

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Paul K. Strudler, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4100, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1716.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

*Name of Committee:* Cell Development and Function Integrated Review Group, Cell Development and Function 2.

*Date:* October 10-11, 2000.

*Time:* 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Holiday Inn Chevy Chase, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

*Contact Person:* Ramesh K. Nayak, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5146, MSC 7840, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1026.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* October 10, 2000.

*Time:* 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Georgetown Holiday Inn, 2101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007

*Contact Person:* Dharam S. Dhindsa, DVM, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5126, MSC 7854, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1174, dhindsad@csr.nih.gov

*Name of Committee:* Integrative, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience Integrated Review Group, Interactive, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience 5.

*Date:* October 10-11, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Governor's House Hotel, Washington, DC 20036.

*Contact Person:* John Bishop, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5180, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1250.

*Name of Committee:* Social Sciences, Nursing, Epidemiology and Methods Integrated Review Group, Epidemiology and Disease Control Subcommittee 1.

*Date:* October 11-13, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 am to 4 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Holiday Inn—Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

*Contact Person:* J. Scott Osborne, PhD, MPH, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4114, MSC 7816, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1782.

*Name of Committee:* Cell Development and Function Integrated Review Group, Cell Development and Function 3.

*Date:* October 11-12, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 am to 4 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Holiday Inn—5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

*Contact Person:* Gerhard Ehrenspeck, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5138, MSC 7840, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1022, ehrenspeckg@nih.csr.gov.

*Name of Committee:* Biochemical Sciences Integrated Review Group, Pathobiochemistry Study Section.

*Date:* October 11-12, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 am to 12 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Chase Park Plaza, 212-232 N. Kingshighway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

*Contact Person:* Zakir Bengali, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5150, MSC 7842, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1742.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* October 11, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 am to 5 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Ramada Inn, 1775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

*Contact Person:* Joe Marwah, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5188, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1253.

*Name of Committee:* Integrative, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience Integrated Review Group, Visual Sciences B Study Section.

*Date:* October 11-12, 2000.

*Time:* 8:30 am to 4 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* One Washington Circle Hotel, Conference Center, One Washington Circle, Washington, DC 20037.

*Contact Person:* Leonard Jakubczak, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5172, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1247.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* October 11, 2000.

*Time:* 9 am to 5 pm.

*Agenda:* To provide concept review of proposed grant applications.

*Place:* Chevy Chase Holiday Inn, 5520 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

*Contact Person:* Richard Marcus, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5168, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-1245, richard.marcus@nih.gov

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* October 11, 2000.

*Time:* 9 am to 5 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Governor's House Hotel, 17th & Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

*Contact Person:* Anita Miller Sostek, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3176, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1260.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* October 11, 2000.

*Time:* 10:30 am to 12 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Michael Oxman, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Room 4112, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-3565, oxmanm@csr.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 22, 2000.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 00-25166 Filed 9-29-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### National Invasive Species Council; Draft of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, "Meeting the Challenge"

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability—Draft of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, "Meeting the Challenge".

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Executive Order 13112, the National Invasive Species Council is announcing the availability of the draft of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, "Meeting the Challenge" for public review and comment for a period of 45 days. The Executive Order set up an inter-agency council to prevent and control invasive species to minimize their economic, ecological and human health impacts. The Council is co-chaired by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and the Interior; and includes the

Departments of State, Transportation, the Treasury and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Plan seeks to address invasive species in the areas of prevention, coordination, control, rapid response, monitoring, and information sharing.

**DATES:** All Comments must be received by close of business (6:00 p.m.—eastern time) on November 16, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** National Invasive Species Council, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kelsey Passe, National Invasive Species Council Program Analyst; E-mail: Kelsey\_Passe@ios.doi.gov; Phone: (202) 208-6336; Fax: (202) 208-1526.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Copies of the draft Plan can be obtained via the Council's website:

[www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov); by contacting the Council Staff at 202-208-6336 (phone); 202-208-1526 (Fax); or by e-mail at [invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov](mailto:invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov). Comments can be submitted to the Council Staff at the fax, e-mail, or mailing address given above.

Dated: September 28, 2000.

**Lori Williams,**

*Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council.*

[FR Doc. 00-25338 Filed 9-29-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-RK-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Virginia Sneezeweed for Review and Comment

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for the Virginia sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*).

The Virginia sneezeweed is a rare herb in the Asteraceae family found in the Shenandoah Valley of western Virginia, with a single possible disjunct population in southern Missouri. The species was listed as threatened in December 1998 due to its restricted range, small number of occurrences, and growing threats from loss and degradation of its sinkhole pond habitat. The objective of the proposed Recovery Plan is to protect *Helenium virginicum* populations and their habitat, thereby enabling the species' removal from the

Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. To accomplish this, the draft Plan recommends protection and management of extant populations, definitively establishing the distribution of the plant, and strategies for maintaining the genetic diversity of the species. If the Recovery Plan is successfully implemented, full recovery may be possible by 2020. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft Plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received by November 16, 2000, to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, telephone 410/573-4537 and fax 410/269-0832. Comments should be sent to the same address, to the attention of G. Andrew Moser.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** G. Andrew Moser at 410/573-4537 (see **ADDRESSES**).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) 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 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 Recovery Plans.

The document submitted for review is the draft Virginia Sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*) Recovery Plan. The Virginia sneezeweed, a rare herb in the Asteraceae family, has been found in 30 sites in the Shenandoah Valley of western Virginia, although plants have not been seen at 4 of these sites for several years. Recent studies of a *Helenium* sp. from a sinkhole pond in southern Missouri suggest that it may represent a disjunct population of *H. virginicum*, but further research is needed to resolve this. The Virginia sneezeweed is limited to seasonally flooded sinkhole ponds, a restricted and threatened habitat type that is in some cases closely associated with agricultural and residential land uses. In addition, there is some indication that the species may have a self-incompatible breeding system, which could increase the threat of local extinctions in small populations. For these reasons, *H. virginicum* was listed as a threatened species in December 1998.

The objective of the draft Recovery Plan is to protect *Helenium virginicum* populations and their habitat, thereby enabling the species' removal from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. Delisting of *H. virginicum* may be considered when: (1) 20 self-sustaining populations and their habitats have received permanent protection across the species' Virginia range; (2) monitoring over 15 years indicates that populations in the 20 sites are viable; (3) life history and ecological requirements are understood sufficiently to allow for effective protection monitoring, and, as needed, management; (4) seeds representing the range of genetic diversity in *H. virginicum* are placed in long-term storage to provide a source of genetic material in the event of in situ extinction; and (5) if determined to be *H. virginicum*, the Missouri population and its habitat are permanently protected and seeds placed in long-term storage.

Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include protection, management, and monitoring of extant populations and their habitat; definitive identification of the range and distribution of the species; continuing investigations into the life history and ecology of *H. virginicum*; maintenance of seed sources for the species; and development of informational materials to create more awareness of *H. virginicum* and its status. Contingent on successful implementation of all recovery tasks, full recovery is anticipated by the year 2020.