

be available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William H. Gill, Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section), telephone (913) 539-3474, extension 14.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Topeka shiner is a minnow native to small plains streams in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. It occurs in pools of small streams with good water quality and clarity. Plowing of the prairie sod for farming and development to other land uses has resulted in significant reductions in water quality in most plains streams, with concurrent reductions in the number of stream reaches suitable for the species. A status review completed for the Topeka shiner by the Service in 1993 concluded that the range and distribution of the species had declined significantly, and that past and current threats were such that the species warranted listing under the Endangered Species Act. In addition to water quality impacts, one of the current threats facing the species is the construction of dams on streams where it occurs. Due to a combination of factors, possibly including increased predation and blockage of upstream and downstream emigration, the Topeka shiner has been known to disappear from streams on which dams are constructed. The Mill Creek Watershed Joint District No. 85 approached the Service and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in an attempt to coordinate their proposed tributary dam construction in such a way to minimize impacts on the species and ensure its maintenance in the basin into the future.

The Conservation Agreement which resulted from that initial contact outlines specific steps which will be taken by all three entities in an effort to meet the dual goals of species conservation and flood protection. At the heart of the agreement is the designation of all streams in the Mill Creek basin based on their degree of importance to the species. Class 1 streams are those characterized by recent collections of apparently stable, self-sustaining populations of Topeka shiners, with few or no existing watershed dams already in place. Class 2 streams are characterized by recent collections of smaller or less stable numbers of Topeka shiners, with some watershed dam control already in place. Class 3 streams are characterized by an

absence of Topeka shiners in recent sampling efforts, or the species present in very low numbers associated with more widespread current and ongoing watershed control measures.

The parties agree that no watershed dam construction shall be done beyond any which may currently exist in Class 1 streams. In Class 2 streams, dam construction may not exceed 20 percent control of total runoff surface area for that stream. In Class 3 streams, dam construction may proceed up to as much as 40 percent control of the runoff of the individual stream. It is further agreed that no watershed dam will be constructed within one stream mile of any currently known Topeka shiner population. This agreement would result in the elimination or significant modification of 19 dams originally proposed for construction by the District. Additional aspects of the agreement would be the formation of a management and recovery plan for that portion of the Topeka shiner's range within the District's boundaries, implementation of land treatment measures designed to improve habitat conditions for the species, and continued monitoring of occupied streams.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service will use information received in its determination as to whether it should be a signatory party to the agreement. Comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the draft document are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered prior to the approval of any final document.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Dan Mulhern (see **ADDRESSES** section), telephone (913) 539-3473, extension 16.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: May 29, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 97-14528 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collections to be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposals for the two collections of information described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collections of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the Bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Collection No. 1

Title: General Public Knowledge of Natural Resource Policy in southeastern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

OMB Approval Number: New Collection.

Abstract: Understanding institutional processes is an important component of ecosystem management. The authorities, policies, and practices of local, state and federal agencies and how those policies are perceived by the public greatly affects the way people interact with ecosystems. Yet, for most ecosystems there is no comprehensive understanding of the numbers, functions or effects of these factors. This is particularly true of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico which is undergoing rapid and extensive change. A survey will be administered to a stratified random sample of citizens living in: Archuleta, La Plata,

Montezuma, Delores counties in Colorado and San Miguel county in New Mexico. Natural resource land managers and county government officials in these five counties need to understand citizen knowledge of forest management policies—particularly regarding recreation management—in order to develop adequate management practices. The intended effect is to better inform managers and assist with development of citizen involvement programs.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency: One time.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Estimated completion time: 12 minutes per respondent (approximate).

Number of respondents: 320 (400 mail-surveys).

Burden hours: 64 hours. (The burden hour estimates are based on 12 minutes to complete each questionnaire and an 80% return rate).

Collection No. 2

Title: General Public Knowledge of Natural Resource Policy in S.E. Utah.

OMB Approval Number: New Collection.

Abstract: Understanding institutional processes is an important component of ecosystem management. The authorities, policies, and practices of local, state and federal agencies and how those policies are perceived by the public greatly affects the way people interact with ecosystems. Yet, for most ecosystems there is no comprehensive understanding of the numbers, functions or effects of these factors. This is particularly true of southeastern Utah which is undergoing rapid and extensive change. A survey will be administered to a stratified random sample of citizens living in Grand, Wayne, Carbon, Emery and San Juan counties in southeastern, Utah. Natural resource land managers and county government officials in these five counties need to understand citizen knowledge of natural resource policies—particularly regarding recreation management—in order to develop adequate management practices. The intended effect is to better inform managers and assist with development of citizen involvement programs.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency: One time.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Estimated completion time: 12 minutes per respondent (approximate).

Number of respondents: 320 (400 mail-surveys).

Burden hours: 64 hours. (The burden hour estimates are based on 12 minutes

to complete each questionnaire and an 80% return rate).

Dated: May 23, 1997.

Dennis B. Fenn,

Chief Biologist.

[FR Doc. 97-14501 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-962-1020-00]

Notice of Availability for the Montana/Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The final environmental impact statement (EIS) describes the environmental impacts of adopting regional standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing management (standards and guidelines) on BLM-administered lands in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The proposed standards and guidelines would be incorporated into 10 BLM land use plans that cover about 8.4 million acres of BLM-administered land in Montana and the Dakotas. This action is proposed in accordance with revised regulations for livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands (43 CFR 4100). The proposed standards and guidelines were developed in coordination with four Resource Advisory Councils and other public input.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy Brooks, Project Manager, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, or 406-255-2929.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Preferred Alternative described in the final EIS is the Proposed Action (Alternative Two) analyzed in the draft and supplement to the draft EIS, with changes set forth in the final EIS. Modifications to the Preferred Alternative were based on public comment, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) input, and internal agency review. The modifications included in the Preferred Alternative neither change the scope of the final EIS nor alter the analysis of the environmental impacts. The final EIS incorporates by reference the draft EIS and the supplement to the draft EIS, except as noted.

Three alternatives were considered in detail in the final EIS for standards and

guidelines. The no action alternative (continuation of current management direction) provides a baseline for comparison with other alternatives. The preferred alternative (which was the proposed action in the draft) analyzes the impacts of incorporating regional standards and guidelines into affected land use plans. The third alternative analyzes the impacts of implementing the fallback standards and guidelines defined in BLM's grazing regulations. Several alternatives were considered, but dismissed from detailed analysis. These included a no grazing alternative; designating areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) and research natural areas (RNAs); reintroduction of bison on public rangelands to achieve standards and guidelines; and developing guidelines for uses other than livestock grazing.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-14483 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-300-1990-00]

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Surface Management Regulations—43 CFR 3809 for Operations Under the Mining Law of 1872, as Amended

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and scoping, extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending to June 23, 1997, the comment period for its notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the revision of its surface management regulations. BLM published the notice of intent on April 4, 1997. The extension is in response to several requests from interested parties for additional time to prepare and submit information.

DATES: In order to be considered for preparation of the draft EIS, scoping comments are most useful if received on or before June 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-deliver written comments to Paul McNutt, 3809/EIS Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section