

In May 1994 The Fund For Animals, Inc., and 22 other organizations and individuals filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia over the adequacy of the Plan approved in 1993. Later in May 1994 the National Audubon Society and 19 other organizations and individuals also filed suit in the same court. The two cases were eventually consolidated. In September 1995 the court issued an opinion. The motions for summary judgment of both the plaintiffs and the defendants were granted in part and denied in part. The court ordered us to reconsider certain portions of the Plan, and to provide supplemental information. The court remanded five issues that might affect grizzly bear recovery for our reconsideration. Those issues were: disease and parasites; livestock interactions and mortality; the effects of genetic isolation; population monitoring methods; and our reliance on Canada for recovery of the grizzly bear.

On September 10, 1997, we published a Notice of Availability (62 FR 47677, Sept. 10, 1997) for the draft supplemental information on the five remanded issues. We provided our final finding on the issues to the court on May 15, 1999, and this notice announces that the document is available for public distribution.

We are also in the process of developing draft grizzly bear habitat-based recovery criteria, which are being made available for public review and comment under a separate notice of availability.

Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will provide a public comment period prior to approval of each new amendment to the recovery plan. We and other Federal land management agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

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

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 99-18138 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Historic Preservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Historic Preservation Plan as part of its responsibilities for the long-term management of historic properties on Midway Atoll. This plan defines a program to integrate historic preservation planning with the wildlife conservation mission of the Service. By this notice, the public is informed that the plan is available and that copies may be obtained on request to the Service.

ADDRESSES: Written requests for copies should be addressed to: U.S.A. Fish and Wildlife Service—Pacific Islands Ecoregion, Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert P. Smith, Pacific Islands Manager, telephone (808) 541-2749.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Midway's historically important buildings and structures are primarily associated with World War II. Nine structures specifically associated with the June 1942 Battle of Midway were designated as National Historic Landmarks in 1986. Archaeological and architectural studies conducted in 1993 and 1994 identified and evaluated buildings, structures, and objects on the atoll's two main islands and determined that an additional 69 properties were eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-510, as amended, led to the closure of Midway's Naval Air Facility on October 1, 1993 and transfer of the property to the Service on October 31, 1996. Transition from a Naval Air Facility to a wildlife refuge necessitated a reduction in personnel and operational facilities. Therefore, identifying excess property was accomplished by the U.S. Navy and the Service in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Officer, and interested parties. Treatment of Midway's 78 historic properties during the Base Closure and transfer led to a Programmatic Agreement in 1996. One of the stipulations in the agreement was for the Service to prepare a Historic

Preservation Plan for the long-term management of historic properties.

Midway and Midway's Historic Preservation Plan are unique in several respects: first, the plan focuses on treatment of properties that have been previously identified and evaluated; second, some treatment options for Midway were determined by the Programmatic Agreement and implemented, with adverse effects mitigated by completion of documentation for all historic properties; third, the mission statement and primary goals of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge include preservation of historic resources. This Historic Preservation Plan focuses on long-term management conditions and goals for preserving and stabilizing historic properties, and recommends procedures for treating new discoveries, caring for museum collections, and implementing a public outreach program that includes historic preservation.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 99-18158 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[FES-99-18]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Colorado Sodium Products Development Project (Project), located in Rio Blanco County and Garfield County, Colorado. Written comments and recommendations on this Final EIS should be received on or before September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this EIS to Mr. Larry Shults, Natural Resources Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, 73544 Highway 64, Meeker, CO 81641.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Shults, (970) 878-3601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: American Soda, L.L.P. (American Soda) intends to construct and operate a commercial nahcolite solution mining operation in the northcentral portion of the Piceance Creek Basin in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Nahcolite is naturally