

project site is 8.1 hectares (20 acres), but the proposed project will directly impact a maximum of 1.7 hectares (4.2 acres) that may result in incidental take of the Preble's. Of the total amount of impacted acreage, 0.6 hectare (1.4 acres) will be temporarily disturbed and will be revegetated. An HCP has been developed as part of the preferred alternative. The proposed HCP will allow for the incidental take of the Preble's by permitting a commercial development and associated utilities to be constructed in an area that may be periodically used as foraging, breeding or hibernation habitat.

In addition to the Proposed Action, alternatives considered included—(a) Waiting for the Elbert County Regional HCP to be approved, (b) developing the site without avoidance of Preble's habitat, (c) developing the portion of the site that will have no impacts to Preble's habitat, and (d) no action. The draft EA analyzes the onsite, offsite, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project and all associated development and construction activities and mitigation activities on the Preble's, and also on other threatened or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, geology/soils, land use, water resources, air and water quality, and cultural resources. All of the proposed permanent impacts are in upland areas outside of the 100-year floodplain. The Applicant, using the Service's definition of Preble's habitat, has determined that the proposed project would impact approximately 1.7 hectares (4.2 acres) of potential Preble's habitat. The mitigation will likely provide a net benefit to the Preble's and other wildlife by planting of native shrubs and protecting existing habitat along Running Creek from any future development.

Only one federally-listed species, the threatened Preble's, occurs onsite and has the potential to be adversely affected by the project. To mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take, the HCP provides mitigation for the commercial site by protecting and enhancing 2.1 hectares (5.3 acres) of the Running Creek corridor onsite and its associated riparian areas from all future development. Approximately 0.6 hectare (1.41 acres) of temporarily disturbed grassland will be enhanced prior to construction by fencing to eliminate grazing and an additional 1.6 hectares (3.9 acres) will be enhanced native shrub planting and native grass reseeding. Measures will be taken during construction to minimize impact to the habitat, including the use of silt fencing to reduce the amount of sediment from construction activities

that reaches the creek. All of the proposed mitigation area is within the boundaries of the Elizabeth Cross Roads property, all of which is included in the drainage basin of Running Creek.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. We will evaluate the permit application, the EA/HCP, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Preble's in conjunction with the construction of Elizabeth Cross Roads Business Park. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: November 14, 2003.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 03-30957 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska OCS Region, Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sale 195, March 2005

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Request for information and Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Secretary's approved 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002-2007 provides for 3 sales: Sales 186, 195, and 202 to be held in the Beaufort Sea program area. The pre-sale process incorporated planning and analysis for all three sales. From the initial step in the process (the call for information and nominations (call)) through the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Consistency Determination (CD) step, the process covered the multiple sale proposals. However, there will be complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), OCS Lands Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act coverage for each sale, and each sale will be preceded by a proposed and final notice of sale. The environmental analysis and the CD for Sale 195 will focus primarily on new issues and/or changes in the State's federally-approved coastal management plan.

The call and NOI to prepare an EIS for Sales 186, 195, and 202 was published in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 2001, at 66 FR 48268. The Beaufort Sea final EIS for Sales 186, 195, and 202

was released in February 2003 (OCS EIS/EA, MMS 2003-001). The first sale, Sale 186, was held on September 24, 2003. The MMS is now initiating a request for information for Beaufort Sea Sale 195.

DATES: Comments on the Request for Information and on the NOI must be received no later than 45 days following publication of this document in the **Federal Register** in envelopes labeled "Comments on the Request for Information for Beaufort Sea Sale 195" or "Comments on the NOI to Prepare an Environmental Assessment", as appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please call Tom Warren at (907) 271-6691 in MMS's Alaska OCS Region regarding questions on the request for information/NOI to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental analysis and the CD for Sale 195 will focus primarily on new issues that may have arisen since the completion of the EIS for Sales 186, 195, and 202 (February 2003) and on any changes that may have occurred in the State's coastal management plan. The process will lead to identification of the area to be included in the proposed notice of sale. Each of these steps, including the proposed notice of sale, provides for a public comment period. At the culmination of each step and after analysis of any public comments, the MMS will decide whether to proceed to the next step. This process will:

- Focus on the environmental analysis by revising types and levels of impacts that changed since the analysis was done for Sale 186;
- Result in any new issues being more easily highlighted by the public;
- Eliminate issuance for public review of repetitive, voluminous EISs for each sale; and
- Result in a more efficient and responsive application of the NEPA.

