

From: [Newell, Russell](#)
To: [Deere, Judd P. EOP/WHO](#); [Schlapp, Mercedes V. EOP/WHO](#); [Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO](#); [Parkinson, Zach Z. EOP/WHO](#); [Alexa A. EOP/WHO](#); [Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO](#); [Eric L. Schulte - Exempt](#); [Eric L. Schulte - Exempt](#) [@who.eop.gov](#); [Hasse, Sarah K. EOP/WHO](#); [Kennedy, Adam R. EOP/WHO](#); [Groves, Steven A. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [John Bockmier](#); [Faith Vander Voort](#); [Nachmany, Eli](#); [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Molly Block](#)
Subject: DOI Week Ahead Report, March 24-30
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:13:55 PM
Attachments: [DOI Weekly Communications Report - March 24-30.docx](#)

All - attached is DOI's week ahead report. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend.

Russell

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-6232
[@Interior](#)



**WEEKLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND BUREAUS
March 24-30, 2019**

Announcements/Releases/Events

Departmental:

Thursday, March 28:

- Acting Secretary David Bernhardt will be a witness in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing ***“To consider the nomination of Mr. David Bernhardt of Virginia to be Secretary of the Interior.”***

Friday, March 29:

- **DOI/BLM National Press Release:** BLM Arizona’s Hassayampa Field Office and Maricopa County Parks will issue a joint press release announcing a new lease of 1,046 acres of public lands near Wickenburg, AZ, to Maricopa County, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

DOI Bureaus/ This Week—Dates Scheduled

NPS – National Park Service	BOR – Bureau of Reclamation	BLM – Bur. of Land Management
FWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USGS – U.S. Geological Survey	BSEE – Bureau of Safety & Enviro.
LBBP – Land Buyback for Tribal Nations	BIA – Bureau of Indian Affairs	BOEM – Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt.
OIA – Office of Insular Affairs	BIE – Bureau of Indian Education	

Sunday, March 24:

- **FWS:** FWS is making preparations to comply with House Report 115-765, which directs FWS “to open the public process within 30 days of enactment of this act, on the question of whether or not to rename the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.” On January 10, 2017, the name of Squaw Creek NWR was officially changed to Loess Bluffs NWR. There has been interest from Representative Sam Graves to return the refuge to its original name. A letter signed March 7, 2019, requesting this action was also delivered to Acting Secretary Bernhardt from Representative Graves.

Monday, March 25:

- **USGS: TENTATIVE: “Top Story” on Web: USGS responds to flooding across the United States.** With widespread flooding happening across the Midwest and more flooding on the horizon, USGS water science centers in several states are responding.

This photoset will showcase what our scientists do, how they do it, and explain why it's so important.

- **BIE/ASIA:** Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney will greet, meet and address students, faculty and staff at the **Santa Rosa Ranch School** on the Tohono O'odham Nation in AZ. The Santa Rosa Ranch School, which closed in December, is reopening after being equipped with new modular and refurbished buildings. She will also meet with Chairman Manuel.

- **FWS:** (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) DPP
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- **BLM: Local Press Release:** BLM NV - The Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office begins a 15-day public comment period on a preliminary Environmental Assessment analyzing a Kinross Gold Corporation proposal to expand operations at the Bald Mountain Mine on private and public lands about 65 miles northwest of Ely, NV. The comment period concludes April 9.

- **BLM: Local Press Release:** BLM-WY - The Pinedale Field Office is opening a 14-day public comment period on a proposed motorcycle race in the South Desert area, approximately 12 miles east of Big Piney, Wyo. The race is proposed for Aug. 31, 2019 and would include up to 200 motorcycles.

Tuesday, March 26:

- **BIA/ASIA:** Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney will speak at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) national conference Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas, NV.

- **BOEM:** Gulf of Mexico Deputy Regional Director Barry Obiol will be speaking at the Offshore Marine Service Association annual meeting in New Orleans.

Tuesday, March 26-27:

- **BOEM:** BOEM's Gulf of Mexico group will be attending the Decommissioning and Abandonment Summit in Houston.

Wednesday, March 27:

- **LBBP:** LBBP staff will attend and present at the Tribal Land Staff National Conference in Mystic Lake, Minnesota.

