

Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or explosive material; Secured Area.

[FR Doc. 96-28611 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission (Commission), established by the Secretary of the Interior under the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, will hold a public meeting at the Loews Coronado Bay, 4000 Coronado Bay Road, San Diego, California. Room locations will be posted in the hotel lobby.

This meeting is for the purpose of receiving briefings from the Western States Water Council and other researchers preparing reports on the status of water resources in the west today.

DATES: November 21 and 22, 1996. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Thursday morning and adjourn by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday. The Thursday afternoon session will be a joint meeting with the Western State Water Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Written statements may be provided in advance to the following address: Western Water Policy Review Office, D-5001; P.O. Box 25007; Denver, CO 80225-0007, or submitted directly at the meeting. Statements received by mail will be provided to the members prior to the meeting if received by no later than November 15, 1996. The Commission's schedule will not allow time for oral presentations by the public during the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Members of the public may contact the Commission Office by telephone, 303-236-6211, or fax, 303-236-4286.

Dated: November 4, 1996.

Larry Schulz,

Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-28792 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-M

Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Meeting Announcement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) will meet on December 11 to review proposals for funding submitted pursuant to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Upon completion of the Council's review, proposals will be submitted to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission with recommendations for funding. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: December 11, 1996, 9:00 A.M.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Beach, 5002 Seawall Boulevard, Paradise Ballroom South, Galveston, Texas. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator is located at Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Byron Kenneth Williams, Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, (703) 358-1784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Pub. L. 101-233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended), the North American Wetlands Conservation Council is a Federal-State-private body which meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement and management projects for recommendation to and final approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Proposals from State, Federal, and private sponsors require a minimum of 50 percent non-Federal matching funds.

Dated: October 31, 1996.

Jay L. Gerst,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 96-28721 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Geological Survey

Biological Resources Division; Species at Risk Program

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Biological Resources Division (BRD) is announcing the availability of funds through the Species

at Risk Program (SAR). The basic purpose of SAR is to fund short-term research, inventory and monitoring projects to generate information that allows development of conservation agreements, action plans and management alternatives that provide for the protection of species of flora and fauna and their habitats and thereby reduce the need for listing species as threatened or endangered.

DATES: Information packages describing requirements for participation in this initiative will be available upon request until December 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Parties interested in this program should request an information package from: Species at Risk Program, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M.S. 300, Reston, VA 20192 ATTN. Mr. John Mosesso or Ms. Wendy Kuhne.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Mosesso or Ms. Wendy Kuhne, Species at Risk Program, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M.S. 300, Reston, VA 20192 E-Mail: John_Mosesso@nbs.gov or Wendy_Kuhne@nbs.gov or at 703-648-4070.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Species at Risk (SAR) is a program that develops scientific information on the status and trends of sensitive species, particularly with respect to the relationship of species abundance and distribution to habitat conditions and stresses. The basic purpose of SAR is to generate information that allows development of conservation agreements, action plans and management alternatives that provide for the protection of species and their habitats and thereby reduce the need for listing species as threatened or endangered. The program provides an opportunity for investigators to participate through survey, monitoring and research activities. Projects are specifically intended to be of short duration and should seek to optimize partnerships with Federal agencies, states, universities and others in the private sector. Successful SAR projects are often conducted by investigators who have identified key small but critical gaps in our biological knowledge. Projects then fill these gaps and provide resource managers, regulators and private landowners useable information from which prudent resource management decisions can be made. As in previous years, SAR will focus on species for which there is concern but limited information on their abundance, distribution and/or status. Projects should identify or develop new information that will reduce the need

for a formal listing under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has provided a list of species of particular concern (list will be provided with application package). Projects focusing on these species will be given special consideration. Projects focusing on species not included on this list will also be considered if accompanied by sufficient justification. This program is specifically directed towards species for which opportunities exist for developing strategies that assure long-term population stability and reduce the likelihood they will have to be dealt with through the regulatory processes. Therefore, projects involving FWS "Candidate," "Threatened," or "Endangered" species will not be considered. Likewise, species of great abundance, regardless of the management challenges they pose, are beyond the focus of SAR and will be rejected in the screening process.

