

issued under the Act with respect to an insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to section 221(g)(4) of the Act) will bear interest at the rate in effect on the date the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. This provision is implemented in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 203.405, 203.479, 207.259(e)(6), and 220.830. These regulatory provisions state that the applicable rates of interest will be published twice each year as a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section 224 further provides that the interest rate on these debentures will be set from time to time by the Secretary of HUD, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, in an amount not in excess of the annual interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to a satisfactory formula based on the average yield of all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of maturities of 15 or more years.

The Secretary of the Treasury (1) has determined, in accordance with the provisions of Section 224, that the statutory maximum interest rate for the period beginning January 1, 2002, is 5 1/4 percent; and (2) has approved the establishment of the debenture interest rate by the Secretary of HUD at 5 1/4 percent for the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2002. This interest rate will be the rate borne by debentures issued with respect to any insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4)) with insurance commitment or endorsement date (as applicable) within the first 6 months of 2002.

For convenience of reference, HUD is publishing the following chart of debenture interest rates applicable to mortgages committed or endorsed since January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
9 1/2 .....	Jan. 1, 1980 ..	July 1, 1980.
9 7/8 .....	July 1, 1980 ...	Jan. 1, 1981.
11 3/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1981 ...	July 1, 1981.
12 7/8 .....	July 1, 1981 ...	Jan. 1, 1982.
12 3/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1982 ...	Jan. 1, 1983.
10 1/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1983 ...	July 1, 1983.
10 3/8 .....	July 1, 1983 ...	Jan. 1, 1984.
11 1/2 .....	Jan. 1, 1984 ...	July 1, 1984.
13 3/8 .....	July 1, 1984 ...	Jan. 1, 1985.
11 5/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1985 ...	July 1, 1985.
11 1/8 .....	July 1, 1985 ...	Jan. 1, 1986.
10 1/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1986 ...	July 1, 1986.
8 1/4 .....	July 1, 1986 ...	Jan. 1, 1987.
8 .....	Jan. 1, 1987 ...	July 1, 1987.
9 .....	July 1, 1987 ...	Jan. 1, 1988.

Effective interest rate	on or after	prior to
9 1/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1988 ..	July 1, 1988.
9 3/8 .....	July 1, 1988 ...	Jan. 1, 1989.
9 1/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1989 ...	July 1, 1989.
9 .....	July 1, 1989 ...	Jan. 1, 1990.
8 7/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1990 ...	July 1, 1990.
9 .....	July 1, 1990 ...	Jan. 1, 1991.
8 3/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1991 ...	July 1, 1991.
8 1/2 .....	July 1, 1991 ...	Jan. 1, 1992.
8 .....	Jan. 1, 1992 ...	July 1, 1992.
8 .....	July 1, 1992 ...	Jan. 1, 1993.
7 3/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1993 ...	July 1, 1993.
7 .....	July 1, 1993 ...	Jan. 1, 1994.
6 5/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1994 ...	July 1, 1994.
7 3/4 .....	July 1, 1994 ...	Jan. 1, 1995.
8 5/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1995 ...	July 1, 1995.
7 1/4 .....	July 1, 1995 ...	Jan. 1, 1996.
6 1/2 .....	Jan. 1, 1996 ...	July 1, 1996.
7 1/4 .....	July 1, 1996 ...	Jan. 1, 1997.
6 3/4 .....	Jan. 1, 1997 ...	July 1, 1997.
7 1/8 .....	July 1, 1997 ...	Jan. 1, 1998.
6 3/8 .....	Jan. 1, 1998 ...	July 1, 1998.
6 1/8 .....	July 1, 1998 ...	Jan. 1, 1999.
5 1/2 .....	Jan. 1, 1999 ...	July 1, 1999.
6 1/8 .....	July 1, 1999 ...	Jan. 1, 2000.
6 1/2 .....	Jan. 1, 2000 ...	July 1, 2000.
6 1/2 .....	July 1, 2000 ...	Jan. 1, 2001.
6 .....	Jan. 1, 2001 ...	July 1, 2001.
5 7/8 .....	July 1, 2001 ...	Jan. 1, 2002.
5 1/4 .....	Jan. 1, 2002 ...	July 1, 2002.

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the "going Federal rate" in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term "going Federal rate" is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8- to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2002, is 6 3/8 percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice of change in debenture interest rates in June 2002.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD's environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

(Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715f, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: March 12, 2002.

**John C. Weicher,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, San Diego County, CA.**

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

**ACTION:** Revised notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), this Notice advises other agencies, Tribes, and the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Sweetwater Marsh NWR. In this EIS, the Service will describe and evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives and the anticipated impacts of each. This information will be utilized in the draft CCP for the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego NWR and Sweetwater Marsh NWR.