The MMS will analyze all comments received in response to this request for information and re-examine information previously submitted in response to the call and the draft and final EISs for Sales 186, 195, and 202. The MMS will then identify the area to be analyzed in the NEPA document.

This request for information does not indicate a decision to lease in the area described below. Final delineation of the areas for possible leasing will be made after completion of the pre-sale steps described above and in compliance with the final 5-year program and applicable laws, including

all requirements of the NEPA and the OCS Lands Act.

Request for Information

1. Authority

This request for information is published pursuant to the OCS Lands Act as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331–1356 (1994)) (OCS Lands Act), and the regulations issued thereunder (30 CFR part 256); and in accordance with the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002 to 2007.

2. Purpose of Request

The purpose of the request for information is to gather information for Oil and Gas Lease Sale 195 in the Beaufort Sea, scheduled for March 2005. Information on oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production within the Beaufort Sea are sought from all interested parties. This early planning and consultation step is important for ensuring that all interests and concerns are communicated to the Department of the Interior for decisions in the leasing process pursuant to the OCS Lands Act and regulations at 30 CFR part 256.

The call published in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 2001, requested information and nominations from industry for Sales 186, 195, and 202 in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. The MMS will use the information submitted in response to that call and any new information submitted in response to this request for information to determine the area that will be included in a NEPA analysis. It is not necessary to re-submit comments sent in response to the multiple-sale call or for industry to re-submit their areas of interest if your comments or indications of interest have not changed since that time. This process seeks to identify new areas of concern and areas of interest to industry.

3. Description of Area

The area located offshore the State of Alaska in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area is the subject of this request for information. It extends offshore from about 3 nautical miles to approximately 60 nautical miles, in water depths from approximately 25 feet to 200 feet. A small portion of the outer limits of the sale area north of Harrison Bay drops to approximately 3,000 feet. This area consists of approximately 1,898 whole and partial blocks (about 9.9 million acres). A page-size map of the area accompanies this notice. A large scale request for information map showing the boundaries of the area on a block-by-block basis is available without

charge from the Records Manager at the address given below, or by telephone request at (907) 271–6621. Copies of Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) are also available for \$2 each.

Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508–4302; <http://www.mms.gov/alaska>.

4. Instructions on Request for Information

The request for information map delineates the area that is the subject of this request. Respondents are requested to indicate interest in and comment on any or all of the Federal acreage within the boundaries of the request for information area that they wish to have included in Beaufort Sea Sale 195.

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of the following methods:

- You may mail comments to the Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508–4302.
- You may also comment via e-mail to akrfi@mms.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include “Attn: Comments on Request for Information for Beaufort Sea Sale 195” and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (907) 271–6621.
- Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Alaska OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508–4302.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be additional circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We 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.

A. Areas of Interest to the Oil and Gas Industry

The MMS requests industry to submit any new information, including nomination of blocks that are of significant interest for exploration, development, and production. Information and nominations submitted in response to the multiple-sale call for Sales 186, 195, and 202, published on September 19, 2001 (66 FT 48268), will also be considered as information and nominations for the Sale 195 area identification process.

Nominations must be depicted on the request for information map by outlining the area(s) of interest along block lines. Nominators are asked to submit a list of whole and partial blocks nominated (by OPD and block number) to facilitate correct interpretation of their nominations on the request for information map. Although the identities of those submitting nominations become a matter of public record, the individual nominations are proprietary information.

Nominators also are requested to rank blocks nominated according to priority of interest (e.g., priority 1 (high), or 2 (medium)). Blocks nominated that do not indicate priorities will be considered priority 3 (low). Nominators must be specific in indicating blocks by priority and be prepared to discuss their range of interest and activity regarding the nominated area(s). The telephone number and name of a person to contact in the nominator's organization for additional information should be included in the response. This person will be contacted to set up a mutually agreeable time and place for a meeting with the Alaska OCS Regional Office to present their views regarding the company's nominations.

B. Relation to Coastal Management Plans

Comments also are sought on potential conflicts with approved local coastal management plans that may result from the sale and future OCS oil and gas activities. These comments should identify specific coastal management plan policies of concern, the nature of the conflicts foreseen, and steps that MMS could take to avoid or mitigate the potential conflicts. Comments may be in terms of broad areas or restricted to particular blocks of concern. Commenters are requested to list block numbers or outline the subject area on the large-scale Request for Information map.

