American Indian Liaison Office, National Park Service (2205), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013–7127; telephone (202) 208–5475, fax (202) 273–0870.

F. Eligible Programs of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

OSM regulates surface coal mining and reclamation operations, and reclaims abandoned coal mines, in cooperation with States and Indian tribes.

1. Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program. This program to restore eligible lands mined and abandoned or left inadequately restored is available to Indian tribes.

2. Control of the Environmental Impacts of Surface Coal Mining. This program includes analyses, NEPA documentation, technical reviews, and studies. Where surface coal mining exists on Indian land, certain regulatory activities that are not inherently Federal, including, for example, designation of areas unsuitable for mining, are available to Indian tribes.

For questions regarding self-governance contact Dr. Patricia Parker, American Indian Liaison Office, National Park Service (2205), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013–7127; telephone (202) 208–5475, fax (202) 273–0870.

G. Eligible Programs of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The mission of the U.S. Geological Survey is to provide information on biology, geology, hydrology, and cartography that contributes to the wise management of the nation's natural resources and to the health, safety, and well-being of the American people. Information includes maps, data bases, and descriptions and analyses of the water, plants, animals, energy, and mineral resources, land surface, underlying geologic structure and dynamic processes of the earth.

Information on these scientific issues is developed through extensive research, field studies, and comprehensive data collection to: evaluate natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, floods, droughts, subsidence and other ground failures; assess energy, mineral, and water resources in terms of their quality, quantity, and availability; evaluate the habitats of animals and plants; and produce geologic, cartographic, and remotely-sensed information in digital and non-digital formats. Not all USGS programs are specifically available to American Indians or Alaska Natives. Components of programs may have a special geographic, cultural, or historical connection with a tribe.

1. Mineral, Environmental, and Energy Assessments. Components of this program that involve geologic research, data acquisition, and predictive modeling may be available for inclusion in an annual funding agreement.

2. USGS Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. Components of this program that involve research, data acquisition, and modeling related to earthquakes and seismically active areas may be available for inclusion in an annual funding agreement.

3. Water Resources Data Collection and Investigations. Components of this program may be available for inclusion in an annual funding agreement if a self-governance tribe demonstrates a special geographic, cultural, or historical connection.

4. Biological Resources Inventory, Monitoring, Research and Information Transfer Activities. Components of this program may be available for inclusion in an annual funding agreement if a self-governance tribe demonstrates a special geographic, cultural or historical connection.

For questions regarding self-governance contact Sue Marcus, American Indian/Alaska Native Liaison, U.S. Geological Survey, 105 National Center, Reston, VA 20192, telephone (703) 648–4437, fax (703) 648–5068.

IV. Programmatic Targets

During Fiscal Year 2000, upon request each non-BIA bureau will negotiate Self Governance annual funding agreements for its eligible programs beyond those already negotiated.


Juliette A. Falkner,
Special Assistant to the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–5556 Filed 3–5–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills for Review and Comment


ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the Draft Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills (Gabbro Soil Plants).
Foothills. This recovery plan includes six plant species, of which five species are federally listed as endangered or threatened. The draft plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the plants—Stebbin's morning-glory (Calystegia stebbensii), Pine Hill ceanothus (Ceanothus roderickii), Pine Hill flannelbush (Fremontodendron californicum ssp. decumbens), El Dorado bedstraw (Galium californicum ssp. sierrae), and Layne's butterweed (Senecio layneae), and an additional species of plan, El Dorado mule-ears (Wyethia reticulata), that is considered to be a species of concern.

Dates: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before June 7, 1999.

Addresses: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California (telephone (916) 979-2710); and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Ecological Services, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Eastside Federal Complex, Portland Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone (503) 231-6131). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Wayne S. White, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Sacramento address.

For further information contact: Karen Miller, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Sacramento address.

Supplementary Information:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The six species of plants covered in the draft recovery plan are primarily restricted to gabbro soils habitat in the central Sierra Nevada foothills of California. Conversion of habitat to urban uses has extirpated the listed species and species of concern from a significant portion of their historic ranges. The remaining natural communities are highly fragmented, and many are marginal habitats in which these species may not persist during catastrophic events.

The objectives of this recovery plan are two-fold: (1) to delist the plants Stebbin's morning-glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, Pine Hill flannelbush, El Dorado bedstraw, and Layne's butterweed by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and appropriately managing their habitat; and (2) to ensure the long-term conservation of the one species of concern, El Dorado mule-ears, that occurs in the same gabbro soils habitats with the listed species.

Public comments solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

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

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Michael J. Spear,
Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office.
[FR Doc. 99-5560 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

Bilng Code 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-035-1220]

Emergency Closure and Restriction on Public Lands in the South Fork of the Walla Walla River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

January 12, 1999.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Vale District Office, Baker Resource Area, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Closure and Restriction on Public Lands for the protection of resource values identified in South Fork of the Walla Walla River Area Plan Amendment, February 1992, for public safety, and subsequent listing of the Bull Trout as a federally threatened and endangered fish and proposed listing of the Mid-Columbia River Summer Steelhead.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the regulations contained in the Title 43 CFR 8364, the Bureau of Land Management is limiting motorized vehicle travel within the ACEC. Motorcycles will continue to be allowed on the South Fork of the Walla Walla trail. Motorized vehicles will also continue to be allowed at the trailhead parking area and access road. All other motorized vehicle use is prohibited within the ACEC. The ACEC is closed to overnight camping. Discharging firearms within the road corridor between the cattle guard west of the trailhead parking area and the trail head gate is prohibited.

These closure and restriction orders will be in effect on approximately 1,955 acres of public land within the South Fork of the Walla Walla River corridor. These limitations are located within the South Fork of the Walla Walla River ACEC in Umatilla County, Oregon in the western foothills of the Blue Mountains, Township 4N., Range 37E, sec. 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Range 38E, sec. 6 and 7, Willamette Meridian. A map of the area described above may be viewed in the Baker Resource Area Office.

The limitations are necessary to prevent deterioration of the area's resource values including soil and water resources and habitat for Threatened and Endangered fish. The limitations will also provide for public safety and will be consistent with U.S. Forest Service regulations for the trail right-of-way connecting to Umatilla National Forest lands to the east of the ACEC.

Personnel that are exempt from the area limitations include any Federal, State, or local officer or member of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of an official duty, or