

available for public inspection in their entirety.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish your name and/or address withheld from public review or 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.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

Rowan W. Gould,

Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-600-03-1010-BN-241A]

Notice of Public Meetings, Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

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), Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will be held May 8, 2003 at the Colorado North Western Community College—Johnson Bldg. Banquet Room, located at 500 Kennedy Drive in Rangely, Colorado; August 14, 2003 at the Parachute Community Center located at 222 Grand Valley Way in Parachute, Colorado; and November 13, 2003 at the Holiday Inn located at 755 Horizon Drive in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Northwest Colorado RAC meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 4 p.m. Public comment periods at the meetings will be in the morning at 9:30 a.m. and in the afternoon, to start no later than 3 p.m.

DATES: Northwest Colorado RAC meetings are May 8, 2003, August 14, 2003, and November 13, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry J. Porter, RAC Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; Telephone (970) 244-3012.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northwest Colorado RAC 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 Colorado.

Purpose of the Northwest Colorado RAC May 8, 2003 meeting is to consider several resource management related topics including; RAC goals and priorities, coal bed methane development update, North Fruita Desert Plan update, fire program update, Committee reports, RAC Chairman/BLM Director Washington Office meeting report, Roan Plateau Plan update, and Northwest Colorado Stewardship update. Topics of discussion for the following Northwest Colorado RAC meetings scheduled for August 14, 2003 and November 13, 2003 will include fire management, land use planning, weeds management, travel management, wilderness, wild horse program update, land exchange proposals, cultural resources, and other issues as appropriate.

These RAC meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the RAC. Each RAC meeting will also have time, as identified above, 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 planning to attend the meetings who need special assistance should contact the RAC Coordinator listed above.

Dated: March 13, 2003.

Larry Porter,

Acting Western Slope Center Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-6682 Filed 3-19-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the South Bay Salt Ponds Initial Stewardship Project

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior (Lead Agency).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the South Bay Initial Stewardship Project.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) are preparing a joint Environmental

Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to address the potential impacts of the Initial Stewardship Project for the South Bay Salt Ponds (ISP) in south San Francisco Bay, California. The joint EIS/EIR will address the design, implementation, and maintenance of the proposed ISP to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and all necessary permits and approvals from other local, state, and federal agencies.

This notice describes the proposed action and possible alternatives; notifies that an EIS/EIR will be prepared and considered; invites the participation of other Federal, State and local agencies, affected Tribes, and the public in the process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action (the scoping process); and describes the proposed scoping process, including the scoping meeting to be held.

DATES: A public scoping meeting to solicit comment on the environmental effects of the ISP and the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS/EIR will be held on March 27, 2003 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Visitor Center, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, #1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, California. Call (510) 792-0222 if directions are needed. Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public scoping meeting should contact the Refuge Manager at (510) 792-0222 sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow time to process the request. Written comments are encouraged and should be received on or before April 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Information or comments related to the NEPA process should be submitted to Refuge Manager, San Francisco Bay NWR Complex, P.O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (510) 792-5828. All comments received, including names and addresses will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the NEPA process, including scoping may be directed to Margaret Kolar, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay NWR Complex, P.O. Box 524, Newark, California 94560 (telephone (510) 792-0222). For questions concerning the CEQA process, please contact Carl Wilcox, Habitat Conservation Manager, California