

**Total Annual Non-Hour Burden:**

There is no non-hour burden associated with this information collection; there are no filing fees for these forms.

We again invite comments on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Anissa Craghead,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-23654 Filed 9-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Recovery Plan for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of the final Recovery Plan for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*). The Quino checkerspot butterfly is a subspecies that is currently restricted primarily to clay and granitic soils at lower elevation slopes typically below 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) in open scrub, chaparral, and woodland communities. The populations addressed in this recovery plan are found in western Riverside and southern San Diego Counties proximal to the Mexico international border.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of this final recovery plan are available by written request to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, California 92009, or by calling 760-431-9440. An electronic copy of this recovery plan is also available at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alison Anderson, at the above Carlsbad address and telephone number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act 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 requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan, and is summarized in the appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Quino checkerspot butterfly is found in association with topographically diverse open woody canopy landscapes that contain low to moderate levels of non-native vegetation compared to disturbed habitat. Vegetation types that support the Quino checkerspot are coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, juniper woodland, forblands, and native grassland. Soil and climatic conditions, as well as ecological and physical factors, affect the suitability of habitat within the species' range. Urban and agricultural development, invasion of non-native species, habitat fragmentation and degradation, increased fire frequency, and other human-caused disturbances have resulted in substantial losses of habitat throughout the species' historic range. Conservation needs include: (1) Protection and management of suitable and restorable habitat; (2) habitat restoration and enhancement; and (3) establishment of a Quino checkerspot captive breeding program. This plan identifies six recovery units. Recovery units are geographically bounded areas containing extant Quino checkerspot populations that are the focus of recovery actions.

The overall objective of this recovery plan is to reduce the threats to the Quino checkerspot butterfly to the point where it can be reclassified (downlisted) to threatened and ensure the species' long-term conservation. Interim goals include: (1) Protect and manage habitat supporting known current population distributions (occurrence complexes); (2) maintain or create resilient populations; and (3) conduct research necessary to refine recovery criteria.

Downlisting of the Quino checkerspot butterfly is contingent upon the following criteria: (1) Permanently protect habitat within occurrence complexes in a configuration designed to support resilient populations; (2) conduct research on population distribution and dynamics; (3) permanently provide for and implement management of occurrence complexes to restore habitat quality and population resilience; (4) demonstrate evidence of population resilience in core occurrence complexes; (5) document or introduce an additional population in the Lake Matthews site, and demonstrate population resilience for at least one population outside current recovery units; (6) establish and maintain a captive propagation program for purposes of re-introduction and augmentation of wild populations, maintenance of refugia populations, and research; and (7) initiate and implement a cooperative outreach program targeting areas where Quino checkerspot populations are most threatened.

**Authority**

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

Dated: August 11, 2003.

Steve Thompson,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23684 Filed 9-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Indian Affairs****Tribal Consultation on Regional Organization Structure**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of tribal consultation meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will conduct consultation meetings to obtain oral and written comments concerning

potential issues in the organizational structure of the BIA's twelve regional offices. Eighteen informational sessions were held throughout the country in June 2003 to brief employees, Indian tribes, and interested parties of the status and structure of the reorganization occurring in the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustee. The upcoming consultations will provide an opportunity for Indian tribes and interested parties to provide comments regarding the organizational structure of

the BIA's twelve regional offices for consideration by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.  
**DATES:** Comments are due two weeks following the consultation for each region. The meeting dates will be September 24 through October 30, 2003 for all locations listed. Meeting times for all regions are listed.  
**ADDRESSES:** Send, hand-deliver or fax written comments to Regional Office Director at applicable regional office.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Appropriate Regional Director or Denise Desiderio at 202-208-6772.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the consultation is to provide Indian tribes and other interested parties with an opportunity to comment on potential issues raised by the realignment of regional structures as a result of the reorganization of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of the Special Trustee. A three-hour block of time will be allotted for Indian tribes and interested parties to comment on the organizational structure in their particular region.

