

integrated population management of mute swans. Each permit application will be reviewed to ensure that the planned activity meets the goals and objectives of the Atlantic Flyway Mute Swan Management Plan (Atlantic Flyway Council 2003) as specified in the FEA, that the proposed take does not exceed the Service's State-specific take guidelines, and that the cumulative impacts will not irreparably harm the Flyway-wide population. The State-specific take guidelines will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to ensure that Statewide and Flyway-wide populations are not reduced below target levels.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The following constitutes the full text of the FONSI signed by the Service Director:

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed issuing migratory bird depredation permits authorizing the take of up to 3,100 feral mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) annually in the Atlantic Flyway for the next ten years. The primary goal in implementing this action is to minimize environmental damages attributed to mute swans in a feasible and cost-effective way, consistent with the Service's responsibility to manage and conserve mute swan populations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and conventions and other applicable law. A secondary goal—and the most effective means for achieving the first goal—is to reduce populations of feral mute swans to pre-1986 levels.

The need for the action stems from documented scientific evidence of the negative impacts that a growing population of mute swans is having on wetland habitats and native species of fish and wildlife, the threats that mute swans pose to human health and safety, and the damage that they can cause to commercial agricultural crops. The action will support implementation of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy on management of mute swans on national wildlife refuges, and implementation of the Atlantic Flyway Mute Swan Management Plan.

The proposed action (Integrated Population Management) was selected because:

(1) It provides Federal, State, and other wildlife managers with the broadest array of tools and management flexibility for dealing with local, regional, Statewide, and Flyway-wide problems caused by an expanding population of mute swans.

(2) Lethal take of adult birds, as authorized by the proposed action, has been shown to be the only effective

method for reducing populations of long-lived birds such as the mute swan, and hence is the only effective method for reducing the detrimental impacts of mute swans on wetland habitats, native fish and wildlife species, and human interests.

(3) Egg addling—while a useful technique for arresting productivity and stabilizing populations and thus an important supplement to lethal take—is not an effective technique, in and of itself, for reducing populations.

(4) Non-lethal techniques such as harassment, exclusionary devices, translocation, and behavioral modification can be effective for dealing with nuisance problems caused by individual swans, or small groups of swans, but are not substitutes for population reduction.

The proposed management action will not have significant environmental impacts because:

(1) The mute swan will not be extirpated in the Atlantic Flyway, nor in any of the eight States that comprise the "core" of its range in the Atlantic Flyway.

(2) A 67 percent reduction in the number of mute swans will return the Atlantic Flyway population to a pre-1986 level of about 4,675 birds. Mute swans survived and thrived in the Atlantic Flyway at much smaller populations than this for more than 80 years.

(3) The removal of about 8,000 birds from the Atlantic Flyway will have no effect on the viability of U.S., North American, or worldwide populations of the mute swan, which number approximately 21,400, 23,000, and 614,000 birds, respectively.

(4) Pinioned mute swans of domestic origin held in captive or semi-captive conditions on private properties or in municipal parks will not be affected by the proposed action, and will remain available for viewing and enjoyment.

(5) Reduction of mute swan numbers consistent with the Atlantic Flyway management plan will prevent further damage to (a) submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and SAV restoration efforts, (b) populations of other fish and wildlife (including those of threatened and endangered species) and their habitats, (c) commercially and recreationally valuable shellfish and finfish, and (d) recreationally important birds (especially waterfowl), and will to some degree offset the damage that has been done by the relatively recent increase in mute swan numbers. Therefore, this action will merely help to maintain the long-term status quo.

(6) The potential risk of emotional trauma and physical injury to humans

because of attacks initiated by territorial mute swans in coastal habitats frequented by people seeking outdoor recreational opportunities will be minimized.

(7) Opportunities for people to view and enjoy feral mute swans in a wild state will be reduced but not eliminated in any of the eight States that comprise the "core" of its range in the Atlantic Flyway, and thus such opportunities remain readily available to people willing to make a reasonable effort to seek them out.

