5. Public Health System Reporting Requirements

The Public Health System Impact Statement (PHSIS) is intended to keep State and local health officials apprised of proposed health services grant and cooperative agreement applications submitted by community-based nongovernmental organizations within their jurisdictions.

Community-based nongovernmental service providers who are not transmitting their applications through the State must submit a PHSIS to the head(s) of the appropriate State and local health agencies in the area(s) to be affected not later than the pertinent receipt date for applications. This PHSIS consists of the following information:

a. A copy of the face page of the application (Standard form 424).

b. A summary of the project (PHSIS), not to exceed one page, which provides:
   (1) A description of the population to be served.
   (2) A summary of the services to be provided.
   (3) A description of the coordination planned with the appropriate State or local health agencies.

State and local governments and Indian Tribal Authority applicants are not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Application guidance materials will specify if a particular FY 2000 activity is subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

6. PHS Non-Use of Tobacco Policy Statement

The PHS strongly encourages all grant and contract recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products. In addition, Public Law 103–227, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities (or in some cases, any portion of a facility) in which regular or routine education, library, day care, health care, or early childhood development services are provided to children. This is consistent with the PHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

7. Executive Order 12372

Applications submitted in response to the FY 2000 activity listed above are subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372, as implemented through DHHS regulations at 45 CFR Part 100. E.O. 12372 requires State and local government review of applications for Federal financial assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ouray NWR is located in northeast Utah. Implementation of the Plan will focus on adaptive resource management of wetland, grassland, and semidesert shrubland habitats, restoration and improved management of riparian bottomlands, recovery of endangered fish species of the Upper Colorado River Ecosystem, and opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation. Habitat monitoring and evaluation will be emphasized as the Plan is implemented. Opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation will continue to be provided.

The Notice of Availability published on February 24, 2000 (65 FR 9291), is corrected as follows: on page 9291, middle column, a date paragraph is added and the addresses paragraph is revised on where to send written comments.

[FR Doc. 00–5006 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and an Associated Environmental Assessment for the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge; and Notice of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and an Environmental Assessment for Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), Stevens County, Washington. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations for the following purposes: (1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the issues to be addressed in the CCP; and (3) to announce public meetings for scoping. We estimate that the draft CCP and associated Environmental Assessment will be available in March of 2001.
DATES: Submit comments on or before April 3, 2000. The Service will host two public meetings, the first on February 29, 2000, and the second on March 1, 2000. See ADDRESSES for meeting locations.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, 26010 South Smith Road, Cheney, Washington, 99004. Public meetings will be held on February 26, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Cheney High School Library, 460 North 6th Street, Cheney, Washington, and March 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Spokane Falls Community College, Building 17, Lounges A, B, and C, at 3410 West Fort George Right Drive, Spokane, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Curry, Refuge Manager (509) 235-4723.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

The Service is beginning the process of developing a 15-year management plan for Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge has recently completed a Habitat Management Plan, which outlines objectives and strategies for managing Refuge habitats in a way to achieve the Refuge purpose and the system mission. The Refuge also recently completed a Fire Management Plan. These two plans will be incorporated with any anticipated changes to the CCP.

The CCP will include the following topics: (1) An assessment of existing public uses on the Refuge and within the region; (2) an assessment of Refuge facilities and programs available for public use and enjoyment; (3) the biological and physical resources and their condition (to be excerpted from the Habitat Management Plan); (4) identification of the long term goals and objectives of the Refuge, consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; (5) strategies for management of public access and uses, including but not limited to the existing uses of wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, and hiking; (6) strategies for management of other Refuge resources including cultural resources; and (7) strategies for protecting neighboring resources that affect the Refuge. In addition, the habitat and fire management objectives and strategies already described in the Habitat Management Plan and the Fire Management Plan will be incorporated into this document.

We have identified preliminary issues and opportunities to address in the CCP. Comments and concerns received will be used to identify additional issues and prepare draft alternatives. The preliminary issues fall under two categories, Public Uses and Land Protection. Brief descriptions of those issues follow.

Public Uses. The new Refuge Improvement Act specifies that hunting, among other wildlife-dependent uses, is to be considered. Turnbull Refuge has always been closed to hunting. There are concerns about whether a large enough area exists for safe big game hunting, whether the big game population is in need of harvest management, and whether or not fall waterfowl populations are large enough in this area to support a recreational hunt.

Does the public wish to see any further developments in the public use area (i.e., improved access, expansion of the public use area, added facilities, interpretive signs, and staff facilitated activities)? What effect would expanded public uses have on existing wildlife populations and distribution? Is the current sanctuary status of the Refuge a necessary benefit to wildlife in an area of rapid urban expansion?

