

may be affected by the establishment of the NEP.

Wood Bison Status in Canada and ESA Petition

In 1988, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada reclassified the wood bison from "endangered" to "threatened" status under Canada's Species at Risk Act because Canadian populations of wood bison were recovering. In 2007, Canada's Wood Bison Recovery Team petitioned the Service to reclassify wood bison from endangered to threatened status under the Act. On February 3, 2009, we published a finding that the petition presented substantial information indicating that this action may be warranted and initiated a status review for wood bison (74 FR 5908). Following our review of the wood bison's status, we will issue a finding on the petition, in which we will determine whether it is appropriate to retain the species' endangered status, reclassify it as threatened, or even to remove the wood bison from listed status under the Act.

Regulatory Status of Wood Bison in Alaska

The State will not consider reintroducing wood bison to Alaska in the absence of Federal regulatory assurance to landowners and land managers that such action would not adversely affect resource development activities important to Alaska's economy. Such assurance could be accomplished through a change in the species' listing status throughout its range or through the establishment of a NEP pursuant to section 10(j) of the Act. A reclassification of the wood bison to "threatened" status, without the establishment of a NEP pursuant to ESA section 10(j), would not provide sufficient regulatory assurance.

Scoping Process

To ensure compliance with NEPA and the Act, the Service and ADF&G are cooperating to prepare a draft environmental assessment (EA) and proposed rule to establish, under section 10(j) of the Act, a non-essential experimental population of wood bison in Alaska. The purpose of this scoping process is to aid the development of the EA by collecting comments on this action as a way to support wood bison conservation. We also seek comments on the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to Alaska.

In addition to the "no action" alternative, our draft EA will consider:

- (1) The environmental effects of issuing 10(j) and 4(d) rules for wood bison in Alaska;
- (2) the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to one or more of the potential release sites Minto Flats, Yukon Flats, and the lower Innoko/Yukon River area;
- (3) the environmental effects of reintroducing wood bison to Alaska in the absence of 10(j) and 4(d) rules.

We will incorporate the relevant public comments we receive in response to this scoping notice into our analysis of impacts of the proposed action and project alternatives in the draft EA. This document will include maps of the proposed reintroduction area or areas, based on public input and current knowledge of wood bison habitat in Alaska. We will make the draft EA available for a minimum 30-day public review period. The final environmental document, which will address the comments we receive during the draft EA public comment period, will be available on the internet.

Request for Public Comments

We wish to ensure that any 10(j) rule and associated environmental documents we issue relating to the wood bison in Alaska effectively evaluate all potential issues associated with wood bison reintroduction to Alaska. Therefore, we request comments or recommendations concerning any of the considerations we have listed above; and also concerning: The biological and habitat requirements of the species; information on the distribution and quality of habitat for the wood bison in Alaska; the overall approach to the conservation of wood bison in Canada and Alaska; reasons why any specific areas might require special management or should be excluded from, or added to, the proposed reintroduction site or sites; and any other pertinent issues of concern. We seek comments from the public; Tribal, local, State, and Federal government agencies; the scientific community; industry; or any other affected or interested party. To determine whether to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or an Environmental Impact Statement, we will take into consideration all comments and any additional information we receive.

References

A complete list of all references in this notice is available upon request from the Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES**).

Author(s)

The primary author of this package is the Fisheries and Ecological Services Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK.

Dated: February 12, 2010.

Gary Edwards,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

LLNM915000L14200000.BJ0000J

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey, NM

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of Plats of Survey.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Santa Fe, New Mexico, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico (NM)

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 14 North, Range 10 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 4, 2009, for Group 1093 NM.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 16 North, Range 19 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 30, 2009, for Group 1073 NM.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey, of the Canon De San Diego Grant, accepted November 19, 2009, for Group 1100 NM.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 17 North, Range 24 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted December 2, 2009, for Group 1102 NM.

Indian Meridian, Oklahoma (OK)

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 15 North, Range 11 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted October 16, 2009, for Group 180 OK.

The plat, in four sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 20 North, Range 16 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted October 14, 2009, for Group 162 OK.

The plat, in four sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 5 South, Range 13 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted September 24, 2009, for Group 80 OK.

The plat, in three sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 5 South, Range 15 West, of the Indian Meridian, accepted September 24, 2009, for Group 82 OK.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Township 24 North, Range 2 East, of the Indian Meridian, accepted November 19, 2009, for Group 159 OK.

If a protest against a survey, as shown on any of the above plats is received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed and become final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written protest with the New Mexico State Director, Bureau of Land Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

These plats will be available for inspection in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment. Contact Marcella Montoya at 505-438-7537, or Marcella_Montoya@nm.blm.gov, for assistance.

Stephen W. Beyerlein,

Acting, Chief, Branch of Cadastral, Survey/GeoSciences.

[FR Doc. 2010-3828 Filed 2-24-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOS05000 2009]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Uncompahgre Field Office and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Montrose, Colorado intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the UFO and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP will replace the existing 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP and the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP and the associated EIS. Comments on issues and planning criteria may be submitted in writing until March 29, 2010

Scoping meetings were held recently in the following locations:

Hotchkiss, CO, January 12, 2010.

Delta, CO, January 13, 2010.

Montrose, CO, January 14, 2010.

Ridgway, CO, January 19, 2010.

Norwood, CO, January 20, 2010.

Naturita, CO, January 21, 2010.

Telluride, CO, February 3, 2010.

The dates and locations of all scoping meetings were announced 15 days in advance through local media, a newsletter and the BLM Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html. Comments received during scoping meetings held in January and February, 2010 will be incorporated in the record and considered by the BLM. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html.

- **E-mail:** ufomp@blm.gov.

- **Fax:** (970) 240-5367.

- **Mail:** BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, RMP Project Manager, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the UFO during regular business hours (from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Bruce Krickbaum, RMP Project Manager, telephone (970) 240-5300;

address BLM Uncompahgre Field Office 2465 South Townsend Ave, Montrose, Colorado 81401; e-mail ufomp@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document: provides notice that the BLM UFO, Montrose, Colorado, intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the UFO; announces the beginning of the scoping process; and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties, Colorado, encompasses approximately 675,677 acres of public land, and excludes the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, which are managed under separate RMPs.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel, Federal, State, and local agencies, and other stakeholders. The issues include:

- Managing vegetative and water resources, terrestrial and aquatic habitat and special management areas, while sustaining biological diversity and native species populations;

- Managing mineral, renewable and nonrenewable energy resources;

- Managing increasing numbers and types of human activities and uses;

- Managing land tenure adjustments, withdrawals and utility/energy corridors;

- Managing and protecting cultural, historical and paleontological resources and Native American religious concerns; and

- Managing public lands and resources, including authorized and permitted land uses, for a growing population and expanding urban interface, with consideration for community values and needs.

Preliminary planning criteria include:

- Compliance with the FLPMA, the NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations.

- Incorporation of the Colorado BLM Standards for Public Land Health.

- Continued management of Wilderness Study Areas under the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review until Congress acts on a designation or releases lands from consideration.

- Decisions will be made that affect all BLM lands, including the subsurface mineral estate, within the planning area.

- Recognition of valid existing rights.