

the minimization and control of outdoor lighting. Further, the HCP proposes to provide an endowment to acquire ABM habitat off-site or otherwise perform some other conservation measure for the ABM. The HCP provides a funding source for these mitigation measures. Another alternative is consideration of a different project design that further minimizes permanent loss of ABM habitat. A third alternative is no-action, or deny the request for authorization to incidentally take the ABM.

Dated: February 26, 1996.

Noreen K. Clough,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 96-4933 Filed 3-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Timber Management Practices in Conecuh and Monroe Counties, Alabama by MacMillan Bloedel Timberlands, Incorporated

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: MacMillan Bloedel Timberlands, Incorporated, (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The proposed permit would authorize for a period of 30 years the incidental take of a threatened species, the Red Hills salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti*, known to occupy lands owned by the Applicant in Conecuh and Monroe Counties, south-central Alabama.

The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the incidental take application. The Applicant's HCP describes *Phaeognathus hubrichti* conservation measures to be employed to address the anticipated level of incidental take. The EA prepared by the Service describes the environmental consequences of issuing or denying the Applicant's request for an incidental take permit. As stated in the EA, the Service proposes to issue the requested permit. This proposal is based on a preliminary determination that the Applicant has satisfied the requirements for permit issuance and that the HCP provides conservation benefits to *Phaeognathus hubrichti*. This notice also advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the incidental take permit is not a major

Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Finding of No Significant Impact is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10⁶ of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). Copies of the EA and HCP may be obtained by making a written request to the Regional Office [See ADDRESSES below]. Note that requests must be in writing to be properly processed.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Persons wishing to review the EA or HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Regional Office or the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Regional Office, or the Field Office. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Please reference permit number PRT-811415 in such comments:

Regional Permit Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia (404-679-7110, fax 404-679-7081)
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (601-965-4900, fax 601-965-4340)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Will McDearman, Jackson, Mississippi Field Office or Rick Gooch at the Atlanta, Georgia Regional Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act, and implementing regulations, prohibits the take of threatened and endangered species. Take, in part, is defined as an activity that kills, injures, harms, or harasses a listed endangered or threatened species.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act provides an exemption, under certain circumstances, to the Section 9 prohibition if the taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of an otherwise lawful activities.

Phaeognathus hubrichti is a plethodontid salamander and the sole member of its genus. Its range is confined to a small area of southern Alabama. Portions of the Applicant's lands in the Red Hills physiographic

province of south-central Alabama are occupied by this species. According to the surveys identified in the HCP, the Applicant owns approximately 3,800 acres within the species' historic range in Conecuh and Monroe Counties. The Applicant's HCP attempts to define certain management prescriptions according to known occurrences of *Phaeognathus hubrichti* as well as the species' habitat selection preferences. The HCP identifies three habitat classifications: Optimal; Moderately Suitable; and Marginal. The Applicant owns approximately 1,200 acres; 1,300 acres; and 1,300 acres, respectively of each habitat type.

Within the Optimal habitats of the Applicant's properties encompassed by the HCP, either no timber harvests will occur or very limited single tree selections with at least 90 percent hardwood canopy maintained. To minimize impacts to the soil, any trees removed from optimal habitat will be felled by chain saw and pulled from the area by cable, or other applicable method with no heavy machinery permitted in the area.

Within the Moderately Suitable habitats of the Applicant's properties encompassed by the HCP, an increased level of selective cutting (followed by natural regeneration of tree species characteristic of *Phaeognathus hubrichti* habitat), provided hardwood canopy cover is not reduced by more than 35 percent.

Within the Marginal to Unsuitable habitats, options on these areas will include normal silvicultural practices, such as clearcutting, select tree harvest, chemical and mechanical site preparation, replanting, and prescribed burning. Clear-cut areas will be planted with pine or hardwood seedlings. Site preparation methods vary depending on the site but usually will include a combination of herbicides and fire. Although rotation lengths may change in the future due to economic and/or biological considerations, plantations are currently managed on a pulpwood/sawtimber rotation averaging 20-35 years. Prescribed burning rotations range from 3 to 7 years.

