing to address the RAC should be present at the 10:00 starting time. The length of time available for each person to address the RAC will be established

at the start of the public comment period and will depend on how many people there are that wish to address the RAC. At the completion of the public comments the RAC may continue discussion on its agenda items.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary White, New Mexico State Office, Office of External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502–0115, telephone (505) 438–7404.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of public lands. The Council's responsibilities include providing advice on long-range planning, establishing resource management priorities and assisting the BLM to identify State and regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing management.

Dated: May 9, 2000.

**Michelle J. Chavez,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[AZA—31116 (supercedes AZA 28350)]**

#### Notice of Availability for the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment Record of Decision

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

**ACTION:** Ray Plan Amendment Record of Decision and Notice of Decision for the Ray Land Exchange.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is amending the Phoenix and Safford District Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to allow the transfer of certain federal lands and mineral estate in Pinal and Gila counties (Arizona) for privately owned lands in Mohave and Pinal counties. BLM examined the lands and interests described below under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1716) (FLPMA) and through the planning process described in BLM regulations (43 CFR 1600). BLM determined the lands and interests therein as suitable for disposal by land exchange pursuant to Section 206 of FLPMA, as amended. The Record of Decision approving the plan amendment is now available.

Notice is hereby given that on April 27, 2000, Jesse Juen, Tucson Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, issued a decision to approve a proposed land exchange with ASARCO, Incorporated, a New York Corporation. This Notice of Decision initiates a 45-day comment period on the decision to approve the land exchange.

Federal lands and mineral estate determined suitable for land exchange (total approximately 10, 976 acres) are described as:

#### *Mineral Estate Only*

Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona

T.2 S., R.13 E., Section 35 (80 acres)

T.2 S., R.14 E., Section 31 (71 acres)

T.3 S., R.12 E., Section 24 (160 acres)

T.3 S., R.13 E., Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 30 (1337 acres)

T.3 S., R.14 E., Sections 6, 7, 17, 18 (495 acres)

T.6 S., R.4 E., Sections 12, 23, 24 ( 637acres)

Comprising approximately 2,780 acres.

#### *Full Fee Estate*

Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal and Gila Counties, Arizona

T.2 S., R.13 E., Section 34 (428 acres)

T.3 S., R.12 E., Sections 25, 26 (1,120 acres)

T.3 S., R.13 E., Sections 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, 17, 19,20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35 (3,121 acres)

T.3 S., R.14 E., Sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 33, 34 (1,253 acres)

T.4 S., R.14 E., Sections 3, 4, 5, 8 (1,442 acres)

T.4 S., R.15 E., Sections 22, 27 (272 acres)

T.5 S., R.13 E., Sections 11, 28 (560 acres)

Comprising approximately 8,196 acres.

Non-federal lands (private land now owned by Asarco Incorporated) to be acquired (total approximately 7,300 acres) described as:

Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

Knisley Ranch, T.25 N., R.18 W., Sections 4, 17, 20 (160 acres)

McCracken Mtn.

T.14 N., R.14 W., Sections 19, 31 (1,266 acres)

T.14 N., R.15 W., Sections 3, 9, 11, 15, 23, 25, 27, 35 (5,118 acres)

Sacramento Valley, T.19 N., R.19 W., Section 23 (120 acres)

Tomlin Parcels, T.15 N., R.13 W., Sections 19, 35 (313 acres)

Comprising approximately 6,980 acres.

Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona

Gila River/Cochran, T.4 S., R.12 E., Sections 6, 7 (320 acres)

Comprising approximately 320 acres.

The purpose of the Ray Land Exchange is to acquire the non-federal land parcels which have high public values for: wilderness inholdings in the Mt. Tipton Wilderness and parcels

adjacent to the Warm Springs Wilderness; checkerboard inholdings in the McCracken Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern; riparian zones along the Big Sandy and Gila Rivers; other habitat supporting threatened and endangered or special species; and cultural and recreation values. The public interest will be served by making the exchange.

