

Dated: September 19, 2000.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 00-24614 Filed 9-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Species at Risk Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Geological Survey is announcing the availability of funds through the Species at Risk Program (SAR). The basic purpose of SAR is to fund short-term research and assessment projects to generate information that allows development of conservation agreements, action plans, and management alternatives that provide for the protection of flora and fauna and their habitats and thereby reduce the need for listing species as threatened or endangered.

DATES: Information packages describing requirements for participation in this program will be available upon request until November 2, 2000. Pre-proposals are due to the address below by November 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Parties interested in this program should request an information package from: Species at Risk Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 301, Reston, VA 20192 ATTN: Dr. Al Sherk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Al Sherk, Species at Risk Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 301, Reston, VA 20192; Al_Sherk@usgs.gov; or 703-648-4076.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose

Species at Risk (SAR) is a program that develops scientific information on the status of sensitive species or groups of species, particularly with respect to the relationship of species abundance and distribution to habitat conditions and environmental stresses. The basic purpose of SAR is to generate information that allows the development of conservation agreements, action plans, management alternatives, etc., to provide for the protection of species and their habitats and thereby preclude the need for listing species as threatened or endangered.

The initiative provides an opportunity for scientists to participate through survey and research activities. Projects are specifically intended to be of short

duration and should seek to optimize partnerships with Federal agencies, states, universities, and the private sector. Successful SAR projects are often conducted by investigators who have identified key, small but critical gaps in our biological knowledge. Projects provide resource managers, regulators, and private landowners with usable information for which prudent resource management decisions can be based. Projects must be new, self-contained work designed to be completed, including the final report, within 18 months.

Projects must focus on species or groups of species for which there is concern but limited information. Projects that focus on groups of species within the same habitat or ecosystem are encouraged. Projects should identify or develop new information that will reduce the need for a formal listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1972, as amended. Regional and national offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have provided a list of species or groups and their management needs. Projects must focus on these species or groups and demonstrate how they support management needs. Principal investigators are encouraged to communicate directly with USFWS regional contacts before project submission.

This program is conducted in furtherance of the Secretary's obligations under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j, as amended) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e, as amended).

B. Background

The U.S. Geological Survey gathers and analyzes biological information and serves as an information clearinghouse, providing broad access to the widest possible range of factual data on the status and trends of the Nation's biota and the potential effects of land management choices. This information serves public and private landowners who are interested in sustaining biological resources. It also provides understanding to help avoid conflicts that can both impede development and degrade natural habitats.

The Species at Risk Program will develop scientific information and alternatives to assist Federal, State, and other land managers in their decisions regarding the protection of sensitive species and habitats.

C. Availability of Funds

Through this program, pre-proposals are invited for funding in Fiscal Year 2001 from non-Federal research,

scientific or technical organizations. Total funding anticipated for the fiscal year is approximately 370,000. Monies will be provided to successful applicants on a competitive basis. There is no minimum project cost; the maximum project cost will be \$80,000.

Funds for this program are not currently available. Funding of the program is contingent on a Fiscal Year 2001 appropriation.

D. Eligibility Requirements

Under the terms specified in the information package, pre-proposals will be accepted from State agencies, private and industry groups, academic institutions, and Native American Tribes and Nations. Pre-proposals will be evaluated in light of their relevance to an identified management need, partnership opportunities, potential for providing useful information to resource managers, potential for conservation agreements, possibilities for cost sharing, and demonstration of successful completion within 18 months of date of initiation. Possible selectees will then be invited to submit a full project proposal for scientific peer review and consideration of funding.

E. Application Process

Parties interested in participating in this program should request an information package that will include detailed application forms, proposal format requirements, etc., from:

Mail: Species at Risk Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 301, Reston, VA 20192, Attn: Dr. Al Sherk

or E-Mail: AlSherk@usgs.gov

or Call: (703)648-4076.

F. Dates

Notice of interest in this program must be received by November 2, 2000.

Susan D. Haseltine,

Associate Chief Biologist for Science.

