

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) for Pima County, Arizona**

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to extend the public comment period on scoping issues for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the SDCP.

SUMMARY: On September 7, 2000, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the public was advised that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare an EIS to evaluate the impacts of and alternatives for the possible issuing of an incidental take permit, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), to Pima County. At public scoping meetings held on October 4, 2000 in Tucson, Arizona, the public requested additional time in which to respond. This notice provides an extension of 30 days to the public comment period.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Written comments on conservation alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS are now requested by Friday, November 24, 2000, and should be sent to Mr. David Harlow, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ, 85021 at 602/640-2720. For the information of the general public, names and addresses of anyone who comments may and can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EIS,

CONTACT: Ms. Sherry Barrett, Assistant Field Supervisor, Tucson Suboffice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 West Congress, Room 6J, Tucson, AZ, 85701, at 520/670-4617, or Mr. David Harlow, Field Supervisor, Arizona State Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ, 85021 at 602/640-2720.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SDCP, CONTACT: Mr. Paul Fromer, RECON, 1927 Fifth Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego, California 92101-2358 at 619/308-9333. Information on the purpose, membership, meeting schedules, and documents associated with the SDCP may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.co.pima.az.us/cmo/sdcp/index.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice advises the public that the Service intends to extend the public scoping period through November 24, 2000, for gathering of information

necessary to determine impacts and formulate alternatives for an EIS related to the potential issuance of an incidental take permit to Pima County, Arizona, and the development and implementation of the SDCP, which will provide measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of the incidental take of federally listed species.

Background: Following is a preliminary list for public scoping comments of probable environmental resources, effects, and issues associated with the proposed action. The public is requested to add items to this list, make suggestions for possible alternative actions regarding these resources, and/or comment on how these resources may be impacted by the development, implementation, and potential issuance of a permit for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Biological resources, including listed species
Urban land uses, including residential, commercial, and industrial development
Transportation
Water resources, including hydrology and water quality
Agriculture
Air resources
Cultural and historical resources
Recreation
Ranching practices and livestock grazing
Mineral resources
Utility rights-of-way
Fire management
Social and economic resources
Environmental justice

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that a range of issues and alternatives related to the proposed action are identified. The review of this project will be conducted according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and other appropriate Federal laws, regulations, policies and guidance.

Related Project Documentation—It is anticipated that the EIS process will make full use (including incorporation by reference, as appropriate, pursuant to NEPA) of documents prepared by Pima County and other entities regarding the environmental and socioeconomic issues in the project area, copies of which will be available for public inspection at the Pima County Administrator's Office, 130 West Congress, 10th floor, Tucson AZ 85701.

After the environmental review is completed, the Service will publish a

notice of availability and a request for comment on the draft EIS and Pima County's permit application, which will include the SDCP.

The draft EIS is expected to be completed by December, 2002.

Nancy M. Kaufman,

Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-27050 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Geological Survey****Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

The proposal for the collection of information described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP).

OMB approval number: New collection.

Abstract: Respondents submit proposals for receiving assistance in implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) including metadata, clearinghouse, and

framework. The technological and institutional development of NSDI supports the ease of discovery, access and utilization of geographic information on the Internet. This information will be used as the basis for selection and award of projects meeting program objectives. Annual or final reports are required on the performances of each selected.

Bureau form number: None.

Frequency: Annual proposals and final reports.

Description of respondents: State, local, and Federal government, academic institutions, private business, and non-profit organizations.

Annual responses: 120.

Annual burden hours: 6,640 hours.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack, 703-648-7313.

Dated: October 11, 2000.

Barbara J. Ryan,

Associate Director for Geography.

[FR Doc. 00-27000 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Take Land in Trust for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, made a final agency determination on August 21, 2000, that the United States will accept the South ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 2, Township 37 North, Range 5 West, containing 80 acres, and the East ½ of the NW ¼ Section 36, Township 36 North, Range 6 West, containing 80 acres, Michigan Meridian, Emmet County, Michigan, in the name of the United States for the benefit of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Notices sent to all political entities on August 21, 2000, contained a typographical error in the number of acres contained in each tract. The notice should have said 80 acres per tract instead of 40 acres. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended, and it has been determined that this trust acquisition is mandated for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 1300k-4(a). The United States shall acquire title no sooner than 30 days

after this notice is published. This notice is published in accordance with 25 CFR 151.12(b) which was published on April 24, 1996 (61 FR 18082).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Scrivner, Deputy Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240; 202-208-5831.

Dated: October 13, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-27062 Filed 10-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-020-1220-HA]

Closure of Public Lands in Yavapai County to Off-Highway Vehicle Use; Phoenix Field Office, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of off-road vehicle closure.

SUMMARY: This notice is to inform the public that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to close certain lands near Prescott, Arizona in Yavapai County to any and all types of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This closure will be year-round and will remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Phoenix Field Office Manager. The public land affected by this closure is specifically identified as follows:

All BLM administered public lands in Township 14 North, Range 1 West, G&SRM Public Lands within Section 33, W½W½NW¼

Containing approximately 40 acres

This OHV closure will protect public lands from environmental damage and to aid in the protection of adjoining state and private lands. The closure will eliminate excessive vehicle noise in residential neighborhoods, reduce the incidence of fugitive dust impacting homeowners, and curtail unattended campfires and fireworks use. Trespass across state and private land to reach this parcel of BLM-administered lands will be curbed by this closure. Dumping of construction debris and litter on the BLM lands will also be halted by this action.

BLM is coordinating this action with adjoining land owners, including the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona Public Service utility company, the Arizona Game and Fish Department,

private residents, and the City of Prescott Police Department. The designated closed area will be posted with signs and have barriers and fences installed where needed. This closure will be monitored and enforced by the BLM, the City of Prescott Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies.

The following persons, operating within the scope of their official duties, are exempt from the provisions of the closure: Employees of the BLM, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, and local or federal law enforcement and fire protection personnel. This closure is in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1701) and 43 CFR, Subpart 8364.1. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this closure may be subject to penalties outlined in 43 CFR Subpart 8360.0-7.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This order will be effective upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and completion of on-the-ground signing and posting by BLM, the Arizona State Land Department and local law enforcement authorities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael A. Taylor, Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027; 623-580-5500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 40 acres of public land affected by this off-highway vehicle closure order are adjacent to expanding urban and residential development. Unregulated and unauthorized off-highway and cross-country vehicle travel is not consistent with the orderly growth of the community, public health and safety, and the use of adjoining private land for residences.

Loud noise and fugitive dust from off-highway vehicle operation is a growing and continuing problem. OHV users have been operating their vehicles from early morning till late at night, disturbing nearby property owners. Unattended campfires and use of fireworks create extreme fire hazards for the community. Target shooting and gunfire have disturbed neighborhoods to the north, east and south of this public land parcel. Trespass by off-highway vehicle users from public land onto adjoining private lands has been documented. Increasing levels of local law enforcement personnel and time have been allocated to answering disturbance calls from residents due to noise, dust, late night activity, unattended campfires, firework use,