This Notice revises the Notice of June 23, 2000 (65 FR 39172). At that time, the Service had not yet determined whether an Environmental Assessment or EIS would be prepared. Based on information gathered and analyses conducted to date, and pursuant to NEPA guidance, the Service has since determined that an EIS will be prepared, and this Notice serves to announce that intention.

The original Notice announced two public scoping meetings and the opening of the public scoping comment period, which opened June 23, 2000, and closed July 31, 2000. Additional opportunities for public input were provided at five subsequent public workshops held since August 2000. This Notice does not re-open the public scoping comment period, as the only change since its publication has been the Service's decision to proceed with an EIS for this CCP. When the draft CCP and associated draft EIS are completed

and made available, expected to occur in late spring 2002, the public will have additional opportunities to provide comments to the Service.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). A CCP describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction to accomplish the purposes of the refuge, contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and meet other relevant mandates. Additional goals of the CCP process include: (1) Conducting refuge planning in accordance with an ecosystem approach; (2) providing a forum for the public to comment on the type, extent, and compatibility of wildlife-dependent and other uses within the refuge area; (3) ensuring public involvement in refuge management decisions by providing a process for effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with affected parties; (4) utilizing the best available science and sound professional judgement; and (5) ensuring that the six priority uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation) receive priority consideration during CCP preparation. Some of the topics to be addressed in the CCP include: wildlife and habitat management, habitat restoration, public use, and operation of a solar salt production facility.

Review of the CCP and associated EIS will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Federal regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

##### Refuge Information

The South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego NWR is located at the southern end of San Diego Bay in the Cities of Chula Vista, National City, San Diego, Coronado, and Imperial Beach, California. This Refuge supports a variety of habitats including open water, mudflats, coastal saltmarsh, and uplands. These habitats provide important feeding, resting, and nesting areas for thousands of migrating shorebirds, colonial nesting seabirds, wintering sea ducks, and other

migratory waterfowl. In addition, the Refuge supports three Federally endangered bird species (California Least Tern, California Brown Pelican, and Light-footed Clapper Rail), a Federally endangered plant species (salt marsh bird's beak), the Federally threatened Western Snowy Plover and Pacific Green Sea Turtle, and the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, a bird species listed as endangered by the State of California. Included within the Refuge boundary is a solar salt production operation that maintains about 1,050 acres of salt ponds. These ponds provide large amounts of food in the form of brine shrimp, brine flies, and other brine invertebrates, all of which are particularly important for shorebirds and seabirds.

The Sweetwater Marsh NWR is located in the southeast end of San Diego Bay in the Cities of Chula Vista and National City, California. This Refuge, which includes 316 acres of salt marsh and coastal uplands, provides habitat for two Federally endangered bird species (California Least Tern and Light-footed Clapper Rail), a Federally endangered plant species (salt marsh bird's beak), the Federally threatened Western Snowy Plover, and the State endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Sweetwater Marsh functions as an essential link between the habitats in the region's Multiple Species Conservation Program wildlands, the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego NWR, and the Tijuana Slough NWR in Imperial Beach, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Victoria Touchstone, CCP Project Planner, at (619) 691-1185.

Dated: April 12, 2002.

**D. Kenneth McDermond,**

*Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1220-PG; G2-0099]

##### Steens Mountain Advisory Council, Call for Nominations

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District, Interior.

**ACTION:** Call for nominations for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC).

**SUMMARY:** BLM is publishing this notice under Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal

Advisory Committee Act. Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-399), BLM gives notice that the Secretary of the Interior is calling for nominations for vacating positions to the SMAC. This notice requests the public to submit nominations for membership on the SMAC.

Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the SMAC. Individuals may nominate themselves for SMAC membership. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Burns District Office, Bureau of Land Management (see address below). To make a nomination, submit a completed nomination form, letter of reference from the represented interest or organizations, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications, to the Burns District Office. Nominations may be made for the following categories of interest:

- One person who is a grazing permittee on Federal land in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) (appointed from nominees submitted by the County Court of Harney County);
- One person who is a recognized environmental representative from the local area (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A person who participates in what is commonly called dispersed recreation, such as hiking, camping, nature viewing, nature photography, bird watching, horseback riding, or trail walking (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director of the BLM);
- A person with expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director for BLM); and
- A person who has no financial interest in the CMPA to represent Statewide interests (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon).

The specific category the nominee will represent should be identified in the letter of nomination. The Burns District will collect the nomination forms and letters of reference and distribute them to the officials responsible for submitted nominations (County Court of Harney County, the Governor of Oregon, and BLM). BLM will then forward recommended nominations to the Secretary of the Interior, who has responsibility for making the appointments.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted to the address listed below no