United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 2 2 2004

Honorable Ray K. Eder
Chairman, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
of the Fort Peck Reservation
P. O. Box 1027
Poplar, Montana 59255

Dear Chairman Eder:

On June 17, 2004, we received the Extension of Agreement between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation (Tribe) and the State of Montana (State) regarding the Tribal – State Compact for Class III gaming. We have completed our review of this Extension and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Federal law, or our trust responsibility. Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of IGRA, we approve the Extension. This Extension shall take effect when the notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11(d)(3)(B) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

We wish the Tribe and the State success in their economic venture.

Sincerely,

/S/ AURENE M. MARTIN

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Similar Letter Sent to: Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

cc: Rocky Mountain Regional Director
National Indian Gaming Commission
Montana United States Attorney

of croplands and moist-soil units. Access to this bottomland hardwood refuge is sometimes only possible by boat in the spring. Road access is limited due to frequent flooding and storms.

The primary purpose of the refuge is to provide wood duck brood habitat and serve as a protected wintering area for waterfowl. Up to 200 broods of wood ducks are produced annually in the refuge's artificial nest boxes, and wintering waterfowl numbers can exceed 10,000. Following a successful bald eagle hacking program in the early 1990s, the refuge has played host to a nesting pair of eagles each winter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Mississippi Field Office, telephone: (601) 965–4903; fax: (601) 965–4010; e-mail *mike_dawson@fws.gov*; or mail (write to Refuge Planner at address in **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1977, Public Law 105–57.

Dated: May 18, 2004.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04–15222 Filed 7–2–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to Class III Gaming Compact.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the extension to an approved Class III Gaming Compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, the Secretary of the Interior is required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 6, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary—Policy and Economic Development, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA) Public Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the **Federal Register** notice of approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands.

The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana have agreed to an extension of the existing agreement and will extend the compact until July 1, 2005. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the Extension of Agreement for Class III gaming between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana is in effect.

Dated: June 22, 2004.

Aurene M. Martin,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 04–15194 Filed 7–2–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

[WO–310–1310–02–PB 24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection; OMB Control No. 1004–0162

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior and Forest Service Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect information from entities who conduct geophysical operations on public lands.

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before September 7, 2004. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, (WO–630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: *WOComments@blm.gov*. Please include (attn: 1004–0162) and your name and address with your comments.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Barbara Gamble, Fluid Minerals Group, at (202) 452–0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1–800–877–8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a), requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), gives the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for oil and gas leasing on approximately 570 million acres of Federal mineral estate. The MLA authorizes the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture to permit lessees, exploration companies, and independent exploration operators to conduct geophysical exploration on or off leases. The Act of August 7, 1947 (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341–359); and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of December 22, 1987, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease National Forest System (NFS) lands with Forest Service (FS) consent. On NFS lands, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to regulate all surface-disturbing activities which take place on a lease.

43 CFR Group 3150 establishes procedures for BLM to issue

EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION AND THE STATE OF MONTANA REGARDING CLASS III GAMING ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

RECITALS

The State of Montana ("Montana") and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation ("Tribes") entered into an Agreement ("Agreement") dated April 6, 1992, to authorize under specific conditions Class III gaming on the Fort Peck Reservation. The Tribes and the State are continuing their good faith negotiations to agree on terms and conditions for another long-term compact.

To enable the Tribes and the State regulated operators to continue gaming on the Reservation pursuant to the existing Agreement while the parties continue to negotiate, the parties hereby agree to extend the Agreement until July 1, 2005, or until another compact is executed on the terms and conditions set forth in the existing compact between the parties as specifically amended herein. This Extension is entered into in recognition of the purposes of economic self-determination for Indian tribes as set forth in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and in furtherance of Montana Governor Judy Martz's Proclamation affirming the principle and integrity of government-to-government relationships between the State of Montana and federally-recognized tribes located within the borders of Montana.

AGREEMENT

In furtherance of good relations and mutual cooperation between the parties, the parties hereby amend the Agreement pursuant to Art. VIII, ¶ B as follows:

1. Article VIII. A., "Effective Date and Term," of the existing Agreement as previously amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

This Agreement shall be effective upon execution, and shall continue in effect until July 1, 2005 or until another compact is executed unless earlier terminated in accordance with Article VII. Before expiration of this Agreement or upon its termination, the parties may agree to the renewal of the Agreement for a term agreed upon by the parties.

All terms and conditions of the Agreement not expressly modified herein remain in full force and effect and shall govern the conditions of Class III gaming on the Reservation until July 1, 2005.

Montana and the Tribes indicate their consent to be bound to this Renewal by signature of their authorized representatives below.

ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

RAY K. EDER, ~~Vice-~~Chairman DATE 6-15-04

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ, Governor DATE 6-8-04

Approved Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 18-11-105 (2001).

MIKE McGRATH, Attorney General
State of Montana DATE 6/7/04

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY: Aurene M Martin DATE June 24, 2004

Principal Deputy ~~DAVID ANDERSON~~, Assistant Secretary--Bureau of Indian Affairs