

Release Number: 2001-81
For Release: September 21, 2001

BLM AUCTIONS LEASES OF OIL AND GAS PROPERTIES

Interest in exploration for oil and gas in the State of Nevada has been strong during the past 12 months. Most recently, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received 30 competitive bids to lease oil and gas properties in Nevada during the September quarterly competitive auction. The September sale offered 507,944 acres in 297 parcels available for competitive bids. The auction included acreage from the northern, eastern and central parts of Nevada.

Half of the revenue collected from leasing is shared with the State of Nevada.

The largest bid was \$15.50 per acre, for a parcel in Railroad Valley. Collected bonus bids, first year rentals and filing fees exceeded \$196,000 from the 30 parcels taken at the day of the auction. The remaining 476,400 acres were available for noncompetitive lease (over the counter) the next business day (day after). Sixty-two parcels received bids on nearly 129,000 acres of land, netting an additional \$196,526 in revenue.

The remaining unsold parcels comprise nearly 350,000 acres, and are available for noncompetitive (over the counter) leasing during the next two years. Including the previous two sales, hosted in March and June, almost two million acres have been made available for leasing in Nevada this year. The combined revenues from these competitive auctions, and acreage leased noncompetitively during the two year window of availability, have generated over \$1,110,000 since March.

The newly-acquired day-after noncompetitive leases average 2,080 acres in size. Nevada carries the largest average size of noncompetitive leases in the continental United States. All leases have a 10 year term, with annual rental revenue of \$1.50 per acre (during the first five years) and \$2 per acre the remaining five years.

Nevada leasing activity during the 2001 fiscal year has added 568,311 acres under lease with 226 new leases. The leasing activity has quadrupled in the past two years, and is the highest in the past seven years.

In the June auction, BLM offered 247 parcels, covering 395,000 acres from the northern, eastern and central parts of Nevada. Collected bonus bids, first year rentals and filing fees exceeded \$191,000 from the 42 parcels taken at the day of the auction.

Last March, BLM held one of the largest sales ever in Nevada, with the 1,090,006.39 acres offered comprising more acreage than was offered by the balance of the BLM offices combined. The majority of the industry nominations were for the Elko District area of Northeastern Nevada. The Elko Field Office conducted an environmental review of two-thirds of the sale, or 435 parcels covering over 1000 square miles, approximately the size of Rhode Island.

That competitive auction netted 60 leased parcels, collecting \$175,160 in bonus bids, and \$131,370 in first year rental receipts. The March auction more than tripled the previous four sales combined. The day-after, noncompetitive offers, secured 14 additional leases, and collected \$32,035 in first year rentals. The March auction added a total of 110,940 acres under lease in Nevada.

Nevada has nearly 1,000 oil and gas leases. Nevada is unique in the Bureau as a true wildcat frontier, with approximately 50 leases of exploration per each producing lease. Bureau-wide these numbers are usually two leases of exploration per producing lease. Historically, only one percent of the lessees will file a drilling permit application in any one year.

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For More Information Contact: Bob Stewart at (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2001-80
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BLM OFFERING GEOTHERMAL LANDS

A competitive sale of 16 leases for geothermal lands in Nevada will be conducted on Thursday, Sept. 27, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today.

The sale will be conducted at the BLM Nevada State Office in Reno. The list contains parcels located within the Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRAs) in Dixie Valley, Gerlach, Rye Patch and the San Emedio Desert.

Additional details on the sale are available at the interagency Information Access Center, located in the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno; at BLM field offices in Nevada, and on the Internet at www.nv.blm.gov/minerals/geothermal/. (*dead link*)

- BLM -

For More Information Contact: Jo Simpson at (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2001-79
For Release: September 20, 2001

Fire Restrictions for Most of Nevada Still in Effect

Those who are planning to head out to Nevada's public lands for some late-summer camping, hunting or other outdoor activities should bear in mind that fire restrictions remain in effect throughout most of the state.

