

ACTION: Call for nominations for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC).

SUMMARY: BLM is publishing this notice under Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–399), BLM gives notice that the Secretary of the Interior intends to call for nominations for terms expiring on the SMAC. This notice requests the public to submit nominations for membership on the SMAC. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the SMAC. Individuals may nominate themselves for SMAC membership. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Burns District Office, Bureau of Land Management (see address below). To make a nomination, submit a completed nomination form, letters of reference from the represented interests or organizations, and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications, to the Burns District Office. Nominations may be made for the following categories of interest:

- One person who is a grazing permittee on Federal land in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) (appointed from nominees submitted by the County Court of Harney County);
- One person who is a recognized environmental representative from the local area (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A person who participates in what is commonly called dispersed recreation, such as hiking, camping, nature viewing, nature photography, bird watching, horseback riding, or trail walking (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director of the BLM); and
- A person with expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director for BLM).

The specific category the nominee will represent should be identified in the letter of nomination. The Burns District will collect the nomination forms and letters of reference and distribute them to the officials responsible for submitting nominations (County Court of Harney County, the Governor of Oregon, and BLM). BLM will then forward recommended nominations to the Secretary of the Interior, who has responsibility for making the appointments.

DATES: Nominations should be submitted to the address listed below no

later than 30 days after publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, (541) 573–4433, or Rhonda_Karges@or.blm.gov or from the following Web site <http://www.or.blm.gov/steens> (Public Law 106–399 in its entirety can be found on the Steens Web site as previously cited.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the SMAC is to advise BLM on the management of the CMPA as described in Title 1 of Public Law 106–399. Each member will be a person who, as a result of training and experience, has knowledge or special expertise which qualifies him or her to provide advice for one or more of the interest categories listed above.

Members of the SMAC are appointed for terms of 3 years. The Grazing Permittee, Environmental Representative, Dispersed Recreation, and Wild Horse Management position terms will expire August 2005. These four positions will begin no earlier than August 2005 and will end August 2008.

Members will serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for Government employees. The SMAC shall meet only at the call of the Designated Federal Official, but not less than once per year.

Dated: December 21, 2004.

Karla Bird,

*Andrews Resource Area Field Manager,
Bureau of Land Management, Burns, Oregon.*
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK–931–1310–DT–NPRa]

Notice of Availability of the Amendment to the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Amendment to the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) will be made available to the public for a 30-day period beginning on the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

files a Notice of Availability of the Final IAP/EIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is expected to occur on or about January 28, 2005. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued after the 30-day availability period. The ROD will identify the selected alternative as well as mitigation measures.

The Final IAP/EIS addresses two primary objectives for the amendment of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP/EIS.

1. Consider making available all or portions of lands currently closed to oil and gas leasing in the Planning Area; and,

2. Consider developing performance-based lease stipulations and ROPs to provide the BLM greater flexibility in protecting important surface resources from the impacts of oil and gas activities, similar to those developed for the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska.

Location of the Document: The Final IAP/EIS will be available in either hard copy or on compact disk at the Alaska State Office, Public Information Center at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7599. Copies of the Final IAP/EIS will also be available at the following locations: Tuzzy Public Library, Barrow, Alaska; City of Nuiqsut, Nuiqsut, Alaska; City of Atkasuk, Atkasuk, Alaska; City of Anaktuvuk Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska; City of Bethel, Bethel, Alaska, Z. J. Loussac Public Library, Anchorage, AK; Noel Wien Public Library, Fairbanks, AK.

The final IAP/EIS will also be available on the project Web site at <http://nenpra.ensr.com/nenpra/default.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Childs, BLM Alaska State office (907) 271–1985.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northeast Planning Area (Planning Area) boundary encompasses approximately 4.6 million acres located in the northeastern portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The Planning Area is roughly bounded by the Beaufort Sea to the North, the Ikpiuk River to the west and the Colville River to the east and south of the planning area. The 1998 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Northeast Planning area provided 87% of the area for oil and gas leasing; however, approximately 840,000 acres, much of the area surrounding the Teshekpuk Lake, including the lake, was made unavailable for leasing under the 1998 ROD. In 2002, the President's National Energy Policy Development Group recommended that the President direct

