

designating the race route—25 feet route width the entire length of the course plus 100 feet by 300 feet mass start area. This closure will be in effect from 6:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 15, 1996. A map of the closure may be obtained from Fran Hull at the BLM contact address.

EXCLUSIONS: The above restrictions do not apply to agency, race officials, law enforcement, or emergency response personnel during the conduct of their official duties in relation to the race event.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James M. Phillips, Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, Nevada 89706. Telephone: (702) 885-6000.

Dated: August 5, 1996.

James M. Phillips,
Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources.

[FR Doc. 96-20879 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

[NV-931-1020-001]

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting Location and Time

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Councils' Meeting Location and Time.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda for each meeting includes approval of minutes of the previous meeting, continuation of Council orientation, discussion of Standards and Guidelines for management of the public lands within the jurisdiction of the Council, identification of issues to be resolved and determination of the subject matter for future meetings.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the Council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information

about the meeting, or need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the District Manager at the Ely District Office, 702 North Industrial Way, HC33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408, telephone 702-289-1800.

DATES, TIMES: The time and location of the meeting is as follows: Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, BLM Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301-9408; September 7, 1996, starting at 9:00 a.m.; public comments will be at 11:30 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curtis G. Tucker, Team Leader for the Northeastern Resource Advisory Council, Ely District Office, 702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408, telephone 702-289-1800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the 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 the public lands.

Susan Perkins,
Acting District Manager, Ely.

[FR Doc. 96-20886 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

[CA-060-06-5440-00-B026]

Notice of Proposed Decision Amending the California Desert Conservation Area Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed decision.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan by revising the northern boundary of the Singer Geoglyphs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to follow the 1988 realignment of State Route 78 and exclude the following public lands:

San Bernardino Base & Meridian, Imperial County, California

T.13 S., R.19 E.:

Section 21: That portion situated north of State Route 78, containing 5 acres more or less.

These lands would be classified as Multiple-Use Class M (Moderate Use) under the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan.

DATES: A 30-day protest period on the proposed plan amendment begins August 16, 1996. Protests on the proposed plan amendment must be received no later than close of business, September 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Protests should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Resource Area, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Zale, Multi-Resource Staff Chief, El Centro Resource Area at (619) 337-4420.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 14, 1996, the District Manager, California Desert District, approved a Record of Decision for a land exchange and a right-of-way for the Mesquite Regional Landfill. The Record of Decision noted that a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area to revise the boundary of the Singer Geoglyphs ACEC was being considered by the State Director, California. The proposed amendment was addressed in both the draft and final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Mesquite Regional Landfill. A separate decision-making process for the proposed plan amendment is required in conformance with Federal Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5).

April 21, 1996, marked the end of a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review period for the proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The proposed amendment would revise the boundary of the Singer Geoglyphs ACEC to exclude approximately five acres of public land situated north of State Route 78 in Section 21, Township 13 South, Range 19 East, San Bernardino Meridian, Imperial County, California, and redesignate the excluded land as Multiple-Use Class M. The excluded land does not contain significant cultural resources for which the ACEC was designated and is separated from the remainder of the ACEC by the current alignment of State Route 78. The proposed decision is to approve the plan amendment.

Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by this proposed amendment may protest. A protest shall raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. The protest shall be in writing and shall contain:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
3. A statement of the part or parts of the plan amendment being protested;
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the

date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and,

5. A concise statement explaining why the State Director's proposed decision is believed to be wrong.

Action by the Director on any protest is the final action by the Department of the Interior.

Dated: August 6, 1996.

Thomas F. Zale,

Acting Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-20493 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf, Beaufort Sea; Notice of Leasing Systems, Sale 144

Section 8(a)(8) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8)) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that, at least 30 days before any lease sale, a Notice be submitted to the Congress and published in the Federal Register:

1. Identifying the bidding systems to be used and the reasons for such use; and

2. Designating the tracts to be offered under each bidding system and the reasons for such designation.

This Notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. *Bidding systems to be used.* In the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 144, blocks will be offered under the following bidding system as authorized by section 8(a)(1) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)), as amended: bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty.

a. *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA, as amended. This system has been chosen for all blocks proposed for Sale 144 because these blocks are expected to have high exploration, development, and production costs.

The Department of the Interior analyses indicate that the minimum economically developable discovery on a block in such high-cost areas under a 12½-percent royalty system would be less than for the same block under a 16⅔-percent royalty system. As a result, more blocks may be explored and developed. In addition, the lower royalty rate system is expected to encourage more rapid production and higher economic profits. It is not anticipated, however, that the larger cash bonus bid associated with a lower royalty rate will significantly reduce competition, as the higher costs for exploration and development are the primary constraints to competition.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* All blocks in this lease sale will be offered under a

12½-percent royalty system because that system is most appropriate to the resource levels and costs expected in this sale area.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

Approved:

Dated: August 9, 1996.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 96-20864 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

Outer Continental Shelf, Western Gulf of Mexico, Notice of Leasing Systems, Sale 161

Section 8(a)(8) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8)) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that, at least 30 days before any lease sale, a Notice be submitted to the Congress and published in the Federal Register:

1. Identifying the bidding systems to be used and the reasons for such use; and

2. Designating the tracts to be offered under each bidding system and the reasons for such designation.

This Notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. *Bidding systems to be used.* In the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 161, blocks will be offered under the following two bidding systems as authorized by section 8(a)(1) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)), as amended: (a) bonus bidding with a fixed 16⅔-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in less than 200 meters of water; and (b)(i) bonus bidding with a fixed 16⅔-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in 200 meters of water or more, with a royalty suspension volume of up to 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent on all unleased blocks in 200 to 400 meters of water; (ii) bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in 400 to 800 meters of water with a royalty suspension volume of up to 52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent; and (iii) bonus bidding with a fixed 12½-percent royalty on all unleased blocks in water depths of 800 meters or more with a royalty suspension volume of up to 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent.

For bidding systems (b) (i), (ii), and (iii), the royalty suspension allocation rules are described in the Interim Rule (30 CFR Part 260) addressing royalty relief for new leases that was published in the Federal Register on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12022).

a. *Bonus Bidding with a 16⅔-Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by

section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA. This system has been used extensively since the passage of the OCSLA in 1953 and imposes greater risks on the lessee than systems with higher contingency payments but may yield more rewards if a commercial field is discovered. The relatively high front-end bonus payments may encourage rapid exploration.

b.(i) *Bonus Bidding with a 16⅔-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. This system complies with Sec. 304 of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA). An incentive for development and production in water depths of 200 to 400 meters is provided through allocating royalty suspension volumes of 17.5 million barrels of oil equivalent to eligible fields.

b.(ii) *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 400 to 800 meters proposed for the Western Gulf of Mexico (Sale 161) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The 12½-percent royalty rate is used in deeper water because these blocks are expected to require substantially higher exploration, development, and production costs, as well as longer times before initial production, in comparison to shallow-water blocks. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 52.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for this water depth category.

b.(iii) *Bonus Bidding with a 12½-Percent Royalty and a Royalty Suspension Volume (87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent).* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(H) of the OCSLA, as amended. It has been chosen for blocks in water depths of 800 meters or more proposed for the Western Gulf of Mexico (Sale 161) to comply with Sec. 304 of the DWRRA. The use of a royalty suspension volume of 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent for eligible fields provides an incentive for development and production appropriate for these deep-water depths.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* The selection of blocks to be offered under the four systems was based on the following factors:

a. Royalty rates on adjacent, previously leased tracts were considered