

2930, visitors would obtain an individual SRP to camp within the Ruby-Horsethief Special Area. This SRP would be required to be displayed at each campsite. Permits would expire at the beginning of the subsequent calendar day.

Suggested fees for campsite usage would be based on group size: \$20 for a small group (1–5), \$50 for a medium group (6–14) and \$100 for a large group (15–25). The BLM's goal for the Ruby-Horsethief fee program is to provide a quality recreational experience and maintain the area in a naturally appearing condition consistent with the recreation setting established by the RMP; manage visitor use under existing rules and regulations by providing for increased law enforcement presence; develop additional services, such as expanding interpretive/educational programming; and protect resources. All fees collected would be used for expenses within the river corridor.

In November and December 2011, the BLM completed and made available two documents to provide information to the public: The Ruby-Horsethief Business Plan (posted in November 2011) and the Ruby-Horsethief Environmental Assessment (EA) Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (signed December 21, 2011). The Business Plan outlines operational goals of the area and the purpose of the fee program. The EA, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact conclude three full years of public involvement and outreach related to the fee and permit. Both the Business Plan and the EA provide management direction for public enjoyment of these public lands through the recreational experience of overnight camping while minimizing the potential for resource damage from authorized uses. The Business Plan also provides a market analysis of local recreation sites and sets the basis for the fee proposal. Both documents are available online at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca/what_s_news_.html.

The Business Plan addresses recreation opportunities, the issuance of SRPs, and the charging of fees according to group size for camping within the special area. This Business Plan, prepared pursuant to the REA and BLM recreation fee program policy, also addresses the establishment of a permit process and the collection of user fees. It establishes the rationale for charging recreation fees, explains the fee collection process, and outlines how the fees would be used at the Ruby-Horsethief Special Area. The BLM has notified and involved the public at each stage of the planning process, including

the proposal to collect fees, through on-site notifications and several public meetings to present and gather ideas concerning fees within the special area. The Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Committee (NW RAC) considered the proposal at its December 1, 2011, meeting and recommended approval. Future adjustments in the fee amount would be made in accordance with the Business Plan and through consultation with the NW RAC and the public prior to a fee increase. Fee amounts will be posted on-site and online at the MCNCA Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca.html>. Copies of the Business Plan will be available at the Grand Junction Field Office and online at the MCNCA Web site.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6803(b) and 43 CFR 2932.13.

Steven Hall,

Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative—Science Technical Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, North Slope Science Initiative, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

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, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI)—Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 8–9, 2012, in Anchorage, Alaska. The meetings will begin at 9 a.m. in the Subsistence Board Room (second floor), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska. Public comment will be received between 3 and 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Payne, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative, AK–910, c/o Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, (907) 271–3431 or email jpayne.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NSSI STAP provides advice and recommendations to the NSSI Oversight Group regarding priority information needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority information needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring, and research activities that contribute to informed resource management decisions. This meeting will include continued dialog for developing scenario models for the North Slope and adjacent marine environments. Additionally, the STAP will begin designing a long-term monitoring strategy for the North Slope.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Science Technical Advisory Panel through the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative. Each formal meeting will also have time allotted 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 who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: April 5, 2012.

Ron Dunton,

Acting State Director.

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