

sent to the Field Supervisor. You may also send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to fw1tyc@r1.fws.gov. Please submit comments in ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and encryption. Please include "Attn: Tahoe yellow cress" and your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly by calling our Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at telephone number 775-861-6300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jody Fraser, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, at the above address and telephone; (facsimile 775-861-6301).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Tahoe yellow cress (*Rorippa subumbellata* Roll.), a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae), is restricted to the shores of Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada. This species is a small perennial herb with somewhat fleshy stems and leaves and small yellow flowers. It is primarily found growing in coarse to medium sand, near the mouths of streams or in back-beach depressions around the shore of the lake.

Because of its limited distribution and threats facing the species (see discussion below), a Draft Conservation Strategy has been developed to promote the cooperative protection and management of Tahoe yellow cress and its habitat. The public workshops are being held to provide a brief overview of the Conservation Strategy, introduce the objectives of this cooperative effort, and encourage public involvement.

The distribution and habitat of Tahoe yellow cress are limited. The majority of sites supporting this species are found on the west and south shores in California where appropriate habitat is relatively common. There is limited suitable habitat on the east shore in Nevada, which is largely dominated by boulders and rocky cliffs. It grows almost exclusively between the elevations of 1,898 m (6,223 ft) and 1,900 m (6,230 ft). During years with high lake levels, most of the available habitat is inundated, but the plant has been observed to recolonize newly-exposed beaches after being inundated between 2 to 4 years (Josselyn *et al.* 1992).

Surveys for Tahoe yellow cress have been conducted throughout the Lake Tahoe region since 1979. Historically, a total of 51 occurrences of this taxon have been documented from around the lakeshore; however, the plant has never

been observed at all sites at any one time. Survey results through the year 2000 showed that Tahoe yellow cress occupied only 27 percent of the known, historic sites. Evidence suggests the decline in the number of sites occupied by Tahoe yellow cress is primarily due to: (1) Alterations in lake level dynamics caused by construction and operation of the Truckee River outlet dam and reservoir; (2) destruction of known and potentially suitable habitat by the construction of piers, jetties, and other structures; (3) high levels of recreational activity associated with beaches; (4) disturbance of habitat by public and private property maintenance activities; and (5) possibly stochastic environmental events. While we recognize that this species is apparently adapted to a highly dynamic environment, human-induced factors caused us to evaluate the status of the species and ultimately designate it as a candidate for listing.

On February 28, 1996, we published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 7595) a Notice of Review of plant and animal taxa that are candidates for listing as endangered or threatened. This combined notice also presented revised candidate lists which eliminated the separation of species into three categories. The former system led many people to the mistaken conclusion that the addition of thousands of species to the endangered list was imminent. Under the revised list, only category 1 candidate species for which there was enough information to support a listing proposal would be considered "candidates." In the February 28, 1996, Notice of Review, we removed Tahoe yellow cress from the candidate list because the available information did not support issuance of a proposed listing. Following an updated assessment of the status of Tahoe yellow cress and its increasing vulnerability to threats, we included this taxon as a candidate species in the Notice of Review published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1999 (64 FR 57533).

Tahoe yellow cress has been documented on lands administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS), Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), the State of Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP), Placer and El Dorado county lands, City of South Lake Tahoe lands, and on private lands.

Activities within the Lake Tahoe shorezone, on both public and private lands, are regulated under various agency policies and management directions, many of which include

provisions for protection of this species. However, despite these protective mechanisms, current protection is not adequate. Because of the imminent threats facing the species, a task force has been formed to develop and implement a conservation strategy for Tahoe yellow cress. The strategy is coupled with a Memorandum of Understanding/conservation agreement (MOU/CA) that will be signed by the current participants to demonstrate their long-term commitment to protection of the species. Parties who wish to take a more active role in conservation of this species may be added to the MOU/CA in the future. Implementation of this strategy is a cooperative effort being carried out under the auspices of a multi-agency and private interest group task force. Success of this strategy is largely dependent upon voluntary participation and coordination among parties.

