

two species on January 26, 2000 (65 FR 4140). The Virgin spinedace was proposed for listing as endangered on May 18, 1994 (59 FR 25875). The Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement and Strategy (VSCA) to eliminate or reduce impacts threatening the continued existence of Virgin spinedace was finalized on April 11, 1995, and, subsequently, the proposal to list was withdrawn on February 6, 1996 (61 FR 44010). All three of these fish species are endemic to the Virgin River Basin through Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. The southwestern willow flycatcher is a neotropical migratory bird listed as endangered on February 27, 1995 (60 FR 10693) that seasonally occupies sites along the Virgin River and throughout the Desert Southwest. In addition, the Virgin River Basin retains a diversity of native desert animal and plant species, many of which are declining due to impacts from human development in the area.

Despite Federal listing of the two fish species, implementation of recovery actions in the Virgin River to benefit endangered fish have been minimal due to limited funding for recovery over the past 25 years. Furthermore, conflicts have arisen between water development interests and those managing for protection of native species that rely on the river environment. Specifically, contention between the local environmental community and local water developers over operations of the Quail Creek Diversion in the Virgin River near Hurricane, Utah, led to discordant relations and threats of litigation among the agencies and organizations interested in water use.

To resolve this situation, the interested entities agreed to develop the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program that would provide a mechanism to prioritize, fund, and implement recovery actions while allowing water development necessary to meet human needs in the Utah portion of the Virgin River Basin. It is anticipated that the Program will not only provide recovery actions that are necessary to offset impacts from proposed development actions to the native protected species, but further lead to full recovery of the endangered fish species, conservation of the Virgin spinedace, as well as provide benefits to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.

The Program will encompass the VRRFP and the VSCA so that actions identified in these documents can be funded, implemented, and evaluated for effectiveness. In addition, the Program will provide measures to offset proposed Federal project impacts during

Section 7 consultations in order to prevent future conflict over water development and minimize impacts of Federal projects on protected aquatic species. Goals and objectives of the Program are based on recovery of the endangered fish and conservation of Virgin spinedace in an environment of continuing water development. Although some impacts to native species are expected through future water development projects, recovery actions have been and will continue to be implemented in advance of project impacts such that the status of species and/or its habitat is expected to improve and remain greater than that necessary to offset anticipated impacts. A crediting system has been developed to assess, measure, and track benefits and impacts of projects, and is designed to maintain measured benefits at a higher level than impacts so that the Program is always moving towards recovery and conservation of protected species.

Although participation is limited to Utah portions of the Virgin River Basin at this time, it is expected that the remaining portions of the Virgin River Basin in Arizona and Nevada will be invited to participate in the Program in future years as it becomes better established and demonstrates effectiveness.

It is important to note that participation in this Program does not represent or guarantee legal authority for any water development project. Such projects must be evaluated individually as they are proposed and continue to be subject to all applicable Federal and State laws including NEPA and ESA. This DEA is not intended to provide analysis for specific project impacts, but rather analyzes only effects of Federal participation in the Program.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Yvette K. Converse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South State Street, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115 (801-524-5001, extension 135).

Authority

The authorities for this action are the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532 *et seq.*)

Dated: September 15, 2000.

Spencer F. Conley,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-00-1220-PA; GPO-0374]

Notice of Meeting of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that a meeting of the Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Conference Room at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Oregon Highway 86, Flagstaff Hill, Baker City, OR. At an appropriate time, the Board will recess for approximately one hour for lunch. Public comments will be received from 11 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., October 3, 2000. Topics to be discussed are the Strategic Plan Update and reports from Coordinators of Subcommittees.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and run to 4 p.m. October 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David B. Hunsaker, Bureau of Land Management, National Historic Oregon Trail, Interpretive Center, P.O. Box 987, Baker City, OR 97814, (Telephone 541-523-1845).

