

environmentally sensitive land, available for oil and gas leasing. Alternative A makes 100 percent available for oil and gas leasing, Alternative B makes 96 percent available, and Alternative C makes 47 percent available. Stipulations would provide protection for natural and cultural resources under all alternatives, but their nature, number and scope varies between the alternatives.

Authority for developing this document is derived from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Henri R. Bisson,**  
State Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 03-30035 Filed 11-26-03; 4:43 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1610-PG; G-04-0036]

#### Notice of Public Meetings, Steens Mountain Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Steens Act), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will meet as indicated below:

**DATES:** The SMAC will meet at the BLM, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, on February 17, 18 and 19; April 12 and 13, 2004; June 14 and 15, 2004; August 9 and 10, 2004; and November 15 and 16, 2004. A meeting in Bend, Oregon, (location to be determined) will be held on May 10 and 11, 2004 and one in Frenchglen, Oregon, on September 13 and 14, 2004. All meeting sessions will begin at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at approximately 4:30 p.m., local time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SMAC was appointed by the Secretary of Interior on August 14, 2001 pursuant to the Steens Act and re-chartered in August 2003. The SMAC's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new

and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

Topics to be discussed by the SMAC at these meetings include categories such as transportation, recreation/public use, wildlife, special designated areas, partnerships/programs, cultural resources, watersheds, projects, education, volunteer-based information, adaptive management, planning process (Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement), science committee/consultants, socioeconomic, and other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC.

All meetings are open to the public in their entirety. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested at least 10 days prior to the start of each SMAC meeting. Public comment is generally scheduled for 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, both days of each meeting session. The amount of time scheduled for public presentations and meeting times may be extended when the authorized representative considers it necessary to accommodate all who seek to be heard regarding matters on the agenda.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Additional information concerning the SMAC may be obtained from Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, (541) 573-4400 or [Rhonda\\_Karges@or.blm.gov](mailto:Rhonda_Karges@or.blm.gov) or from the following Web site: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens>.

Dated: November 24, 2003.

**Karla Bird,**

*Andrews Resource Area Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 03-29896 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

## 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 new information collection survey.

**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 conduct a new survey on Potential Impacts of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Activities on Bowhead Whale Hunting Activities in the Beaufort Sea. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by January 2, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments either by fax (202) 395-6566 or email ([OIRA\\_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov](mailto: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-NEW). 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. If you wish to e-mail your comments to MMS, the address is: [rules.comments@mms.gov](mailto:rules.comments@mms.gov). Reference Information Collection 1010-NEW in your subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message text.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team, at (703) 787-1600, to obtain a copy of the survey instruments. For more information on the survey itself, contact Dr. Dee Williams in the MMS Alaska Regional Office, at (907) 271-6680.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Survey Instruments—Quantitative Description of Potential Impacts of OCS Activities on Bowhead Whale Hunting Activities in the Beaufort Sea.

*OMB Control Number:* 1010-NEW.  
*Abstract:* The Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) is responsible for oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under the OCS Lands Act of 1953, the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978 (OCSLA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. OCSLA (Section 18) and NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) require assessment of the effects of OCS oil and gas activities on adjacent human and physical environments. Therefore, USDOI/MMS acquires and analyzes and/or oversees collection and analysis of environmental, socio-economic, and

socio-cultural information relevant to OCS decisions and uses that information in Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

This study is responsive to concerns among North Slope Borough (NSB) residents that oil exploration and development activities in general, and OCS activities in particular, are having an adverse effect on whale hunting and Iñupiat life. There are three general areas of concern. First are the worries over the physical effects of seismic testing; the movement of barges, aircraft, and other transport vessels; and the erection of platforms. Many think these disruptions alter the feeding and migration patterns of bowhead whales and other marine mammals. The result is that fall whaling crews must move further out to sea, thereby increasing both the danger and the costs of the hunt. There is also considerable anxiety over the contamination of wild foods and the environment from drilling cuts, mudflows, and production water wastes and petroleum discharges. Many of the residents in the smaller villages question the long-term consequences of altering freshwater habitats by draining lakes to build ice roads; the interference of oil well structures, fences, and pipeline on caribou crossings and the behavior of other land mammals; and the ability of local residents to continue to access marine and land mammals.

Secondly, the social, cultural, and economic impact of energy development is a second area of interest and apprehension. There are the direct benefits of economic growth that many look forward to, such as more employment opportunities, more discretionary income, and improved public services. There are also negative trends associated with industrialization, such as general anomie, excessive alcohol and drug use, abusive and self-destructive behavior, higher accident rates, loss of territory, restrictions on land use, loss of language and subsistence skills, dissolution of family relations, decline in community rituals and festivities, and the dilution of cultural values such as sharing, reciprocity, respect for others, and consensual decision making.

There is another, more intangible, worry about what some social scientists call an "opportunity-threat impact" or fears about what might happen to the health and well-being of one's family and community. The implications of economic and social change in the Arctic are not fully understood. Some welcome the transformation of the community and the availability of freshwater, sewers, and better housing.

According to others, Iñupiat peoples have "over adapted" to the new industrial economy, which can threaten the long-term survival of cultural traditions and a distinctive way of life.

Finally, whether the changes that accompany economic development are positive or destructive depends heavily on the regulatory regimes and mitigation measures that are in place, a final area of contention. Here, complaints have been voiced about the pressure on the NSB to deal with the accidents and damages tied to development for which it is not responsible. This puts added stress on the capacity of the NSB to serve the needs of residents and is particularly troublesome in a time of declining revenues and personnel layoffs.

