

technical and agency review. Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Gila trout was listed as endangered on March 11, 1967, under the Federal Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966. Federal status of the fish as endangered was continued under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The threats facing the survival and recovery of this species are competition and hybridization with non-native trout species (*e.g.*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Salmo trutta*), improper forest management practices, improper grazing management practices, severe drought, catastrophic wildfires, and floods.

This recovery plan supersedes the recovery plan finalized for the species in 1993. The plan includes new scientific information about the species gathered since 1993 and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist then delist the species. Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include establishing additional populations of Gila trout; protecting existing populations and habitat; continuing to obtain information needed to address conservation issues; and continuing to provide information and coordinating recovery of this species. The recovery plan provides criteria for delisting and reclassification (*i.e.*, from endangered to threatened).

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 3, 2003.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 03-22988 Filed 9-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-930-5410-00-B178; CACA 44998]

Conveyance of Mineral Interests in California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of segregation.

SUMMARY: An application has been filed for the conveyance of the Federally owned mineral interest in the tract of land described below in this notice. Publication of this notice temporarily segregates the mineral interests in the public lands covered by the application from appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws while the application is being processed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Gary, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, (916) 978-4677.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tract of land referred to above in this notice consists of 160 acres of land, situated in Los Angeles County, and is described as follows:

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 5 N., R. 17 W.,
Sec. 29, S1/2NE1/4;
Sec. 29, N1/2SE1/4

Under certain conditions, section 209(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 authorizes the sale and conveyance of the Federally owned mineral interests in land when the non-mineral, or so called "surface" interest in the land is not Federally owned. The objective is to allow consolidation of the surface and mineral interests when either one of the following conditions exist: (1) There are no known mineral values in the land; or (2) where continued Federal ownership of the mineral interests interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than mineral development.

In accordance with section 209(b) of the 1976 Act, on December 10, 2002, an application was filed for the sale and conveyance of the Federally owned mineral interest in the above-described tract of land. Publication of this notice segregates, subject to valid existing rights, the Federally owned mineral interests in the public lands referenced above in this notice from appropriation under the general mining and mineral leasing laws, while the application is being processed to determine if either one of the two specified conditions exists and, if so, to otherwise comply with the procedural requirements of 43 CFR part 2720. The segregative effect shall terminate: (i) Upon issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance as to such mineral interests; (ii) upon final rejection of the application; or (iii) two years from the date of filing the application, whichever occurs first.

Authority: 43 CFR 2720.1-1(b).

Dated: September 2, 2003.

Howard Stark,

Chief, Branch of Lands Management.

[FR Doc. 03-22972 Filed 9-9-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of an information collection (1010-0071).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR part 203, "Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates." This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

DATE: Submit written comments by October 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments either by fax (202) 395-6566 or e-mail (*OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov*) directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010-0071). Mail or hand carry a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team, (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0071.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended by Pub. L. 104-58, Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA), gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the authority to reduce or eliminate royalty or any net profit share specified in OCS oil and gas leases to promote increased production. The DWRRA also authorized the

Secretary to suspend royalties when necessary to promote development or recovery of marginal resources on producing or non-producing leases in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude.

Section 302 of the DWRRA provides that new production from a lease in existence on November 28, 1995, in a water depth of at least 200 meters, and in the GOM west of 87 degrees, 30 minutes West longitude qualifies for royalty suspension in certain situations. To grant a royalty suspension, the Secretary must determine that the new production or development would not be economic without royalty relief. The Secretary must then determine the volume of production on which no royalty would be due in order to make the new production from the lease economically viable. This determination is done on a case-by-case basis. By regulation published January 15, 2002, (67 FR 1862) production from leases in the same water depth and area issued after November 28, 2000, also can qualify for royalty suspension in

addition to any that may be included in their lease terms.

In addition, Federal policy and statute require us to recover the cost of services that confer special benefits to identifiable non-Federal recipients. The Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), OMB Circular A-25, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996) authorize MMS to collect these fees to reimburse us for the cost to process applications or assessments.