A recent “rails-to-trails” conversion has occurred in the area and five miles of the Columbia Plateau Trail, extending from Pasco to Spokane, now runs right through the heart of the Refuge’s closed area. Visitors on this trail will possibly triple Refuge visitation. The staff at the Refuge has concerns about managing this new use.

Should the Service support community demand for environmental education and interpretation on the Refuge?

Land Protection. The Refuge recently completed a Habitat Management Plan which identified the protection of water quality and quantity and the protection of native habitat and species as Refuge goals. These goals include objectives to protect Refuge water sources, water quality, and key habitats that affect Refuge resources from outside the current boundary. These goals also support the maintenance of biologically effective landscape linkages and corridors between the Refuge and other undeveloped areas of this ecoregion. Several tools exist to accomplish this, ranging from public education to voluntary conservation by neighboring landowners, partnerships and incentive programs such as the consideration of conservation easements on private land, and land acquisition from willing sellers. The CCP will explore various strategies for protecting the lands and habitats within the ecosystem.

Public Meetings

With the publication of this notice, the public is encouraged to attend public meetings and/or submit written comments for staff to consider in developing the CCP. Two public scoping meetings will be held in February. The format will be a presentation on the planning process and the Refuge followed by facilitated breakout sessions to record public interests. Dates, locations, and times follow.

(1) February 29, 2000, 6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Cheney High School Library, 460 N. 6th Street, Cheney, Washington, 99004. The presentation portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

(2) March 1, 2000, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Spokane Falls Community College, Building 17, Lounges A, B, and C, 3410 West Fort George Right Drive, Spokane, Washington, 99224. The presentation portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments

Comments already received are on record and need not be resubmitted. All comments received from individuals on Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality’s NEPA regulations (40CFR 1506.6(f)), and other Service and Departmental policy and procedures. When requested, the Service generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments. However, telephone numbers of commenting individuals will not be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Additionally, public comment letters are not required to contain the commentator’s name, address, or other identifying information. Such comments may be submitted anonymously to the Service.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) Meeting Announcement


ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Council will meet at 9 a.m., March 9, 2000, to select North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: March 9, 2000, 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room S–128, U.S. Capitol Building, 119 D Street, NE, Washington, DC. The Council Coordinator is located at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Smith, Council Coordinator, (703) 358–1784.


Jamie Rappaport Clark,
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00–4974 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Availability of Draft Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Yellowstone Ecosystem

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announces the availability for public review of the Draft Conservation Strategy for the grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis) in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Conservation Strategy is the management plan for the grizzly in the Yellowstone ecosystem that will be used when the population is recovered and delisted. Completion of the Conservation Strategy is a task in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. We solicit review and comment from the public on this draft information.

DATES: Comments on the draft supplemental information must be received on or before May 31, 2000 to ensure that they will be received in time for our consideration prior to finalization of the document.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the Draft Conservation Strategy may obtain a copy by contacting the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University Hall, Room 309, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812. The document also is available for viewing and downloading at: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/endspp/grizzly/>. Written comments and materials regarding this information should be sent to the Recovery Coordinator at the address given above, or can be mailed electronically to <FW6_grizzly@fws.gov>. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (see ADDRESSES above), at telephone (406) 243–4903.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the our endangered species program. Recovery plans guide the recovery efforts for listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we approved the revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan on September 10, 1993. The grizzly bear was listed under the Act as a threatened species in the 48 conterminous States on July 28, 1995 (40 FR 31734). Threats to grizzly bear populations come primarily from habitat modification caused by human activities and from direct bear/human conflicts resulting from recreational and resource use activities, highway and railroad corridors, illegal mortality, etc. The grizzly bear population in each of the ecosystems included in the Plan can be delisted independently once recovery criteria stated in the Plan are met.

The Plan provides that prior to delisting of the grizzly bear population in each ecosystem a conservation strategy will be developed and implemented that outlines all habitat and regulatory mechanisms that will be in force after recovery of that population.

The Yellowstone Ecosystem Draft Conservation Strategy is now available for review and comment.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the supplemental information described above. All comments received by the date specified in the DATES section above will be considered prior to finalization of the strategy.

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


Terry T. Terrell,
Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado

[FR Doc. 00–5073 Filed 3–1–00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a tour and meeting of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC). A pre-tour briefing will be conducted on March 30, 2000 from 8–10 a.m. at the BLM Safford Field Office located at 711 14th Avenue, Safford, Arizona. BLM staff will provide a review of the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) and the implementation process. After this two-hour briefing, BLM staff and RAC will