Public Meeting

Public workshops to introduce the Draft Conservation Strategy for Tahoe yellow cress are scheduled to be held on July 23, 2002, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. at the El Dorado Public Library in the City of South Lake Tahoe, California, and on July 25, 2002, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. at the North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, California. Please contact the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at the above address with any questions concerning these public workshops.

Public Comments

We will accept comments on the Draft Conservation Strategy through August 8, 2002. Prepared comments will also be accepted at the public workshops. Written comments should be submitted to the Field Supervisor of the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Dated: July 9, 2002.

Miel R. Corbett,

Acting Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-02-1020-PG]

Notice of Public Meeting, New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 8–9, 2002, at the Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM, beginning at 8 a.m. both days. An optional Field Trip is planned for Wednesday, August 7. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 5 p.m. both days. The three established RAC subcommittees may have a late afternoon or an evening meeting on Thursday, August 8. The public comment period will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, August 9, and end at 12 noon.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in New Mexico. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

Range restoration and the oil and gas industry

Feedback from the Rancher Subgroup from the May 2002 Farmington Oil and Gas Meeting

Update on Otero Mesa Mediation Assessment

Reflection/Learning from Otero Mesa Renewable Energy

Collaborative land use planning and other topics.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. New Mexico RAC meetings are coordinated with the representative of the Governor of the State of New Mexico, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa Herrera, New Mexico State Office, Office of External Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, 1474 Rodeo Road, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502–0115, (505) 438–7517.

Dated: June 25, 2002.

Richard A. Whitley,
Acting State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA 668–02–1610–DO–083A]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

United States Forest Service

Monument Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule Public Comment Time Change

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; United States Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of change in time for public comment period at meetings. The Monument Advisory Committee desires to change the afternoon comment period previously designated as 3:30 p.m.–4 p.m. The afternoon public comment period will now take place from 1 p.m.–1:30 p.m., with the morning public comment period remaining 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) announces a change in time for the afternoon public comment period from 3:30–4 p.m. to 1–1:30 p.m. OSC for the Advisory Committee to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (hereinafter referred to as “National Monument”). The meetings where this time change will go into effect will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 3, 2002
- Saturday, October 5, 2002
- Saturday, December 7, 2002
- Saturday, February 1, 2003

The meetings will be held at the Palm Desert City Hall Council Chambers, located at 73–510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California, 92260. The meetings will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. although meetings may be adjourned prior to 4 p.m. There will be a half hour dedicated to public input during both the first half hour of the meeting and after lunch starting at 1 p.m. A sign up sheet will be located at the meeting room on the day of the meeting. Speakers wishing to comment publicly should sign the public comment sign-in sheet provided at the location of the meetings. All committee and subcommittee meetings, including field examinations, will be open to the general public, including representatives of the news media. Any organization, association, or individual may file a statement with or appear before the committee and its subcommittees regarding topics on a meeting agenda—except that the chairperson or the designated federal

official may require written comments to the Advisory Committee. The meetings will have agendas developed and available to the public prior to the meeting date. The agendas for each meeting will be located on the Bureau of Land Management web page for the Santa Rosa San Jacinto National Monument (<http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/>). The subject matter of each meeting will focus on the development and implementation of the Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan.

The Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) is a committee of citizens appointed to provide advice to the BLM and USFS with respect to preparation and implementation of the management plan for the National Monument as required in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 431nt). The act authorized establishment of the MAC with representative members from State and local jurisdictions, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a natural science expert, local conservation organization, local developer or building organization, the Winter Park Authority and a representative from the Pinyon Community Council.

The meeting will be open to the public with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance such as sign language interpretations or other reasonable accommodations should notify the contact person listed below in advance of the meeting. Persons wishing to make statements will need to sign up at the meeting location.

DATES: August 3, 2002; October 5, 2002; December 7, 2002; February 1, 2003; All meetings will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a morning public comment period from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and an afternoon public comment period from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Meetings may adjourn prior to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of the Palm Desert City Hall, 73–510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California, 92260.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written comments should be sent to Miss Danella George, Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258; or by fax at (760) 251–4899 or by e-mail at dgeorge@ca.blm.gov. Information can be found on our web page: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/>. Documents pertinent to this notice, including comments with the names and addresses of