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17,388.

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**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: June 8, 2000.

**Wayne Eddins,**

*Department Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group Nomination Solicitation

**SUMMARY:** The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is soliciting nominations for the Public Advisory Group, which advises the Trustee Council on decisions related to the planning, evaluation, and conduct of injury assessment and restoration activities using funds obtained for purposes of restoration as part of the civil settlement pursuant to the T/V Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. Public Advisory Group members will be selected to serve a 24 month term beginning in October 2000.

**DATES:** All nominations should be received on or before August 25, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be sent to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 (fax: 907/276-7178).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Mutter, Designated Federal Official, Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 1689 "C" Street, Suite 119, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501, (907) 271-5011; or Cherri Womac, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, Alaska, (907) 278-8012 or (800) 478-7745. A copy of the charter for the Public Advisory Group is available upon request.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Public Advisory Group was created by Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America and the State of Alaska on August 27, 1991 and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, Civil Action No. A91-081 CV. The Public Advisory Group was created to advise the Trustee Council on matters relating to decisions

on injury assessment, restoration activities or other use of natural resources damage recoveries obtained by the governments.

The Trustee Council consists of representatives of the State of Alaska Attorney General; Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Agriculture; and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Appointment to the Public Advisory Group will be made by the Secretary of the Interior with unanimous approval of the Trustees.

The Public Advisory Group consists of 17 members representing the public at large (5 members) and the following special interests: aquaculture, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, forest products, environmental, conservation, local government, Native landowners, recreation users, sport hunting and fishing, subsistence, and science/academic. Two additional ex officio non-voting members are from the Alaska State House of Representatives and the Alaska State Senate.

Nominees need to submit the following information to the Trustee Council:

1. A biographical sketch (education, experience, address, telephone, fax);
2. Information about the nominee's knowledge of the region, peoples or principal economic and social activities of the area affected by the T/V Exxon Valdez oil spill, or expertise in public lands and resource management;
3. Information about the nominee's relationship/involvement (if any) with the principal interest to be represented;
4. A statement explaining any unique contributions the nominee will make to the Public Advisory Group and why the nominee should be appointed to serve as a member;
5. Any additional relevant information that would assist the Trustee Council in making a recommendation; and
6. Answers to the conflict of interest questions listed below. Public Advisory Group members and their alternates are chosen to represent a broad range of interests. It is possible that action could be taken by the Public Advisory Group when one or more of the members have a direct personal conflict of interest which would prejudice and call into question the entire public process. To avoid this and to enable the Trustee Council to choose appropriate individuals as members and/or alternates to members, it is necessary that each nominee provide the following

information with their information packet. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please provide a brief explanation of your answer. A yes will not necessarily preclude any nominee from being appointed to serve on the Public Advisory Group.

a. Do you, your spouse, children, any relative with whom you live or your employer have, or are you defending, a claim filed before any court or administrative tribunal based upon damages caused by the T/V Exxon Valdez oil spill?

b. Do you, your spouse, children, any relative with whom you live or your employer own any property or interest in property which has been, or is likely to be, proposed for acquisition by the Trustee Council?

c. Have you, your spouse, children, any relative with whom you live or your employer submitted, or likely will submit, a proposal for funding by the Trustee Council, or be a direct beneficiary of such a proposal?

d. Do you know of any other potential actions of the Trustee Council or the Public Advisory Group to have a direct bearing on the financial condition of yourself, your spouse, children, other relative with whom you live or your employer?

