

Other Needs; 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

Michael D. Brown,

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

[FR Doc. 03-27049 Filed 10-24-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1490-DR]

North Carolina; Amendment No. 4 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of North Carolina (FEMA-1490-DR), dated September 18, 2003, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 8, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of North Carolina is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of September 18, 2003:

Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Robeson, Sampson, and Wake Counties for Individual Assistance.

Orange County for Public Assistance.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.556, Fire Management Assistance; 83.558, Individual and Household Housing; 83.559, Individual and Household Disaster Housing Operations; 83.560 Individual and Household Program—Other Needs; 83.544, Public Assistance

Grants; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

Michael D. Brown,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Transportation Security Administration

Aviation Security Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration (TSA), DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC).

DATES: The meeting will take place on November 17, 2003, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., local time in Washington, DC.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held by telephonic conference call. Dial-in instructions are set forth below under the heading **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Corrao, Office of Transportation Security Policy, TSA Headquarters (Room 1146N), 701 S. 12th Street, Arlington, VA, 22202; telephone 571-227-2980, e-mail joseph.corrao@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is announced pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.). The agenda for the meeting will include discussion of the report of the general aviation airport security guidelines working group. This meeting, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, is open to the public but telephonic conferencing capacity is limited. Members of the public who wish to monitor the discussion may dial into this telephonic meeting by dialing (888) 395-3015. At the prompt, provide the conference code "G A Airport". (Parties calling from locations outside the United States may contact the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, for international calling instructions.)

Members of the public must make advance arrangements to present oral statements at this ASAC meeting. Written statements may be presented to the committee by providing copies of them to the Chair prior to the meeting. Comments may be sent to the Chair by telecopier at (571) 227-1374, ATTN:

ASAC Chair. Anyone in need of assistance or a reasonable accommodation for the meeting should contact the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Arlington, Virginia, on October 17, 2003.

Tom Blank,

Assistant Administrator for Transportation Security Policy.

[FR Doc. 03-27061 Filed 10-24-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment Entitled: Proposal To Implement Candidate Conservation Agreements and Conservation Measures for Eastern Massasaugas in States Within Region 3 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public and other agencies of the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comment on this draft EA. The eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*, hereafter massasauga) is a Federal candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The purpose of the EA is to evaluate the environmental consequences of implementing different strategies for conserving the remaining massasauga populations in Region 3. The Service believes that implementing adequate conservation efforts during the candidate stage may be sufficient to preclude the need to Federally list the subspecies.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 26, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments can be mailed to the address or fax number below. Electronic mail comments should be submitted to:

fw3_massasauga@fws.gov. Persons wishing to review the document may obtain a copy by writing, telephoning, faxing, or e-mailing: Regional CCA Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111; Telephone: (612) 713-5343; Fax: (612) 713-5292. The draft EA is also available at the

following Internet address: <http://midwest.fws.gov/nepa>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, Regional CCA Coordinator, Telephone: (612) 713-5343, or e-mail: peter_fasbender@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Involvement

The draft EA is available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. This notice is provided pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). Copies of the document can be obtained as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. In addition, documents will be available for public inspection during normal business hours (8-4:30), at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6(f)). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If a respondent wishes us to withhold his/her name and/or address, this must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comment.

Candidate Conservation Agreements

Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) are formal agreements between the Service and one or more parties to address the conservation needs of proposed or candidate species, or species likely to become candidates, before they become listed as endangered or threatened. The participants voluntarily commit to implementing specific actions that will remove or reduce the threats to these species, thereby contributing to stabilizing or restoring the species. In some cases, this may provide enough protection that listing is no longer necessary. The Service has entered into many Candidate Conservation Agreements over the years, primarily with other Federal agencies, State and local agencies, and conservation organizations. Some of these have successfully removed threats and listing was avoided.

Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) provide non-Federal property owners who voluntarily agree to manage their lands or waters to remove threats to candidate or proposed species assurances that their conservation efforts will not result in future regulatory obligations in excess of those they agree to at the time they enter into the Agreement. In return for the participant's proactive management, the Service provides take authorization through the section 10(a)(1)(A) process of the ESA, which authorizes issuance of permits that will enhance the survival of the species. The permit would allow participants to take individuals or modify habitat to return population levels and habitat conditions to those agreed upon and specified in the Agreement.

Background on Candidate Conservation Agreements for Massasauga

The range of the eastern massasauga extends from western New York and southern Ontario to Iowa and southward to Missouri. The massasauga's decline is primarily attributed to habitat loss and persecution. The Service elevated the massasauga to the Federal candidate status in 1999. In 2001, the Service funded a region-wide massasauga conservation initiative. Region 3 States were given funds for the investigation and development of CCAs and CCAAs for pertinent Region 3 States, local land-management agencies, and private land owners. Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin are the Region 3 States in various stages of CCA development. The CCA form will vary by State and site.

Background on Environmental Assessment

The draft EA considers two action alternatives and the "No Action" alternative. Alternative A implements CCA's or CCAA's for the massasauga on protected lands (*i.e.*, state property) throughout Region 3. Alternative C relies on the use of current regulatory tools to recover the massasauga if it becomes listed under the Act. The NEPA process will be completed after the comment period, at which time the Service will consider and respond to any submitted comments in Chapter 7 of the final EA. The Regional Director will decide whether to select one of the three alternatives and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or to proceed in developing an Environmental Impact Statement if she determines there would be significant impacts.

The areas included in Candidate Conservation Agreements (listed in Sub-

Section 1.4 of the EA) may contain facilities eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and other historical or archeological resources. The National Historic Preservation Act and other laws require these properties and resources be identified and considered in project planning. The public is requested to inform the Service of concerns about archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347.

Dated: September 23, 2003.

Lynn M. Lewis,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-963-1410-HY-P; F-85448, DYA-15]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving the reserved mineral estate for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended, will be issued to Doyon, Limited. The minerals were reserved to the United States pursuant to the Act of March 8, 1922, as amended and supplemented, in the Native allotment certificate issued for U.S. Survey No. 4453B, Alaska. The lands to be conveyed contain 39.90 acres, and are located in T. 2 S., R. 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian, in the vicinity of Nenana, Alaska. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until November 26, 2003 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.