

Alternatives

After the scoping process, we will develop alternatives to be included in the EIS, basing them on our mission and the comments received during scoping. Examples of alternatives that we might consider range from "No Action" to "Large-scale Population Control on Breeding Grounds, Wintering Grounds, and Migration Areas in the United States."

As a precursor to the national management plan, the Service has contracted for the development of a cormorant status assessment. A draft is currently under review. Availability of this document for public review will be announced at a later date.

We are soliciting your comments on issues, alternatives, and impacts we might address in the EIS. Of particular value will be comments that: (1) Identify and, where possible, quantify impacts caused by increasing cormorant populations; (2) suggest management strategies to resolve such conflicts; and (3) identify determining factors in justifying the need for control, if any.

Issue Resolution and Environmental Review

The primary issue that we will address during the scoping and planning process for the EIS is to determine which alternatives for managing double-crested cormorant populations we will analyze. We will prepare a discussion of the potential effects, by alternative, which will include the following areas:

- (1) Double-crested cormorant populations and their habitats;
- (2) Other bird populations and their habitats;
- (3) Effects on other species of flora and fauna; and
- (4) Socioeconomic effects.

We will conduct an environmental review of the management actions in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as appropriate. We are furnishing this notice in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies, tribes, and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. A draft EIS should be available to the public in the spring of 2000.

Public Scoping Meetings

A schedule of public scoping meetings is not available at this time. We encourage suggestions of potential dates, times, and locations for the meetings. We will then publish notice of the meetings in the **Federal Register**.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available from the Office of Migratory Bird Management (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Dated: October 26, 1999.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-28814 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Forest Management Plan for the Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, MT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Forest Management Plan for the trust forest lands of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, Montana, is now available for public review and comment. A description of the proposed action follows as supplemental information.

DATES: Comments on the FEIS must arrive by December 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail or hand carry written comments to Mr. Ernest "Bud" Moran, Superintendent, Flathead Field Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 40, Pablo, Montana 59855. You may also comment via the Internet to BudMoran@bia.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (406) 675-0242.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Flathead Field Office during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment.

Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Copies of the FEIS will be available at the public libraries in Arlee, St. Ignatius, Ronan, Polson, and Hot Springs, Montana, and at the Salish and Kootenai Cultural Centers in St. Ignatius and Elmo, Montana. Comments, responses, and changes and additions to the DEIS will be mailed out to all those who commented on the DEIS. Individuals wishing copies of the FEIS may contact Mr. Ken Trickey, Tribal Forestry, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, P.O. Box 278, Pablo, Montana 59855, telephone (406) 676-3755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ken Trickey, 406-676-3755.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There are approximately 451,391 acres of forest trust land on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Forest Management Plan (the proposed action) takes an interdisciplinary, ecosystem approach to forest management and seeks to restore and maintain the long-term ecological integrity of the reservation's forests in a manner consistent with tribal values. The Plan describes resource management practices and levels of production, establishes management standards, allocates land, and prescribes management practices to achieve balanced forest ecosystems. Its purpose is to provide long-term direction for the tribes' forest resources. The Plan is needed to: (1) Satisfy tribal goals and objectives; (2) Ensure that management activities are compatible with sustainable forest ecosystems; (3) Balance tribal cultural, social, economic and environmental values; and (4) Establish a basis for an adaptive management and monitoring process that incorporates tribal member values.

The FEIS includes five alternatives, including a no action alternative. Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 take an ecosystem approach to management. They focus on the overall vegetative structure and composition of the forest rather than on individual stands or on the needs of individual species. They seek to restore, to varying degrees, more natural structures, processes and functions to the forest in order to achieve more sustainable conditions over the long term. Of the three, Alternative 1 seeks the highest levels of

restoration, followed by Alternative 2 and then 3. Alternative 5 takes a passive approach to management, in which timber harvesting would be limited to salvage operations after fires, wind throw, or insect and disease outbreaks. Alternative 4, no action, would continue the management practices of the last forest management plan, which was adopted in 1987.

Alternative 2, the 1996 Draft Forest Plan with updates and revisions made in response to modeling refinements and new information, is both the proposed action and the preferred alternative. It is preferred because it best balances social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns and best meets the stated purpose and need.

Changes between the DEIS and the FEIS include, but are not limited to the following:

- Under Alternatives 2 and 3, habitat effectiveness for elk will be improved in the nonlethal and mixed fire regimes by reducing the number of miles of open road per square mile from five to four.
- Under Alternative 2, 100 percent rather than 80 percent of the road sections that are severely degrading aquatics will be abandoned.
- The Water and Fish section of the Affected Environment chapter has been expanded to include updated information on fluvial geomorphology, water quality, wetlands, and monitoring.
- A socio-economic section has been added to the Affected Environment chapter.
- The safe use of herbicides and the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of streams have been added as objectives of the Forest Management Plan.

This notice is furnished in accordance with Section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: October 29, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-29116 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-960-99-1220-PH]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting, Butte, Montana

AGENCY: Butte Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Montana Resource Advisory Council will convene at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 8, 1999, at the Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana. Issues will include an overview of Landscape Analysis planning, a discussion on the Montana/Dakotas Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and an update on the Whitetail-Pipestone Environmental Impact Statement.

The meeting is open to the public and written comments can be given to the Council. Oral comments may be presented to the Council at 11:30 a.m. The time allotted for oral comment may be limited, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting, or who need special assistance, such as sign language or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont (P.O. Box 3388), Butte, Montana 59702-3388, telephone 406-494-5059.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Butte Field Manager Merle Good at the above address or telephone number.

Dated: October 27, 1999.

Merle Good,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-29094 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-320-1820-XQ]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Northwest California Resource Advisory Council, Ukiah, California.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579), the U.S. Bureau of Land

Management's Northwest California Resource Advisory Council will meet Thursday and Friday, December 9 and 10, 1999, for a business meeting and field tour. The meeting and tour are open to the public, but anyone attending must provide their own transportation and lunch.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 9, at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lake Berryessa headquarters office, 5320 Knoxville Rd., Napa, California. Members will depart shortly after 10 a.m. for a driving tour of the Lake Berryessa area, and the BLM's Knoxville Off Highway Vehicle Area. On Friday, December 10, the council will convene at the Marriott Hotel, 3425 Solano Ave., Napa, for a business meeting. Agenda items include Lake Berryessa management, the status of recovery from the Lowden Fire, status of Headwaters Forest Management, status of the BLM California Strategic Plan, and reports from the BLM's Arcata, Redding and Ukiah field managers.

Time will be set aside for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit may be established.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Rich Burns, BLM Ukiah Field Manager, at (707) 468-4000.

Joseph J. Fontana,

Public Affairs Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-29110 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-942-5700-00]

Filing of Plats of Survey; California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested state and local government officials of the latest filing of Plats of Survey in California.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise noted, filing was effective at 10 a.m. on the next federal work day following the plat acceptance date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lance J. Bishop, Chief, Branch of Geographic Services, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4310.