

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Skin Diseases Research Core Centers (P30).

Date: November 20–21, 2008.

Time: 7 am to 5 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center, 9751 Washingtonian Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Contact Person: Kan Ma, PhD, Scientific Review Officer, NIH/NIAMS, EP Review Branch, One Democracy Plaza Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20892–4872, 301–594–4952, mak2@mail.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.846, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: October 8, 2008.

Jennifer Spaeth,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. E8–24611 Filed 10–15–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

National Communications System

[Docket No. DHS–2008–0098]

President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Communications System, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) will be meeting by teleconference; the meeting will be partially closed to the public.

DATES: November 6, 2008, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place by teleconference. For access to the conference bridge and meeting materials, contact Ms. Sue Daage at (703) 235–5526 or by e-mail at sue.daage@dhs.gov by 5 p.m. October 27, 2008. If you desire to submit comments regarding the November 6, 2008 meeting they must be submitted by November 13, 2008. Comments must be identified by DHS–2008–0098 and may be submitted by one of the following methods: (1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>; (2) *E-mail:* NSTAC1@dhs.gov (Include docket number in the subject line of the message); (3) *Fax:* 1–866–466–5370; or (4) *Mail:* Office of the Manager, National Communications System (Customer Service Branch), Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20529.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the words “Department of Homeland Security” and DHS–2008–0098, the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received by the NSTAC, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kiesha Gebreyes, Deputy Chief, Customer Service Branch at (703) 235–5525, e-mail: Kiesha.Gebreyes@dhs.gov or write the Deputy Manager, National Communications System, Department of Homeland Security, CS&C/NCS/CSB, 245 Murray Lane, SW., Building 410, Washington, DC 20528.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NSTAC advises the President on issues and problems related to implementing national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications policy. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92–463 (1972), as amended appearing in 5 U.S.C. App.1 *et seq.* (1997).

At the upcoming meeting, between 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., the conference call will include government stakeholder feedback on NSTAC initiatives, an update on NSTAC outreach activities, and a discussion and vote on the national security/emergency preparedness internet protocol-based

traffic report. This portion of the meeting will be open to the public.

Between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., the NSTAC will discuss core network assurance, cyber collaboration and internet identity. This portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

Persons with disabilities who require special assistance should indicate this when arranging access to the teleconference and are encouraged to identify anticipated special needs as early as possible.

Basis for Closure: During the portion of the meeting to be held from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., the NSTAC will discuss core assurance and physical security of the cyber network, cybersecurity collaboration between the Federal Government and the private sector, and identity management. Such discussions will likely include internal agency personnel rules and practices, specifically, identification of vulnerabilities in the Federal Government's cyber network, along with strategies for mitigating those vulnerabilities and other sensitive law enforcement or homeland security information of a predominantly internal nature which, if disclosed, would significantly risk circumvention of DHS regulations or statutes. NSTAC members will likely inform the discussion by contributing confidential and voluntarily-provided commercial information relating to private sector network vulnerabilities that they would not customarily release to the public. Disclosure of this information can be reasonably expected to frustrate DHS's ongoing cybersecurity programs and initiatives and could be used to exploit vulnerabilities in the Federal Government's cyber network. Accordingly, the relevant portion of this meeting will be closed to the public pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2), (4) and (9)(B).

James Madon,

Director, National Communications System.

[FR Doc. E8–24613 Filed 10–15–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R2–ES–2008–N0225; 20124–1112–0000–F2]

Regional Habitat Conservation Plan, Comal County, TX

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement;

announcement of public scoping meeting; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), advise the public that we intend to prepare an environmental impact statement to evaluate the impacts of, and alternatives to, the issuance of an incidental take permit (ITP), under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), to Comal County, Texas. Comal County proposes to apply for an ITP, through development and implementation of a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP), as required by the Act. The RHCP will provide measures to minimize and mitigate for the impacts of the proposed taking of federally listed species (covered species) and the habitats upon which they depend.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before close of business (4:30 p.m. CST) December 15, 2008. We will also accept oral and written comments at a public hearing on December 4, 2008, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Comal County Commissioners Court, 199 Main Plaza, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mr. Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758. The public scoping meeting will take place at the Comal County Commissioners Court, 199 Main Plaza, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *EIS Information:* Mr. Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, by U.S. mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758; by phone at (512) 490-0057; or by fax at (512) 490-0974.

Comal County RHCP Information: Tom Hornseth, County Engineer, by U.S. mail at 195 David Jonas Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78132, or by phone at (830) 608-2090. Additional information is available on the Internet at <http://www.co.comal.tx.us/comalrhcp>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We intend to prepare an EIS to evaluate the impacts of, and alternatives to, the proposed issuance of an ITP under the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to Comal County. We also announce a public scoping meeting and public comment period. Comal County proposes to apply for an ITP supported by development and implementation of its RHCP. The RHCP will include measures necessary to minimize and mitigate for the impacts of the proposed taking of

covered species to the maximum extent practicable. We furnish this notice, in compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), in order to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS; (2) announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and (3) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives we will consider in our EIS. We intend to gather the information necessary to determine impacts and alternatives for an EIS regarding our potential issuance of an ITP to Comal County, and the implementation of the RHCP.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of animal species listed under the Act as endangered or threatened. The definition of “take” under the Act includes the following activities: To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). Regulations define “harm” as significant habitat modification or degradation that results in actual death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act requires us to issue incidental take permits to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the following criteria are met: (1) The taking will be incidental; (2) the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking; (3) the applicant will develop a habitat conservation plan and ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided; (4) the taking will

not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and (5) the applicant will carry out any other measures that we may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the habitat conservation plan.