the Secretary of the Interior to consider additional environmentally responsible oil and gas development, based on sound science and the best available technology, through further lease sales in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and that such consideration should include areas not currently leased within the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. In addition, Public Law 96-514 of December 12, 1980, amended the NPRPA authorizing oil and gas leasing in the reserve and as codified in 42 U.S.C. 6508 stated, "There shall be conducted, not withstanding any other provision of law and pursuant to such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; provided, that: (1) Activities undertaken pursuant to this section shall include or provide for such conditions, restrictions, and prohibitions as the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate to mitigate reasonably foreseeable and significantly adverse effects on the surface resources of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska * * *." In exercising this authority a revised Preferred Alternative which incorporates additional surface protection measures has been developed to safeguard important resources and subsistence activities. This Final IAP/EIS amendment contains four alternatives for a land management plan for the 4.6 million-acre planning area and assessments of each plan's impacts on the surface resources present there, as well as the cumulative effects of each alternative.

A Draft Amended IAP/EIS was made available for a 76-day comment period on June 9, 2004. Scoping and comment meetings on the Draft IAP/EIS were held in Bethel, Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Washington, DC. The Northeast Planning Area provides particularly important habitat for caribou, waterfowl, subsistence species, and other waterfowl. Many of the local residents of the area rely on harvesting these resources for subsistence purposes. Ensuring adequate protection of these resources has been one of the main focuses of public comment. The BLM held public hearings on subsistence as well as public hearings on the Draft IAP/EIS. The first set of subsistence hearings was held in conjunction with the public hearings on the Draft IAP/EIS during the weeks of June 28, August 9 and 16 in Bethel, Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Fairbanks, Anchorage (all in

Alaska) and Washington, DC. An additional set of subsistence hearings was held in the effected Alaska North Slope communities of Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Barrow and Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska, as well as the community of Bethel, Alaska, in the Yukon Delta, during the weeks of October 25 and November 29. Under the final Preferred Alternative, approximately 4,389,000 acres of BLM administered subsurface estate within the Planning Area would be available for oil and gas leasing. Teshekpuk Lake would be deferred from oil and gas leasing under this alternative. In addition, there would be no recommended Wilderness Study Areas or Wild and Scenic Rivers. Lease stipulations and required operating procedures under the final Preferred Alternative, would establish setbacks prohibiting permanent facilities within ¼ to 1 mile along major rivers and 1 to 3 miles along Fish Creek; ¼ mile shoreward from deep water lakes and ¾ mile along coastal areas, to protect subsistence resources/activities and other important surface resources. No Surface Occupancy for permanent oil and gas development stipulations were included which would protect goose molting areas, caribou movement corridors, and the southern caribou calving grounds. Multi-year studies would be required prior to development to protect spectacled and Steller's eiders, yellow-billed loons, and caribou. Other stipulations and required operating procedures would establish restrictions and guidance that apply to waste prevention and spills, water use, winter overland moves and seismic activity, exploratory drilling, aircraft use and subsistence consultation.

The no action alternative calls for continuation of current management, which does provide for continued leasing in the area previously made available for oil and gas leasing through the 1998 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP/EIS and Record of Decision. Alternatives A through C make progressively more land, available for oil and gas leasing. The final Proposed Action, Alternative D, would make a more land available Alternatives A, but less land available than Alternatives B or C. Alternative A, makes available 87% of the planning area available for oil and gas leasing; Alternative B makes 96% percent of the planning area available for oil and gas leasing; Alternative C makes 100% of the planning area available for oil and gas leasing; and the final Proposed Action, Alternative D, makes approximately 95% available for oil and gas leasing. Performance-based

stipulations and (ROPs) would provide protection for natural and cultural resources under all alternatives: B, C, and D, but their nature, number and scope varies between the alternatives. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would continue to protect the planning area with stipulations implemented throughout the 1998 Northeast Record of Decision.

Dated: December 6, 2004.

Henri R. Bisson,

State Director, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UTU76532]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease, Utah

December 22, 2004.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Title IV of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (Public Law 97-451), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease UTU76532 for lands in San Juan County, Utah, was timely filed and required rentals accruing from July 1, 2004, the date of termination, have been paid.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teresa Catlin, Acting Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals at (801) 539-4122.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5 per acre and 16-2/3 percent, respectively. The \$500 administrative fee for the lease has been paid and the lessee has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of publishing this notice.

Having met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease UTU76532, effective July 1, 2004, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Robert Henricks,

Acting Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals.

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