

Walker Ridge

22, 45, 46, 66, 120, 121, 164, 197, 198, 678, 723, 766

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Outer Continental Shelf Central Gulf of Mexico; Notice of Leasing System, Sale 152

Section 8(a)(8) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8)) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that, at least 30 days before any lease sale, a Notice be submitted to the Congress and published in the **Federal Register**:

1. Identifying the bidding systems to be used and the reasons for such use; and

2. Designating the tracts to be offered under each bidding system and the reasons for such designation.

This Notice is published pursuant to these requirements.

1. *Bidding systems to be used.* In the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 152, blocks will be offered under the following two bidding systems as authorized by section 8(a)(1) (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)): (a) Bonus bidding with a fixed 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -percent royalty on all unleased blocks in less than 400 meters of water; and (b) bonus bidding with a fixed 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent royalty on all remaining unleased blocks.

a. *Bonus Bidding with a 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA. This system has been used extensively since the passage of the OCSLA in 1953 and imposes greater risks on the lessee than systems with higher contingency payments but may yield more regards if a commercial field is discovered. The relatively high front-end bonus payments may encourage rapid exploration.

b. *Bonus Bidding with a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -Percent Royalty.* This system is authorized by section (8)(a)(1)(A) of the OCSLA. It has been chosen for certain deeper water blocks proposed for Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM) (Sale 152) because these blocks are expected to require substantially higher exploration, development, and production costs, as well as longer times before initial production in comparison to shallow-water blocks. Department of the Interior analyses indicated that the minimum economically developable discovery on a block in such high-cost areas under a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent royalty system would be less than for the same blocks under a 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ -percent royalty system. As a result, more blocks may be explored and developed. In addition, the lower royalty rate system is expected to

encourage more rapid production and higher economic profits. It is not anticipated, however, that the larger cash bonus bid associated with a lower royalty rate will significantly reduce competition, since the higher costs for exploration and development are the primary constraints to competition.

2. *Designation of Blocks.* The selection of blocks to be offered under the two systems was based on the following factors:

a. Lease terms on adjacent, previously leased blocks were considered to enhance orderly development of each field.

b. Blocks in deep water were selected for the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -percent royalty system based on the favorable performance of this system in these high-cost areas as evidenced in our analyses.

The specific blocks to be offered under each system are shown on the "Stipulations, Lease Terms, and Bidding Systems Map" for Central GOM Lease Sale 152. This map is available from the Minerals Management Service, GOM Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

Dated: April 4, 1995.

Carolita U. Kallaur,

Acting Deputy Director, Minerals Management Service.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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National Park Service

Glacier National Park General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Glacier National Park, Montana

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Glacier National Park.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the General Management Plan for Glacier National park. This statement will be approved by John Cook, Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Region. The purpose of this federal action is to facilitate management of visitor use, natural and cultural resources, development, and operation of Glacier National Park according to the enabling legislation and other laws and regulations affecting management of this

National Park area. The general management plan (GMP) and implementation plans that result from this process will guide the management of Glacier National Park for the next 10 to 15 years. The GMP will replace an existing master plan that has been guiding management of the park since 1977 and contains actions that have either been completed or are no longer appropriate to do. All previously approved development concept and implementation plans will be reviewed and assessed to insure that their proposals are appropriate in light of the new general management plan.

Major issues that will be addressed in the plan include ecosystem management, visitor experience and resource protection, role and management of historic structures and other cultural resources, the Secretary of Interior's trust responsibilities to Native Americans and relationships with Native Americans and park resources, land protection strategies for private lands within the park to insure protection of park resources, administrative facilities and the concept of sustainability as it relates to park infrastructure and visitor use.

A scoping brochure is being prepared that explains, in more detail, the issues identified to date and outlines the public involvement for this planning effort. Copies of this brochure will be available in mid April and can be obtained by writing GMP/EIS Project, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Mt 59936 (406) 888-5441

The National Park Service is seeking information and comments from individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by the proposed action, as well as Federal, State and local agencies. Scoping will include the following: a scoping brochure that will be mailed out to interested individuals, groups and federal, state and local agencies asking for comments, identification of issues, concerns to interested and potentially affected individuals, groups, Federal, State, and local governments; newsletters, public meetings; and news releases.

The first set of public meetings were held as Open Houses, during early March. Open houses were held in Missoula, Kalispell, Helena, West Glacier, Browning, St. Mary and Great Falls Montana, and in Lethbridge and Fernie Canada. A summary of issues identified to date is being compiled following those meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for information and to be added to the General Management Plan