

oral statements and will be made a part of the hearing record. Written statements and exhibits may be delivered before or during the hearing, or they may be submitted for up to 45 days following the date of the hearing to the Docket Management Facility listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Dated: October 29, 2004.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection, U.S. Coast Guard.*

**Richard Lolich,**

*Acting Director, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping, U.S. Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 04-24642 Filed 11-3-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-15-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Laysan Duck (*Anas laysanensis*)**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (we) announces the availability of the Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Laysan Duck (*Anas laysanensis*) for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before January 3, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (telephone: (808) 792-9400). Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Honolulu address. An electronic copy of the draft revised recovery plan is also available at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Holly Freifeld, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Honolulu address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our endangered species program. Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer required under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for endangered or threatened species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the 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 the public comment period on each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to a recovery plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal agency or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

The Laysan duck is federally listed as endangered and is also listed as endangered by the State of Hawaii. This species currently is found only on the small island of Laysan in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but it was also known historically from the island of Lisianski, and bones or fossils have been found in the Main Hawaiian Islands on Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Oahu, and Kauai, indicating it previously had a much wider distribution. The Main Hawaiian Island populations of this species likely were extirpated by nonnative mammalian predators around the time of human settlement. The Laysan duck's current population is estimated to be 459 birds, but its numbers on Laysan have fluctuated from 7 to 688 adult birds during the past century. This species uses all available habitats on Laysan, including coastal areas, a hypersaline lagoon, mudflats, and densely vegetated upland areas. It eats a variety of arthropods, sometimes seeds, leaves, and algae, and at certain seasons

consumes large quantities of aquatic midge larvae. The primary threats to this species are its small population size and restricted range, stochastic fluctuations in food availability that cause its numbers to vary, potential inbreeding depression and disease susceptibility, and storms that could cause direct mortality and destroy the duck's habitat on the single low-lying island to which it is currently restricted.

The recovery goals are to conserve and recover the Laysan duck to the point where it can be downlisted (reclassified from endangered to threatened status) and eventually to delist the species (remove it from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants). The objectives by which these goals will be met are to protect the existing population on Laysan and reestablish additional viable populations of the duck in areas that are managed to be free of predators. To accomplish these objectives, this recovery plan outlines high priority tasks that fall generally into four categories. First, the duck population on Laysan must be monitored and its habitat restored and protected. Second, wild juvenile ducks must be translocated to appropriate predator-free Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and eventually to sites in the Main Hawaiian Islands where predators are effectively controlled. Translocated populations must be closely monitored and managed to enhance population growth. Third, a captive propagation program must be initiated, with the aim of producing Laysan ducks for release primarily at predator-controlled Main Hawaiian Island sites. Fourth, further research must be undertaken on the life history, demography, disease susceptibility, and genetics of the Laysan duck to refine the recovery criteria and management techniques for this species.

### Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft revised recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

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

Dated: August 12, 2004.

**David J. Wesley,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-24619 Filed 11-3-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-921-04-1320-EL-P; MTM 93833]

**Notice of Invitation—Coal Exploration License Application MTM 93833****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Western Energy Company in a program for the exploration of coal deposits owned by the United States of America in lands located in Treasure County, Montana, encompassing 320.00 acres.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Giovanini, Mining Engineer, or Connie Schaff, Land Law Examiner, Branch of Solid Minerals (MT-921), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, telephone (406) 896-5084 or (406) 896-5060, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lands to be explored for coal deposits are described as follows: T. 2 N., R. 38 E., P.M.M., Sec. 14: E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

Any party electing to participate in this exploration program shall notify, *in writing*, both the State Director, BLM, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, and Western Energy Company, P.O. Box 99, Colstrip, Montana 59323. Such written notice must refer to serial number MTM 93833 and be received no later than 30 calendar days after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** or 10 calendar days after the last publication of this Notice in the *Sheridan Press* newspaper, whichever is later. This Notice will be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the *Sheridan Press*, Sheridan, Wyoming.

The proposed exploration program is fully described, and will be conducted pursuant to an exploration plan to be approved by the Bureau of Land Management. The exploration plan, as submitted by Western Energy Company, is available for public inspection at the BLM, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana, during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

Dated: September 30, 2004.

**Randy D. Heuscher,**  
Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals.

[FR Doc. 04-24666 Filed 11-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-030-1020-PH; G4-0288]

**Notice of Call for Nominations for the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC)****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting public nominations to fill the unexpired term of two positions on the John Day-Snake RAC. The RAC provides advice and recommendations to BLM on land use planning and management of the public lands in northeast Oregon, Southeast Washington, and that portion of Idaho within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. BLM will consider public nominations until December 20, 2004.

**DATES:** Send all nominations to the appropriate BLM State Office by no later than December 20, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the location to send your nominations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pam Robbins, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, 333 SW. First Avenue OR-912, Portland, OR 97204-3420; 503-808-6306.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1730) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to select 10 to 15 member citizen-based advisory councils that are consistent with the requirements of Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Members serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for Government employees. As required by the FACA, RAC membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands. The rules governing RACs are found at 43 CFR 1784.b. The unexpired terms to be filled are category three—Indian tribes within or adjacent to the RAC, and employee of a State agency responsible for management of natural resources. The current term expiration for the tribal representative is September 19, 2007; for the State employee, it is September 19, 2006. Individuals may

nominate themselves or others to serve on the RAC. Nominees must be residents of Oregon, Washington, or Idaho, the states in which the RAC has jurisdiction. BLM will evaluate nominees based on their education, training, and experience and their knowledge of the geographical area of the RAC. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

The following must accompany all nominations:

- Letters of reference from represented interests or organizations,
- A completed background information nomination form,
- Any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

Nomination forms are available from Pam Robbins, P.O. Box 2965, 333 SW. First Avenue, Portland, OR 97208-2965. Completed applications should be sent to the same address. Internet users may download the form from: <http://www.or.blm.gov/johndaysnake-RAC/form-nomination.pdf>.

Dated: September 23, 2004.

**James G. Kenna,**

Associate State Director, Oregon/Washington BLM.

[FR Doc. 04-24668 Filed 11-3-04; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management**

[NM-920-1310-04; NMNM 96135]

**Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NMNM 96135****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of reinstatement of terminated oil and gas lease.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease NMNM 96135 for lands in San Juan County, New Mexico, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from March 1, 2004, the date of termination.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 16⅔ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the