5. Use of Information From the Request for Information

Information submitted in response to this request for information will be used for several purposes. Responses will be used to:

- Help to further identify areas of potential oil and gas development;
- Identify environmental effects and potential use conflicts not previously addressed in the final EIS and CD for Sales 186, 195, and 202 (OCS EIS/EA, MMS 2003-0010);
- Develop any additional lease terms and conditions/mitigating measures that may be necessary; and
- Identify any potential conflicts between oil and gas activities and the Alaska coastal management plan not addressed in the CD for Sale 186.

6. Existing Information

The MMS has acquired a substantial amount of information, including that gained through the use of traditional knowledge, on the issues and concerns related to oil and gas leasing in the Beaufort Sea.

An extensive environmental, social, and economic studies program has been underway in this area since 1975. The emphasis has been on geologic mapping, environmental characterization of biologically sensitive habitats, endangered whales and marine mammals, physical oceanography, ocean-circulation modeling, and ecological and socio-cultural effects of oil and gas activities.

Information on the Studies program, completed studies, and a program status report for continuing studies in this area may be obtained from the Chief, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region, by telephone request at (907) 271-6577, or by written request at the address stated under Description of Area. A request may also be made via the Alaska OCS Region Web site at <http://www.mms.gov/alaska/ref/pubindex/pubsindex.htm>.

7. Tentative Schedule

The following is a list of tentative milestone dates applicable to Beaufort Sea Sale 195 covered by this call:

Request for Information published.	December 2003
Area Identification	February 2004
NEPA/Environmental Assessment Review (or Supplemental EIS) published.	August 2004
Proposed Notice and CD.	October 2004
Final Notice of Sale	February 2005
Tentative Sale Date	March 2005

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Analysis

1. Authority

The NOI is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) implementing the provisions of the NEPA of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (1988)).

2. Purpose of Notice of Intent

Pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), MMS is announcing its intent to prepare an environmental assessment for Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sale 195, scheduled for March 2005. The environmental assessment will be prepared to determine if there are significant new issues or impacts not previously addressed in the EIS for Sales 189, 195, and 202. If no significant new issues or impacts are identified, a finding of no new significant impacts will be issued. If information is submitted in response to this request for information that identifies significant new issues and/or impacts not previously addressed, a supplemental EIS may be prepared.

3. Instructions on Notice of Intent

Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other interested parties are requested to send their written comments on new information and issues that should be addressed in the environmental assessment to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment, Alaska OCS Region, at the address stated under Request for Information, Item 4. Comments should be enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for Beaufort Sea Sale 195." Comments are due no later than 45 days from publication of this notice.

Dated: December 2, 2003.

R.M. "Johnnie" Burton,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

[FR Doc. 03-31013 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

60-Day Notice of Intention To Request Clearance of Collection of Information; Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intended submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR part 1320, the National Park Service (NPS) invites comments on its intention to request OMB to approve an existing collection in use with an OMB control number (1024-0245) associated with the United States Park Police Personal History Statements Questionnaire. The purpose of the United States Park Police Personal History Statement Questionnaire is to collect detailed information that will be used principally as a basis for an investigation to determine suitable applicants for the position of United States Park Police Officer.

DATES: To assure that the NPS considers your comments on this notice; NPS must receive the comments on or before February 17, 2004.

SEND COMMENTS TO: Lieutenant Charles A. Orton, Assistant Commander Human Resources Office, United States Park Police, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20024, via fax at 202-619-7479, or via e-mail at Charles_A_Orton@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Charles A. Orton, Assistant Commander Human Resources Office, United States Park Police, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20024, via fax at 202-619-7479, or via e-mail at Charles_A_Orton@nps.gov or via telephone at 202-619-7001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: United States Park Police Personal History Statements Questionnaire.

OMB Number: 1024-0245.

Expiration Date of Approval: 2/29/04.

Type of Request: Existing collection in use with an OMB Control number.

Abstract: This information collection has an impact on individuals that apply to the position of United States Park Police Officer. The NPS uses the information collections to hire adequately screened applicants for the position of United States Park Police Officer.

Respondents: Individual applicants to the position of United States Park Police Officer.

Estimate of Burden: NPS estimates that the public burden for the United States Personal History Statements Questionnaire collection of information will average 8 hours per applicant. This estimate of burden includes time for reviewing instructions, searching information sources, and gathering and reporting the information.