

the river will be managed by the State of Oregon at no cost to the federal government, except for those lands currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

For a state-managed river to be eligible for the National System, four conditions must be met: (1) The river is already designated as part of a state river protection system; (2) the river has at least one "outstandingly remarkable" natural, cultural or recreational resource—i.e., a resource of regional or national significance—and is free-flowing as defined by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture; (3) the state has adequate mechanisms in place to protect the resources for which the river is eligible for the National System; and (4) the state has the institutional framework to manage the river at no cost to the federal government, except for those lands already in federal management.

The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for making determinations of eligibility under section 2(a)(ii). The NPS Pacific West Field Area conducted a study, with the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) acting as cooperating agencies. In April of 1995, the NPS released the Draft Wallowa River 2(a)(ii) Wild & Scenic River Study for public review and comment. A period for public comment was provided from April 21, 1995, to June 22, 1995. The draft report was finalized based on comments received.

Simultaneous with the release of the draft report, the NPS announced it was adopting the Wallowa River Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) in fulfillment of National Environmental Policy Act requirements. The LEIS was prepared by the USFS, with the NPS and BLM acting as cooperating agencies. The LEIS was prepared at the direction of Congress under the 1988 Oregon Omnibus Rivers Act which mandated that the USFS study the Wallowa River for possible inclusion into the National System. The Preferred Alternative of the LEIS was designation of the river as wild and scenic through section 2(a)(ii), subsequently leading to Governor Roberts' request. The USFS filed the LEIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on July 14, 1995, and notice was provided in the Federal Register on July 21, 1995. Simultaneously, the NPS filed with the EPA its notice of adoption of the LEIS, and this was also notice in the Federal Register on July 21, 1995.

This action is taken following public involvement and consultation with the Departments of Agriculture, Army,

Energy and Transportation; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; all Department of the Interior agencies; the National Marine Fisheries Services; the State of Oregon; the EPA; and all other Federal agencies that might have an interest.

Based on the recommendations of the NPS and a review of all relevant documents, I have determined that the 10-mile stretch of the Wallowa River should be designated as a state-administered component of the National System, as provided for in section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Notice is hereby given that effective upon this date, the segment of the Wallowa River from the confluence of the Wallowa and Minam Rivers in the hamlet of Minam downstream to the confluence of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers is approved for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a National Recreational River.

Dated: July 23, 1996.

Bruce Babbitt,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 96-20519 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for the Eradication of the Nonnative Red Shiner in the Virgin River, Utah

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Eradication of the Nonnative Red Shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*) in the Virgin River, Utah.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment must be received on or before September 12, 1996 to be considered by the Service during preparation of the final environmental assessment.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment should be addressed to the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Comments and materials received will be available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert D. Williams, Assistant Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-5002).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*) is a small minnow native from the North Central United States to northeastern Mexico. It was introduced into the lower Colorado River Basin as a bait fish in the early 1950's, and since then has invaded most of the Colorado River system, including the Virgin River system. Until the 1980's, the red shiner was confined to the lower Virgin River system, in Arizona and Nevada, below the Virgin River Gorge, which is usually dewatered during the dry summer months. In 1984 red shiner were discovered above the Gorge, in southwestern Utah, and have since then become the dominant fish species in the 33.6 km (21 mi) river reach between the Virgin River Gorge and Washington Fields Diversion.

The red shiner has been implicated in the decline of the endangered woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*) and Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), and in the decline of the Virgin spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis*), a species of concern. The Virgin River Fishes Recovery Plan and the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement have identified the eradication of red shiner in the Virgin River system as a recovery and conservation activity necessary to ensure the longterm survival of the native fishes of the Virgin River. The Draft Environmental Assessment outlines a plan for the eradication of red shiner from the Virgin River system, Utah.

Public Comments Solicited

Comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this draft document are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered in the preparation of the final environmental assessment.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Janet Mizzi (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-501).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. *et seq.*).

Dated: August 6, 1996.

