

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

(NV-020-1430-01; N-62361)

Notice of Realty Action for Proposed Agricultural Lease of Public Lands, Nevada.**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** The proposed leasing of public land for agricultural purposes to resolve the unintentional, unauthorized use by the applicant.

The United States shall reserve the right to issue compatible rights-of-way or use permits over the lease lands. Such uses, however, shall not unduly impair the use of the lands for authorized purposes nor damage authorized improvements therein. The United States shall also reserve all of the coal, oil, gas, and other mineral deposits in the leased land together with the right to enter upon and prospect for, mine, and remove such minerals.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan, dated July 9, 1982.

The parcel proposed for leasing under provisions of section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and 43 CFR Part 2920 is described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 38 N., R. 32 E.,
Sec. 1: Lot 3.

The proposal would encumber approximately 39.660 acres of public land.

The parcel affected by the proposed lease is located near Willow Creek Ranch on the east side of the Jackson Mountain Range. The lands are currently under cultivation, so no additional surface disturbance of the area would occur as a result of this lease.

No other proposals will be accepted. The proposed parcel is currently being farmed by the applicant, and the pending lease would be issued to resolve the unintentional unauthorized use by the applicant, until a determination is made by the Bureau of Land Management on whether it is in the public interests to sell the lands to the applicant for agricultural purposes, or terminate the agricultural use of the public lands. Use of the parcel by the applicant's family has occurred over three (3) generations, in belief that it was part of their deeded property. Therefore, no other proposals would be acceptable.

The proposal would be authorized by a lease for a term of 10 years. The lease could be renewed at the discretion of the authorized officer.

The proposed parcel has not been appraised at this time, so no estimate of rent is available. However, rent will not be less than the appraised fair market value.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments to the District Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. In the absence of adverse comments, an application for the proposed use will be processed in accordance with proper application procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Figarelle, Realty Specialist,
Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E.
Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca,
Nevada, 89445, or call (702) 623-1500.

Ron Wenker,

District Manager, Winnemucca, Nevada.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Royalty Computation on Phosphate Production on Western Public Lands****AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed revision of method for determining value used to compute royalty payments on phosphate ore mined on western public lands.**SUMMARY:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is soliciting comments on a proposal to adopt a new method for determining the value of production used to compute royalties on phosphate ore produced from Federal leases in the State of Idaho.**DATES:** Submit comments on or before April 23, 1998.**ADDRESSES:** Send your written comments to David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, PO Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or e-Mail RMP.comments@mms.gov.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Herbert B. Wincentsen, Chief, Solid Minerals Valuation and Reporting Branch, Minerals Management Service, PO Box 25165, Mail Stop 3153, Denver,

Colorado 80225-0165, telephone (303) 275-7210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 16, 1997, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) approved an April 16, 1997, recommendation from the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC) to revise the current method of adjusting the value used to compute royalty payments on Federal phosphate production.

RPC is a committee of the MMS Advisory Board (Board). The Board was created under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Board's purpose includes, in relevant part, providing advice to the Secretary, the Director, MMS, and other Department of the Interior (Department) officials on royalty management of Federal and Indian leases. RPC includes representatives of States which share in mineral revenues from Federal lands; Indian tribes and allottees whose mineral revenues MMS collects in trust; and oil and gas and solid minerals producing industries who pay royalties; and the public.

RPC Recommendations

RPC made the following recommendations concerning phosphate valuation which were approved by the Secretary:

1. The current indexing procedure, which utilizes the Gross Domestic Product—Implicit Price Deflator (GDP-IPD) to annually adjust the phosphate value for royalty calculation purposes, should be discontinued.
2. The phosphate value should be determined using a weighted composite index methodology having the following indices and weights:
 - The Chemical and Fertilizer Minerals Mining Index (Standard Industry Code (SIC) 147), weighted at 50 percent.
 - The Phosphate Rock Index (SIC 1475), weighted at 25 percent.
 - The Phosphatic Fertilizers Index (SIC 2874), weighted at 25 percent.

The phosphate unit value would be recalculated annually, as under the existing indexing procedure.

3. This recommended methodology should continue for 5 years, at which time the methodology and the values determined thereunder will be examined to assure there is a continued relationship to the marketplace.

4. The valuation methodology applies only to Federal phosphate production; there is no Indian phosphate production. State or fee phosphate leases are also unaffected unless the parties to a State or fee lease elect to use the Federal valuation methodology.