With the exception of Elko, Lincoln, White Pine, Northeast Nye, Northeast Lincoln and North Lander

Counties, the following activities remain restricted on all public land areas, roads and trails located within and administered by BLM Nevada:

B Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire outside of a developed recreation site. Exceptions to this restriction include portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel.

B Smoking, which remains limited to an enclosed vehicle or a developed recreation site.

B Welding or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit.

B Using or causing to be used any explosive, except by permit.

B Using fireworks or firing a tracer or other incendiary device.

Those exempt from these restrictions include persons with a permit specifically authorizing acts or omissions that would otherwise be prohibited; as well as any federal, state or local officer, or any member of an organized rescue or firefighting force, in the performance of official duties.

Any person who knowingly and willfully performs any act covered by fire restrictions is punishable by imprisonment of not more than 12 months or a fine.

Reno and much of Northern Nevada remains in the worst period of drought in more than 100 years. The public lands are filled with extremely dry vegetation, and the weather for the next several weeks is expected to be warm and dry. A tiny spark will ignite rangeland fires.

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For More Information Contact: Richard H Brown, (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2001-78
For Release: September 20, 2001

NEVADA RECEIVES \$10.9 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS

Counties in the State of Nevada will receive \$10,956,327 this year as provided for in the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act.

This is an increase over the 2000 payment, which was \$7,604,840.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will send the payments on September 21 for the year 2001 totaling \$199 million to approximately 1,977 local government units across the United States in accordance with the PILT Act. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton said this year=s payment is nearly \$65 million more than last year=s total, which was \$134 million.

The BLM, an agency of the Interior Department, distributes the PILT payments to eligible units of local governments each year. The payments are intended to offset the loss of tax revenue to States and localities caused by the presence of tax-exempt Federal land within their jurisdictions.

Acting BLM Director Nina Hatfield said that PILT carries out an especially important role for the BLM, which manages more land than any other Federal agency. Through PILT payments, local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, and construction of public schools and roads, Hatfield said.

The annual PILT payments are made for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all agencies of the Interior Department), the U.S. Forest Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and for Federal water projects and some military installations.

Congress appropriates funding each year for PILT payments. The BLM allocates those funds according to a formula in the PILT Act that includes population and the amount of Federal land within an affected county. These payments are in addition to other Federal revenues (such as, livestock grazing and timber harvesting) that the Federal government transfers to the counties. The BLM has distributed more than two billion dollars in PILT payments to local governments since these payments began in 1977.

A Nevada list by county follows on the .

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For More Information Contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6588

Release Number: 2001-77
For Release: September 12, 2001

BLM Nevada Operating According to Normal Schedules

Bureau of Land Management operations throughout Nevada are proceeding according to normal schedules. All previously-scheduled meetings will be held as announced, except for a series of public meetings in northeastern Nevada scheduled by the Elko Field Office to discuss plans for fire management in that area. Those meetings are postponed until a later date.

Aircraft are available for suppression of wildfires. Procedures have been established with the Federal Aviation Administration that provide for deployment of those resources as needed.

ABL M employees in Nevada mourn the tragic loss of lives yesterday, and our hearts go out to their loved

ones,@ said Bob Abbey, BLM Nevada State Director.

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For More Information Contact: Public Affairs, (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2001-76
For Release: September 7, 2001

**NATIONAL TELEVISED WILD HORSE ADOPTION:
TOP BIDDERS FROM NEVADA, COLORADO & WEST VIRGINIA**

Bidders from Nevada, Colorado and Virginia topped the field in the third national wild horse televised adoption held today, September 7.

A Reno man who adopted a wild horse he and his granddaughter spotted at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, paid the top price of \$2,500 for a mare from the Granite Range, located in northern Washoe County. The seven-year-old mare is a grulla and white paint with a baldface and a right front stocking.

The most popular gelding was a two-year-old, bay-white paint with a blaze. It also was removed from the Granite Range Herd Management Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management=s (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office. A Colorado bidder paid \$750 for the gelding.