Thursday, March 28:

- **BLM Local Press Release:** OR/WA - The Coos Bay District will issue decision records and sale notices for three upcoming timber sales: Sister Sweeden, Glide Path, and Slater 21. The District will offer the three sales at an oral auction on April 26.
- **BOEM's** (b)(5)DPP (b)(5)DPP (b)(5)DPP (b)(5)DPP (b)(5)DPP
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- **BIA/ASIA:** Assistant Secretary Sweeney and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Energy and Economic Development will meet with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz in Siletz, OR.

Friday, March 29:

- **FWS:** Pending final clearance by OMB, FWS and NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* final revised regulations of the **Endangered Species Act**. FWS and NMFS sent the draft final revised regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act to OMB for review on December 21, 2018. FWS previously submitted to OMB on November 26 a draft final withdrawal of the blanket 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS's current practice. The interagency review concluded on the 4(d) rule in December and on the section 7 and section 4 rules on February 13. FWS and NMFS have received interagency review comments from OMB on all three rules, reviewed those comments, and distributed the drafting teams' assessment of those comments to DOI policy officials.
- **BLM National Press Release:** Announcing publication of the proposed rule to revise the onshore oil and gas orders on site security, oil measurement and gas measurement. The

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From: [Miranda, Leopoldo](#)
To: [Depsec, NEPA](#)
Cc: [Margaret Everson](#); [Foster, Maureen](#); [Mike Oetker](#); [Robert Tawes](#); [Jack Arnold](#); [Gina Shultz](#)
Subject: SO 3355 Timeline Waiver Request for East Collier Multi-species HCP
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 1:18:26 PM
Attachments: [signed 20190325 ECMSHCP Request for Waiver of Time.docx](#)

To whom it may concern

Attached please find a request for waiver from SO 3355 timeline requirements. This affects the East Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Our current, approved deadline for finalizing the Record of Decision is May 29, 2019. We are requesting an extension of 60 days to July 29, 2019, as explained in the attached waiver request. This request is fully supported by the applicant.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Leopoldo "Leo" Miranda
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-679-4000
Leopoldo_Miranda@fws.gov

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

Request for Waiver of Time and Page Limits Under S.O. 3355

To: Office of the Deputy Secretary

Through: Margaret Everson, Principal Deputy Director

From: Leopoldo Miranda, Southeast Regional Director



Date: March 26, 2019

1. Bureau or Office Name: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2. Title of Document: Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO or Applicants), Collier County, Florida, Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

3. Description of Action: Endangered Species Act, section 10 incidental take permit application by 11 landowners that would authorize incidental take of Florida panther and 18 other species due to development and earth mining over a requested 50-year term.

4. Time waiver: 150 Page waiver: (check all that apply)

5. Was a waiver or extension previously granted, and if so, how much time or many pages were previously approved?

No waiver has been granted previously.

6. Description of Reason for Request:

The Draft EIS Notice of Availability closed December 3, 2018. The Applicants committed to providing responses to public comments (~2,000) and these were received February 8, 2019.

On December 20, 2018, the Service provided suggestions to the Applicants to strengthen the HCP based on the public comments received. The Service's next meeting with ECPO was February 1, 2019, where we discussed the suggested revisions. After two subsequent meetings, the Applicants' proposed February 28, 2019, as their initial target date to respond to our suggestions and provide a revised HCP. We received a partial response on March 8, 2019, and on March 25, 2019, the Service received ECPO's full, final version of the HCP. Part of the delay in revising their HCP stemmed from last-minute negotiations among the eleven ECPO members to finalize land-use coverage proposed in the HCP.

The EIS contractor continued work during the partial government shutdown. They provided a revised EIS incorporating public comments on February 22, 2019, and suggested additional analyses of traffic effects. On March 1, 2019, the Service approved the additional work to improve the highway traffic-effects analyses in the EIS. This analysis and the revised EIS were received from the contractor March 15, 2019.

The current Record of Decision (ROD) target date is May 29, 2019, (rescheduled from April 27, 2019, to evenly distribute Review Team briefings). We are requesting to adjust the ROD target date by 60 calendar days to:

- a. Accommodate the Applicants' review and revisions to their HCP in response to public comment and our recommendations.
- b. Allow the Service to review and finalize the latest revisions to the EIS supplied by the contractor.

This revised schedule would target May 10, 2019 for our Stage 5 Departmental briefing and July 29, 2019, for signature on the ROD.

