

Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437-4796, or by calling 561/732-3684.

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the above address. You may also comment via the Internet to the following address: Mark_Musaus@fws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, at the above address. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Refuge headquarters office at the above address. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, located 15 miles southwest of West Palm Beach, Florida, consists of 221 square miles of the remaining northern Everglades. The refuge is one of three large freshwater storage areas surrounded by levees and canals. These storage areas, built by the Army Corps of Engineers, were later placed under the jurisdiction of the South Florida Water Management District. The primary objectives of the refuge, established through an agreement between the Service and the South Florida Water Management District, is to maintain suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife native to the northern Everglades. By implementing the proposed comprehensive conservation plan, the refuge seeks to achieve the following four goals:

(1) Restore and conserve the natural diversity, abundance and ecological function of refuge flora and fauna;

(2) Conserve natural and cultural resources through partnerships, protection and acquisition from willing sellers;

(3) Develop and implement compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education programs that lead to enjoyable experiences and greater understanding of the Everglades; and

(4) Continue a partnership with the South Florida Water Management District through a new license agreement.

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment evaluates the following four alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years: maintain current management; ecosystem emphasis; biological emphasis; and public use emphasis. The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that ecosystem emphasis is the best alternative to guide the refuge's future direction. In essence, this alternative will:

- Restore and maintain healthy water regimes;
- Reduce exotic and invasive plants;
- Expand the inventory and mapping of wildlife species and habitats;
- Enhance wildlife habitat for migratory and resident song birds; and
- Expand wildlife-dependent and other compatible recreation opportunities.

Dated: April 4, 2000.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-070-1020-XQ]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting Locations and Times

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) council meeting of the Upper Snake River District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will be held as indicated below. The agenda for this two-day meeting will include a field trip for members on the first day to recreation

sites along the South Fork of the Snake River, and discussions on Standards and Guides Monitoring on the second day. The RAC will also hear a presentation from the staff of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) project. Other agenda items may be added between publication of this notice and the meeting. All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written or oral comments to the council. Each formal council meeting will have a time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the council meetings is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, and the time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meetings, or need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations should contact David Howell at the Upper Snake River District Office, 1405 Hollipark Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401, or telephone (208) 524-7559.

DATES AND TIMES: The next meeting will be held May 4-5, 2000 at the BLM's Idaho Falls Field Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The Field Trip to the recreational sites will begin at 1 p.m. on May 4. The RAC meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. on May 5, with public comments scheduled from 8:40-9:10 a.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Resource Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the of the public lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Howell, Upper Snake River District, 1405 Hollipark Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401, (208) 524-7559.

Dated: March 30, 2000.

Joe Kraayenbrink,

Idaho Falls Field Manager.

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