

In May 1994 The Fund For Animals, Inc., and 22 other organizations and individuals filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia over the adequacy of the Plan approved in 1993. Later in May 1994 the National Audubon Society and 19 other organizations and individuals also filed suit in the same court. The two cases were eventually consolidated. In September 1995 the court issued an opinion. The motions for summary judgment of both the plaintiffs and the defendants were granted in part and denied in part. The court ordered us to reconsider certain portions of the Plan, and to provide supplemental information. The court remanded five issues that might affect grizzly bear recovery for our reconsideration. Those issues were: disease and parasites; livestock interactions and mortality; the effects of genetic isolation; population monitoring methods; and our reliance on Canada for recovery of the grizzly bear.

On September 10, 1997, we published a Notice of Availability (62 FR 47677, Sept. 10, 1997) for the draft supplemental information on the five remanded issues. We provided our final finding on the issues to the court on May 15, 1999, and this notice announces that the document is available for public distribution.

We are also in the process of developing draft grizzly bear habitat-based recovery criteria, which are being made available for public review and comment under a separate notice of availability.

Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will provide a public comment period prior to approval of each new amendment to the recovery plan. We and other Federal land management agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 99-18138 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Historic Preservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Historic Preservation Plan as part of its responsibilities for the long-term management of historic properties on Midway Atoll. This plan defines a program to integrate historic preservation planning with the wildlife conservation mission of the Service. By this notice, the public is informed that the plan is available and that copies may be obtained on request to the Service.

ADDRESSES: Written requests for copies should be addressed to: U.S.A. Fish and Wildlife Service—Pacific Islands Ecoregion, Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Manager, telephone (808) 541-2749.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Midway's historically important buildings and structures are primarily associated with World War II. Nine structures specifically associated with the June 1942 Battle of Midway were designated as National Historic Landmarks in 1986. Archaeological and architectural studies conducted in 1993 and 1994 identified and evaluated buildings, structures, and objects on the atoll's two main islands and determined that an additional 69 properties were eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-510, as amended, led to the closure of Midway's Naval Air Facility on October 1, 1993 and transfer of the property to the Service on October 31, 1996. Transition from a Naval Air Facility to a wildlife refuge necessitated a reduction in personnel and operational facilities. Therefore, identifying excess property was accomplished by the U.S. Navy and the Service in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Officer, and interested parties. Treatment of Midway's 78 historic properties during the Base Closure and transfer led to a Programmatic Agreement in 1996. One of the stipulations in the agreement was for the Service to prepare a Historic

Preservation Plan for the long-term management of historic properties.

Midway and Midway's Historic Preservation Plan are unique in several respects: first, the plan focuses on treatment of properties that have been previously identified and evaluated; second, some treatment options for Midway were determined by the Programmatic Agreement and implemented, with adverse effects mitigated by completion of documentation for all historic properties; third, the mission statement and primary goals of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge include preservation of historic resources. This Historic Preservation Plan focuses on long-term management conditions and goals for preserving and stabilizing historic properties, and recommends procedures for treating new discoveries, caring for museum collections, and implementing a public outreach program that includes historic preservation.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 99-18158 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[FES-99-18]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Colorado Sodium Products Development Project (Project), located in Rio Blanco County and Garfield County, Colorado. Written comments and recommendations on this Final EIS should be received on or before September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this EIS to Mr. Larry Shults, Natural Resources Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, 73544 Highway 64, Meeker, CO 81641.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Shults, (970) 878-3601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: American Soda, L.L.P. (American Soda) intends to construct and operate a commercial nahcolite solution mining operation in the northcentral portion of the Piceance Creek Basin in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Nahcolite is naturally

occurring sodium bicarbonate that is found in association with oil shale deposits. After the nahcolite is removed from the ground, it would be processed into a sodium carbonate solution and transported by a 44-mile pipeline south to a processing operation to be located at an existing industrial site in the Parachute Valley in Garfield County, Colorado. There it would be further processed to commercial grade sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and other sodium products which would then be shipped from the processing facility via a 4-mile long dedicated rail spur to an interstate rail connection near the town of Parachute.

John J. Mehlhoff,

Resource Area Manager, White River Field Office.

[FR Doc. 99-17857 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-220-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The advisory board will meet Monday, August 16, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, and on Tuesday, August 17, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon local time.

Submit written comments pertaining to the advisory board meeting no later than close of business August 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Nightengale Building, Room 5, Westminster College, 1840 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Send written comments pertaining to the advisory board meeting to Bureau of Land Management, WO-610, Mail Stop 406 LS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Knapp, Wild Horse and Burro Public Affairs Specialist, (202) 452-5176. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. Knapp at any time

by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, August 16, 1999

Old Business/April 1999 Recommendations

- Approval of January and April, 1999 minutes;
- Ely field trip;
- Establishing aml;
- Scenarios for attaining AMLs (appropriate management levels);
- Prioritization of herd management areas;
- Forage allocation;
- Strategic plan amendment time frame;
- Public comment.

Tuesday, August 17, 1999

New Business

- 2000-2001 WH&B Advisory Board;
- 1999 End of Year Congressional Report;
- Funding process for 2000 & 2001;
- Advisory Board recommendations;
- Agenda for November 1999 Meeting;
- Adjournment

The meeting sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal advisory committee management regulations (41 CFR 101-6.1015(b)), require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Field Trip

There will be an optional field trip to BLM's Salt Lake City Holding Facility Tuesday afternoon, August 17, 1999 after adjournment of the meeting. BLM will provide Transportation for

Advisory Board members and BLM staff. The public will have to provide its own transportation.

III. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the advisory board on August 16, 1999, at the appropriate point in the agenda. This is anticipated to occur at 3:45 p.m. local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon on August 16, 1999, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the advisory board may limit the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the advisory board meeting is not a prerequisite for submittal of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, speakers should submit two copies of their written comments where feasible. The BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, we intend to make them available in their entirety, including your name and address (or your e-mail address if you file electronically). However, if you do not want us to release your name and address (or e-mail address) in response to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your wish to the extent allowed by law. BLM will release all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses, in their entirety, including names and address (or e-mail addresses).