

Contact Person: Anne Krey, Scientific Review Administrator, Division of Scientific Review, National Institute of Child Health, and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, 6100 Executive Blvd., Room 5E01, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-1485.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.864, Population Research; 93.865, Research for Mothers and Children; 93.929, Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research; 93.209, Contraception and Infertility Loan Repayment Program, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 17, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-19800 Filed 7-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: July 27, 1998.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: The Hyatt Regency Hotel, 100 Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Scott F. Andres, PHD, Acting Director, Division of Scientific Review, National Institute of Child Health, and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, 6100 Executive Blvd., Room 5E03, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-1485.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.864, Population Research;

93.865, Research for Mothers and Children; 93.929, Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research; 93.209, Contraception and Infertility Loan Repayment Program, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 17, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-19801 Filed 7-23-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4341-N-20]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Johnston, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7256, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1226; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans' Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: July 16, 1998.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 98-19414 Filed 7-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Construction of the Palau Compact Road, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Construction of the Palau Compact Road, Babeldaob Islands, Republic of Palau.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior announces that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for construction of the Palau Compact Road, Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau is available for public review and comment.

DATES: Comments on the Final EIS will be accepted until August 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Final EIS should be submitted to Mr. Allen Chin, CEPOH-ED-E, U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu, Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440. A limited number of copies of the document may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling 808-438-6974.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Allen Chin, CEPOH-ED-E, U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu, Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440, telephone (808) 438-6974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proponent for the Proposed Action is the United States Department of the Interior as program manager and on behalf of the United States of America.

The Compact of Free Association (Compact) with the Republic of Palau (ROP), which became effective on October 1, 1994, requires the United States Government (USG) to provide a road system to the people of Palau in order to assist the ROP to advance the economic development and self-sufficiency of the Palau people. To fulfill this statutory and treaty requirement, the USG and the ROP are cooperating to construct a major road system on the island of Babeldaob in accordance with Section 212(a) of the Compact of Free Association and as implemented by certain nation-to-nation agreements.

The Department of the Interior published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 1996. Scoping meetings were held for governmental agencies and the public on April 24, 1996. The Notice of

Availability of the DEIS was announced in the **Federal Register** in May 1997. A public hearing to present the DEIS was held on May 21, 1997 in Palau. The DEIS was subsequently revised to incorporate the results of additional studies and to address public and agency comments on the original DEIS. After receipt of comments on the revised DEIS, a Final EIS will be prepared. The Notice of Availability of the revised DEIS was announced in the **Federal Register** on February 19, 1998. Comments on the Revised DEIS have been considered in preparing the Final EIS.

The Proposed Action calls for construction of a safe, high-quality, all-weather, two-lane paved vehicular road system on the island of Babeldaob. This roadway has been configured as a loop system with a northern spur to serve as a direct transportation and communication link between the 10 states on Babeldaob Island. Additionally, the road would provide access through, or be near known areas having potential for agriculture, forestry, mining and quarrying, industry and tourism, and water resource and port development. It would also provide a land-based transportation corridor to and from the proposed site of the Republic of Palau's new capital in Melekeok State.

The Final EIS will be used by the Department of the Interior in reaching a final decision and developing a final array of measures to avoid, or mitigate adverse impacts. The Record of Decision will be approved at least 30 days after publication of the Final EIS to allow for public review and comment on the Final EIS.

Copies of the Final EIS are also available for review at the following locations: Republic of Palau Ministry of Resources and Development, Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Palau Compact Road Field Office, on the third floor of the WCTC building in Koror.

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Willie R. Taylor,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior.
[FR Doc. 98-19711 Filed 7-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RK-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and an Environmental Impact Statement for Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Stevens County, Washington. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations for the following purposes: (1) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the preliminary alternatives which have been drafted for the EIS; and (3) to announce public open house meetings.

DATES: Submit comments on or before August 24, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting dates and locations.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, 1310 Bear Creek Road, Colville, Washington 99114.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Langelier, Refuge Manager (509) 684-8384.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service started the process of developing a management plan for Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge (Little Pend Oreille NWR) in 1995. Open houses and public meetings were held in 1995, 1996, and 1997. A previous notice was published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 65591, Dec. 13, 1996).

Persons and organizations involved in the scoping process include: the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Air Force; members of national, state and local conservation organizations; timber industry representatives; grazing permittees; inholders and neighboring landowners; and other interested citizens. Comments and concerns received have been used to identify issues and draft preliminary alternatives.

Major issues to be addressed in the plan include grazing; management of degraded aquatic and riparian habitats; overstocked forest habitats; military training; and various recreational public uses. The plan will include the

following topics: (a) an assessment of existing biological, physical, and cultural resources, and their condition; (b) identification of the long term goals and objectives of the refuge, consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; (c) strategies for habitat management, including actions for forests, riparian areas, water courses, reservoirs, wetlands, and old farm fields; (d) strategies for management of public access and uses, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, camping, horseback riding, mountain-bike riding, and snowmobiling; and (e) strategies for management of other special uses including military training and grazing.

Draft management goals are intended to guide the future management of Little Pend Oreille NWR. They are: (1) Conserve, enhance and restore native forest, riparian, in-stream, and wetland habitats and associated migratory birds, other wildlife, fish and plants. (2) Monitor, protect and recover plants and animals that are threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and species of special concern. (3) Provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and research to enhance public appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of refuge, wildlife, fish and their habitats.

A range of preliminary alternatives are being considered in the plan:

(A) The No Action Alternative—Make no changes to the prevailing practices and uses at the refuge.

(B) Restore Wildlife Habitat While Managing Existing public Uses—This alternative combines an active forest and riparian restoration program with minimal change to existing public uses.

(C) Restore Wildlife Habitat While Emphasizing Priority Uses—This alternative adopts a greater emphasis on priority uses identified under the Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (PL 105-57) and eliminates or reduces non-priority uses. This alternative also incorporates a strong forest and riparian restoration program.

(D) Manage the Refuge as an Ecological Reserve and Reduce Human Disturbances—This alternative minimizes human access and use of the refuge while conducting a moderate restoration program, with a greater emphasis on hydrologic restoration than other alternatives.

(E) The Caretaker Strategy With Minimal Public Services Alternative—This alternative minimizes management, reduces public uses, and would minimize staffing needs.

With the publication of this notice, the public is encouraged to attend