

protect, enhance, and manage the habitats of Black Bayou Lake and certain surrounding lands for the benefit of the Lake's fishery, resident migratory waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical migratory birds, and other native wildlife. A Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the establishment of the proposed refuge has been developed by Service biologists in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the City of Monroe, and other local entities. The assessment considered the biological, environmental, and socioeconomic effects of establishing the refuge and evaluates three alternative actions and their potential impacts on the environment. Written comments or recommendations concerning the proposal was welcomed and should be sent to the address below.

DATES: Land acquisition planning for the project is currently underway. The draft environmental assessment and land protection plan will be available to the public for review and comment on March 18, 1997. Written comments must be received no later than April 18, 1997, in order to be considered for preparation of the final environmental assessment.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the draft environmental assessment and for further information on the project should be addressed to Mr. Charles M. Danner, Team Leader, Planning and Support Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, or by telephone at 800/419/9582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed refuge area is located on Black Bayou Lake immediately north of Monroe and West Monroe in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. The lake is a secondary source of water for the city of Monroe and is connected to Bayou de Siard, which serves as the primary source of water for the city. Over the past several years, the Monroe City Council and the Chamber of Commerce have expressed considerable interest in seeking to protect Black Bayou Lake and ensure public use. In 1996, the City of Monroe purchased 1,661 acres on the lake. The city has offered to enter into a long-term lease with the Service to create an overlay refuge on the property. The Service proposes to establish the refuge by entering into this lease with the city and by acquiring certain lands around the lake through fee title purchases, other leases, and easements from willing sellers.

The proposed refuge would consist of up to 6,200 acres of land and water on

and around Black Bayou Lake. The lake is locally renowned for its recreational fishing for largemouth bass and chinquapin bream, and the lands surrounding the lake provide abundant habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical migratory birds, and other native wildlife. The federally-listed red-cockaded woodpecker and bald eagle also use the habitats of the proposed refuge area.

Dated: March 7, 1997.

Noreen K. Clough,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-6888 Filed 3-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on a Permit Application To Incidentally Take Threatened and Endangered Species in Association With a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the Potrero Creek and Beaumont Gateway Sites in the City of Beaumont, County of Riverside, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Request for scoping comments.

SUMMARY: As specified in the Notice of Intent (61 FR 59889), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requested that comments addressing issues and alternatives to be considered in developing the Environmental Impact Statement be received on or before December 26, 1996. The Service has been notified by several parties that requested information was not received in sufficient time to allow meaningful comments by December 26, 1996. Therefore, this publication provides formal notice that the Service continues to encourage all interested parties to submit scoping comments.

DATES: Written comments related to the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Statement should be received on or before April 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions related to preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and the National Environmental Policy Act process should be submitted to Mr. Gail Kobetich, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, CA 92008. Written comments also may be sent by facsimile to (619) 431-9618.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Pete Sorensen, Assistant Field Supervisor, at the above Carlsbad address, telephone (619) 431-9440. Documents will also be available for

public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at the above Carlsbad address.

Dated: March 11, 1997.

William F. Shake,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, OR.

[FR Doc. 97-6885 Filed 3-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Klamath Fishery Management Council; Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss *et seq.*). The Klamath Fishery Management Council makes recommendations to agencies that regulate harvest of anadromous fish in the Klamath River Basin. The purpose of this meeting will be to develop a range of management options for the 1997 fishery season. These options will be presented the following week to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Klamath Fishery Management Council will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 1997.

PLACE: The meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 401 E. Millbrae Ave., Millbrae, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald A. Iverson, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1006 (1215 South Main), Yreka, CA 96097-1006, telephone (916) 842-5763.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For background information on the Klamath Council, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: March 11, 1997.

William F. Shake,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-6886 Filed 3-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P