

by section 103(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The report covers the period January 1 to December 31, 1995, and was submitted to Congress on October 29, 1997. By this notice, the public is informed that the 1995 report is available and that copies may be obtained on request to the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** *Written requests for copies should be addressed to:* Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center, Route 1, Box 166, Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey L. Horwath, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance, Telephone (703) 358-1718.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for eight species of marine mammals, as assigned by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. These species are polar bear, sea and marine otters, walrus, manatees (three species) and dugong. Administrative actions discussed include appropriations, marine mammals in Alaska, endangered and threatened marine mammal species, law enforcement activities, scientific research and public display permits, certificates of registration, research, Outer Continental Shelf environmental studies and international activities.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-2667 Filed 2-3-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss *et seq.*). The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force (TF) will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 1998, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 1998.

**PLACE:** The meeting will be held at the Brookings Inn, Highway 101, Brookings, Oregon 97415.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald A. Iverson, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1006 (1215 South Main), Yreka, California 96097-1006, telephone (530) 842-5763.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The principal agenda items at this meeting will be: (1) a decision on whether or how to proceed with the Upper Basin Amendment and assignments; (2) a status report on the 1998 annual operations plan and EIS for the Bureau of Reclamation Klamath Project; (3) an update on subbasin planning; (4) a decision on a process to amend the Task Force Long Range Plan for the Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Fishery Restoration Program; (5) the development of a strategy to pursue additional funding; (6) a decision on FY99 budget recommendations and the annual Request for Proposals; and (7) a report on scoping of the Klamath River Basin Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) flow study.

For background information on the TF, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: January 28, 1998.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-2679 Filed 2-3-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-018-1430-00; CACA 37328]

#### Notice of Proposed Amendment, Sierra Planning Area Management Framework Plan and Notice of Exchange Proposal, Amador County, CA

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Field Office, proposes to amend the 1988 Sierra Planning Area Management Framework Plan Amendment (MFPA) to allow for a boundary adjustment of the Ione Tertiary Oxisol Soils Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), located in Amador County, CA. The boundary adjustment is necessary to allow for exchange of public land currently within the ACEC in order to acquire

adjacent private land of higher resource value to be added to the ACEC. The lands are described as follows.

#### Public Land to be Disposed of

T. 5 N., R. 10 E.,  
Sec. 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and  
W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The area described contains 6.875 acres in Amador County.

#### Private Land to be Acquired

T. 5 N., R. 10 E.  
Sec. 17, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ . In addition, an  
easement will also be acquired in order  
to secure access to the remaining public  
lands.

The area described contains 7.5 acres in Amador County.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This ACEC was established to protect unique soil profiles. Intensely weathered soils were formed during the Eocene epoch when the area had a tropical climate. This soil has been exposed due to natural erosion of overlying strata revealing a soil with properties of oxisols, a soil order of the tropics. Adjustment of the ACEC boundary would allow for the inclusion of 7.5 acres of land to be acquired that is currently adjacent to the existing boundary. This land to be acquired contains exceptional examples of Oxisol soils. In exchange, BLM would also adjust the ACEC boundary to exclude the above described public land which would allow for disposal of this parcel because it poses inferior soil examples than the land to be acquired. The exchange will be with TNH/Glenmoor Ltd., an adjacent landowner to the ACEC. Disposal of the public land will also allow access by TNH/Glenmoor to their land in the same area. This exchange meets the objectives of the MFPA and the Ione Tertiary Oxisol Soils Area Management Plan (1992), protecting the area and preserving its intrinsic scientific and educational importance.

The public land parcel would be transferred subject to a reservation to the United States for a right-of-way for ditches and canals. All necessary clearances will be completed prior to any conveyance of title by the United States.

**ADDRESSES:** Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630.

**DATES:** On or before March 23, 1998, interested persons may submit comments to the Field Manager, Folsom Field Office at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Beck, Realty Specialist, at the above address or by phone at (916) 985-4474.

Dated: January 27, 1998.

**D.K. Swickard,**

*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-2728 Filed 2-3-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Announcement of Minerals Management Service Public Meeting on Oil Royalty-In-Kind Pilot Program in Wyoming

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a one-day public meeting to discuss issues involved in developing and implementing a royalty-in-kind (RIK) pilot program for crude oil produced from Federal leases in Wyoming. The meeting will be open to the public without advance registration.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 24, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Mountain time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Inn Casper, 800 North Poplar Road, Casper, Wyoming 82601, telephone (307) 266-6000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bonn J. Macy, Minerals Management Service, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 4230, Washington, D.C. 20240-000; telephone number (202) 208-3827; fax (202) 208-3918; e-mail Bonn.Macy@mms.gov.

