

SUMMARY: This Notice invites interested parties to attend a public meeting and/or to submit written comments on the Department's administration of FHIP funding, including criteria and/or incentives to be included in the FY 1998 FHIP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for activities that assist the Department in its efforts to double enforcement actions under the Fair Housing Act.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on December 15, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. The written comment Due Date is December 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Persons interested in attending the public meeting are invited to attend in Room 10233, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410. Persons interested in submitting written comments are invited to submit comments regarding this Notice to the Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Room 10278, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410. Communications should refer to the above docket number and title. A copy of each communication submitted will be available for public inspection and copying between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maxine B. Cunningham, Director, Office of Fair Housing Initiatives and Voluntary Programs, Room 5234, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410-2000; telephone number (202) 708-0800 (this is not a toll free number). Persons who use a text telephone (TTY) may call 1-800-290-1617.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fair Housing Initiatives Program is an essential component in the enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and in the Department's commitment to doubling its enforcement actions. In anticipation of the next round of funding under the FHIP, the Department desires to provide an opportunity for comment from prior grantees and applicants, potential applicants and any other interested parties, on the administration of FHIP funding, application procedures for funding in general, and on the content of FHIP NOFAs in particular. The Department is also interested in suggestions regarding criteria and/or incentives to include in the FY 1998 FHIP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to assist the Department in its efforts to double enforcement actions under the Fair Housing Act. In addition to suggestions, the Department welcomes comments on the merits of: bonus points for activities that result in enforcement actions by HUD;

requirements that specific types of cases be filed with HUD; and incentives for other cooperative activities that further the Department's enforcement program. Enforcement actions are defined as issuance of a charge by HUD or referral by HUD to the Department of Justice for enforcement. The Department will consider the comments received in response to this Notice when formulating plans for the disposition of funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 1998.

Dated: December 3, 1997.

Eva M. Plaza,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. 97-32151 Filed 12-4-97; 11:12 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Environmental Statements; Availability, etc.: National Bison Range Complex, MT: Comprehensive Conservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan.

SUMMARY: This notice advises that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and associated environmental document for the National Bison Range Complex in northwestern Montana. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of its intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

DATES: Written comments should be received by January 7, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for more information to Project Leader, Attention Planning Team, National Bison Range Complex, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Montana 59824.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Wiseman, Refuge Manager 406-644-2211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has initiated Comprehensive Conservation Planning for the National Bison Range Complex. The Complex includes the National Bison Range; Ninepipe, Pablo, and Swan River National Wildlife Refuges; and the Northwest Montana Wetland Management District. Each National Wildlife Refuge has purposes for which it was established. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within

the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses occur on the refuge. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each national wildlife refuge's establishing purposes.

In 1908, the first purchase of land for the exclusive protection of wildlife occurred when Congress appropriated money for the establishment of the National Bison Range "for a permanent national bison range for the herd of bison." (45 Stat. 267-8) and subsequently in 1921 "as refuges and breeding grounds for birds," (Executive Order 3596). Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges were established as easement refuges in 1921 "as a refuge and breeding ground for native birds," (Executive Order 3503-Ninepipe, Executive Order 3504-Pablo). The Tribes have the right to use these for all purposes consistent with the permanent refuge easements. Swan River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1973 "for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds," (Migratory Bird Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 715-715r). Finally, the Northwest Montana Wetland Management District are lands acquired "as Waterfowl Production Areas" subject to "all of the provisions of such Act (Migratory Bird Conservation Act) * * * except the inviolate sanctuary provisions," (Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718).

The National Bison Range Complex is an integral part of the community in northwestern Montana. The National Bison Range, Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, and that portion of the Wetland Management District in Lake County, Montana lie within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The units of the Complex that are not within the reservation include the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge and that portion of the Wetland Management District in Flathead County, Montana. The Comprehensive Conservation Plan will define how the Complex is managed, not who manages it. Therefore, this planning effort is separate from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' compacting requests for management authority. The Service and the Tribes have discussed working together to develop the CCP.

The Service may contract with the Tribes for resource personnel or services as needed. The Service will conduct the planning process providing the Tribes, as well as other governments, agencies, organizations, and the public with an opportunity to participate in the scoping and public comment process.

The Service is requesting input for concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of the National Bison Range Complex. Anyone interested in providing input is invited to respond to the following three questions.

(1) What makes the National Bison Range Complex (or any specific unit) special or unique for you?

(2) What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

(3) What improvements would you recommend for the National Bison Range Complex (or any specific unit)?

The Service has provided the above questions for your optional use. There is no requirement to provide information to the Service. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate finding out more information about individual issues and ideas concerning the National Bison Range Complex. Comments received by the Planning Team will be used as part of the planning process, individual comments will not be reference in our reports or directly responded to.

There will also be an opportunity to provide input at open houses scheduled for late January 1998 to scope issues and concerns (schedule can be obtained from the National Bison Range at above address). All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings becomes part of the official public record (e.g., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings). If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft environmental document will be available for review in June 1999.

Dated: November 26, 1997.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 97–32007 Filed 12–5–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice to accept contribution from private sources.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is accepting a \$25,000 contribution per year for two years from Amoco Overseas Exploration Company to support the World Energy Project.

ADDRESSES: If any other parties are interested in making contributions for the same or similar purposes, please contact Mr. Vito Nuccio of the U.S. Geological Survey, Central Region Energy Resources Team, Mail Stop 939, Denver Colorado 80225–0046; telephone (303) 236–1654; e-mail vnuccio@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: November 21, 1997.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Chief, Geologic Division.

[FR Doc. 97–32000 Filed 12–5–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–31–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK–910–0777–74]

Committees, Establishment, Renewal, Termination, etc: Alaska Resource Advisory Council; Nominations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Call for Nominations for Alaska Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, is soliciting nominations for the Alaska Resource Advisory Council. The council provides advice and recommendations to BLM on land use planning and

management of 90 million acres of public lands in Alaska. Public nominations will be considered for 30 days after the publication date of this notice.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to select 10–15 member citizen-based advisory councils as established and authorized under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Council members represent the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands in Alaska. These include three categories:

- Category One—Representatives of energy and mining development, timber industry, off-road vehicle use and developed recreation.
- Category Two—Representatives of environmental and resource conservation organizations and archaeological or historic interests.
- Category Three—Representatives of state and local government, Alaska Natives, academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public-at-large.

BLM is currently seeking nominations to fill vacancies in categories one and two.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of the State of Alaska, and will be evaluated on the basis of education, training, experience of the issues, and knowledge of Alaska's public lands. Nominees should have a demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations and a completed nomination form.

ADDRESSES: To request a nomination package, contact External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599.

DATES: All nominations should be received on or before January 7, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teresa McPherson, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, (907) 271–5555.

Dated: November 24, 1997.

Tom Allen,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 97–32005 Filed 12–5–97; 8:45 am]

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