

amendment: lands, wildlife, range, minerals, cultural resources, watershed/soils, threatened/endangered species, and hazardous materials. Staff members representing each resource will be consulted during preparation of the environmental document.

The primary issue to be addressed is the change in land designation from retention to transfer status. The amendment is not expected to be controversial as the City of Mud Lake currently holds an airport lease on the same land. No public meetings are scheduled; however, written comments may be submitted after each of two public notices.

Prepared documents will be available at the BLM Idaho Falls office. Office hours are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Dated: February 16, 1995.

Gary L. Bliss,

Associate District Manager.

[FR Doc. 95-4801 Filed 2-27-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-M

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammals; Polar Bear Habitat Conservation

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of a draft Habitat Conservation Strategy for Polar Bears in Alaska; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Final Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) regulations published in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 1993, authorized and governed the incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bear and walrus during oil and gas industry operations year-round in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska. Those regulations contained provisions requiring the Service by June 15, 1995, to develop and begin implementing a strategy for the identification and protection of important polar bear habitats. The Service has developed a draft Habitat Conservation Strategy for Polar Bears in Alaska (Strategy), announces its availability, and solicits public comments.

DATES: Comments on the draft Strategy must be received by May 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft Strategy are available by contacting the Office of Marine Mammals Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503; Telephone: 907/786-3800; FAX: 907/786-3816.

Written comments should be submitted either by mail or FAX to

David McGillivray, Supervisor, Office of Marine Mammals Management at the above identified address, telephone, or FAX numbers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David McGillivray in Anchorage, Alaska, at 907/786-3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (Act) vested authority for management and conservation of polar bears in the United States (i.e., Alaska) with the Service. Provisions in section 101(a)(5) of the Act authorize the incidental, unintentional take by U.S. citizens of small numbers of marine mammals (e.g., polar bear) in specified activities other than commercial fishing. As defined in section 3 of the Act, the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

While the Act authorizes these incidental takes, section 2(6) of the Act states that:

Marine mammals * * * should be protected and encouraged to develop to the greatest extent feasible commensurate with sound policies of resource management and that the primary objective of their management should be to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem.

In this regard, section 112(a) of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe regulations that are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Act.

In addition to its responsibilities under the Act, the Service has further responsibilities under the 1973 International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (International Agreement). Article II of this International Agreement states that:

Each Contracting Party [i.e., Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the U.S.] shall take appropriate action to protect the ecosystems of which polar bears are a part, with special attention to habitat components such as denning and feeding sites and migration patterns * * *

On December 17, 1991, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc., for itself and on behalf of 14 other oil and gas related companies operating in Alaska, petitioned the Service to promulgate regulations pursuant to section 101(a)(5) of the Act to allow for the incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and walrus during year-round oil and gas activities (i.e., exploration, development, and production) in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska. Culminating a two-year process, the Service ultimately published a final rule in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 1993 (58 FR 60402), with final

regulations initially effective beginning on December 16, 1993, for an 18-month period through June 16, 1995.

Consistent with the intent of the International Agreement, the final rule contains provisions that require the Service to develop and begin implementing a strategy, as part of our management plan process pursuant to section 115 of the Act, for the identification and protection of important polar bear habitats. Development of a strategy, as well as the initiation of steps to implement it, is necessary for the Beaufort Sea final regulations to be extended beyond their initial 18 month effective period (now set to expire on June 16, 1995) for a total 5-year period (through December 15, 1998) as authorized by the Act.

Initiating efforts to develop this draft Strategy, the Service on December 28, 1993, published a "Notice of intent to prepare a polar bear habitat protection strategy, conduct public meetings, and request [for] information," in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 68659). Public meetings were held in Anchorage and Barrow, Alaska, on January 20 and 25, 1994, respectively, in order to provide background information and our proposed plan for development of a Strategy, and to solicit input from those in attendance. The formal public comment period associated with the Notice closed on February 11, 1994. Additional meetings subsequently were held in coastal Alaska communities and discussions have been conducted with Alaskan Native hunters to collect knowledge on polar bear habitat use. The Service has also consulted with the Marine Mammal Commission, signatories to the International Agreement, the Department of State, the State of Alaska, the oil and gas industry, conservation organizations, and academia. Information obtained during these various efforts has been incorporated into the draft Strategy.