The values of the lands to be exchanged are equal. Lands transferred from the United States to ASARCO will be subject to the following reservations, terms and conditions:

A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals.

Three rights-of-way for the Arizona Highway Department, AZAR 04524, AZAR 04525, AZAR 024241.

Two rights-of-way for the Salt River Project, AZA 2146, AZPHX 086749.

A right-of-way for Southwest Gas Corporation, AZAR 02148.

Two rights-of-way for Arizona Public Service Company, AZA 8778, AZAR 033336.

Two rights-of-way for US West Communications Inc., AZA 6541, AZA 24678.

And a right-of-way for Pinal County Board of Supervisors, AZA 21389.

**DATES:** The publication of this Notice of Decision initiates a 45-day protest period on the Ray land exchange. Interested parties may submit comments or objections regarding the land exchange to the Tucson Field Office Manager, BLM, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85748-7208. Objections will be reviewed by the Arizona State Director who may sustain, vacate or modify this Notice of Decision. A copy of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the person/address that follows.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shela McFarlin, Project Manager, BLM, Arizona State Office, 222 N. Central, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or by telephone (602) 417-9568.

Dated: April 27, 2000.

**Jesse Juen,**

*Field Manager, Tucson.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Lease Sale 178 in the Central Gulf of Mexico (2001)

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service.

**ACTION:** Preparation of an Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is beginning preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for proposed lease Sale 178 (scheduled for March 2001) in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. In August 1996, MMS issued a Call for Information and Nominations/Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS (Call/NOI) for the five proposed Central Gulf of Mexico sales in the current 5-year leasing program. In 1997, MMS prepared a single environmental impact statement (EIS) for all five sales. The multisale Final EIS, filed in November 1997, included an analysis of a single, "typical" sale, and a cumulative analysis that included the effects of holding all five sales, as well as the cumulative effects of the long-term development of the planning area. The MMS stated in the EIS that an EA would be prepared for each lease sale after the first sale covered in the EIS (Sale 169).

The preparation of this EA is the first step in the prelease decision process for Sale 178. The proposal and alternatives for Sale 178 were identified by the Director of MMS in November 1996 following the Call/NOI and were analyzed in the Central Gulf multisale EIS, which is available from the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Public Information Office at 1-800-200-GULF. The proposed action analyzed in the multisale EIS was the offering of all available unleased acreage in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. The EA will also analyze alternatives to defer blocks south and within 15 miles of Baldwin County, Alabama, and to defer blocks containing topographic features with sensitive biological resources, as well as the no action alternative. The analysis in the EA will reexamine the potential environmental effects of the proposal and alternatives based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that was not available at the time the Final EIS was prepared.

The MMS requests interested parties to submit comments regarding any such new information or issues that should be addressed in the EA to Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Office of Leasing and Environment, Attention: Regional Supervisor (MS 5410), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 by June 15, 2000. After completion of the EA, MMS will determine whether to prepare a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI) or a supplemental EIS. The MMS will then prepare and send consistency

determinations to the affected States to determine whether the proposed sale is consistent with federally-approved State coastal zone management programs, and will send a proposed Notice of Sale to the Governors for their comments on the size, timing, and location of the proposed sale. The tentative schedule for the steps in the prelease decision process for Sale 178 is listed below: Comments due to MMS, June 15, 2000; EA/FONNSI or Supplemental EIS,

October 2000;  
Consistency Determinations sent to States, October 2000;  
Proposed Notice of Sale sent to Governors, November 2000;  
Final Notice of Sale in **Federal Register**, January 2001;  
Sale, March 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, Mr. George Hampton, telephone (504) 736-2465.

Dated: May 9, 2000.

**Charles J. Schoennagel,**

*Acting Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Immigration and Naturalization Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comments Request

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection Under Review; Visa Waiver Pilot Program Carrier Agreement.

The Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has submitted the following information collection request for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until [Insert date of the 60th day from the date that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**].

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;