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Special Public Notice

Public Notice Date: June 13, 2007

Written Comments Due: July 30, 2007

Subject: Regional Mitigation and Conservation Strategy for Agate Desert Vernal Pool Wetlands, Habitat and Species

An inter-agency team representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) (collectively referred to as the Agencies) propose to establish guidelines intended to improve conservation of vernal pool habitat and associated plant and animal species in the Agate Desert area of Jackson County, Oregon. The Agencies also propose to develop regulatory approval mechanisms designed to streamline the requirements of the Federal Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts, and Oregon's Removal/Fill Law. These proposals are discussed in detail in the subject document.

The Agencies are requesting review and feedback from the public on the subject document. Comments on any aspect of the document are encouraged, but the Agencies are especially interested in comments related to the following issues:

- Mitigation ratios for determining impacts and wetland credits.
- Vernal pool creation mitigation.
- Length of the monitoring period to determine mitigation success.
- Performance criteria for mitigation projects.
- Substantive and/or time constraints on the initial "trial" period of this program.
- Additional incentive for use and establishment of banks and large scale mitigation areas for species and habitats included in the program.
- Value of a "development fee" to help provide a source for long-term management endowments to manage mitigation areas.

Workshop: The Agencies have scheduled a public workshop to address questions, solicit comments, and provide more information related to the proposed activities. This public forum will occur on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rogue Valley Sewer Services conference room at 138 W. Vilas Road in Central Point, Oregon.

To view the document: Please visit one of the following websites – www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/public.asp; www.fws.gov/oregonfwo; <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/webpage/Wetlands>; or www.oregonstatelands.us.

To request a paper copy, please contact Dana Field at Dana.Field@state.or.us or at the telephone number listed below. Please put “Agate Desert PN” in the email subject line.

Contacts. Additional information regarding this proposal may be obtained by contacting any of the following individuals: Judy Linton, Corps, at (503) 808-4382; Yvonne Vallette, EPA, at (503) 326-2716; Joe Zisa, FWS-Portland, at (503) 231-6179; Craig Tuss, FWS-Roseburg, at (541) 957-3470; or Dana Field, DSL, at (503) 378-3805 extension 238.

Written comments should be directed to:

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