We anticipate that under the ITP, Comal County will request permit coverage for a period of 30 years from the date of the RHCP approval. Implementation of the RHCP would result in the establishment of preserves intended to provide for the conservation of the covered species occupying those preserves. Research, monitoring, and adaptive management would be used to facilitate accomplishment of these goals.

Proposed Action

Our proposed action is the issuance of an ITP for the covered species in Comal County. Comal County would develop and implement the RHCP, which must meet the requirements in Section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Act by providing measures necessary to minimize and mitigate for the impacts of the proposed taking of covered species to the maximum extent practicable.

Activities proposed for coverage under the ITP include otherwise lawful activities that would occur consistent with the RHCP and include, but are not limited to, construction and maintenance of public projects and infrastructure as well as residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Species Comal County has recommended for inclusion as covered species in the RHCP include the golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). For these covered species, Comal County would seek incidental take authorization. The Comal County RHCP would also address 19 “evaluation species” (18 terrestrial or aquatic karst species and the Cagle’s map turtle (*Graptemys caglei*)) and 4 “additional species” (listed aquatic species known from Comal County). Incidental take authorization for the evaluation species may become necessary during the lifetime of the ITP; however, these species would not initially be included as covered species. Evaluation species are currently unlisted, but may become listed in the foreseeable future. The RHCP may include conservation measures to benefit evaluation species, where practicable, and support research to help fill data gaps regarding the biology, habitat, distribution, and/or management of these species. The research supported by the RHCP may help preclude the need to list these

species or facilitate obtaining incidental take coverage if these species become listed in the future. Comal County would not seek incidental take authorization for the four "additional species," because these species are not likely to experience take from covered activities.

Alternatives: The proposed action and alternatives that will be developed in the EIS will be assessed against the No Action/No Project Alternative, which assumes that some or all of the current and future take of covered species in Comal County would be implemented individually, one at a time, and be in compliance with the Act. The No Action/No Project Alternative implies that the impacts from these potential activities on the covered species would be evaluated and mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as is currently the case. For any activities involving take of listed species due to non-Federal actions, individual Section 10(a)(1)(B) permits would be required. Without a coordinated, comprehensive conservation approach for the County, listed species may not be adequately addressed by individual project-specific mitigation requirements, and mitigation would be piecemeal and less cost effective in helping Federal and non-Federal agencies work toward recovery of listed species. In addition to the No Action/No Project Alternative, a reasonable range of alternatives will also be considered, along with the associated impacts of the various alternatives.

Scoping Meeting

The primary purpose of this meeting and public comment period is to receive suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider when drafting the EIS. We will accept oral and written comments at this meeting. You may also submit your comments by mail (see **ADDRESSES** above). Once the draft EIS and draft RHCP are completed, additional opportunity for public comment on the content of these documents and an additional public meeting will be provided.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public scoping meeting should contact the Service (see **ADDRESSES** above) no later than 1 week prior to the public scoping meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

A primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify, rather than debate, significant issues related to the proposed action. In order to ensure that we identify a range of issues and

alternatives related to the proposed action, we invite comments and suggestions from all interested parties. We will conduct a review of this project according to the requirements of NEPA, other appropriate Federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, and Service procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Environmental Review

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, other applicable regulations, and the Service's procedures for compliance with those regulations. The EIS will analyze the proposed action, as well as a range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each. The EIS will be the basis for our evaluation of impacts to the human environment and the range of alternatives to be addressed. We expect the EIS to provide biological descriptions of the affected species and habitats, as well as the effects of the proposed action and alternatives on resources such as: Vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, threatened or endangered species and rare species, geology and soils, air quality, water resources, flood control, water quality, cultural resources (prehistoric, historic, and traditional cultural properties), land use, recreation, water use, local economy, and environmental justice.

After a draft EIS is prepared, we will publish a Notice of Availability along with a request for comment on the draft EIS and Comal County's permit application, which will include the draft RHCP.

The draft EIS and draft RHCP are expected to be completed and available to the public by January 2010.

Thomas L. Bauer,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. E8-24570 Filed 10-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F-19154-18, F-19154-24, F-19154-30; AK-964-1410-KC-P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving the surface and subsurface estates in certain lands for conveyance pursuant to the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. The lands are in the vicinity of Kivalina and Noatak, Alaska, and are located in:

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 23 N., R. 19 W.,

Secs. 1 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 19,050 acres.

T. 27 N., R. 19 W.,

Secs. 2 to 11, inclusive;

Secs. 15 to 22, inclusive;

Secs. 27 to 34, inclusive.

Containing approximately 16,430 acres.

T. 29 N., R. 27 W.,

Secs. 1 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 21,629 acres.

Aggregating approximately 57,108 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Arctic Sounder.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until November 17, 2008 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from:

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

Hillary Woods,

Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication I.

[FR Doc. E8-24633 Filed 10-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F-14874-K; AK-964-1410-KC-P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.