

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-067-1990; CA-40204]

**Amendment**

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

**ACTION:** Amendment.

**SUMMARY:** In the *Federal Register* of December 28, 1998 (Vol. 63, Number 248), a notice was published. This amends that notice. Because of expressed interest, the public comment period is extended to March 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kevin Marty or Thomas Zale at (760) 337-4400.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

**Elayn Briggs,**

*Acting Field Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE** 4310-40-M

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-930-1060-04]

**Intent To Remove Wild Horses**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to remove wild horses.

**SUMMARY:** Periodic removals of wild horses are necessary in order to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public rangelands. These removals are intended to bring the populations down to the established AML (Appropriate Management Levels). These AML's were established through the planning process as a result of monitoring and analysis of data in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM Policies. This document serves as a Notice of Intent to remove excess wild horses from the following Herd Management Areas (HMA) and from areas outside Herd Management Areas.

**Rock Springs Field Office**

*HMA Divide Basin*—remove 266 of an estimated 681. AML is 500 with a range of 415-600. This action would reduce the population to the lower end of the range. Begin approximately February 15, finish November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

*Salt Wells Creek HMA*—remove 362 from an estimated population of 888. AML is 365 and this action would bring

the population closer to AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

*Little Colorado HMA*—remove 70 of an estimated population of 147. AML is 100 and this action would reduce the herd to 77 horses or 23 below AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

*White Mountain HMA*—remove 150 of an estimate population of 376. AML is 250 and this action would reduce the herd to 226 horses or 24 below AML. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

*Areas Outside HMAs*—remove 152 of 152 horses. This action would remove all horses outside HMAs. Begin approximately February 15, finish approximately November 15. Decision Record EA# WY-048-EA3-87 dated May 19, 1993.

Weather conditions and other logistical considerations may dictate when actual removal operations take place. The dates indicated are approximate, and removal may take place in any of the HMAs listed above during anytime of the year with the exception that gathers will not take place between April 16 and July 7, since this is foaling season in Wyoming. Numbers are approximate and will be finalized by aircraft census to be conducted during January/February 1999. All actions are in conformance with Bureau of Land Management Policy, documents listed above, and current monitoring data. These actions represent no new decisions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bernie Weynand, Assistant Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Hwy. 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, (307) 352-0246.

**John S. McKee,**

*Field Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE** 4310-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Minerals Management Service****Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Minerals Management Service and the United States Coast Guard**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have updated their MOU concerning responsibilities for offshore facilities. The update was necessary to add responsibilities associated with floating facilities, the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), and civil penalties.

**DATES:** The effective date of the MOU is December 16, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Gould, MMS at (703) 787-1616 or Rajiv Khandpur, USCG at (202) 267-0494.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In August, 1989 the MMS and the USCG signed an MOU that outlined responsibilities associated with facilities located on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The purpose was to minimize duplication, and to promote consistent regulation of these facilities. The use of floating facilities and responsibilities assigned by OPA created a need to update the MOU. Therefore, on January 5, 1998, MMS and USCG published an update of the 1989 MOU (63 FR 256) for public comment. We analyzed those comments and we revised the MOU as shown in Appendix A. We appreciate the excellent comments and suggestions that we received.

We are now implementing the MOU. The following is a sample list of actions that we will be considering in the process:

- Review the standards of both agencies for consistency;
- Determine the need for legislative changes to improve efficiency and clarify the jurisdiction for floating facilities;
- Determine how to make a smooth transition of duties;
- Determine how the certified verification agent program will function;
- Focus on our inspection programs to eliminate duplication;
- Work on safety management including accident investigations to promote safe practices;
- Implement the civil penalties process set out in the MOU;
- Continue to work on single point reporting;
- Communicate electronically;
- Improve the process of reporting and collecting incident data;
- Share incident data to prevent accidents, particularly fatalities;
- In the rare cases when both agencies are conducting a review (i.e., Design, fabrication, installation of non-ship-shape floating facilities), determine how the process will work; and
- Coordinate more research efforts for safety and oil spill prevention and response.

We will be forming many teams with participants from MMS, USCG, and