Terry T. Terrel,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 96-20568 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Land Management Bureau**[OR-110-6310-04; GP9-156]****Oregon; Public Lands Closure**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, Ashland Resource Area.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The notice published on page 4788 in the issue of Thursday, February 8, 1996, closing to all public use the Keno Access Road and the Howard Prairie Hook Up Road in Jackson County, Oregon is hereby rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Jones, District Manager, Medford District Office, at (541) 770-2200.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

David A. Jones,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-20609 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-M

Bureau of Land Management**[ID-015-06-1610-00]****Owyhee Resource Area, ID; Resource Management Plan, etc.**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS); and Proposed Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC) Designations.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Owyhee Resource Area. The draft RMP/EIS addresses alternatives for management on 1.3 million acres of BLM administered public lands in southwest Idaho. Consideration of 19 areas for Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation, including one area located partially in Oregon, is addressed in the draft document. This notice, therefore, is also issued pursuant to 43 CFR Part 1610.7-2(b) of the BLM Planning Regulations. The draft document also addresses suitability of wild, scenic and recreational designations on 223 miles of stream segments determined to be eligible for such designations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Members of the public, other Federal agencies, State and

local governments, and Indian Tribes are invited to review and comment on the draft document. Written comments received during the comment period will be considered in preparation of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS. Public information meetings will be announced at a later date.

DATES: The 90-day comment period provided for in 43 CFR Part 1600 (BLM Planning Regulations) will remain open until November 15, 1996. Written comments may be submitted at any time during the comment period to the Boise Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Owyhee Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Boise Field Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705. Copies of the draft RMP/EIS are available at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Carlson, Area Manager; or Fred Minckler, Team Leader at the address above. Telephone (208) 384-3300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Owyhee draft RMP/EIS describes and analyzes four alternatives for managing 1,319,651 acres of BLM administered public lands in western Owyhee County, Idaho. The Owyhee Resource Area encompasses 1,779,405 acres including State and private lands. The land use planning effort addresses a broad spectrum of land uses and allocations including wild horse management, land tenure adjustments, off-highway motorized vehicle (OHMV) designations, wild, scenic and recreational river designations, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). Nineteen areas ranging in size from 113 acres to 148,360 acres and totaling 291,868 acres are being considered for ACEC designation. Two of the areas are currently designated as ACECs. One of the areas under consideration totaling 2,393 acres contains 775 acres in Oregon. Designation of this area in Oregon as an ACEC requires amending the Northern Malheur Management Framework Plan, the land use plan prepared by the BLM Vale District in Oregon. Documentation for amending that plan is incorporated into the Owyhee RMP/EIS. Resource use limitations vary among alternatives for each area and pertain to OHMV designations, rights-of-way, livestock management, juniper control, fire management and minerals activities.

Dated: August 6, 1996.

David Vail,
Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-20562 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY**Agency for International Development****Housing Guaranty Program; Notice of Investment Opportunity**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has authorized the guaranty of a loan to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco ("Borrower"), as part of USAID's development assistance program. The proceeds of this loan will be used to enhance the land development for shelter projects for the benefit of low-income families in Morocco. At this time, the Borrower has authorized USAID to request proposals from eligible lenders for a loan under this program of \$15 Million U.S. Dollars (US\$15,000,000). The name and address of the Borrower's representatives to be contacted by interested U.S. lenders or investment bankers, and the amount of the loan and project number are indicated below:

Kingdom of Morocco

Project No.: 608-HG-004.

Housing Guaranty Loan No.: 608-HG-006 A01.

Amount: \$15,000,000.

Attention: Mr. Larbi Nouha, Adjoint au Directeur du Tresor et des Finances Exterieures, Ministere des Finances et des Investissements Exterieurs.

Mailing address: Direction du Tresor et des Finances Exterieurs, Ministere des Finances et des Investissements Exterieurs Boulevard Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco.

Telex No.: 36.147.

Telefax No.: 212-7-764-950 (preferred communication).

Telephone No.: 212-7-762-608.

Interested lenders should contact the Borrower as soon as possible and indicate their interest in providing financing for the Housing Guaranty Program. Interested lenders should submit their bids to the Borrower's representative by Tuesday, August 27, 1996, 12:00 noon Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Bids should be open for a period of 48 hours from the bid closing date. Copies of all bids should be simultaneously sent to the following:

Mr. Tahar Berrada, Housing and Urban Development Office, RHO USAID/Rabat, Morocco c/o American Embassy, PSC 74, Box 022, APO AE 09718 (Street address: USAID/Rabat, 137 Avenue Allal Ben Abdallah, B.P. 120, Rabat, Morocco).

Telex No.: 31005M.

Telefax No.: 212-7-707-930 (preferred communication).