Pest or disease infested trees are removed from all habitat classification, if necessary, to prevent further infection of healthy trees. Forested buffers of approximately 50 feet width will be maintained above and below areas classified as *Phaeognathus hubrichti* Optimal habitat. Timber harvesting will be conducted within these buffers with at least 50 percent of the canopy cover maintained.

The HCP also contained funding for the development of an integrated

management plan incorporating the above prescriptions, as well as employee/contractor training, and maintenance of the permit's terms and conditions.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives. The no action alternative would probably result in continued insidious and direct habitat loss for *Phaeognathus hubrichti* resulting in further jeopardy to the species and continued exposure of the Applicant under Section 9 of the Act. This action is inconsistent with the purposes and intent of Section 10 of the Act. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the incidental take permit. The issuance of the permit will be predicated on implementation of the Applicant's HCP, and the measures contained in the authorizing permit.

Dated: February 26, 1996.

Noreen K. Clough,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 96-4934 Filed 3-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-1020-001]

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council—Notice of Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Council Meeting Locations and Times.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), council meeting of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council will be held as indicated below. The agenda includes a field trip, public meeting, discussion of laws and regulations that pertain to grazing, and a statewide update of standards and guidelines.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language

interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Michael Dwyer at the Las Vegas District Office, 4765 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108, telephone, (702) 647-5000.

DATES AND TIMES: Dates are March 21 and 22, 1996. The council will meet at the BLM Las Vegas District Office located at 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 7:30 a.m. on March 21, 1996, and will depart for a field trip at 8 a.m. Individuals who want to attend the field trip must provide their own transportation and lunch. A schedule for the field trip will be available prior to departure. The council members and BLM support staff will host an open house for public input on the development of Standards and Guidelines for range reform from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Caliente Youth Center, U.S. Highway 93, Caliente, NV. On March 22, the council will meet from 8 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. at the Caliente City Hall in the historic Union Pacific Railroad Station building.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas District, telephone: (702) 647-5000.

Michael F. Dwyer,
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-4784 Filed 3-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

[UT-080-1430-00]

Leasing of Public Land; Uintah and Duchesne Counties, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action; Leasing of Public Land.

SUMMARY: The following public lands, located in Uintah and Duchesne Counties, Utah may be leased on a non-competitive basis to existing land use permit holders pursuant to Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732) and 43 CFR 2920.

Leases would be offered to the adjoining landowners who currently hold short-term, land use permits for the purposes specified below:

Brad Nelson: Permit Serial Number #UTU-65105, agricultural crop production, haystack yards and silage pit.

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 8 S., R. 17 E.,

Sec. 22: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23: S $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Amounting to 20.00 acres, more or less.

Hunt Oil Company, c/o Ed Webster: Permit Serial Number #UTU-65111, agricultural crop production and corral facility.

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 11 S., R. 15 E.,

Sec. 31: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 33: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Amounting to 11.50 acres, more or less.

H. Lee Wimmer: Permit Serial Number #UTU-63981, agricultural crop production.

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 11 S., R. 13 E.,

Sec. 21: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 33: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Amounting to 25.00 acres, more or less.

Woody Searle: Permit Serial Number #UTU-71224, irrigation system and storage area.

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah

T. 4 S., R. 21 E.,

Sec. 4: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NSW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Amounting to 1.00 acre, more or less.

This action would convert existing land use permits to long-term leases. The leases would be for a term of from ten to fifteen years from date of issuance. Applications for the leases will be accepted for processing upon completion of the comment period. Leases would be issued for not less than fair market rental and the lessee shall reimburse the United States for reasonable administrative and other costs incurred in the process of converting these permits to leases.

Conversion of these land use permits to leases would be in conformance with Lands and Realty Management Decisions (LR03) and (LR08) described in the December 21, 1994, Record of Decision implementing the Diamond Mountain Resource Area Resource Management Plan.

DATES: On or before April 18, 1996, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed leases to Peter Kempenich, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal District, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, (801) 781-4432.

Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the Area Manager for the Diamond Mountain Resource Area who may vacate or modify this notice and issue a final determination. In the absence of any action by the Area Manager, this Notice of Realty Action will become the final determination of the Bureau.