Regulations at 30 CFR part 203 implement these statutes and policy and require respondents to pay a fee to request royalty relief. 30 CFR 203.3 states that, "We will specify the necessary fees for each of the types of royalty-relief applications and possible MMS audits in a Notice to Lessees. We will periodically update the fees to reflect changes in costs as well as provide other information necessary to administer royalty relief."

The MMS uses the information to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or

net profit share. These decisions have enormous monetary impact on both the lessee and the Federal Government. Royalty relief can lead to increased production of natural gas and oil, creating profits for lessees and royalty and tax revenues for the Government that they might not otherwise receive. We could not make an informed decision without the collection of information required by 30 CFR part 203.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas lessees.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The estimated annual "hour" burden for this information collection is a total of 8,550 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

| Reporting or recordkeeping requirement 30 CFR part 203 | Average number annual responses | Hour burden | Annual burden hours |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | Application Fees | | |
| OCS Lands Act Reporting | | | |
| Application—leases that generate earnings that cannot sustain continued production (end-of-life lease). | 1 Application | 100 | 100 |
| | Application 1 × \$8,000 = \$8,000 * | | |
| Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal producing lease (expect less than one per year). | 1 Application | 250 | 250 |
| | Application 1 × \$15,000 = \$15,000 * | | |
| § 203.55 Renounce relief arrangement (seldom, if ever used; minimal burden to prepare letter) | 1 Letter | 1 | 1 |
| §§ 203.81, 203.83 through 203.89 required reports | Burden included with applications. | | |
| OCS Lands Act Reporting Subtotal | 3 responses | N/A | 351 |
| | Processing Fees = \$23,000 | | |
| DWRAA Reporting | | | |
| Application—leases in designated areas of GOM deep water acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00 and are producing (deep water expansion project). | 1 Application | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | Application 1 × \$19,500 = \$19,500 | | |
| Application—leases in designated areas of deep water GOM, acquired in lease sale before 11/28/95 or after 11/28/00, that have not produced (pre-act or post-2000 deep water leases). | 1 Application | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | Application 1 × \$34,000 = \$34,000 * | | |
| Application—short form to add or assign pre-Act lease | 1 Application | 40 | 40 |
| | Application 1 × \$1,000 = \$1,000 | | |

| Reporting or recordkeeping requirement 30 CFR part 203 | Average number annual responses | Hour burden | Annual burden hours |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Application—preview assessment (seldom if ever used as applicants generally opt for binding determination by MMS instead). | 1 Application | 900 | 900 |
| | Application 1 × \$46,600 = \$46,600 | | |
| Application—apart from formal programs for royalty relief for marginal expansion project or marginal non-producing lease (expect less than one per year). | 1 Application | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | Application 1 × \$49,000 = \$49,000 | | |
| Redetermination | 1 Redetermination ... | 500 | 500 |
| | Application 1 × \$16,000 = \$16,000 * | | |
| §§ 203.70, 203.81, 203.90, 203.91 Submit fabricator's confirmation report | 2 Reports | 20 | 40 |
| §§ 203.70, 203.81, 203.90, 203.92 Submit post-production development report | 2 Reports * | 50 | 100 |
| § 203.77 Renounce relief arrangement (seldom, if ever will be used; minimal burden to prepare letter). | 1 Letter | 1 | 1 |
| § 203.79(a) Request reconsideration of MMS field designation | 4 Requests | 400 | 1,600 |
| § 203.79(c) Request extension of deadline to start construction | 1 Request | 2 | 2 |
| §§ 203.81, 203.83 through 203.89 Required reports | Burden included with applications | | 0 |
| DWRRRA Reporting Subtotal | 16 Responses | N/A | 8,183 |
| | Processing Fees = \$166,100 | | |

Recordkeeping Burden

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| § 203.91 Retain supporting cost records for post-production development/fabrication reports (records retained as usual/customary business practice; minimal burden to make available at MMS request). | 2 Recordkeepers | 8 | 16 |
| Total Annual Burden | 21 Responses | N/A | 8,550 |

* CPA certification expense burden also imposed on applicant.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"

Burden: There are two non-hour costs associated with this information collection. The estimated non-hour cost burden is \$414,000 (rounded). This estimate is based on:

(a) Application and audit fees. The total annual estimated cost burden for these fees is \$189,000 (refer to burden chart).

