

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of the Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*) Draft Revised Recovery Plan**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*) draft revised recovery plan for public review. This kangaroo rat is believed to exist at one site in San Luis Obispo County, California.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan received by March 27, 2000 will be considered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). The draft revised recovery plan will also be available at the San Luis Obispo County Public Library. Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Mc Calvin, at the above Ventura address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing recovery measures.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (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 as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an

opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service considers all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The Morro Bay kangaroo rat is listed as endangered (35 FR 16047). This species is restricted to less than 200 acres. It is currently known from one site. The Morro Bay kangaroo rat is threatened by habitat loss from development. In addition, the very low numbers of individuals and populations of this species puts it at great risk of extinction due to random naturally-occurring (stochastic) events.

The objective of this revised plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Morro Bay kangaroo rat so that protection by the Endangered Species Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include protecting species habitat through acquisition, conservation easements, and Habitat Conservation Plans; managing species habitat; conducting management-oriented research on the ecology and biology of the species; reviewing and revising management and recovery guidelines; locating additional populations; and establishing new populations within the historic range of the species.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on this draft revised recovery plan. 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: January 19, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting, California/Nevada Operations Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 00-1715 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Marine Mammal Species Permit Applications; Notice of Extension of Comment Period**

The Fish and Wildlife Service gives notice that the comment period is extended on the notice of receipt of applications for two applications submitted by International Animal Consulting Group, Inc. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18). The applications, 018196 and 018197, are for conducting certain activities with marine mammals, specifically taking northern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) from the wild in Alaska for export and public display at two Japanese aquariums. The extension will allow all interested parties to submit written comments. The Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice of receipt of the applications on Friday, December 17, 1999. The current comment period closes on January 26, 2000. Written comments may now be submitted until January 31, 2000, and should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Dated: January 21, 2000.

Kristen Nelson,

Chief, Branch of Permits (Domestic), Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-1769 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

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

[WO-320-1330-PB-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0121

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request an extension of approval for the collection of information from applicants to lease and develop solid minerals other than coal and oil shale. The BLM uses the information supplied to determine

whether an applicant, permittee, or lease is qualified to hold an interest under the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA). BLM also uses this information to determine if development plans will adequately protect Federal land and that the property amounts of rental and royalty are collected.

DATE: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by March 27, 2000 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group, 1849 C St., N.W., Room 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments may be sent by Internet to: WOCComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include: "Attn.: 1004-0121" and your name and address in your Internet message. Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:15 pm, Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip Allard, Solid Minerals Group, (202) 452-5195. For assistance in reaching the above contact, individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations at 5 CFR 1320.12(a) require BLM to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in a published current rule to solicit comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who must respond, including through the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

BLM plans to seek from the Office of Management and Budget extension of approval for the information collection requirements in 43 CFR Parts 3500 through 3590, which cover the leasing of solid minerals other than coal and oil shale and operations on those leases. These regulations implement the statutory authority governing leasing activities on Federal lands found in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C.

181 et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351-359), Section 402 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 (5 U.S.C. Appendix), the Multiple Mineral Development Act of 1954 (30 U.S.C. 521-531), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

The implementing regulations outline procedures for members of the public to submit applications, offers, statements, petitions, and various forms. The information required in the applications, statements and petitions is needed by BLM to determine applicant qualifications to hold a lease to obtain a benefit under the terms of the MLA, its subsequent amendments, related statutes, and the regulations.

Information collection requirements are based on the statutory requirements concerning the qualifications and eligibility to hold title to or interest in Federal mineral leases and on the regulatory requirements relating to the identification, location and quality of minerals under application and identification of proposed operational activities. The affected public consists of all present and prospective holders of Federal solid mineral leases other than coal or oil shale, prospecting permits, use permits, and exploration licenses.

BREAKDOWN OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS AND TOTAL HOURS

Type of information collection	Number of responses	Hours per response	Total hours
Prospecting Permit	25	1	25
Exploration Plan for Prospecting Permit	20	80	1,600
Prospecting Permit Extension	5	1	5
Preference Right Lease	2	100	200
Competitive Lease Bid	5	40	200
Fringe Acreage Lease or Lease Modification	5	40	200
Assignment or Sublease	40	2	80
Lease Renewals or Adjustments	15	1	15
Use Permit	1	1	1
Exploration License	1	3	3
Exploration Plan for Exploration License	1	80	80
Development Contract	1	1	1
Bond	150	4	600
Mine Plan	5	150	750
Total	276		3,760

Based on its experience administering the leasing program, BLM estimates that it will take an average of about 14 hours per response to complete the applications, petitions, offers and statements required. The applicants will have access to records, plats and maps necessary for providing legal land descriptions. The type of information necessary is outlined in the regulations and is already maintained by the

respondents for their own record keeping purposes and needs only to be compiled in a reasonable format. The estimate also includes the time required for assembling the information, as well as the time of clerical personnel, if needed.

