issuance of permits for import of giant panda will be reopened to obtain comments on new information that should be considered in determining the final policy.

DATES: Public comment received on or before September 29, 1997, will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to the Chief, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Stansell, Chief, Office Management Authority, at the above address, or call (703) 358–2093; fax (703) 358–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service published a proposed policy on issuance of permits for giant panda imports on March 30, 1995 (60 FR 16487). The comment period was reopened in a notice published June 27, 1995 (123 FR 33224) in response to a request from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Subsequent to the closure of this comment period, two events took place in which new information was received that should be considered in finalizing this policy. The events and resulting information are as follows:

(1) During the 36th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee Meeting, January 30–February 2, 1996, discussions of giant panda loans resulted in the CITES Secretariat issuing Notification No. 932 which recommended conditions under which giant panda loans should occur.

(2) Dr. U.S. Seal, of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), Species Survival Commission, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and others, conducted a Captive Management Planning Workshop in Chengdu, China, December 10–13, 1996. The workshop was organized by the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens and the Ministry of Construction in collaboration with the CBSG. The Service received a copy of the report resulting from the workshop.

Copies of the CITES Notification and the report on the Captive Management Planning Workshop are available from the address listed above. Interested organizations and the public are invited to comment on the documents as they relate to the previously published proposed policy. In addition, comments submitted during the previous comment periods, including those from the Chinese Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Construction, are also available upon request. The Service will consider all comments received during the previous two comment periods and this comment period in drafting a final policy.

Authority: This notice was prepared under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S. C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Robert G. Streeter,

Director.

[FR Doc. 97–17135 Filed 6–30–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: To further the recovery of the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), the Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the DEIS for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (BE). The DEIS evaluates a proposal to establish an experimental population rule and reintroduce grizzly bears into the Bitterroot Ecosystem in east central Idaho and western Montana. The proposed rule to establish the nonessential experimental population is published elsewhere in this **Federal Register**. Four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, are discussed in the DEIS.

The BE consists of approximately 44,400 square miles in 10 central Idaho and four western Montana counties, of which 76 percent is in Federal surface ownership. A Citizen Management Committee would be delegated management implementation responsibility for the experimental population. Reintroduction could result in grizzly bear recovery in the BE in a minimum of 50 years. A recovered grizzly bear population (approximately 280 bears) would kill about 6 cattle and 22 sheep and up to 504 wild ungulates per year. Nuisance bear incidents could average 59 per year. Economic analyses indicate grizzly bear recovery in the BE would lead to total net economic benefits of $40.4 to $60.6 million per year.

DATES: Copies of the DEIS will be mailed to interested parties on the mailing list on July 1, 1997, and the proposed rule to establish the nonessential experimental population is published elsewhere in this **Federal Register**. Those interested persons not on the DEIS mailing list may request a copy from the project leader at the address below. It is anticipated that the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a notice on this DEIS in the **Federal Register** on July 11, 1997, which will start a 90-day review period. Public comment on the DEIS is solicited pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1503.1). All agencies and individuals are urged to provide comments and suggestions for improving the DEIS and the proposed experimental population rule. All comments received by October 9, 1997, will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS and rule.

Public hearings on the DEIS will be scheduled at a later date for the cities of Boise, Lewiston, and Salmon, Idaho; and Helena, Missoula, and Hamilton, Montana. The location, dates and times of these hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** at least 15 days prior to the first hearing, and in local newspapers.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Dr. Christopher Servheen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Project Leader, Bitterroot Grizzly Bear EIS, P.O. Box 5127, Missoula, Montana 59806.

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

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

Dated: June 25, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver Colorado.

[FR Doc. 97–17260 Filed 6–30–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–020–1990–01]

Florida Canyon Mine Proposed Expansion and Comprehensive Reclamation Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the initiation of a 60-day comment period.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is give that the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau