

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Notice of Adjustment of Disaster Grant Amounts

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FEMA gives notice of an increase of the maximum amount for Small Project Grants to State and local governments and private nonprofit facilities for disasters declared on or after October 1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Walke, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3834.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act) prescribes that FEMA must annually adjust the maximum grant amount made under section 422, Small Project Grants, Simplified Procedure, relating to the Public Assistance program, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

FEMA gives notice of an increase of the maximum amount of any Small Project Grant made to the State, local government, or to the owner or operator of an eligible private nonprofit facility, under Sec. 422 of the Stafford Act, to \$54,100 for all disasters declared on or after October 1, 2003.

FEMA bases the adjustment on an increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers of 2.2 percent for the 12-month period ended in August 2003. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor released the information on September 18, 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance.)

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 03-25999 Filed 10-14-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Recovery Plan for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* (Wenatchee Mountains Checker-mallow)

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for review and comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* (Wenatchee Mountains Checker-mallow) for public review. This endangered plant is found only in Chelan County, Washington. This draft recovery plan describes the status of the species, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. We solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATE: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 15, 2003, to receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Washington Field Office, 215 Melody Lane, Suite 119, Wenatchee, Washington 98801 (telephone: 509-665-3508). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. An electronic copy of this recovery plan is also available at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim McCracken, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address.

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. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

This draft recovery plan was developed by Service biologists coordinating with botanists, plant ecologists, and planners from the Natural Heritage Program and Natural Area Program, Washington Department of Natural Resources; and the U.S. Forest Service. We also consulted with various experts from universities, agency representatives, and non-governmental organizations in the development of this plan.

Sidalcea oregana var. *calva* was listed as an endangered species on December 22, 1999 (64 FR 71680). This rare, attractive member of the mallow family (Malvaceae) is endemic to Chelan County, Washington, where it is found in wetlands and moist meadows of the Wenatchee Mountains. Just five populations are known, and four of these five number from only eight to a few hundred individuals. Populations occur on a mixture of private, State, and Federal lands. Critical habitat was designated for this species on September 6, 2001 (66 FR 46536).

The primary threats to *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include habitat fragmentation, degradation, or loss due to conversion of native wetlands to orchards and other agricultural uses; rural residential development and associated impacts; altered hydrology; competition from native and nonnative plants; recreational impacts; woody plant encroachment; and activities associated with fire suppression. To a lesser extent the species is threatened by livestock grazing, road construction, and

timber harvesting and associated impacts including changes in surface runoff. The species is highly vulnerable to extirpation from demographic factors or random, naturally occurring events due to the very small size of most of the remaining populations.

The interim objective of this draft recovery plan is to stabilize the existing populations and accomplish increases in population sizes and geographic distribution across the historical range of the species sufficient to consider downlisting of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* to threatened status. The primary objective of the plan is to recover the species to the point that it can be delisted.

Actions proposed to achieve the recovery of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include maintaining the current geographical distribution of the species through effective management and coordination with private landowners and other agencies; identifying potential habitat and developing a sound protocol for reintroducing the species within its historically occupied range; conducting research and monitoring essential to the conservation of the species; collecting seed representing the genetic diversity of the species across its range and storing it in a secure facility; surveying to identify potential additional populations; and developing outreach materials to provide information about the species, its habitat, and management recommendations to local landowners.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing a final recovery plan.

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.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25983 Filed 10-14-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-310-2810-DG]

Notice of Intent To Amend Land Use Plans and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend land use plans in Alaska and prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to address wildland fire and fuels management in its land use plans, through a statewide plan amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA). This amendment will provide a consistent approach for incorporating current wildland fire and fuels management policy into land use plans in order to comply with the National Fire Plan and 2001 Federal Fire Policy. It will also provide interim guidance for wildland fire and fuels management on BLM-managed lands for which completion of new land use plans is scheduled or on-going. The amendment will include an analysis of fire and fuels management actions on a landscape scale and their impacts on the human environment. An EA level analysis is anticipated to be sufficient to address the complexity of known issues.

The amendment will provide wildland fire and fuels management direction to all public lands managed by the Anchorage, Glennallen and Northern Field Offices. The following land use plans will be addressed during this amendment process and amended as appropriate: the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), Southcentral MFP, Fortymile MFP, Northwest MFP, Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP), White Mountains National Recreation Area RMP, Utility Corridor RMP, Fort Wainwright RMP, Fort Greely RMP, and the Steese National Conservation Area RMP. Fire management direction will also be developed for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in conjunction with this planning effort.

Several concurrent land use planning efforts will be occurring at each Field Office. These include the Ring of Fire RMP (Anchorage Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005), the Kobuck-Seward RMP (Northern Field Office, scheduled to begin 2004), and the East Alaska RMP (Glennallen Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005). The fire decisions reached through the fire planning effort outlined in this **Federal Register** notice will be incorporated into these and other future land use planning efforts as they are completed.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) planning process (43 CFR 1600) will be used for all lands, except for the Alaska Petroleum Reserve-Alaska lands, which are not governed by the FLPMA planning process. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to

identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This process will take into account local, regional and national needs and concerns. This includes public and firefighter safety. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify specific issues and develop planning criteria. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the needs and interests of the public.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice and end 60 days after publication. Comments regarding issues and planning criteria should be received on or before the end of the scoping period. Specific dates and locations for public participation will be published in local papers and broadcast on local community calendars at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the Wildland Fire and Fuels Management Land Use Plan Amendment for Alaska should be sent to: Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Lynch, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703, (907) 356-5863.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Alaska Fire Service at the address listed above.

Fire suppression in Alaska has been addressed on an interagency, multi-jurisdictional, landscape scale in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 1998 (AIWFMP). Four appropriate management responses defined as Management Options