The objective of this Strategy is to identify and enhance protection of important polar bear habitats in Alaska. This will enable the United States to address the ecosystem protection provisions of the Act and the Agreement, and to ensure oil and gas activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts on polar bears, their habitat, and on their availability for subsistence uses. Its goal is to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem upon which polar bears depend and to maintain polar bear populations at optimum sustainable population levels. The Service hereby announces the availability of its draft Strategy. Public review and comment is solicited.

The Service has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in conjunction with the draft Strategy. A copy of the draft EA may be obtained from the Service's Office of Marine Mammal Management identified above in the ADDRESSES section.

Dated: February 17, 1995.

Bruce Blanchard,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 95-4903 Filed 2-27-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

National Park Service

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting of Subcommittee on Design Competition Package.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an upcoming meeting of the Indian Memorial Advisory Sub-Committee producing the Design Competition Package. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463).

MEETING DATE AND TIME: Thursday, March 2, 1995, 1:30—5:00 pm.; and Friday, March 3, 1995, 8:00—12:00 a.m., and 1:30—5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: American Institute of Architects (AIA), Denver Chapter Office, 1526 15th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202; (303) 446-2266.

THE AGENDA OF THIS MEETING WILL BE: Continue work begun by the Indian Memorial Advisory Committee and the National Park Service Support Team to produce a package that establishes the structure, rules, processes that will guide an upcoming national design competition for the creation of a memorial to the Indian participants in the 1876 conflict at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, located at Crow Agency, Montana. This meeting will incorporate help from a select group of four architects under the sponsorship of the AIA. The architects will provide professional insight into formulating and managing design competitions and will help steer the final decisions of the sub-committee. The components of the meeting will consist of a review of project progress to date and discussion/decisions about; competition staging; advertising and promotional strategies; applicant registration, rules, and fees; design competition language; design criteria; base data needs and format; evaluation criteria; jury composition and scoring/selection alternatives; stipends for finalists; awards and commendations (amounts and categories); competition and design development schedule; and

transforming the final design into a finished product.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee was established under Title II of the Act of December 10, 1991, for the purpose of advising the Secretary on the site selection for a memorial in honor and recognition of the Indians who fought to preserve their land and culture at the Battle of Little Bighorn, on the conduct of a national design competition for the memorial, and “* * * to ensure that the memorial designed and constructed as provided in section 203 shall be appropriate to the monument, its resources and landscape, sensitive to the history being portrayed and artistically commendable.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Barbara A. Booher, Indian Affairs Coordinator and Indian Advisory Committee Liaison, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287 (303) 969-2511.

Dated: February 9, 1995.

Gerard Baker,

Superintendent, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Designated Federal Official, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 95-4805 Filed 2-27-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

Pea Ridge National Military Park Advisory Team; Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Pea Ridge National Military Park Advisory Team will be held at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 1995, in the park visitor center auditorium, 15930 Highway 62, Garfield, Arkansas.

The Pea Ridge National Military Park Advisory Team was established under authority of section 3 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(c)) to provide a forum for dialogue between community representatives and the Pea Ridge National Military Park on management issues affecting the park and the community.

The matter to be discussed at this meeting includes:

—Boundary Study

The meeting will be open to the public. However, facilities and space for accommodating members of the public are limited, and persons will be accommodated on a first-come-first served basis. Any member of the public may file a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed with the superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park.

Persons wishing further information concerning this meeting, or who wish to submit written statements may contact Steve Adams, Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park, P.O. Box 700, Pea Ridge, AR 72751-0700, Telephone 501/451-8122.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection four weeks after the meeting at the office of Pea Ridge National Military Park.

Dated: February 21, 1995.

Jerry Rogers,

Regional Director, Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 95-4803 Filed 2-27-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council; Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, that a meeting of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council will be held March 30-31, 1995, at 8:30 a.m., at the Comfort Hotel River Plaza, 407 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council was established pursuant to Public Law 100-192 establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to advise the National Park Service on such issues as preservation of trail routes and features, public use, standards for posting and maintaining trail markers, as well as administrative matters.

The matters to be discussed include:

- Plan Implementation Status
- Trail Association Status
- Cooperative Agreements Negotiation
- Fundraising

The meeting will be open to the public. However, facilities and space for accommodating members of the public are limited, and persons will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Any member of the public may file a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed with David Gaines, Superintendent.

Persons wishing further information concerning this meeting, or who wish to submit written statements may contact David Gaines, Superintendent, Long Distance Trails Group Office-Santa Fe, National Park Service, Southwest Region, P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, telephone 505/988-6888. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent, located in Room 358, Pinon Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.