This program is conducted in furtherance of the Secretary's obligations under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 USC 742a-742j, as amended) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-667e, as amended).

B. Background

The National Biological Service was transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey and renamed the Biological Resources Division (BRD) under Secretarial Order No. 3202 on October 1, 1996. BRD gathers and analyzes biological information and serves as an information clearinghouse, providing broad access to the widest possible range of factual data on the status and trends of the Nation's biota and the potential effects of land management choices. This information serves public and private landowners who are interested in sustaining biological resources. It also provides understanding to help avoid conflicts that can both impede development and degrade natural habitats.

The Species at Risk Program will develop scientific information and alternatives to assist Federal, State, and other land managers in their decisions regarding the protection of sensitive species and habitats.

C. Availability of Funds

Through this program, pre-proposals are invited for funding in Fiscal Year 1997. Total funding anticipated for the fiscal year is up to \$370,000. Monies will be provided to successful applicants on a competitive basis. In order to maximize the number of proposals there is no minimum project

cost. The maximum project cost will be \$80,000.

D. Eligibility Requirements

Under the terms specified in the information package, pre-proposals will be accepted from State agencies, private and industry groups, academic institutions, and Native American Tribes and Nations. Pre-proposals will be evaluated in light of their scientific merit, partnership opportunities, potential for providing useful information to resource managers, potential for conservation agreements, possibilities for cost sharing, and demonstration of successful completion within 18 months of date of initiation. Possible selectees will then be invited to submit a full proposal for consideration of funding.

E. Application Process

Parties interested in participating in this program should request an information package that will include detailed application forms, Federal Assistance forms (Standard Form 424, etc.), proposal format requirements, etc. from:

Mail:

Species at Risk Program, 12201
Sunrise Valley Drive, M.S. 300,
Reston, VA 20192, attn. John
Mosesso or Wendy Kuhne

Or E-Mail:

John_Mosesso@nbs.gov
Wendy_Kuhne@nbs.gov

Or Call: (703) 648-4070

F. Dates

Notice of interest in this program must be received by December 13, 1996.
Dennis B. Fenn,

Chief Biologist, Biological Resources Division,
[FR Doc. 96-28756 Filed 11-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-P

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-066-06-1220-00]

Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, Midland Long-Term Visitor Area, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an

environmental assessment and management plan affecting public lands within the Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, southern California. BLM has expanded the boundaries of the existing Midland Long-Term Visitor Area (LTVA), allowing the collection of fees, and will provide limited public services to users.

DATES: Any person whose interest is adversely affected by these decisions may have certain appeal rights as described in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4.411 to the U.S. Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The appeal must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days from the date of this notice to the following address: Ms. Julia Dougan, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-2000.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: David H. Eslinger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area, 690 West Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-2000; telephone (619) 251-4836.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Midland LTVA currently contains 135 acres of public lands immediately north of Midland Road, eight miles north of Blythe, in Riverside County, California. BLM proposes to expand the LTVA by about 100 acres, directly south across Midland Road from the existing LTVA. The proposed expansion would protect sensitive soils and wildlife, improve manageability, provide user services, and authorize collection of fees to cover operating expenses for visitor services provided. The additional lands are located in T5S, R22E, Sections 22 and 23.

The following management prescriptions are proposed: develop and maintain access from Midland Road into the LTVA addition; blade a berm along Midland Road to prevent route proliferation; sign the boundaries of the LTVA; install a trash dumpster and an informational display and signs; prohibit camping on public lands within two miles of the LTVA; increase Ranger patrols; issue no apiary permits on public lands within three miles of the LTVA; and increase visitor services through the use of volunteer hosts and the Blythe Chamber of Commerce.

Nothing in the proposed plan shall have the effect of terminating any validly-issued rights-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement activities in such rights-of-way within the LTVA