7. Need and deadline (if any) for issuance of waiver(s) decision: We need to accommodate Applicants' desire to provide responses to public comments and to receive revisions to the HCP suggested by the Service on December 20, 2018, and clarified in our February 20, 2019, meeting with them. Late-breaking developments among Applicants have revised land-use acreages and alignments that affect our analyses in the EIS and biological opinion (BO). It is in the best interest of the administrative record and the project to fully incorporate and properly assess the changes.

8. Positions of affected stakeholders: The Applicants fully support our time waiver request.

9. Other relevant considerations: As expressed in our September 14, 2018, Department Review Team briefing, the Applicants are sensitive to liability for harm to panthers caused by third-party traffic effects. We expect push-back and debate with the Applicants once we share the draft BO with them.

Since April 2018, except during the partial government shutdown, we have met bi-weekly with the Applicants to discuss progress, share information, and needed information or documents. Our Secretarial timeline has been communicated to the Applicants.

Despite the delay in receiving key materials from the Applicants, we have continued to make progress on the biological opinion and final EIS, with up to 14 field office and 5 regional office staff working on this project at any given time. This is a top priority project for the Southeast Region.

10. Attachments: *If the request is for a waiver of the time requirement, attach a copy of the original and the new proposed project timeline with the waiver request.*

Granted: _____

Date: _____

Denied: _____

Date: _____

From: [Quamme, Sarah](#)
To: [Margaret Everson](#)
Cc: [Frazer, Gary](#); [Melissa Beaumont](#)
Subject: Requested information re: Collier County MSHCP
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 6:12:43 PM
Attachments: [20190401 approved 60-day waiver.pdf](#)

Hello Margaret - Attached is a waiver that explains the situation regarding delays on the Collier County MSHCP, as requested at the 1 o'clock yesterday. Please let me know if this does not hit the mark.

--

Sarah Joan Quamme
Chief, Branch of Domestic Listing
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
703-358-1796

Request for Waiver of Time and Page Limits Under S.O. 3355

To: Office of the Deputy Secretary
Through: Margaret Everson, Principal Deputy Director
From: Leopoldo Miranda, Southeast Regional Director
Date: March 26, 2019



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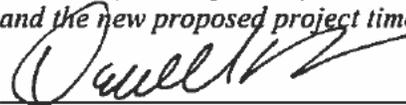
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10. Attachments: *If the request is for a waiver of the time requirement, attach a copy of the original and the new proposed project timeline with the waiver request.*

Granted:  Date: 4/11/19

Denied: _____ Date: _____

From: [Morris, Charisa](#)
To: [Aurelia Skipwith](#); [Margaret Everson](#); [Stephen Guertin](#); [Bryan Arroyo](#); [Foster, Maureen](#)
Subject: USFWS 30 day FR Report
Date: Friday, January 10, 2020 12:53:03 PM
Attachments: [Draft 30-Day Projection Report for Jan 14 \(1.10.20\).xlsx](#)

Please see attached - thanks!

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She/Her/Hers | Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | u.s. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

RIN or OMB Control Number	Bureau	Title	Summary	Type	Comm Plan Required?	Congressional Interest?	Controversy?	Critical Date (Judicial, Statutory, or Other)	Estimated Date for DOI Clearance	Current Status	Has Been at Current Status Since (Date)	DCN (Optional)	Program (Optional)	Explain Critical Date if "Other"
1018-New	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Programmatic Clearance for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Social Science Research FWS-HQ-NWRS-2019-N052	<p>The notice provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Service's intention to seek Office of Management and Budget – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OMB-O RA) approval of a new Programmatic Clearance for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-sponsored information collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA). Improving customer experience with Federal services is part of the President's Management Agenda (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280, "Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery"). The collection of information is necessary to enable the Service to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with our commitment to improving service delivery. Additionally, this new programmatic clearance is needed in order to be more responsive to Secretarial Orders 3355 (National Environmental Policy Act), 3356 (hunting and fishing opportunities), 3362 (big game habitat), and 3366 (outdoor recreation). This proposed new collection of information will also allow the Service to improve customer service delivery and response. This is important because OMB Circular A-11 designates the Service as a High-Impact Service Provider.</p> <p>Publication of the 60-day notice is the first step in the approval process for information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). The notice directs the public to send comments regarding the proposed collection to the Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer.</p>	ICR Notice	No	No	No		mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	11/4/19	3634	PRB (for NWRS)	
1018-New	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress FWS-HQ-NCTC-2019-N153	<p>The notice provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of an existing collection of information in use without an OMB Control Number. As part of the Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress hosted by the Service at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), the Service collects applications and health information from eligible interested students. Collection of this information is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and requires OMB approval. Publication of the 60-day notice is the first step in the process to request OMB approval. The notice directs the public to send comments to the Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer. The program analyzes and considers the comments when finalizing their approval request for submission to OMB.</p>	ICR Notice	No	No	No		mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	11/25/19	3819	PRB (for NCTC)	