Fifteen saddle-ready horses from Wyoming were offered in the adoption televised on C Band Satellite. All were adopted, with a three-year-old, brown gelding going to a West Virginia bidder for \$750. These horses were gentled and trained at the Riverton, Wyoming, honor camp.

A total of 53 wild horses were adopted during the broadcast, but several others are expected to be adopted off-air as qualified individuals may still call in to adopt wild horses not spoken for in the often lively, competitive bidding. The adoption fee is \$125 and the phone number is 1-800-633-6094.

The wild horses offered in the adoption, which was televised from the studio of Superior Livestock Auction in Fort Worth, Texas, may be seen on the BLM=s website, www.nv.blm.gov. The Nevada wild horses are presently at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley and will be transported to adoption sites in about two weeks.

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For More Information Contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2001-75
For Release: September 6, 2001

NOMINATION PERIOD EXTENDED FOR OUTSTANDING RANCHER AWARD

Nominations are being accepted until September 20 for an Outstanding Rancher Award to be presented at the Nevada Cattlemen=s Association annual conference, Nov. 15-17, in Elko. The Nevada Cattlemen=s Association, the Nevada Farm Bureau, the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are jointly sponsoring the award.

AThis is a busy time of year for ranchers, and we wanted to provide the maximum time possible for nominations, @ said John Falen, Public Lands Chair for the Nevada Cattlemen=s Association. AThis award honors ranchers who run sound operations and take care of the natural resources.@

The award will be presented to the nominee who best demonstrates sound and innovative stewardship practices in managing a successful ranching operation.

Management activities could involve vegetation and weed management, fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement, water quality improvement, soil protection and enhancement, watershed improvement, and riparian area restoration and protection. The selection committee will be looking at what effect the management activities have had on the productivity and profitability of the ranching operation.

The selection committee will be made up of representatives of the sponsoring organizations. The closing date for nominations has been extended until Sept. 20.

Nomination forms may be obtained from any of the four sponsoring organizations, by calling the Nevada State Office at (775) 861-6586, or on the Intranet at <www.nv.blm.gov>.

Outstanding Rancher Award Nomination

Questions may be addressed on this form or on separate pages. Illustrative photographs are encouraged, but not required. Completed forms should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: NV-912, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520, by September 20, 2001.

Proposed Recipient Nominated by

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone and Fax

1. Provide a brief overview of the business nominated regarding agricultural production, including length of ownership, number of acres (privately owned, leased federal and other), herd size.

2. Describe the land managed (vegetation, terrain, water systems).

3. Does the ranch have a conservation plan? yes _____ no _____

If yes, when was it last updated? _____

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4. Describe the resource management objectives for the ranch. (Goals could relate to natural resource condition, efficiency of harvest, resource productivity, family, life style, and future generations.)
Evaluation criteria: Nominee has goals or objectives and they make sense for their family and the land they manage.
5. Describe management activities for the ranching operation to meet the above goals (i.e., vegetation/weed management, soil protection or soil building, watershed improvement, riparian area restoration/protection, fish and wildlife habitat restoration or enhancement, water quality improvement). *Evaluation criteria: Nominee demonstrates above practices.*
6. What effect on productivity and profitability have the above management practices had on the ranch lands? *Evaluation criteria: Nominee has a profitable operation based on sound resource management of the land.*
7. With what organizations has the nominee been involved to share information to improve stewardship, promote better land management practices, and contribute to a positive public perception of ranching's impact on the environment? (County committees and groups, BLM Resource Advisory Councils and other such forums, SRM, Cattlemen's or Woolgrowers Associations)? *Evaluation criteria: Nominee participates in forums where information is shared among ranchers and others that have an interest in and responsibility for natural resource management.*
8. Has the nominee received previous stewardship awards? If yes, please list the date, title and name of sponsoring organization.

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For More Information Contact: Jo Simpson, BLM, 775-861-6586, Rachael Buzzetti, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, 775-738-9214, Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, 775-358-3276, Don Henderson, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 775-684-5333.