Based on a review and evaluation of the attached Environmental Assessment entitled *Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway*, I have determined that the issuance of migratory bird depredation permits authorizing the lethal take of up to 3,100 mute swans annually, plus addling of eggs in up to 1,750 nests, does not constitute a major Federal Action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required."

Dated: August 1, 2003.

Steve Williams,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-20281 Filed 8-5-03; 2:51 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-03-1020-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 September 11-12, 2003, at the Farmington Marriott Courtyard, San Juan/La Plata Rooms, 560 Scott Avenue, Farmington, NM, beginning at 8 a.m. both days. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and 1 p.m. on Friday. The two established RAC subcommittees may have a late afternoon or an evening meeting on Thursday, September 11.

An optional Field Trip is planned for Wednesday, September 10. The public comment period is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, from 6–8 p.m. in the Animas/Florida Rooms.

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 for discussion include:

- Working Landscapes Initiative.
- Oil and gas compliance.
- Geology ACEC and the development of the ACEC.
- Recreation and visitor services priorities.

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.

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

Dated: July 29, 2003.

Richard A. Whitley,
Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 03–20092 Filed 8–6–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–FB–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–926–03–1910–BK–5065]

Montana: Filing of Plat of Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, (30) days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert L. Brockie, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800, Billings,

Montana 59107–6800, telephone (406) 896–5125 or (406) 896–5009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and was necessary to determine areas of accreted land. The lands we surveyed are:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 27 N., R. 52 E.

The plat, in three sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the adjusted original meanders of the former left bank of the Missouri River, downstream through section 20, and the subdivision of section 20, and the subdivision of section 20, and the survey of the meanders of the present left bank of the Missouri River, downstream through section 20, and certain division of accretion lines in Township 27 North, Range 52 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted June 6, 2003.

We will place a copy of the plat, in three sheets, we described in the open files. It will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in three sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file this plat, in three sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

Dated: July 31, 2003.

Heidi L. Pfosch,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 03–20091 Filed 8–6–03; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332–456]

Express Delivery Services: Competitive Conditions Facing U.S.-Based Firms in Foreign Markets

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of hearing.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on July 1, 2003, from the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Commission instituted investigation No. 332–456, *Express Delivery Services: Competitive Conditions Facing U.S.-based Firms in Foreign Markets*, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

Background: As requested by the Committee, the Commission will

investigate and provide a report on the current competitive conditions facing U.S.-based express delivery service suppliers in foreign markets. Specifically, the Commission will (1) examine the composition of the global industry, major market participants, and factors driving change, including regulatory reform, in major markets; (2) examine the extent to which competition among express delivery service suppliers in foreign markets may be affected by government-sanctioned monopolies competing in those markets; and (3) identify, to the extent possible, additional trade impediments encountered by U.S.-based express delivery service suppliers in foreign markets. For the purposes of its report, the Commission will define express delivery services as the expedited collection, transport and delivery of documents, printed matter, parcels and/or other goods, while tracking the location of, and maintaining control over, such items throughout the supply of the service; and services provided in connection therewith, such as customs facilitation and logistics services.

The Committee requested that the Commission furnish its report by April 1, 2004, and that the Commission make the report available to the public in its entirety.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (1) Project Leader, Michael Nunes (202–205–3462 or mnunes@usitc.gov); (2) Deputy Project Leader, Joann Tortorice (202–205–3032 or jtortorice@usitc.gov) (3) Chief, Services and Investment Division, Richard Brown (202–205–3438 or rbrown@usitc.gov).

The above persons are in the Commission's Office of Industries. For information on legal aspects of the investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel at 202–205–3091 or wgearhart@usitc.gov.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with this investigation is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 5, 2003, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC. All persons have the right to appear by counsel or in person, to present information, and to be heard. Persons wishing to appear at the public hearing should file a letter with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E St., SW., Washington, DC 20436, not later than the close of business (5:15 p.m.) on October 22, 2003. In addition, persons appearing should file prehearing briefs