Dates	Region(s)	Time
September 24, 2003 .....	Southern Plains, Michael R. Smith, Regional Director, Southern Plains Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, WCD Office Complex, P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005, Telephone No: (405) 247-6673, Fax No: (405) 247-5611.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
September 24, 2003 .....	Eastern Oklahoma, Jeanette Hanna, Regional Director, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 3100 W. Peak Blvd., P.O. Box 8002, Muskogee, OK 74402-8002, Telephone No: (918) 781-4600, Fax No: (918) 781-4604.	1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
September 25, 2003 .....	Midwest, Larry Morrin, Regional Director, Midwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, One Federal Drive, Room 550, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4007, Telephone No: (612) 713-4400, Fax No: (612) 713-4401.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
September 25, 2003 .....	Eastern, Franklin Keel, Regional Director, Eastern Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, TN 37214, Telephone No: (615) 467-1700, Fax No: (615) 467-1701.	1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

All meetings scheduled for September 24–25 will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn—Tulsa Airport, 7728 East Virgin Court, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115, telephone (918) 838-1444.

October 27, 2003 .....	Great Plains, William Benjamin, Acting Regional Director, Great Plains Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 115 4th Avenue, SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401, Telephone No: (605) 226-7343, Fax No: (605) 226-7446.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
October 27, 2003 .....	Rocky Mountain, Keith Beartusk, Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 316 N. 26th Street, Billings, MT 59101, Telephone No: (406) 247-7943, Fax No: (406) 247-7976.	1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 28, 2003 .....	Southwest, Rob Baracker, Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 26567, Albuquerque, NM 87125, Telephone No: (505) 346-7590, Fax No: (505) 346-7517.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
October 28, 2003 .....	Navajo, Elouise Chicharello, Regional Director, Navajo Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 1060, Gallup, NM 87305, Telephone No: (505) 863-8314, Fax No: (505) 863-8324.	1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 29, 2003 .....	Pacific, Clay Gregory, Acting Regional Director, Pacific Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, Telephone No: (916) 978-6000, Fax No: (916) 978-6099.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
October 29, 2003 .....	Northwest, Stanley Speaks, Regional Director, Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, Telephone No: (503) 231-6702, Fax No: (503) 231-2201.	1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 30, 2003 .....	Western, Wayne Nordwall, Regional Director, Western Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, AZ 85001, Telephone No: (602), 379-6600, Fax No: (602) 379-4413.	9 a.m.–12 p.m.
October 30, 2003 .....	Alaska, Niles C. Cesar, Regional Director, Alaska Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 25520, Juneau, AK 99802-5520, Telephone No: (800) 645-8397, Fax No: (907) 586-7252.	1:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

All meetings scheduled for October 27–30 will be held at the MGM Hotel, 3799 Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, telephone (702) 891-1111.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name, street address, and other contact information (such as facsimile or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must

state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. We will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

This notice is published in accordance with the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.1.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

**Aurene M. Martin,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 03–23628 Filed 9–16–03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV–025–1610–DQ–020F]

#### Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement / Proposed Resource Management Plan, Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, NV

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Proposed Resource Management Plan (FEIS/PRMP), Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, a FEIS/PRMP has been prepared for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Planning Area, Nevada.

**DATES:** BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5–2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest that may be adversely affected, may protest. The protest must be filed within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this notice in the **Federal Register**. Instructions for filing of protests are described in the front cover of the FEIS/PRMP and included in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David C. Cooper, NCA Manager, BLM Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445–2921, (775) 623–1500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000 [Pub. L. 106–554] (the Act) gave special designation to 1.2 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in northwestern Nevada, collectively known as “Black Rock-High Rock.” The Act designated 815,000 acres as a National Conservation Area

(NCA) and 752,000 acres as 10 Wilderness Areas (378,000 of the Wilderness acres overlap the NCA). The NCA and associated Wilderness Areas were created specifically to protect one of the last nationally significant segments of the historic emigrant trails used by pioneers to travel from the eastern United States to Oregon and California, and a landscape largely unchanged since the mid-1800s. Black Rock-High Rock contains an array of unique historic, cultural, educational, wildlife, riparian, and wilderness resources, threatened species, and recreational values. The Act also identified wilderness, grazing, and special recreation permit events as valuable existing land uses that are expected to continue.