**Willie R. Taylor,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 00-14919 Filed 6-13-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Meeting

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary is announcing a public meeting of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group and a joint public hearing with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

**DATES:** The public hearing is July 19, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. and the public meeting is July 20 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Fourth floor conference room, 645 "G" Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Mutter, Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 1689 "C" Street, Suite 119, Anchorage, Alaska, (907) 271-5011.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Public Advisory Group was created by Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of

Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America and the State of Alaska on August 27, 1991, and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, Civil Action No. A91-081 CV. The agenda for the public hearing is the proposed Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan for the restoration of resources and services injured by the T/V Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. The public meeting agenda will feature a discussion of the Work Plan, as well as the status of habitat protection measures in the spill impact area, and plans for the long-term Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

**Willie R. Taylor,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 00-14920 Filed 6-13-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Request for Small Grants Proposals for Year 2001

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

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council), are currently entertaining proposals that request match funding for wetland and wetland-associated upland conservation projects under the Small Grants program. Projects must meet the purposes of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as amended. We will give funding priority to projects from new grant applicants with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. However, previous Act grantees are eligible to receive funding and can compete successfully on the basis of strong project resource values.

**DATES:** Proposals must bear postmarks no later than Friday, December 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Address proposals to: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants Coordinator, or Ms. Heather Poindexter,

Office Secretary, North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 703.358.1784; facsimile 703.358.2282.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 4401 *et seq.*) is, through partnerships, to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitats. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetlands-associated uplands habitat.

Initiated in 1996, the underlying objective of the Small Grants program is to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who may not otherwise be able to compete in the regular grants program. We also hope that successful participants in the Small Grants program will be encouraged to participate in the NAWCA-based Standard Grants program. Over the first five years of the program, about 386 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$12.6 million competed for funding. Ultimately, 77 projects were funded over this period. For 2001, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, we have again made the Small Grants program operational at a base level of \$1.0 million. Up to \$1.0 million in quality Small Grants projects may be funded.

To be considered for funding in the 2001 cycle, proposals must have a grant request no greater than \$50,000. We will accept all wetland conservation proposals that meet the requirements of the Act. However, considering appropriate proposal resource values, we will give funding priority to projects from new grant applicants (individuals or organizations who have never received a NAWCA grant) with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. This priority system does not preclude former NAWCA grant recipients from receiving Small Grants funding; ultimately, project resource value is the critical factor in deciding which projects receive funding. Too, projects are likely to receive a greater level of attention if they are part of a broader related or unrelated effort to bring or restore wetland or wetland-associated upland conservation values to a particular area or region.

In addition, proposals must represent on-the-ground projects, and any overhead in the project budget must

constitute 10 percent or less of the grant amount. The anticipated magnitude of wetlands and wildlife resources benefits that will result from project execution is an important factor in proposal evaluation, and there should be a reasonable balance between acreages of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands. Mitigation-related projects may be precluded from consideration, depending upon the nature of the mitigation application.

Please keep in mind that NAWCA and matching funds may be applied only to wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration; they may not be applied to signage, displays, trails or other educational features, materials and equipment, even though the goal of the project may ultimately be to support wetland conservation education curricula. Projects oriented toward education are not ordinarily eligible for NAWCA funding because education is not a primary purpose of the Act. However, useful project outcomes can include educational benefits resulting from conservation actions. Research is also not a primary purpose of the Act, and research proposals are not considered for funding.

Even though we require less total information for Small Grants than we do for the Standard Grants program, Small Grant proposals must have clear explanations and meet the basic purposes given above and the 1:1 or greater non-Federal matching requirements of the NAWCA. Small Grants projects must also be consistent with Council-established guidelines, objectives and policies. All non-Federal matching funds and proposed expenditures of grant funds must be consistent with Appendix A of the Small Grants instructions, "Eligibility Requirements for Match of NAWCA Grant and Non-Federal Funds." Applicants must submit a completed Standard Form 424, Application For Federal Assistance. Small Grants instructional booklets contain forms and instructions for the Standard Form 424; booklets are available at the address provided under **ADDRESSES**.

Small Grants proposals may be submitted prior to the due date but must bear postmarks no later than Friday, December 1, 2000. Address submitted proposals as follows: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, VA 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

Applicants must submit *complete* grant request packages to the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office (NAWWO), including *all* of the