

timber harvesting and associated impacts including changes in surface runoff. The species is highly vulnerable to extirpation from demographic factors or random, naturally occurring events due to the very small size of most of the remaining populations.

The interim objective of this draft recovery plan is to stabilize the existing populations and accomplish increases in population sizes and geographic distribution across the historical range of the species sufficient to consider downlisting of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* to threatened status. The primary objective of the plan is to recover the species to the point that it can be delisted.

Actions proposed to achieve the recovery of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include maintaining the current geographical distribution of the species through effective management and coordination with private landowners and other agencies; identifying potential habitat and developing a sound protocol for reintroducing the species within its historically occupied range; conducting research and monitoring essential to the conservation of the species; collecting seed representing the genetic diversity of the species across its range and storing it in a secure facility; surveying to identify potential additional populations; and developing outreach materials to provide information about the species, its habitat, and management recommendations to local landowners.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing a final recovery plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 11, 2003.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-310-2810-DG]

Notice of Intent To Amend Land Use Plans and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend land use plans in Alaska and prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to address wildland fire and fuels management in its land use plans, through a statewide plan amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA). This amendment will provide a consistent approach for incorporating current wildland fire and fuels management policy into land use plans in order to comply with the National Fire Plan and 2001 Federal Fire Policy. It will also provide interim guidance for wildland fire and fuels management on BLM-managed lands for which completion of new land use plans is scheduled or on-going. The amendment will include an analysis of fire and fuels management actions on a landscape scale and their impacts on the human environment. An EA level analysis is anticipated to be sufficient to address the complexity of known issues.

The amendment will provide wildland fire and fuels management direction to all public lands managed by the Anchorage, Glennallen and Northern Field Offices. The following land use plans will be addressed during this amendment process and amended as appropriate: the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), Southcentral MFP, Fortymile MFP, Northwest MFP, Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP), White Mountains National Recreation Area RMP, Utility Corridor RMP, Fort Wainwright RMP, Fort Greely RMP, and the Steese National Conservation Area RMP. Fire management direction will also be developed for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in conjunction with this planning effort.

Several concurrent land use planning efforts will be occurring at each Field Office. These include the Ring of Fire RMP (Anchorage Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005), the Kobuck-Seward RMP (Northern Field Office, scheduled to begin 2004), and the East Alaska RMP (Glennallen Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005). The fire decisions reached through the fire planning effort outlined in this **Federal Register** notice will be incorporated into these and other future land use planning efforts as they are completed.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) planning process (43 CFR 1600) will be used for all lands, except for the Alaska Petroleum Reserve-Alaska lands, which are not governed by the FLPMA planning process. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to

identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This process will take into account local, regional and national needs and concerns. This includes public and firefighter safety. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify specific issues and develop planning criteria. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the needs and interests of the public.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice and end 60 days after publication. Comments regarding issues and planning criteria should be received on or before the end of the scoping period. Specific dates and locations for public participation will be published in local papers and broadcast on local community calendars at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the Wildland Fire and Fuels Management Land Use Plan Amendment for Alaska should be sent to: Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Lynch, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703, (907) 356-5863.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Alaska Fire Service at the address listed above.

Fire suppression in Alaska has been addressed on an interagency, multi-jurisdictional, landscape scale in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 1998 (AIWFMP). Four appropriate management responses defined as Management Options

(Critical, Full, Limited, and Modified) are identified in the plan. The four management options offer land managers a choice of the full range of suppression alternatives. Aggressive initial attack to surveillance to be implemented by the suppression organizations are options that have been included. BLM-managed lands in Alaska have designated management options. However, wildland fire management encompasses more than suppression actions. A spectrum of fire and fuels management activities to achieve ecosystem sustainability, accomplish resource-related objectives and protect communities or public safety are available. Current Federal fire policy states that land use plans will define and identify overall wildland fire and fuel management direction to meet land use and resource management objectives.

The proposed plan amendment and planning process would improve wildland fire management on BLM-managed lands in Alaska and more adequately integrate fire management direction with resource objectives by: (1) Reviewing management option designations and documenting related resource objectives and criteria to evaluate changing those designations (2) establishing broad objectives for wildland fire and fuels management, (3) identifying general guidelines for fuel treatments, and (4) identifying general restrictions for fire management practices. Anticipated issues for the plan amendments include: protection of human life, protection of property, protection of natural and cultural resources, integration of fire and resource management, and wildlife habitat. The interdisciplinary planning team will be comprised of resource specialists with the expertise necessary to address these issues.

The planning process will allow the public, Native organizations, State and Federal agencies, local elected officials, and BLM subject matter specialists to participate in scoping and alternative development and analysis. Public scoping to identify specific issues to be addressed in the plan will be an early opportunity for the public to provide input. Subsequent opportunities for public involvement will occur at specific stages in the planning process. Agency representatives and interested persons are invited to contact Alaska Fire Service officials at any time during the EA process.

Dated: August 19, 2003.

Henri Bisson,

Alaska State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The Advisory Board will meet Monday, November 3, 2003, from 8 a.m., to 5 p.m., local time, and on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, from 8 a.m., to 3 p.m., local time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St. NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 393-1000.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, NV-960, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89520. Submit written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting no later than close of business October 29, 2003. *See* **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Neal, Wild Horse and Burro Public Outreach Specialist, (775) 861-6583.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach *Ms. Neal* at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, November 3, 2003 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

8 a.m.: Call to Order & Introductions:
8:15 a.m.: Old Business:
FY 03 Program Update
FY 04 Gather Strategy
Herd Areas at AML
9:30 a.m.: Break
9:45 a.m.: Old Business (continued):
12:30 p.m.: Lunch
1:30 p.m.: Old Business (continued):
Fertility Control Research
2:30 p.m.: Break
2:45 p.m.: New Business
Action Sub-Committee Report on
Adoption Program
4 p.m.: Public Comments
4:45 p.m.: Recap/Summary
5-6 p.m. Adjourn: Roundtable
Discussion

Tuesday, November 4, 2003 (8 a.m.-3 p.m.)

8 a.m.: New Business (continued):
Further Board Discussion on Sub-
Committee Report
9:45 a.m.—10 a.m.: Break
New Business (continued):
12 p.m.: Lunch
1 p.m.: Board Recommendations
2:30 p.m.: Next Meeting/Date/Site
3 p.m.: Adjourn

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal advisory committee management regulations [41 CFR 101-6.1015(b),] require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the Advisory Board on November 3, 2003, at the appropriate point in the agenda. This opportunity is anticipated to occur at 4 p.m., local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon November 3, 2003, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address the specific