

kenneth_mcdermond@mail.fws.gov
(email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The conference report accompanying the Fiscal Year 1997 Appropriations Act, Public Law 104-208, 110 STAT. 3009 contained the following language:

“While there is no specific prohibition on the use of steel jaw leghold traps, the Service should establish a task force to study the use of animal traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The task force should consider the humaneness of various trapping methods, as well as the cost, the impact on the protection of endangered species, the impact on Fish and Wildlife Service facilities, and other relevant issues. The task force should include interested outside parties and report its findings to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by March 1, 1997.”

The Committee’s instructions to the Service provided that the Service “should establish a task force to study the use of animal traps” and the “task force should include interested outside parties and report its findings to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by March 1, 1997.” These instructions presented a difficult legal challenge. After consultation with the Service’s representatives in the Solicitor’s Office, it was clear that given the time available to meet these instructions that it would be virtually impossible to achieve a balanced but limited representation of interests on the task force and prepare a report that represented the task force’s findings while being consistent with legally required procedures. The Solicitor’s Office suggested, however, that a general solicitation from all interested outside parties, encouraging a broadly-based task force approach that would not serve to exclude interested participants, and the transmittal of all information received thereby to the Committees without editorial change or policy alteration would be consistent with the general intent of the Committee’s instructions and achievable within the existing procedural laws by March 1, 1997. The Service has, accordingly, adopted this suggestion and requests all interested parties to submit information on the use of traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System, in particular those issues identified in the conference report.

Dated: December 11, 1996.

John G. Rogers,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96-31875 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Fish and Wildlife Service.

Notice of Receipt of Application for Permit

The following applicant has applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.):

PRT-822897

Applicant: Dr. Joe Edmisten, Pensacola, FL

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, mark, identify, and release) the Alabama beach mouse, *Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*, Choctawahatchee beach mouse, *P. p. allophrys*, and Perdido Key beach mouse, *P. p. trissyllepsis*, throughout the species’ ranges in Alabama and Florida for the purpose of enhancement of survival of these species.

Written data or comments on these applications should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-7313; Fax: 404/679-7081.

Dated: December 9, 1996.

C. Monty Halcomb,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 96-31951 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of Soil Geographic Data Standard

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is sponsoring a public review of the draft “FGDC Soil Geographic Data Standard” to be considered for adoption as an FGDC standard. If adopted, the standard must be followed by all Federal agencies for data collected directly or indirectly (through grants, partnerships, or contracts).

In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC recognizes that the standards must also meet the needs and recognize the views of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views. The FGDC invites the community to review, test, and evaluate the proposed data contest standard. Comments are encouraged about the content, completeness, and usability of the proposed standard.

The FGDC anticipates that the proposed standard, after updating or revision, will be adopted as a Federal Geographic Data Committee standard. The standard may be forwarded to other standard organizations for adoption if interest warrants such actions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 1, 1997.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: Requests for written copies of the “FGDC Soil Geographic Data Standard” should be sent by mail to: Soils Standards Review, FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192; telephone 703-648-5514; facsimile 703-648-5755; or Internet “gdc@usgs.gov”. The proposed standard is also available for viewing on the Internet on the Soil Data Subcommittee Home Page; the URL is: <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/SDS/hmpage.htm>. The standard may be downloaded from the FGDC Home Page at the following URL: www.fgdc.gov (select Public Documents) or directly from the FGDC anonymous ftp site by using the address: www.fgdc.gov/pub/standards.

Reviewer comments should be sent to the FGDC Secretariat at the above address. Please send one hardcopy version of the comments and a soft copy version, preferably on a 3.5x3.5 diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 format.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The overall objective of the Soil Geographic Data Standard is to standardize the names, definitions, ranges of values, and other characteristics of soil survey map attribute data developed by the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS). The NCSS is the body composed of the various federal, state, and local units of government who work cooperatively to develop the soil survey of all lands in the United States.

The soil attribute data associated with soil maps include the physical and chemical properties of the various soils being described, interpretative information, the arrangement of these soils into the soil map units identified

on the soil maps, and information about the soil map units themselves. The attribute data have no spatial relationship until they are linked to the maps via the map unit symbol and other unique identifiers. However, there is information included linking the soil data to geographical areas such as counties, states, major land resource areas, and soil survey areas.