1018-BB83	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing <i>Lepanthes eltoeroensis</i> From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants	We propose to remove <i>Lepanthes eltoeroensis</i> (no common name), an orchid species from Puerto Rico, from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (i.e., to "delist" the species), due to recovery. This proposed action is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial data, which indicate that the threats to the species have been eliminated or reduced to the point that the species no longer meets the definition of an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We also announce the availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring (PDM) plan. We seek information, data, and comments from the public regarding this proposal and the draft PDM plan.	Proposed Rule	Yes	No	No		late January	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	12/9/2019	3817	ES	
1018-BD82	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing <i>Arenaria cumberlandensis</i> (Cumberland Sandwort) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants	We propose to remove Cumberland sandwort (<i>Arenaria cumberlandensis</i>) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (List). This determination is based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial data, which indicate that the Cumberland sandwort has recovered and no longer meets the definition of an endangered or a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Our review shows that threats to the species identified at the time of listing (i.e., timber harvesting, trampling from recreational uses, and digging for archaeological artifacts) have been reduced to the point that they no longer threaten the species, and the Cumberland sandwort has increased in abundance and range. Our review also indicates that potential effects of projected climate change are not expected to cause the species to become endangered in the foreseeable future. We also announce the availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring (PDM) plan for the Cumberland sandwort. We seek information, data, and comments from the public on this proposed rule and on the associated draft PDM plan. If this proposal is finalized, the Cumberland sandwort will be removed from the List.	Proposed Rule	Yes	No	No		early February	Pending Assistant Secretary clearance	1/2/2020	3857	ES	
	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews of 66 Species in California and Nevada (Casey's June beetle and other spp.) FWS-R8-ES-2019-N134	We are initiating 5-year status reviews of 66 species in California and Nevada under the Endangered Species Act. A 5-year review is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review; therefore, we are requesting submission of any new information on these species that has become available since the last review.	Notice	No	No	No		mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/7/2020	3845	ES	
	FWS	Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Seismic Survey Design and Impacts to Maternal Polar Bear Dens FWS-R7-ES-2019-N138	We announce the availability of a peer-reviewed scientific publication regarding seismic survey design and impacts to maternal polar bear dens. This publication contains scientific information that may be used for evaluating the effects of future seismic survey proposals for their potential impacts to maternal polar bear dens. This information will be helpful for entities seeking incidental take authorization for certain activities that might affect polar bears. We are also announcing public webinars that will provide an overview of the publication and respond to questions. We request public comments on the use of the information in the peer-reviewed scientific publication for evaluating the effects of future seismic survey proposals for their potential impacts to maternal polar bear dens.	Notice	Yes	Yes	Yes	December 1, 2019; Other	mid January	Pending Office of the Secretary clearance	1/7/2020	3792	ES-MM	The Service intends to hold two public webinars that will provide an overview of the publication and respond to questions that the public may have. The Notice informs the public that these webinars will be held Tuesday December 17, 2019, from 10 00 am to 11 30 am AlaskaTime, and Wednesday December 18, 2019, from 10 00 am to 11:30 am Alaska Time. The Service seeks to have this notice published so that the public is aware of these planned webinars. The Alaska Region responded to edits requested by the Director and returned the Notice to HQ on 11/01/2019.
	FWS	Marine Mammal Protection Act; Stock Assessment Reports for Two Stocks of Polar Bears FWS-R7-ES-2018-N051	In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and its implementing regulations, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have revised marine mammal stock assessment reports for each of the two polar bear stocks in Alaska, including incorporation of public comments. We now make the final revised stock assessment reports for the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear stock and the Chukchi/Bering Seas polar bear stock available to the public.	Notice	No	No	The public has already been made aware of these revisions, and had opportunity to comment, therefore finalizing these documents, which have not changed substantially is not viewed as a significant	No	mid January	Pending Bureau clearance	7/11/2019	3333	ES-MM	Has been verbally briefed to Acting D and ASFWP

