

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Carnes, (at the above address) Telephone: (920) 465-7415. TTY users may contact Ms. Carnes through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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 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 the recovery levels for reclassification and delisting, and an estimate of time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, 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 opportunity for public review and comment to 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 approved recovery plans.

The document submitted for review is the Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) Technical/Agency Draft Recovery Plan. Historically, the butterfly occurred in 12 states and the Province of Ontario. Its current range has been reduced to seven states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio, where it was recently reintroduced. Three of these states (Ohio, New Hampshire, and Minnesota) have only one extant Karner blue butterfly population. Wisconsin and Michigan support the majority of populations throughout the range.

The Karner blue butterfly was listed as endangered on January 21, 1992. The butterfly depends on savanna and barrens habitats that support wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), the only plant Karner blue larvae (or caterpillars) are known to feed on. Threats to the butterfly include continued loss and alteration of habitat due to commercial, residential, and agricultural

development, fragmentation, and degradation through succession. Today, the butterfly inhabits remnant savanna and barrens habitats, as well as other more disturbed habitat sites including younger forest stands, military bases, utility and roadway rights-of-way, and airports.

The primary objective of the draft recovery plan is to restore and protect an adequate number of Karner blue butterfly populations throughout its range to ensure long-term viability of the species in the wild. The plan proposes a total of 13 recovery units throughout a six state recovery area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New York, and New Hampshire). In order to reclassify the butterfly from endangered to threatened status, the plan proposes the establishment of at least 28 metapopulations within the recovery units. In order to remove the butterfly from the Federal list of "Threatened and Endangered Species," the plan recommends a minimum of 29 metapopulations be established throughout the recovery units.

The draft recovery plan presents a blueprint for action by Federal and state agencies, as well as other organizations, and private landowners interested in helping in the recovery of this endangered species. Recovery actions include restoration and protection of Karner blue butterfly habitat, population monitoring, continued refinement of habitat management guidelines, research to guide habitat management and captive propagation efforts, and education and outreach efforts. Working with Federal, state and private landowners on a voluntary basis will be necessary to reduce the threats, and conserve, protect, and manage key habitat areas for the Karner blue butterfly.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Comments should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: November 9, 2001

T.J. Miller,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services.

[FR Doc. 01-30079 Filed 12-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1220-DG; G 2-0019]

Steens Mountain Advisory Council; Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District, Interior.

ACTION: Meetings notice for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will meet at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, on December 17 and 18, 2001; January 24 and 25, 2002; February 28 and March 1, 2002; April 4 and 5, 2002; June 13 and 14, 2002; October 21 and 22, 2002; and December 2 and 3, 2002; and will meet in Frenchglen, Oregon 97736 on August 15 and 16, 2002. All meeting sessions will begin the first day at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at 5 p.m., local time. The second day of each session will begin at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at approximately 3 p.m., local time. The April 4 and 5, 2002; June 13 and 14, 2002; and August 15 and 16, 2002, meeting sessions will consist of meetings on April 4, June 13, and August 15, followed by tours of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) on April 5, June 14, and August 16, 2002, weather dependent. Topics to be discussed by the SMAC at the December 17 and 18, 2001, meeting include selection of a chairperson; facilitation needs; Subbasins, Analysis of the Management Situation, Interim Management Policy, and Special Recreation Permit Policy review; Federal Advisory Committee Act; cooperative agreements/incentives; winter recreation; signs; and other matters as may reasonably come before the SMAC. Future meetings will cover categories such as education; transportation; recreation/public use; special designated areas; cultural resources; watersheds; projects; wildlife; partnerships/programs; volunteer-based information; adaptive management; planning process; science committee/consultants; and socioeconomics. All meetings and tours are open to the public in their entirety. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of each SMAC meeting. Public comment is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, the first day of each meeting session. The amount of time scheduled for public presentations and meeting times may be extended when the authorized

representative considers it necessary to accommodate all who seek to be heard regarding matters on the agenda.

The SMAC was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 14, 2001, pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Act). The SMAC's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain CMPA, (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the Steens CMPA.

Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act management regulations (41 CFR 102-3.15(b)), in exceptional circumstances an agency may give less than 15 days notice of committee meeting notices published in the **Federal Register**. In this case, this notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the urgent need to meet legislative deadlines to complete the Steens CMPA management plan and to avoid additional delays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning the SMAC may be obtained from Rhonda Karges, Management Support Specialist, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, (541) 573-4433, or Rhonda_Karges@or.blm.gov or from the following Web site <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens>.

Dated: October 25, 2001.

Thomas H. Dyer,
Burns District Manager.

[FR Doc. 01-30278 Filed 12-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Office of Planning and Performance Management; Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of new information collection survey.

SUMMARY: To comply with the requirements of the Paper Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, we are submitting to OMB for review and approval an information collection request (ICR) for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to conduct voluntary customer satisfaction

surveys to gather input and feedback from the public. The ICR is entitled "DOI Programmatic Clearance for Customer Satisfaction Surveys." We are also soliciting comments from the public on this ICR.

DATES: Please submit written comments by January 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1040-NEW), 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Mail or handcarry a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior; Office of Planning and Performance Management; Mail Stop 5258-MIB; 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. If you wish to email comments, the email address is:

Norma_Campbell@os.doi.gov. Reference "DOI Programmatic Clearance for Customer Satisfaction Surveys" in your email subject line. Include your name and return address in your email message and mark your message for return receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Norma Campbell, Office of Planning and Performance Management, telephone (202) 208-1818. You also may contact this office to obtain at no cost a copy of the collection of information that will be submitted to OMB.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: DOI Programmatic Clearance for Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 1040-NEW.

Abstract: The mission of DOI is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities. DOI's Strategic Plan Overview (FY 2000-2005) lays out five goals as a framework for this work: (1) Protect the environment and preserve our Nation's natural and cultural resources; (2) provide recreation for America; (3) manage natural resources for a healthy environment and our strong economy; (4) provide science for a changing world; and (5) meet our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities. Each bureau's plan also contains goals requiring collaboration with the public—our partners and customers. Part of this communication occurs through occasional surveys of the different users and stakeholders of DOI's products and services.

In the spirit of the PRA, DOI is consolidating its ICRs related to customer surveys for all participating

offices and bureaus into one programmatic ICR. This single ICR will ease the public burden by submitting a generic format and set of standards that all customer survey-related collections would follow in DOI. Because the participating bureaus and offices have differing customer and stakeholder groups, there will not be one "boiler-plate" approach to customer research. The ICR will describe those differences, where apparent. Although, where applicable, similar questions will be asked in the surveys of the bureaus and offices to allow better benchmarking throughout DOI.

Background

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 (Pub.L. No. 103-62) sets out to "improve Federal program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a new focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction" (Section 2.b.3). In order to fulfill this responsibility, DOI's bureaus and offices must collect data from their respective user groups to (1) better understand the needs and desires of the public and (2) respond to those needs and desires accordingly.

This course of action is fortified by Executive Order (E.O.) 12862 (September 11, 1993) aimed at "ensuring the Federal Government provides the highest quality service possible to the American people." The E.O. discusses surveys as a means for determining the kinds and qualities of service desired by the Federal Government's customers and for determining satisfaction levels for existing service. These voluntary customer surveys will be used to ascertain customer satisfaction with DOI's bureaus and offices in terms of services and products. Previous customer surveys have provided useful information to DOI's bureaus and offices for assessing how well we deliver our services and products, making improvements, and reporting on annual performance goals as set out in GPRA-related documents. The results are used internally, and summaries are provided to OMB on an annual basis and are used to satisfy the requirements and spirit of E.O. 12862.

Furthermore, E.O. 12862 requires agencies to provide a "means to address customer complaints." To that end, bureaus and offices may use customer comment cards as an opportunity for customers to provide feedback to the agencies on the service they have received.

More recently, President Bush's Management Agenda for 2001 calls for citizen-centered government. The