

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles Houghten with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (503) 231-6207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge will enable us to protect approximately 680 acres (275.30 hectares) of emergent lands, and approximately 515,232 acres (208,595.95 hectares) of submerged lands and associated waters, including approximately 16,094 acres (6,515.79 hectares) of coral reef habitat. The refuge boundary is the extent of the 12-nautical mile territorial sea. Privately owned emergent lands will be purchased from willing sellers. We will acquire submerged lands through a Secretarial Order transferring jurisdiction and control to us from the Office of Insular Affairs. The refuge establishment and management will allow us to conserve and recover endangered and threatened species, protect migratory birds and coral reef habitats, and contribute to the maintenance of the rich biological diversity of this remarkable atoll.

The authority to establish the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is found in the Endangered Species Act of 1976, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). The transfer of jurisdiction and control of Palmyra, including the reefs and territorial waters surrounding the island, from the Office of Insular Affairs to the Fish and Wildlife Service will be accomplished by a Secretarial Order. We will manage Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee).

We will, through the establishment of the refuge, establish a limited take marine preserve in the waters of the refuge. We will close the refuge to commercial fishing but will permit a low level of compatible recreational fishing for bonefishing and deep water sportfishing under programs that we will carefully manage to ensure compatibility with refuge purposes. We will manage the refuge for the conservation and management of native species of wildlife and fish and their habitats. Wildlife species identified as endangered or threatened will receive management priority, with a special emphasis on stewardship of endangered and threatened sea turtles, migratory seabirds that forage in the refuge waters, the coral reef, and pelagic wildlife. Management actions will include protection of the refuge waters and wildlife from commercial fishing activities, enhancement of the environment through the implementation of navigational

guidelines and aids to navigation to protect the shallow reefs from maritime groundings, periodic monitoring surveys of coral reef environment, and periodic clearance of marine debris. Other management programs will include scientific research and monitoring.

In addition to compatible public fishing, we have developed opportunities to permit in designated portions of the atoll a limited level of compatible wildlife observation (in the form of SCUBA diving and snorkeling), environmental education and interpretation, and wildlife photography.

In compliance with our policy and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), we distributed a draft Environmental Assessment, a draft Land Protection Plan, and a draft Conceptual Management Plan for a 30-day public review and comment period. We evaluated two alternatives for the protection and management of wildlife and habitat.

Based on the documentation contained in the revised Environmental Assessment, Land Protection Plan, and a Conceptual Management Plan, we signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on January 17, 2001. The Conceptual Management Plan will serve as an interim management plan until we develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WY-048-00-1060-HI]

Notice of Wild Horse Gathering Activity for Calendar Year 2001

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: The Rock Springs Field Office Wild Horse Environmental Assessment (WY-048-EA9-87) and Gathering Plan was released on May 21, 1999. The approved Decision Record was issued on July 14, 1999. The action analyzed and planned was not completed in 1999, or 2000 and is scheduled to continue through calendar year 2001. The planned gathering periods will be from February 1 through March 30, and from July 15, through the end of the calendar year, weather permitting. A

Decision Record for gathering during February and March will be signed in February 2001. An Environmental Assessment (#WY-040-EA01-019) is currently being prepared and will be available for review and comment in January 2001.

DATES: February 1, through March 30, and July 15 through December 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John S. McKee, Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901 (307-352-0200)

John S. McKee,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-952-1420-BJ]

Filing of Plats of Survey; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested State and local government officials of the filing of Plats of Survey in Nevada.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Filing is effective at 10:00 a.m. on the dates indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert H. Thompson, Acting Chief, Branch of Geographic Services, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6541.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Plats of Survey of the following described lands were officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada on October 12, 2000:

The plat, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the metes-and-bounds survey of the centerline of U.S. Highway 95, through section 13, Township 15 South, Range 49 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, under Group 788, was accepted October 11, 2000.

The plat, in 3 sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the west boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines and the subdivision of a portion of section 18, and the metes-and-bounds survey of the centerline of U.S. Highway 95, through