

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Dell, Regional Permit Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679-7313; or Ms. Jane Monaghan, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Jacksonville Field Office, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 904/232-2580, extension 128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed taking is incidental to land clearing activities, road widening and storm water retention pond excavation on the 3.21-acre project site. (Project). The Project contains about 3.21 acres of occupied Florida scrub-jay habitat, and the potential exists for the entire Project site to provide habitat to the Eastern indigo snake.

Florida scrub-jays are geographically isolated from other species of scrub-jays found in Mexico and the western United States. The Florida scrub-jay is found exclusively in peninsular Florida and is restricted to scrub habitat. The total estimated population is between 7,000 and 11,000 individuals. Due to habitat loss and degradation throughout the State of Florida, it has been estimated that the Florida scrub-jay population has been reduced by at least half in the last 100 years. Surveys have indicated that two families of Florida scrub-jays utilize habitat associated with the proposed storm water retention pond site along Howland Boulevard on the Project site. Construction of the storm water retention pond will likely result in death of, or injury to, Florida scrub-jay incidental to the carrying out of these otherwise lawful activities. Habitat alteration associated with property development will reduce the availability of habitat used for feeding and shelter.

Historically, the eastern indigo snake occurred throughout Florida and into the coastal plain of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Georgia and Florida currently support the remaining, endemic populations of eastern indigo snake. Over most of its range, the eastern indigo snake frequents a diversity of habitat types such as pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, xeric sandhill communities, tropical hardwood hammocks, edges of freshwater marshes, agricultural fields, coastal dunes and human altered habitats. Due to its relatively large home range, this snake is especially vulnerable to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. The wide distribution and territory size requirements of the eastern indigo snake makes evaluation of status and trends very difficult. Surveys for this species on site were negative, however the habitat is suitable. If any eastern indigo

snakes are present, construction of the Project's infrastructure may result in their death or injury incidental to the carrying out of these otherwise lawful activities.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives. The no action alternative may result in loss of habitat for Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snakes and exposure of the Applicant under section 9 of the Act. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the ITP with off-site mitigation. The off-site preservation alternative would provide funding for the restoration and management of 6.42 acres of occupied habitat within a 357-acre county-owned scrub habitat preserve known as the Lyonia Scrub Preserve. The affirmative conservation measures outlined in the HCP to be employed to offset the anticipated level of incidental take to the protected species are the following:

1. The impacts associated with the proposed project include 3.21 acres of impacts to occupied scrub-jay habitat for the excavation of a storm water retention pond associated with the widening of Howland Boulevard. To mitigate for the proposed impacts to occupied habitat the applicant will provide funds for the restoration and management of 6.42 acres of county owned occupied scrub habitat. This amount is based on mitigation at a ratio of 2:1 (two acres restored for every one acre impacted). Management will be conducted on a regular basis by Volusia County. After initial habitat restoration of the 6.42 acre mitigation area, the property would then be managed as part of the Lyonia Scrub Preserve, requiring preservation and management for Florida scrub-jays and eastern indigo snakes into perpetuity.

2. No construction activities would occur within 150 feet of an active Florida scrub-jay nest during the nesting season.

3. The HCP provides a funding mechanism for these mitigation measures.

As stated above, the Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comment received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. An appropriate excerpt from the FONSI reflecting the Service's finding on the application is provided below:

Based on the analysis conducted by the Service, it has been determined that:

1. Issuance of an ITP would not have significant effects on the human environment in the project area.

2. The proposed take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity.

3. The Applicant has ensured that adequate funding will be provided to implement the measures proposed in the submitted HCP.

4. Other than impacts to endangered and threatened species as outlined in the documentation of this decision, the indirect impacts which may result from issuance of the ITP are addressed by other regulations and statutes under the jurisdiction of other government entities. The validity of the Service's ITP is contingent upon the Applicant's compliance with the terms of the permit and all other laws and regulations under the control of State, local, and other Federal governmental entities.

The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: May 17, 2002.

Christine Eustis,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 02-13454 Filed 5-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-600-1820-00 IA]

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board; Notice of Reestablishment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon State Office, Interior.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, Public Law 92-463. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior has reestablished the Bureau of Land Management's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board.

The purpose of the Board will be to advise the Bureau of Land Management Vale District Manager regarding policies, programs, and long-range planning for the management, use, and further development of the Interpretive Center; establish a framework for an enhanced partnership and participation between the Bureau and the Oregon

Trail Preservation Trust; ensure a financially secure, world-class historical and educational facility, operated through a partnership between the Federal Government and the community, thereby enriching and maximizing visitors' experiences to the region; and improve the coordination of advice and recommendations from the publics served.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Melanie Wilson Gore,
Intergovernmental Affairs (640), Bureau
of Land Management, 1620 L Street,
NW., Room 406 LS, Washington, D.C.
20240, telephone (202) 452-0377.

Certification Statement

I hereby certify that the reestablishment of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities to manage the lands, resources, and facilities administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: May 23, 2002.

Gale A. Norton,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 02-13568 Filed 5-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-650-01-1220-JG-064B]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Surprise Canyon in Panamint Mountains, Inyo County, CA.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 CFR 1610.2(c), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to amend the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended). The proposed amendment will establish or revise trail designations for off-road vehicles within the Surprise Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The authority to designate is in accordance with 43 CFR 8342. The proposals will pertain to public lands addressed by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan in Inyo County that lie east of Highway 178 and approximately 23 miles north of the

community of Trona. The proposed plan amendment will include an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and CFR 1610.5-5.

The EIS will evaluate a full range of alternative means of access into the Surprise Canyon ACEC. During the 30 days scoping period, the public can assist the BLM in developing the range of alternatives that will be addressed.

DATES: The public is invited to submit comments on the scope of the plan amendment and EIS. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days from the publication date of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The specific date, time, and location of public scoping meetings will be announced by the Ridgecrest Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments in response to this notice should be sent to Hector Villalobos, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, (760) 384-5405. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Ridgecrest Field Office during normal working hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, except holidays), and may be published as part of the EIS or other related documents. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jeffery Aardahl, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555, (760) 384-5420.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 29, 2001, BLM implemented an interim closure to all motorized vehicles on Route P71 in the Surprise Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The closure will remain in effect until the plan amendment is approved and implemented.

The following are preliminary issues identified: (1) The canyon area currently does not meet the BLM's minimum standards for a properly functioning riparian system due to soil erosion and streambed alternations caused by motorized vehicle use; (2) several federal and state sensitive plant and animal species that inhabit the area are being affected; and (3) value of the canyon area for recreation, including use of motorized vehicles.

The preliminary planning criteria include: (1) The CDCA amendment will be consistent with officially approved resource related plans, policies and programs of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes; (2) the amendment process and ORV trail designations shall be conducted in compliance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), planning regulations (43 CFR 1600), ORV trail designation regulations (43 CFR 8340), BLM manual guidance, and all applicable Federal laws affecting BLM land use decisions and ORV designations; (3) the planning process shall include an EIS with a biological evaluation prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500), and BLM guidance.

The public is invited to submit written information to the BLM that will be used to identify issues, concerns and opportunities related to various alternative means of access in the Surprise Canyon ACEC. Those members of the public who simply want to be placed on the mailing list for this project can make such a request in writing. All such information and requests should be submitted in writing to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555, Attn: Resources Management Branch Chief.

Digital electronic photos and maps of the Surprise Canyon area can be found at: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest>.

Dated: April 12, 2002.

Alan Stein,

Acting California Desert District Manager.

[FR Doc. 02-13571 Filed 5-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.