

recovery plan for the rough popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*). The draft recovery plan includes specific recovery criteria and measures to be taken in order to delist the rough popcorn flower. We solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before March 31, 2003 to receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: Roseburg Field Office, 2900 NW. Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470 (phone: 541-957-3474). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan, and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Craig Tuss, Field Supervisor, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Tuss, Field Supervisor, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish recovery criteria for downlisting or delisting species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act, requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of this recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the plan.

Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities for consideration during the implementation of recovery actions.

The rough popcorn flower was listed as endangered on January 25, 2000 and

is found only in the Umpqua River drainage in Douglas County, Oregon, at sites ranging from 102 to 232 meters (m) (330 to 750 feet) in elevation. Extant, naturally occurring populations of this species occur along the Sutherlin Creek drainage from Sutherlin to Wilbur, adjacent to Calapooya Creek west of Sutherlin, and in roadside ditches near Yoncalla Creek just north of Rice Hill. The northern site is near Yoncalla, and the southern at Wilbur. All known sites were east of Interstate Highway 5 (I-5), until 1998 when a site was discovered at the junction of Stearns Lane and Highway 138, 0.8 kilometers 0.5 miles west of I-5. The eastern site is east of Plat K Road outside of Sutherlin. Historic collections have been made farther east near Nonpareil, but recent surveys (1998 to 1999) did not locate any populations in that area.

The rough popcorn flower is a perennial herbaceous plant, but can be annual depending on environmental conditions. The species occurs in seasonal wetlands. The majority of sites occur on the Conser-type soil series which is characterized as poorly drained flood plain soils. Urban and agriculture development, invasion of non-native species, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and other human-caused disturbances have resulted in substantial losses of seasonal wetland habitat throughout the species' historic range. Conservation measures include establishing a network of protected populations in natural habitat distributed throughout its native range.

The draft recovery plan identifies three recovery zones. The recovery zones are geographically bounded areas containing extant rough popcorn flower populations that are the focus of recovery actions or tasks. The recovery zones include lands both essential and non-essential to the long-term conservation of the rough popcorn flower.

The overall objective of this draft recovery plan is to reduce the threats to the rough popcorn flower to the point it can be reclassified to threatened, with the ultimate goal of being removed from protection entirely. Under the draft recovery plan downlisting of the rough popcorn flower would be contingent upon the following criteria: (1) At least 9 reserves, containing a minimum of 5,000 plants each, are protected and managed to assure their long term survival; (2) a minimum of 1,000 m² are occupied by the rough popcorn flower within each reserve, with at least 100 m² having a density of 100 plants/m² or greater; (3) a minimum of 9 reserves are distributed among the 3 recovery zones (Calapooya Creek, Sutherlin Creek, and

Yoncalla Creek), with at least 3 reserves present in each zone; (4) patches within each reserve are within 1 kilometers (2½ miles) of each other to allow pollinator movement and gene flow among them; (5) averages of 5 years of demographic data that indicates populations in at least 7 of the 9 reserves within the 3 recovery zones have average population numbers that are stable or increasing, without decreasing trends lasting more than 2 years; (6) 75 percent or more of the plants are reproductive each year, with evidence of seed maturation and dispersal in all populations; (7) seed germination and seedling recruitment are occurring in all populations; and (8) each existing or reintroduced population is secure from the threats identified in the Reasons for Listing section.

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

Dated: November 5, 2002.

Rowan W. Gould,

Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-1826 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-03-1020-PG]

Notice of Public Meeting, Western Montana Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Western Montana Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: A meeting will be held March 13, 2003, at the BLM Missoula Field Office, 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, Montana beginning at 9 a.m. The public comment period will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will adjourn at approximately 3 p.m. A working meeting is planned for April 16 in Dillon, Montana to review the public input gathered during a series of workshops related to the Dillon RMP. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and will be held at the Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in western Montana. At the March 13 meeting, topics we plan to discuss include: Updates on the Dillon and Butte Resource Management Plans, fuels reduction and how it relates to the President's Forest Initiative, the Limestone Hills sub-group, sage grouse planning, and an update on the Dillon standards and guidelines implementation.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Krause, Resource Advisory Council Coordinator, at the Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana 59701, telephone 406-533-7617 or Nancy Anderson, Field Manager, Missoula Field Office, telephone 406-329-3914.

Dated: January 15, 2003.

Nancy Anderson,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-1807 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board will meet at the New Orleans Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

DATES: Wednesday, March 19, 2003, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday, March 20, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140, telephone (504) 561-1234, fax (504) 523-0488.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gary Fields, Royalty Policy Committee Coordinator, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B3, Denver, CO 80225-0165, telephone (303) 231-3102, fax (303) 231-3781, e-mail gary.fields@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of the Interior established a Royalty Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board to provide advice on the Department's management of Federal and Indian minerals leases, revenues, and other minerals-related policies. Committee membership includes representatives from States, Indian tribes and allottee organizations, minerals industry associations, the general public, and Federal departments.

At this 16th meeting, the committee will elect a Parliamentarian, receive a subcommittee report on coal and review recommendations from the sodium/potassium subcommittee. The MMS will present reports on financial management, compliance, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and royalty-in-kind initiatives. The MMS will also discuss the current appeals process, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issue and provide a legislative update.

The location and dates of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register**. The meetings are open to the public without advance registration on a space available basis. The public may make statements during the meetings, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the committee for its consideration. Written statements should be submitted to Mr. Fields at the mailing address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Transcripts of committee meetings will be available 2 weeks after each meeting for public inspection and copying at MMS's Minerals Revenue Management, Building 85, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, and Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-63, revised.

Dated: January 23, 2003.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 03-1886 Filed 1-27-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Intent to Solicit Public Comments on the Adoption of an Interim 602(a) Storage Guideline for Management of the Colorado River and to Initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice to solicit public comments and initiation of the NEPA process.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is considering the adoption of a specific interim guideline that will assist the Secretary in making a determination of the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year, as required by article II (1) of the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968 (Long-Range Operating Criteria).

DATES: To be most useful, we must receive all comments at the address given below on or before March 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments to Tom Ryan, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138; faxogram (801) 524-5499; e-mail: tryan@uc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year, the Secretary establishes an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Colorado River reservoirs. The AOP describes how Reclamation will manage the reservoirs over a 12-month period, consistent with the Long-Range Operating Criteria. Pursuant to applicable Federal law, Reclamation consults annually with the Colorado River Basin States, Indian tribes, and others interested parties in the development of the AOP. Further, as part of the AOP, the Secretary makes an annual determination under the Long-Range Operating Criteria regarding the quantity of water considered necessary as of September 30 of each year to be in storage as required by section 602(a)(3) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (602(a) Storage). This determination is important because when projected storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs is greater than 602(a) Storage, releases from Lake Powell are made according to article II (3) of the Long-Range Operating Criteria and section 602(a)(3).