MMS proposes to collect the information in this study: (1) To describe participation in bowhead whale hunting and its importance to and relationship with other traditional activities in three Iñupiat communities on Alaska's North Slope and one control community of similar size in the western part of the State; (2) to describe and analyze community assessments of the effects of oil and gas development and modernization on participation in traditional activities, especially bowhead whale hunting; (3) to describe and analyze community assessments of desired future conditions for whale hunting and related traditional activities; and (4) to describe how oil and gas development and other forces of modernization influence these desired future conditions for whaling and other traditional activities. The information collected will be used in regional EAs and EISs and will be used to make decisions on future oil and gas lease sales in the Beaufort Sea, currently scheduled for 2005 and 2007. These data will enhance the ability of MMS and the Secretary of the Interior to make fully informed leasing and development decisions about the Beaufort Sea.

*Survey Instruments:* An integral aspect of the research effort is the development and administration of three survey instruments that will collect information about the North Slope communities of Barrow, Kaktovik, and Nuiqsut and the "control community" of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Straits. The survey data are divided into five broad categories: demographic and economic characteristics; quantitative and qualitative summaries of participation in bowhead whaling and other subsistence activities; an assessment of residents' perceptions of the potential threats and benefits of OCS development to subsistence and other

traditional activities, especially bowhead whaling; changes in the quality of life in each community, measured in both economic and cultural terms; and the way residents view the likely future of their communities.

The information under this proposed collection will be obtained through personal interviews with three distinct groups: whaling captains, adult-headed households and elders, and high school juniors and seniors. A separate survey, based on previous studies, has been developed for each of these groups.

The *Whaling Captain Survey* focuses on the patterns of participation in whale hunting activities and the possible impact of OCS development on these patterns. Demographic questions about age, length of time in the community, education, gender, shareholder status in village and regional corporations, and family relations will reveal, in part, a captain's experience, understanding, and perspectives on social change and resource development. The *Household Survey* focuses on the effects of offshore oil industry activities on individual residents, households, and groups in each community. Population characteristics such as age, number, and relationships of people in the household and level of education are related to changes in employment, income, and economic opportunity. Gender, ethnic background, length of residency, and corporate membership can also result in divergent views about subsistence, development, language, and many other factors. The *Student Survey* focuses on perceptions about the effects of OCS oil and gas activities, documents student attitudes about Iñupiat traditions, and tracks changes in student behaviors that help assess inter-generational continuities. Responses may vary depending on age, ethnicity, and gender.

It is assumed in all three surveys that Native ancestry is predictably tied to participation in subsistence and other traditional cultural activities. Since only coastal Alaskan Natives can legally hunt bowhead whales and other marine mammals, the survey will include only Native residents. Variation of participation in subsistence and other traditional activities among groups, as well as over time, will be a key analytical focus.

*Interview Methods:* The interviews for each survey will be done face to face in a setting that is most comfortable for the respondent. This personal method is more expensive and time consuming for the researchers, but these drawbacks are outweighed by improvements in the quality of information obtained and the rapport established between the

surveyor and the person interviewed. Telephone interviews have not been successful on the North Slope.

Households in Barrow, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, and Savoonga (control village) will be randomly chosen for interviews. To achieve the desired statistical confidence level, smaller communities are sampled at a higher rate than are

larger ones. Respondents will be paid for taking part in the survey.

*Frequency:* One-time survey.

*Estimated Number and Description of Respondents:* Approximately 614 respondents from Alaska's North Slope communities and a control group in western Alaska.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden:* The estimated annual "hour" burden for this information collection is a total of 474 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens.

Respondent categories	Estimated hour burden	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated annual burden hours (rounded)	Personal time value (estimated)
Whaling Captains .....	.....	.....	.....	(\$30/interview)
Barrow .....	50 minutes .....	43	36	1290
Kaktovik .....	50 minutes .....	10	8	300
Nuiqsut .....	50 minutes .....	10	8	300
Savoonga .....	50 minutes .....	28	23	840
Subtotal .....	.....	91	75	\$2,730
Households .....	.....	.....	.....	(\$20/interview)
NSB .....	45 minutes .....	281	211	5620
Control Village .....	45 minutes .....	70	53	1400
Subtotal .....	.....	351	264	\$7,020
Elders .....	.....	.....	.....	(\$30/interview)
NSB .....	50 minutes .....	42	35	1260
Control Village .....	50 minutes .....	20	17	600
Subtotal .....	.....	62	52	\$1,860
High School (total) .....	.....	.....	.....	(\$20/interview)
.....	45 minutes .....	110	83	\$2,200
Grand Total .....	.....	614	474	\$13,810

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"*

*Burden:* No non-hour cost burden has been identified.

*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 July 14, 2003, we published a **Federal Register** notice

(68 FR 41658) announcing that we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. This notice also informed the public that they may comment at any time on the collections of information and provided 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 January 2, 2004.

*Public Comment Policy:* MMS practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. MMS will honor the request to the extent allowable by the law. However, anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be

made available for public inspection in their entirety.

*MMS Federal Register Liaison Officer:* Denise Johnson, (202) 208-3976.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

**E.P. Danenberger,**

*Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.*

[FR Doc. 03-29887 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations**

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before November 15, 2003. Pursuant to § 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded by United States Postal Service, to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW., 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St., NW., 8th floor, Washington, DC 20005; or by fax, 202-371-6447. Written or faxed comments