BLM estimates that approximately 276 filings will be made annually for a total of 3,760 reporting hours. Respondents vary from individuals to

small businesses and major corporations. Any interested member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, copies of any of forms listed in this notice by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget

approval. All comments will become part of the public record.

Dated: January 4, 2000.

Carole Smith,

Bureau of Land Management Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-1740 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-070-00-1020-PA]

Montana; Scratchgravel Hills Area Recreation Management Restrictions

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Updating Scratchgravel Hills Area Recreation Management Restrictions.

SUMMARY: Under authority of 43 CFR 8364.1 and as a result of the approval of the Scratchgravel Hills Cooperative Agreement on July 11, 1985, the following restrictions for the use of the Scratchgravel Hills, adjacent to Helena, Montana, became effective August 15, 1985:

1. The use, possession afield, or discharge of all firearms is prohibited year-round in the Scratchgravel Hills, except during such big game seasons as may be established by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

2. The possession and use of fireworks is prohibited year-round.

To comply with requests from the Helena Interagency Fire Dispatch Center, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Department, local fire districts and Scratchgravel Hills residents, this notice adds the following restriction:

3. The building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire, charcoal fire, cooking fire or warming fire is prohibited year-round.

Principal Meridian, Montana

These regulations apply to public lands in: T. 11 N., R. 4 W., Secs. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, and 36. T. 10 N., R. 4 W., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The purpose of these restrictions is to minimize hazards to visitors and surrounding residences, and to minimize the possibility of wildfire. The public lands within the designated area will remain open to other resource and recreation uses unless otherwise restricted.

Penalties: As prescribed under the Federal Land Policy and Management, 43 USC Section 1733 (a). Violation is

punishable by fines and/or imprisonment under 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These management restrictions will go into effect upon publication in the **Federal Register** and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the authorized officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Hartmann, Acting Field Manager, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702, 406-494-5059.

Dated: January 12, 2000.

Steve Hartmann,

Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-1674 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree; Under the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA")

In accordance with Departmental policy, 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that a proposed consent decree in Civil Action No. 99-2673-Civ-T-24B was lodged with the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida on November 23, 1999.

In this action the United States sought injunctive relief and recovery of response costs under Sections 106(a) and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9606(a) and 9607, with respect to the Stauffer Chemical Superfund Site in Tarpon Springs, Florida ("the Site").

Under a proposed Consent Decree, Atkemix Thirty-Seven, Inc., the present owner and operator of the Site, and Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, Inc., the former owner and operator of the Site, have agreed to perform the remedy chosen by EPA to clean up the Site, pay the government's remaining past response costs, and pay future response costs, in settlement of the government's claims under Sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607.

The Department of Justice will extend the public comment period for an additional thirty (30) days and will receive comments until February 22, 2000 relating to the proposed consent decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530, and should refer to *United States v. Atkemix Thirty-Seven, Inc., and Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Company, Inc.*, (M.D.F1.), DOJ #90-11-2-1227/1.

The proposed consent decree may be examined at the Office of the United

States Attorney, 400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200, Tampa Florida 33602; the Region 4 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, and at the Consent Decree Library, Post Office Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611, (202) 514-1547. A copy of the proposed consent decree may be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, Post Office Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611. In requesting a copy please refer to the referenced case and enclose a check in the amount of 25 cents per page for reproduction costs, payable to the Consent Decree Library.

Joel M. Gross,

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 1676 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 1999 a proposed Consent Decree (the "Consent Decree") in *United States v. Intalco Aluminum Corporation* ("Intalco"), Civil Action No. CS-99-0324 was lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

In this action the United States sought to recover the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's ("Forest Service") past costs incurred in connection with past response actions at the Holden Mine Site (the "Site"), located in the Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County, Washington. Throughout the history of mining operations at Holden Mine, large quantities of mine tailings were deposited in and around the Site and caused releases of hazardous substances. In 1989 and 1990 the Forest Service performed a variety of actions costing approximately \$6 million to stabilize the tailings and prevent further environmental degradation. Under the Consent Decree, Intalco will reimburse the Forest Service \$3.1 million for those past costs. Under an Administrative Order on Consent entered into between the Forest Service, Intalco, the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, Intalco is performing a Remedial Action and Feasibility Study for the Site, which is expected to result in selection of a remedy to address hazardous substances at the Site. Under