This document proposes a set of data standards to be used by Federal agencies in their activities for inventory, mapping, and reporting on the soil resources of the United States. It includes a description of the proposed data elements to be used when reporting and transferring data used to describe soil map units and their components. These map units are associated with soil maps developed by the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

This document does not detail data elements used to describe soils at a specific point/site on the landscape, the field methods used to collect the data, or the various classification systems used to classify soils. A future standard will likely be developed to deal with point/site data. Documents containing the various classification systems are listed as references at the end of this standard.

Input is sought on the draft standard regarding how well it will meet user needs.

Dated: December 9, 1996.

Richard E. Witmer,

Acting Chief, National Mapping Division.

[FR Doc. 96-31908 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of Spatial Data Transfer Standard, Point Profile

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is sponsoring a public review of the draft "Spatial Data Transfer Standard, FIPS 173, Part 6: The Point Profile" to be considered for adoption as an FGDC standard. If adopted, the standard must be followed by all Federal agencies for data collected directly or indirectly (through grants, partnerships, or contracts).

In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC recognizes that the standards must also meet the needs and recognize the views of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views. The FGDC invites the community to review, test, and evaluate the proposed SDTS Point Profile. Comments

about the content, completeness, and usability of the proposed SDTS Point Profile are encouraged.

The FGDC anticipates that the proposed SDTS Point Profile will provide consistency in the conveyance of geographic point data among FGDC members and will support related standards to collect, process, and/or transfer geographic point data. The standard may be forwarded to other standard organizations for adoption if interest warrants such actions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 1, 1997.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: Requests for written copies of the SDTS Point Profile should be sent to Standards Working Group, FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192; telephone 703-648-5514; facsimile 703-648-5755; or Internet "gdc@usgs.gov". The proposed standard is also available for viewing on the Internet on the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee Home Page; the URL is: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/FGCS/fgcs.html>. The standard may be downloaded from the FGDC Home Page at the following URL: www.fgdc.gov (select Public Documents).

Reviewer comments should be sent to the FGDC Secretariat at the above address. Please send one hardcopy version of the comments and a soft copy version, preferably on a 3.5" diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 format.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Objectives: This profile shall provide for the transfer of higher precision geographic point data in compliance with SDTS, FIPS 173.

Scope: Part 6, the Point Profile, contains specifications for a SDTS profile for use with geographic point data only, with the option to carry high precision coordinates (by increasing the number of decimal places or significant figures) such as those required for geodetic network control points. (This profile is a modification of Part 4, the Topological Vector Profile, and follows many of the conventions of that profile.) Geographic point data herein describes real-world features, rather than a symbolized map graphic. The data may be derived from a cartographic product (map), but the scope of the Point Profile is to convey high precision point data, such as data derived from high precision geodetic network control surveys, rather than information about geographic features displayed on maps. The profile does not include the transfer of topological structures.

Maintenance Authority: The FGCS, as the lead subcommittee, will suggest and/or provide changes to the SDTS maintenance authority, when received from other FGDC subcommittees and working groups in order to maintain this Point Profile for the FGDC user communities.

Dated: December 9, 1996.

Richard E. Witmer,

Acting Chief, National Mapping Division.

[FR Doc. 96-31909 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Minerals Management Service

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of workshop.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is reviewing blowout preventer (BOP) testing and maintenance requirements for operations in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This notice announces a workshop to discuss the results of the recently completed study on BOP performance. MMS will also discuss potential changes to the current BOP testing and maintenance requirements.

DATES: January 15, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Minerals Management Service's Gulf of Mexico regional office, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 115, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William S. Hauser, Engineering and Technology Division, MS 4700, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817, telephone (703) 787-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MMS will hold a workshop on January 15, 1997, to discuss the results of the recently completed study on BOP performance. This study, commissioned by MMS and five oil and gas trade organizations, examined BOP test data from wells drilled on the OCS during the last 6 months. The primary purpose for the study was to examine the performance of BOP equipment over varying test intervals.

Under the current regulations, a lessee must test BOP equipment and systems at least once a week but not to exceed 7 days between tests. However, the offshore oil and gas industry has asked MMS to revise the regulations to allow a lessee to test BOP equipment and systems on a 14-day interval. MMS will