

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 documents will be available for review in March 1999.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 98-1204 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Technical/ Agency Draft Recovery Plan for the Spruce-Fir Moss Spider for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the technical/agency draft recovery plan for the spruce-fir moss spider (*Microhexura montivaga*). Historically, at least five different mountain peaks in the Southern Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee are known to have supported populations of the spruce-fir moss spider. Today, however, only two small relict populations of the spider are known to survive—one on Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina and one on Mount LeConte in Tennessee. The typical habitat of the spruce-fir moss spider is found in well-drained moss mats growing on rocks and boulders in well-shaded situations in mature high-elevation conifer forests dominated by Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) and scattered red spruce (*Picea rubens*). These factors are deteriorating rapidly, primarily due to infestation and the resulting mortality of the fir by the balsam woolly adelgid (an exotic insect pest) and possibly air population and other factors now yet

fully understood. The spider requires situations of high and constant humidity, and the loss of forest canopy, leading to increased light and decreased moisture on the forest floor (resulting in desiccation of the moss mats), appears to be the major threat to its continued existence. Unless new populations are found or reestablished and existing population are maintained, this species will remain in jeopardy of extinction for the foreseeable future. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on this technical/ agency draft recovery plan must be received on or before March 23, 1998 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the technical/agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address.

Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Fridell, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the address and telephone number shown in the **ADDRESSES** section (Ext. 225).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery

plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is the spruce-fir moss spider (*Microhexura montivaga*). The area of emphasis for recovery actions includes the Southern Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Habitat protection, reintroduction, and the preservation of genetic material are the major objectives of this recovery plan.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the final plan.

Authority

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

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Brian P. Cole,

State Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-1232 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Closure to Collection of Petrified Wood Order Established; Folsom Field Office, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Establishment of petrified wood collecting closure order within public lands managed by the Folsom Field Office, California.

SUMMARY: Certain described public lands administered by the Folsom Field Office in the vicinity of the communities of Dutch Flat and Gold Run are hereby closed to the collection of petrified wood. This closure will be in effect on all the below described public lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 15 N., R. 10 E.,

Section 3: Lots 4,5;

Section 4: Lot 19;

Section 9: SWSE; Lots 3,4,5,7,8,9; MS1483;

Section 16: N/2NE, SWNE.

Totaling 320.29 acres, more or less.

The following persons are exempted from the closure: Any person who is in possession of a valid Paleontological Collecting Permit issued by BLM for the subject area, or who is acting as an authorized agent of an institution holding such a permit.

DATES: This order is in effect and will remain in effect until amended or canceled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deane Swickard, Manager, Folsom Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630; (916) 985-4474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This order is necessary for protection of uncommon plant macrofossils having significant scientific value, a local resource that has been seriously depleted by unregulated collecting.

Authority for Closure orders is provided under 43 CFR 8364.1. Any person who fails to comply with this closure or restriction order shall be subject to the penalties provided in 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Violations of this closure or restriction order are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months. Any petrified wood collected in violation of this order, shall be subject to seizure, forfeiture and disposal.

Dated: January 8, 1998.

D. K. Swickard,
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-1188 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-060-08-1610-00]

Notice of Intent to Initiate Plan Amendments and Associated Environmental Assessment for the Grand Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the San Juan RMP

SUMMARY: Since the completion of the Grand and San Juan RMPs in southeastern Utah, changes in the scope of land uses, public expectations, and new data has resulted in the need to re-examine certain current decisions in the RMP that may no longer provide for appropriate resource use or protection in the Lockhart Basin area.

ADDRESSES: Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the completion of the Grand RMP in 1985 and the San Juan RMP in 1991, extensive changes have occurred in the Lockhart Basin. Increased public

awareness, sensitivity and expectations regarding resource use and protection has been evolving. The scope of activities and interest in certain types of resource use, such as recreation uses, and oil and gas industry interest including exploration and possible production has exceeded considerations and projections that were made in the associated Environmental Impact Statements of the above mentioned RMPs. Therefore, in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-5-Amendments, the field offices would like to request public involvement in the possible amendment of the subject RMPs. Currently, three preliminary issues have been identified that are proposed to be addressed during the plan(s) amendment process.

Issue One is the need to review current oil and gas categories to determine if changes are necessary to protect sensitive resources. Issue Two includes the need to determine if current management decisions can continue to provide necessary protection to important wildlife populations also located in the Lockhart Basin. Issue Three includes the need to review current management decisions regarding the protection of sensitive visual resources in light of the increased potential land uses also in the Lockhart Basin Area.

No additional planning criteria beyond those previously stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the above RMPs are planned at this time.

A complete inter-disciplinary team will be utilized for the completion of the proposed amendments and associated environmental assessment.

The Field Offices would like to take this opportunity to invite the public to comment on the above preliminary issues or any others that may need to be addressed for the Lockhart Basin Area. Public comments should be submitted by February 19, 1998 in order that they may be appropriately considered in the plan amendment process. All comments or concerns should be sent to Daryl Trotter, Environmental Protection Specialist at the address listed below.

Additional opportunities to facilitate public input will be offered by holding open public meetings at the following locations:

Moab Field Office; Moab, Utah on February 4, 1998 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and;
Monticello Field Office, Monticello, Utah on February 5, 1998 to 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daryl Trotter, Environmental Protection Specialist for the Moab Field Office, 82

East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532 at the following telephone number: (435) 259-61111 or fax (435) 259-2100.

Dated: January 13, 1998.

G. William Lamb,
Utah State Director.

[FR Doc. 98-1200 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-350-1020-00]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Northeast California Resource Advisory Council, Susanville, California.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Northeast California Resource Advisory Council will meet Friday, Feb. 20, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Dr., Susanville, CA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Beginning at 8:30 a.m., members will participate in an interactive teleconference with officials from the Department of the Interior and the BLM. Members will then discuss projects upcoming for the BLM's Eagle Lake, Alturas and Surprise field offices and determine advisory council involvement. Public comments will be taken at 1 p.m.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Jeff Fontana, public affairs officer, at (530) 257-5381.

John Bosworth,
Acting Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-1201 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-1220-00]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana, Miles City District, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Miles City District Resource Advisory Council will have a meeting Wednesday, February 11, 1998