Juan Palma,

Vale District Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-24279 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(NV-930-1430-ET; NVN-50250)

Notice of Proposed Extension of Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has filed an application to extend the withdrawal of 4,255.50 acres of public land in Nye County to maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment at Yucca Mountain. The withdrawal being extended is Public Land Order No. 6802. This withdrawal will expire on September 24, 2002, unless extended. The land is currently withdrawn from location under the United States mining laws and from

leasing under the mineral leasing laws by Public Land Order No. 6802.

DATES: Comments and requests for a meeting should be received on or before December 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Nevada State Director, BLM, 1340 Financial Blvd., P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis J. Samuelson, BLM Nevada State Office, 702-861-6532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 1, 2000, the DOE filed an application to extend their withdrawal of public land at Yucca Mountain in Nye County (Public Land Order No. 6802, 55 FR 39152, FR Doc. 22615, September 25, 1990). An extension, if approved, would continue the withdrawal of public land from location under the United States mining laws and from leasing under the mineral leasing laws for the following described land:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 13 S., R. 49 E., (Protraction Diagram No. 44)

Secs. 7, 8, and 9;

Sec. 10, except that part withdrawn by Public Land Order No. 2568;

Sec. 15, except that part withdrawn by Public Land Order No. 2568;

Secs. 16 and 17;

Sec. 20, NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 21, N $\frac{1}{2}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, except that part withdrawn by Public Land Order No. 2568.

The area described contains 4,255.50 acres in Nye County.

The DOE proposes to extend the withdrawal through January 31, 2010. The extension of the withdrawal would maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment to ensure that scientific studies for site characterization at Yucca Mountain are not invalidated or otherwise adversely impacted. Site characterization activities will be used to determine the suitability of Yucca Mountain for a permanent nuclear waste repository.

This withdrawal extension will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal extension may present their views in writing to the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is

afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal extension. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed extension must submit a written request to the Nevada State Director within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** and at least one local newspaper 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Dated: September 14, 2000.

Jim Stobaugh,

Lands Team Lead.

[FR Doc. 00-24108 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items from Grand Portage, MN in the Possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society that meet the definition of "sacred object" and "object of cultural patrimony" under Section 2 of the Act.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of these cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

The 11 cultural items consist of 1 woven yarn bag, 2 hand drums, 2 birchbark scrolls, 2 drumsticks, 2 peace medals, and 2 British flags.

In 1930, one hand drum and drumstick were collected by Frances Densmore at Grand Portage, MN, specifically for the Minnesota Historical Society. Accession records identify this hand drum and drumstick as a Grand Medicine man's drum and stick. This hand drum has been identified by representatives of the Grand Portage Band as having been used in ceremonies at Grand Portage, MN.

In 1931, a drumstick identified as a bent drumstick for use with Ojibwe water drums was collected by Frances Densmore at Grand Portage, MN, specifically for the Minnesota Historical Society.

In 1962, two birchbark scrolls were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society by William Bushman, then chairman of the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians. At the time of their acquisition, it was noted that the scrolls were associated with "Grand Medicine" or "Midewiwin" and that they had been in the possession of the Bushman family for many years.

In 1984, a Midewiwin woven bag and hand drum were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society by Mrs. Evelyn Albinson of Chanhassen, MN. Mrs. Albinson's husband, Elmer Albinson, collected the items at Grand Portage sometime between 1936-1970. Information with the yarn bag indicates that it was used in Midewiwin ceremonies. The drum is described in museum records as belonging to Chief Alec (Alex, Alexis) Posey, a traditional religious leader of the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians.

Extensive anthropological, ethnographic, oral history, and historical documents indicate that these seven cultural items associated with Midewiwin practices would be used only by traditional religious leaders. In Ojibwe culture, objects used by members of the Grand Medicine Society or in Midewiwin practices are part of the traditional activities that have religious significance in the continued observance of such ceremonies. These seven items have been identified by representatives and elders of the Grand Portage Band, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota as Midewiwin items necessary for the practice of traditional Native American religion by present-day adherents.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the Minnesota Historical Society have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(3), these seven cultural items are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Officials of the Minnesota Historical Society also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between these seven items and the Grand Portage Band, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota.

In August, 1979, two British peace medals and two Union Jack flags were donated to the Minnesota Historical