

has specific purposes for which it was established and for which legislation was enacted. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission and to guide those public uses proposed for the Refuge. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each Refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001 mandates that the refuge will be managed for the purposes of: (1) Restoring and preserving native ecosystems; (2) providing habitat for, and population management of, native plants and migratory and resident wildlife; (3) conserving threatened and endangered and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and 4) providing opportunities for compatible scientific research.

The Federal Government acquired 2,519 acres of the 6,300-acre Rocky Flats site in 1951 for use as a nuclear weapons production facility. The remaining acreage was acquired in 1974–1976. In 1992, the mission of the Rocky Flats site changed to site cleanup and closure in a manner that is safe, environmentally and socially responsible, physically secure, and cost-effective. The majority of the site has generally remained undisturbed since its acquisition, and provides habitat for many wildlife species, including a resident, federal-listed threatened species. Within the site is a rare xeric tallgrass prairie plant community. Establishing the site as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System will promote the preservation and enhancement of its natural resources for present and future generations.

By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. A CCP describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction to accomplish the purposes of the refuge, contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and meet other relevant mandates. The planning process will consider many elements including habitat and wildlife management, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, environmental education, and other wildlife-dependent uses. Public input into this process is essential. The Service is requesting

input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Rocky Flats NWR. Anyone interested in providing input is invited to respond to the following three questions:

(1) What makes the Rocky Flats NWR special or unique to you?

(2) What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the CCP?

(3) What are your recommendations for future management of Rocky Flats NWR?

The above questions were designed to stimulate thinking about Rocky Flats and its future management. The Service invites any relevant comments or ideas and does not require that participants provide any specific information. Comments received by the planning team will be used as part of the planning process.

An opportunity will be given to the public to provide input at public meeting to scope issues and concerns. These public scoping meetings will be held in nearby communities in September 2002. The meetings will take place in facilities meeting accessibility requirements outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Citizens with disabilities that may require accommodation to participate in or to understand the meeting, should contact Laurie Shannon, Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at (303) 289–0980 at least one week in advance so arrangements for accommodations can be made. Comments also may be submitted anytime during the planning process by writing to the above addresses.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. All comments received from individuals on Service EISs become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6(f)), and other Departmental and Service policy and procedures. When requested, the Service generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments. However, the telephone number of the commenting individual will not be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Additionally, public comment letters are not required to contain the commenter's name, address, or any other identifying information.

Dated: July 31, 2002.

John A. Blankenship,

Acting Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 02–21505 Filed 8–22–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the American Geological Institute to develop and distribute USGS GIS database information in a variety of educational mediums.

INQUIRIES: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact Beth Duff, Business Development Office, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 500, Reston, Virginia, 20192, phone: (703) 648–4621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is submitted to meet the USGS policy requirements stipulated in Survey Manual Chapter 500.20.

Dated: August 8, 2002.

Robert A. Lidwin,

Acting Associate Director for Geography.

[FR Doc. 02–21516 Filed 8–22–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–Y7–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Pixxures, Inc. to develop spatial data Internet deployment technologies which allow Internet publication of aerial imagery.

INQUIRIES: If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact Beth Duff, Business Development Office, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 500, Reston, Virginia 20192, phone: (703) 648–4621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is submitted to meet the USGS policy requirements stipulated in Survey Manual Chapter 500.20.

Dated: August 8, 2002.

Robert A. Lidwin,

Acting Associate Director for Geography.

[FR Doc. 02-21515 Filed 8-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 108-148, the NCGMP Advisory Committee will meet in Room 7000 A of the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The Advisory Committee, composed of scientists from Federal Agencies, State Agencies, academic institutions, and private companies, will advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on planning and implementation of the geologic mapping program. Topics to be reviewed and discussed by the Advisory Committee include the:

- Progress of the NCGMP towards fulfilling the purposes of the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.
- Updates on the Federal, State, and educational components of the NCGMP
- Strategic Goals

DATES: September 17-18, commencing at 9 a.m. on September 17th and adjourning by 5 p.m. on September 18th.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter T. Lyttle, U.S. Geological Survey, 908 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6943.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meetings of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program Advisory Committee are open to the Public.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Associate Director for Geology, U.S.

Geological Survey.

[FR Doc. 02-21514 Filed 8-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-01-1610-DQ]

Notice of Availability of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert Proposed Plan, an Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, California Desert District, Riverside, California.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Proposed Plan and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert planning area (NEMO), an amendment to the Bureau of Land Management California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

SUMMARY: NEMO amends the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan for a 3.3 million acre area in the northeastern portion of the CDCA, and provides for conservation and recovery of T & E species, reduces the need for further species listings and streamlines the processing of land-use permits. NEMO includes goals, objectives, management prescriptions and monitoring in accordance with the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) for comprehensive, strategic, management of the desert landscapes, including a programmatic biological opinion for the desert tortoise, strategies for the Amargosa watershed which include multiple listed species and sensitive bat habitat. The FEIS evaluates the Proposed Plan Amendments and alternatives, includes public comments on the Draft EIS and provides responses to those comments.

DATES: Written protests on the Final EIS will be accepted if received within 30 calendar days from the date that a Notice of Availability is published in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency. Instructions for filing protests are contained in the NEMO document Cover Sheet, just inside the front cover, and are included below the Supplemental Information.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the NEMO Proposed Plan/FEIS are being mailed to those who received the Draft EIS or provided comments on the Draft EIS. The document is available for review online at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/nemo.html>. Reading copies are also available at most local libraries and the following BLM offices:

BLM, 6221 Box Springs Blvd.,
Riverside, CA 92507; (909) 697-5200

BLM, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311; (760) 252-6000

BLM, 101 West Spikes Road, Needles, CA 92363; (760) 326-7000

BLM, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; (760) 384-5400

BLM, 690 Garnet, North Palm Springs, CA 92258; (760) 251-4800

BLM, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243; (760) 337-4400

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edythe Seehafer, Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, California 92311; Telephone (760) 252-6021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Development of the plan began in 1994, with scoping meetings held in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS). NPS is conducting concurrent planning efforts on adjacent lands. The NEMO Planning Area covers 3.3 million acres of land in the southeastern California Desert of which 2.7 million acres are public lands. This document describes and analyzes a number of alternatives for managing species and habitats on public lands administered by the BLM. Issues identified during public scoping included (1) recovery of threatened and endangered species, including the desert tortoise, the Amargosa vole, the Amargosa niterwort, the Ash Meadows Gumplant and spring-loving Centaury; (2) maintenance of public access through the NEMO planning area which includes sensitive areas, is surrounded by two national park units and two large military bases, and includes all or parts of twenty-four wilderness and eight wilderness study areas; (3) addressing impacts to other land uses; and (4) protection of County tax base.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Environmental Protection Agency published the Notice of Availability of the NEMO DEIS in the **Federal Register** on April 13, 2001. The public review period on the DEIS began April 13, 2001 and ended November 1, 2001.

Following are the instructions from the *Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2* for filing protests. (a) Any person who participates in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process.

(1) The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final environmental impact statement containing the plan or amendment in the **Federal Register**. For