

process and development of goals and measures ahead of the FY 2004 budget formulation cycle. Instead of requesting public comment for the first time after a new draft plan had been created, DOI chose to begin the process with internal and external focus group sessions in a "clean slate" approach. These sessions were held in Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; and Albuquerque, New Mexico between December 2001 and February 2002. We integrated the information to produce the first plan drafts. Subsequently the plan has been subjected to additional critical review and evaluation through all levels of the Department. At this point, DOI wants to return our product to our external stakeholders and customers for review.

DOI has taken a major departure from its past approaches to strategic planning. Previously, Interior produced a set of ten GPRA strategic plans—an overview document and nine bureau or office plans. While the overview attempted to draw attention to areas of commonality among bureaus, Interior was still perceived as a "holding company" and concern lingered about the effectiveness of an agency functioning in a holding company fashion.

The DOI draft strategic plan will stand as the GPRA document for the entire agency. Commonality of mission function and desired results is given much greater weight than in previous plans. The Department has subscribed to the "logic model" approach of strategic planning in which results (end outcomes) are clearly identified and represent the first step in the plan development process. Measures are applied to end outcomes to provide a means of gauging success in achieving the desired results. Results are measured both long term and on an annualized basis. Supporting strategic (or intermediate outcomes) have also been established and are accompanied by specific performance measures. Bureau operating plans must be tied to both the intermediate and end outcome levels of the Departmental Plan.

This overall approach is aimed at greater integration of purpose and function across the Department and at achieving superior performance results. The Departmental strategic plan cannot include goals and measures for every discrete aspect of every program, but outcomes are written to encompass all of the programs identified in the Department's budget accounts. Greater specificity for discrete elements will be found in bureau level annual or long-term operating plans or in specific field planning documents, as appropriate.

Interior looks forward to your comments regarding our planning approach and draft strategic plan. We are asking that comments be submitted within 60 days of publication of this notice. The text of the draft plan is available in a "pdf" downloadable format through the DOI Internet Web site: <http://www.doi.gov/about.html>. For those who may not have internet access, a hard copy can be requested from the contact points listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Dated: February 14, 2003.

P. Lynn Scarlett,

Assistant Secretary—Policy, Management and Budget.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Reopening the Comment Period for an Application for a Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Reopening of the Comment Period for Endangered Species Permit Application PRT-052166.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the comment period for the application cited below. The applicant has submitted new information in support of the application and the reopening of the comment period will allow all interested parties another 15 days to review the application and provide us with any additional comments.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by March 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fish and Wildlife Service is re-opening the comment period for an application submitted by the Memphis Zoo,

Memphis, Tennessee, PRT-052166, to conduct certain activities with endangered species. Specifically, the applicant requests a permit to import one male and one female captive born giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) from the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens, Shanghai Zoo and Beijing Zoo, China, for the purpose of scientific research and enhancement of the survival of the species. The application was submitted to satisfy the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*). A notice of receipt of this application for a permit was published in the **Federal Register** on November, 21, 2002 (67 FR 70236). The comment period closed on December 23, 2002. On January 28, 2003, the applicant submitted additional information in support of the application. While the Service does not consider the new information significant, we are reopening the comment period to allow all interested parties to review the new information and provide us with any additional comments regarding the application. Written data, comments, or requests for copies of this complete application should be submitted to the Director (address above).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004, OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Dated: February 10, 2003.

Timothy J. Van Norman,

Chief, Branch of Permits—(International), Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-4304 Filed 2-21-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dakotas Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, North Dakota Field Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: A meeting of the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council will be held May 19 & 20, 2003, at the Clarion Inn, Gillette, Wyoming. The session will include a Coal Bed Methane field tour beginning at 8 a.m. on May 19. The meeting will reconvene on Tuesday at the Clarion Inn. Agenda items will include: Coal Bed Methane.

The meeting is open to the public and a public comment period is set for 8 a.m. on May 20, 2003. The public may