Designating Black Rock-High Rock as an NCA and Wilderness Areas placed new emphasis and requirements on resource uses in the area. The FEIS/PRMP has been developed to address these changes. This FEIS/PRMP does not evaluate the designation of the NCA and Wilderness Areas, but rather develops several resource management alternatives that fully comply with the NCA Act and the Wilderness Act and other applicable laws, regulations and policies. The FEIS/PRMP analyzes the environmental consequences associated with implementation of each alternative. Additionally, approximately 15,000 acres in the south playa, 16,000 acres in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) Area, and 3,000 acres included in wilderness access and boundary roads and road corridors located outside the NCA that are not included in the designation are evaluated in the FEIS/PRMP due to their being contiguous lands with similar planning issues. These designated and adjacent areas, totaling approximately 1,221,000 acres of public lands, are referred to as the planning area.

In addition to other existing laws, regulations and policies, the NCA Act and the Wilderness Act govern land and resource use decisions in 97.4% of the planning area. As a result, the range of alternatives presented in the FEIS/PRMP and the impacts anticipated from their implementation are more constrained than is typical of BLM management plans.

Consultation, cooperation and communication in the service of conservation have guided the Black Rock-High Rock planning process from its inception. Accordingly, extensive public involvement provided the foundation upon which the FEIS and PRMP were constructed. The FEIS/PRMP was developed through a collaborative planning process

involving two BLM State Offices and two BLM Field Offices, other federal agencies, the State of Nevada Black Rock Planning Team (which assured that State interests, laws and plans were fully considered throughout the planning process), area Tribal Government representatives, representatives of the local communities of Cedarville, California and Empire-Gerlach, Nevada, Modoc County, California, Humboldt County, Nevada, Pershing County, Nevada, and many diverse interests represented on two Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) and a RAC NCA Subgroup formed specifically to participate with BLM in the planning process. Government-to-government consultations were conducted with six Native American Indian Tribal Governments. Four series of public meetings were held in Nevada and California that involved the public in the planning process to the greatest extent possible. Five Black Rock-High Rock planning bulletins were mailed to over 1200 interested parties, and periodic news releases were issued announcing important steps in the planning process. In addition, a planning Web site (<http://www.BlackRockHighRock.org/>) keeps interested members of the public informed and involved. A total of 74 meetings involving participation of other federal agencies, State and Tribal representatives, and interested publics were conducted in Nevada and California.

Copies of the FEIS/PRMP have been sent to affected federal, State and local government agencies, Tribal governments, and to interested parties. Copies of the FEIS/PRMP are available for public inspection at the Web site <http://www.BlackRockHighRock.org/>, at the BLM-Nevada Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV, and at the following repositories: U of Nevada-Reno Getchell Library, Reno NV; Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca NV; BLM-Nevada Carson City Field Office, Carson City NV; BLM-Nevada State Office, Reno NV; Public Library, Gerlach NV; Public Library, Reno NV; Pershing County Public Library, Lovelock NV; Lyon County Library, Dayton NV; Lyon County Library, Fernley NV; BLM-California Surprise Field Office, Cedarville CA; Modoc County Library, Cedarville CA; Modoc County Library, Alturas CA; BLM-California State Office, Sacramento CA; and BLM-California Eagle Lake Field Office, Susanville CA. Persons who are not able to inspect the FEIS/PRMP either on-line or at these locations may request one of a limited