



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623
Sacramento, CA 95825



July 7, 2009

NOTICE

Amendment to the Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale Notice, dated May 29, 2009, for the July 14, 2009 competitive sale.

On May 29, 2009, a Notice of Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale was posted announcing a competitive lease sale to be held **July 14, 2009**. The following information notices should have been included in the above sale notice. This information applies to three parcels, CA 07-09-1 thru CA 07-09-3, which are located in Sonoma County, California. Accordingly, the sale notice is hereby amended to include the following Information Notices for parcels, CA 07-09-1, CA 07-09-2 and CA 07-09-3;

Information Notices

1. Cultural Resources

The area known as the Geysers has a high degree of cultural sensitivity. As a result, a Class II or Class III cultural resource inventory may be required prior to the authorization of any activities associated with these leases. Parcels 1 and 3 will have designated areas of avoidance to ensure the protection of National Register and National Register eligible sites.

This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.

The Ukiah Bureau of Land Management may, at the request of tribes, ask the operator to arrange for tribal monitors during ground disturbing activities to ensure the identification and protection of potentially buried cultural properties.

2. BLM-Designated Sensitive Plant Species

A portion of this parcel is within the range of a BLM designated sensitive plant species:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Socrates Mine jewel-flower	<i>Streptantus bernardinus</i>	BLM sensitive

Notice is given that surface-disturbing activities may be relocated to avoid known populations and habitat which may support populations of this species.

3. Threatened or Endangered Species

The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species.

All or a portion of the lands in this parcel are within the range of a threatened or endangered species as identified by the National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration/National Marine Fisheries (NOAA/NMFS) for the Central California Coast steelhead. If species or habitat is found and potential development results in a "may affect" determination to the species, section 7 consultation with the NMFS will be required.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Central California Coast steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Threatened

Surface disturbing activities will be prohibited on portions of the parcel where:

- a. The proposed action is likely to adversely affect listed species, or
- b. The proposed action is inconsistent with the recovery needs of a listed species as identified in an approved NOAA, NMFS Recovery Plan.

To mitigate any potential impacts to species, development may be restricted or prohibited as follows:

- a. within 300' (slope distance) from an active channel;
- b. within 150' (slope distance) from an active channel of any perennial streams;
- c. within 50' (slope distance) to any intermittent streams or drainages that have the potential to deliver sediment.

The BLM may need to initiate consultation or conference with the NOAA/NMFS if the site inspection concludes that a listed or proposed species may be affected by the proposed activity. The lessee should be aware that the NOAA/NMFS has up to 135 days to render their biological opinion, and that there are provisions for an additional 60-day extension. Offsite habitat

protection or enhancement for wildlife or vegetation (compensation) may be required by the NOAA/NMFS when habitat is disturbed.

BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modifications of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act, 16 USC § 1531 *et seq.*, as amended, including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

4. Limited Surface Use - Raptors:

This parcel includes lands that have not been identified (at this time) as important raptor foraging, wintering or nesting areas. If a species is found, notice is given that surface-disturbing activities may be relocated beyond 200 meters, and that some activities may be prohibited during seasonal time periods to avoid unnecessary and undue disturbance to sensitive raptor foraging grounds, wintering areas or nest sites.

5. Permits Required

Proposed operations must comply with permitting requirements of other federal agencies, and local and state agencies. These include, but are not limited to a Section 404 Permit and coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), local Air Pollution Control District for operations involving dust, engine, and steam or well venting emissions, the Regional Water Quality Control Board for operations involving the discharge of wastes to the surface and coordination with the Sherman Island Waterfowl Management Area

6. Additional Environmental Analysis Required

Prior to issuing any permits for development, BLM must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires the preparation of an environmental document analyzing and disclosing the environmental impacts of the proposed action along with cumulative impacts. The environmental document will also analyze mitigation measures to reduce impacts and alternatives to the proposed action. Preparation of the environmental document may require the gathering of baseline environmental data and species surveys. Timing of the baseline surveys is critical, in that some species can only be surveyed during a brief period each year. Preparation of the environmental document may also involve consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies if Threatened and Endangered or other special status plant and animal species are found.

Depending on the extent of the operations proposed and the sensitivity of the area, preparation of the environmental document(s) may result in significant delay to operations. Public comments received during the NEPA process could also delay operations. In addition, the lessee or operator may be asked to fund all or part of the costs of preparing and finalizing the environmental document.

7. Impact Mitigation

BLM may impose mitigation measures to reduce the environmental impacts of proposed geothermal development activities. The mitigation measures will be developed as part of the environmental analysis done by BLM or on behalf of the BLM under the National Environmental Policy Act. Mitigation measures may require modification of the location, type, and timing of proposed activities.

8. Potential for Drainage

This constitutes notice that this parcel has a high potential for drainage of geothermal resources from production on adjacent properties.

All other terms of the sale remain the same. If there are any questions regarding this amendment, Laurie Moore should be contacted at (916) 978-4377.

/S/ Debra L. Marsh
Chief, Branch of Adjudication
Division of Energy & Mineral Resources