[FR Doc. 00-24593 Filed 9-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-104-1430-DE: GPO-0304]

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)—North Bank Habitat Management Area (NBHMA)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

Roseburg District, has prepared an FEIS that describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of management on the 6,580 acre North Bank Habitat Management Area. The action alternatives respond to the need for managing habitats on the NBHMA to maintain or enhance Columbia white-tailed deer (a Federally listed "endangered" species), as well as rare plants and other sensitive species of wildlife; the need to restore and maintain water quality; and the need to manage lands in accordance with existing land use plan decisions. The EIS also identifies recreational opportunities and habitat restoration opportunities. The action alternatives propose different levels of a variety of management actions including: planting, seeding, in-stream restoration, upland watershed restoration, development of water sources, development of forage plots, and the maintenance or enhancement of habitat through burning, fertilization, mowing and grazing. The FEIS analyzes impacts of implementing three alternatives. The alternatives include: (A) no action alternative, (B) a passive and less active approach to management, and (C) an active management alternative (preferred). The effect of this action would be to meet criteria in the Recovery Plan required for delisting the Columbian white-tailed deer.

As a result of public comment and staff review of the Draft EIS (DEIS), the FEIS was written to clarify presentation and provide greater detail of proposed activities. Alternative B was modified to present an alternative that would take a less intrusive and more passive approach to management. Additional detail and analysis of environmental effect was also included in order to address those issues raised during public review of the draft.

The NBHMA is approximately five miles east of Wilbur, Oregon on County Road 200 (North Bank Road).

DATES: A thirty day (30) day public review period for this document will be provided commencing on September 22, 2000 (the date of publication of the EPA Notice).

ADDRESSES: Request for copies should be addressed to the Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, Oregon 97470; Attention NBHMA Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Klein (Team Lead) 541-440-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: (1) The EIS was written in cooperation with the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2) The EIS is available on the Roseburg District web site (www.or.blm.gov/roseburg).

Dated: September 1, 2000.

Jay K. Carlson,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-24601 Filed 9-22-00; 10:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-930-1310-01; TXNM 100592]

New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease TXNM 100592 for lands in Wise County, Texas, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from April 1, 2000, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The Lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective April 1, 2000, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gloria S. Baca, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7566.

Dated: September 14, 2000.

Gloria S. Baca,

Land Law Examiner.

[FR Doc. 00-24686 Filed 9-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

ACTION: Chaco Culture National Historical Park; Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction Over Certain Lands

DATES: The effective date of this Order shall be the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

SUMMARY: Title V of the Act of December 19, 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-550, 94 Stat. 3227, codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. 410ii through 410ii-7 (1994), abolished Chaco Canyon National Monument and established an enlarged park known as Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico. Within the enlarged park boundaries were 1,755.40 acres of land, more or less, owned by the State of New Mexico. On March 31, 2000, the Bureau of Land Management acquired the 1,755.40 acres, in the name of the United States, in a land exchange with the State, along with additional lands outside the park. On August 14, 2000, the Bureau of Land Management advised that it was transferring administrative jurisdiction on the 1,755.40 acres to the National Park Service.

The lands and/or interests acquired by the Bureau of Land Management, subject to this notice, are designated as Tracts 01-154, 01-159, 01-168, and 01-174, within the park. Notice is hereby given that, as of the date of publication of this notice, administrative jurisdiction over the lands and/or interests in land, consisting of 1,755.40 acres, more or less, is formally transferred to the National Park Service.

Maps and legal descriptions of these particular lands are available for inspection at Chaco Culture National Historical Park Headquarters and the National Park Service, Land Resources Program Center, 2968 Rodeo Park Drive West, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

Dated: August 31, 2000.

Karen Wade,

Regional Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 00-24695 Filed 9-25-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Petroglyph National Monument; Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction Over Certain Lands

DATES: The effective date of this Order shall be the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

SUMMARY: The Petroglyph National Monument Establishment Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-313, 104 Stat. 272, established Petroglyph National Monument on the outskirts of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Within the monument's authorized boundaries