**COMMENTS:** Written comments on the meetings or the issues discussed below should be addressed to Mr. Bonn J. Macy at the address given in the **FURTHER INFORMATION** section above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** MMS is developing three RIK pilot programs based on the recommendations in our 1997 RIK Feasibility Study, including an onshore crude oil RIK pilot in the State of Wyoming, an offshore natural gas RIK pilot in the 8(g) waters off the State of Texas, and an offshore Gulf of Mexico natural gas RIK pilot. The subject of this notice is MMS's planning process for the oil RIK pilot in Wyoming. The objective of the Wyoming crude oil pilot program, as with all three pilots, is to test the effectiveness of the RIK concept for collecting Federal oil and gas royalties.

MMS seeks to produce an RIK structure that reduces the administrative burden of royalty collection for both industry and government without creating a negative impact on Federal royalty revenue.

MMS, in collaboration with the State of Wyoming, intends to develop and implement a pilot program to take Federal crude oil royalties from Federal leases within the boundaries of the State of Wyoming as a share of production (i.e., "in-kind"). MMS intends to sell in the oil markets the production it receives in the pilot. MMS is currently planning to begin the pilot on October 1, 1998. The duration of the pilot program will be at least 2 years. Federal lessees in Wyoming will be directed to deliver royalty volumes in-kind for leases and associated communitization/unit agreements MMS selects to be involved in the pilot program. For all other leases or agreements, payors will continue paying royalties based on current requirements.

The MMS implementation team is currently studying production and marketing issues relevant to Wyoming crude oil. Based on this study and our previous work on the RIK concept, we will shortly develop a few specific RIK models for possible implementation. MMS believes that timely public comment and input on the issues in Wyoming are critical to the development of a successful pilot that realizes the full potential of the RIK concept. We therefore strongly encourage the public to participate in the February 24 public meeting in Casper, Wyoming and comment both on material discussed at the public meeting and the content of this Notice.

The MMS implementation team seeks to assess, through the design of the pilot, the impacts of a number of different lease variables such as gravity, sulfur content, transportation method, royalty rate level, and lease productivity. The team also intends to test the effectiveness of different strategies for RIK production. MMS seeks to quantitatively isolate the effects of these variables on Federal revenues realized and administrative burden.

Written public comment on MMS's implementation of a crude oil RIK pilot in Wyoming should be sent to the contact name and address given in the **FURTHER INFORMATION** section. Written statements submitted to MMS will become part of the meeting record and can be read, by request, at the Casper, Wyoming, public meeting.

In addition to general comments on the implementation of a crude oil RIK

pilot in Wyoming, MMS specifically requests comments on the following issues and questions:

1. Through the pilot, we plan to isolate and assess the effects of the lease variables such as gravity, sulfur, transportation method, royalty rate level, and lease productivity. Are there additional variables we should study?

2. Are there any circumstances that would mitigate against a starting date of October 1, 1998?

3. How much advance notice would lessees require before MMS takes royalties in-kind?

4. Should we set a minimum volume threshold for leases below which the RIK approach is not advisable?

5. Should we set a royalty rate threshold below which the RIK approach is not advisable?

6. Are there any special considerations when including large communitization and unit agreements in an RIK program?

7. Are there any special considerations for leases with trucked crude?

8. To compare RIK pilot performance, should we continue to audit the producers' shares or use receipts from leases that pay royalties on value that are located in the same geographic areas as pilot RIK leases?

9. How should MMS address imbalances with operators? Is it a potential problem?

10. What are the relevant valuation benchmarks (i.e., spot prices, indices, other?) that could provide MMS with a reasonable measure of Wyoming oil RIK pilot revenue performance?

11. What should be the duration of a sales contract for marketing Federal RIK oil?

12. What would be the minimum advisable volume for an RIK oil sales contract?

At the public meeting, MMS may present its plans for the Wyoming oil RIK pilot program as a draft "work-in-progress." One or more potential models for RIK may be offered for public discussion and comment as to their feasibility and effectiveness. MMS urges the public to participate in these important discussions.

Dated: January 29, 1998.

**Walter D. Cruickshank,**  
*Associate Director, for Policy and Management Improvement.*

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