(b) Cost of reports prepared by independent certified public accountants. Under § 203.81, a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant (CPA) must accompany the application and post-production report (expansion project, short form, and preview assessment applications are excluded). The OCS Lands Act applications will require this report only once; the DWRRRA applications will require this report at two stages—with the application and post-production development report for successful applicants. MMS estimates approximately five submissions each

year at an average cost of \$45,000 per report, for a total estimated annual cost burden of \$225,000.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) requires each agency “* * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *.” Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality,

usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

To comply with the public consultation process, on April 21, 2003, MMS published a **Federal Register** notice (68 FR 19572) announcing that we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. In addition, § 203.82 provides the OMB control number for the information collection requirements imposed by the 30 CFR 203 regulations. The regulation also informs the public that they may comment at any time on the collections of information and provides the address to which they should send comments. We have received no comments in response to these efforts.

If you wish to comment in response to this notice, you may send your comments to the offices listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. OMB

has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by October 10, 2003.

Public Comment Policy: MMS 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 their home address be withheld from the record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by the law. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, anonymous comments will not be considered. MMS 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.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated: July 9, 2003.

John V. Mirabella,

Acting Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 03-22973 Filed 9-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

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 an information collection (1010-0006).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR part 256, "Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Continental Shelf."

DATES: Submit written comments by November 10, 2003.

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. If you wish to e-

mail comments, the address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference "Information Collection 1010-0006" in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team, (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 256, Leasing of Sulphur or Oil and Gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0006.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA) prohibits certain lease bidding arrangements (42 U.S.C. 6213 (c)).

The Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 (IOAA), 31 U.S.C. 9701, authorizes Federal agencies to recover the full cost of services that provide special benefits. Under the Department of the Interior's (DOI) policy implementing the IOAA, MMS is required to charge the full cost for services that provide special benefits or privileges to an identifiable non-Federal recipient above and beyond those that accrue to the public at large. Instruments of transfer of a lease or interest are subject to cost recovery, and MMS regulations specify filing fees for these transfer applications.

The MMS uses the information required by 30 CFR part 256 to determine if applicants are qualified to hold leases in the OCS. Specifically, MMS uses the information to:

- Verify the qualifications of a bidder on an OCS lease sale. Once the required information is filed with MMS, a qualification number is assigned to the

bidder so that duplicate information is not required on subsequent filings.

- Develop the semiannual List of Restricted Joint Bidders. This identifies parties ineligible to bid jointly with each other on OCS lease sales, under limitations established by the EPCA.

- Ensure the qualification of assignees. Once a lease is awarded, the transfer of a lessee's interest to another qualified party must be approved by an MMS regional director.

- Obtain information and nominations on oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development and production. Early planning and consultation ensure that all interests and concerns are communicated to us for future decisions in the leasing process.

- Document that a leasehold or geographical subdivision has been surrendered by the record title holder.

- Verify that lessees have adequate bonding coverage. Respondents must submit their bonds certification forms: "Form MMS-2028, Outer Continental Shelf Mineral Lessee's and Operator's Bond," and Form MMS-2028A, "Outer Continental Shelf Mineral Lessee's and Operator's Supplemental Plugging & Abandonment Bond." The MMS uses these documents to hold the surety liable for the obligations and liability of the principal/lessee or operator.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and under regulations at 30 CFR parts 250, 251, and 252. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory or required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency: The frequency of reporting is annual and on occasion.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees, as well as the affected States and local governments.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved annual reporting burden for this collection is 16,329 hours. The following chart details the individual components and respective hour burden estimates of this ICR. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.