

the Medford District Office. Single copies will also be available for inspection during normal working hours at the Oregon State Office, Public Room, 333 SW., 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97204. The document may also be reviewed on the Medford District planning Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/planning/Medplanningdocs.html>. The public has the opportunity to protest the proposed RMP amendment components, as described in the Final EIS. The BLM planning regulations, 43 CFR 1610.5-2, state that any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which may be adversely affected, may protest. A protest may only raise those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. The BLM will make its decisions after review of protests (if any).

To be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name, mailing address, telephone number and the affected interest of the person filing the protest(s).
- A statement of the issue (or issues) being protested.
- A statement of the part (or parts) of the proposed plan amendment being protested. To the extent possible, reference specific pages, paragraphs and sections of the document.
- A copy of all your documents addressing the issue (or issues) which were discussed with BLM for the record.
- A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is the critical part of your protest. Document all relevant facts, as much as possible, referencing or citing the planning and environmental analysis documents. A protest that merely expresses disagreement with State Director's proposed decisions without any data will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

Since this plan is a combination of RMP amendments and subordinate implementation or activity plans, the planning protest provision only applies to the proposed amendments and related findings. The subordinate actions, such as forest health treatments and individual timber sales will be subject to applicable administrative review and appeal provisions at later dates. The planning protest process does not provide for consideration of objections to those actions at this time.

The FEIS analyzes three action alternatives and a no-action alternative, each developed with differing emphasis.

The alternatives were designed to address, in different ways, the land and resource management issues identified in the early stages of the planning process. The range of management actions includes timber harvest of anywhere from 3.1 to 11.9 million board feet (MMBF), 5,000-6,000 acres of fuel hazard reduction treatments, restoration activities, road decommissioning, water source enhancement projects, and other land management direction. Public participation has occurred throughout the planning process. Public comments were solicited during scoping and through a 90 day comment period for the draft EIS. The comments were analyzed and utilized where applicable to clarify and strengthen the FEIS.

Dated: December 30, 2002.

**Mary Smelcer,**

*Acting District Manager, Medford District Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska OCS Region

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed oil and gas lease sales in the Beaufort Sea, Alaska.

**SUMMARY:** MMS announces the availability of the final EIS prepared by MMS for the proposed OCS lease sales 186 (2003), 195 (2005), and 202 (2007) offshore Beaufort Sea, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, Attention: Mr. Paul Lowry, telephone: (907) 271-6574 or toll free 1-800-764-2627.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This EIS assesses three lease sales in the final 2002-2007, 5-year oil and gas leasing program for the Beaufort Sea OCS planning area. Sale 186 is scheduled for 2003; sale 195 for 2005; and sale 202 for 2007.

Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1502.4) suggest analyzing similar or like proposals in a single EIS. The proposal for each sale is to offer 1,877 whole or partial lease blocks in the Beaufort Sea planning area, covering about 9.8 million acres (3.95 million hectares) for leasing. The proposed sale area is seaward up to 60 miles offshore of the

State of Alaska submerged land boundary in the Beaufort Sea. It extends from the Canadian border on the east to near Barrow, Alaska, on the west.

**EIS Availability:** Persons interested in reviewing the final EIS "OCS EIS/EA, MMS 2003-01" (volumes I through IV) can contact the MMS Alaska OCS Region. The documents are available for public inspection between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at: Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, Resource Center, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 330, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, telephone: (907) 271-6070, or (907) 271-6621, or toll free at 1-800-764-2627. Requests may also be sent to MMS at [akwebmaster@mms.gov](mailto:akwebmaster@mms.gov). You may obtain single copies of the final EIS, or a CD-ROM version, or the Executive Summary from the same address. The Executive Summary (MMS 2003-02) is available in English or Native Inupiaq languages.

You may look at copies of the final EIS in the following libraries:

Alaska Pacific University, Academic Support Center Library, 4101 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska;

Alaska Resources Library and Information Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 3150 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska;

Alaska State Library, Government Publications, State Office Building, 333 Willoughby, Juneau, Alaska;

Canadian Joint Secretariat Librarian, Inuvik Northwest Territories, Canada;

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada;

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska;

George Francis Memorial Library, Kotzebue, Alaska;

Ilisaavik Library, Shishmaref, Alaska;

Juneau Public Library, 292 Marine

Way, Juneau, Alaska;

Kaveolook School Library, Kaktovik,

Alaska;

Kegoyah Kozpa Public Library, Nome, Alaska;

North Slope Borough School District, Library/Media Center, Barrow, Alaska;

Northern Alaska Environmental

Center Library, 218 Driveway,

Fairbanks, Alaska;

Tikigaq Library, Point Hope, Alaska;

Tuzzy Consortium Library, Barrow,

Alaska;

University of Alaska Anchorage,

Consortium Library, 3211 Providence

Drive, Anchorage, Alaska;

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, Government Documents, 310 Tanana Drive,

Fairbanks, Alaska;