adverse modification of suitable habitat across the owl’s entire range and the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms to conserve the owl. Currently, populations of northern spotted owls are declining, especially in the northern parts of the species’ range.

Scientific research and monitoring have reported that northern spotted owls generally rely on older forested habitats because such habitats contain the structures and characteristics required for nesting, roosting, and foraging. Recent landscape-level studies in several southern portions of the northern spotted owl’s range suggest a mosaic of forest conditions may result in good northern spotted owl habitat, though other studies have not reported that finding.

The most important threat currently facing the northern spotted owl is believed to be competition with the barred owl (Strix varia). Actions associated with addressing the barred owl threat were given the highest recovery priority because the action “must be taken to prevent extinction or prevent the species from declining irreversibly in the foreseeable future.” Other important threats to the northern spotted owl continue to be loss of habitat quality and quantity as a result of past activities and disturbances, and ongoing and projected loss of habitat as a result of fire, logging and conversion of habitat to other uses.

The draft recovery plan provides two options for recovery, and we are seeking public comment on the effectiveness of both options to achieve recovery. Both options are based on the same underlying science, and contain essentially the same recovery goal, objectives, criteria, and actions. The options differ in that option 1 identifies (i.e., maps) the specific conservation area boundaries in which most of the recovery actions and criteria will be targeted. Option 2 does not designate specific conservation area boundaries, rather it provides a “rule set” that will help guide the Federal land management agencies when undertaking conservation actions for the northern spotted owl. Both options rely on Federal lands to provide the primary contribution for northern spotted owl recovery.

The intent of providing two options for public comment in a draft recovery plan is to promote open public discussion about how to successfully recover this species.

Public Comments Solicited

We will conduct four public meetings, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., to receive oral comments about this plan on:

- May 22, 2007, Tuesday at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Complex Conference Hall, 2110 SW Frear Street, Roseburg, OR;
- May 23, 2007, Wednesday at the Redding Convention Center, 700 Auditorium Drive, Redding, CA;
- May 30, 2007, Wednesday at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland Ballroom, 777 Northeast Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR; and
- May 31, 2007, Thursday at St. Martin’s University, Norman Worthington Conference Center, 3300 Pacific Ave. SE., Lacey, WA.

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate in the public meetings are invited to contact Angela Butsch at 1-888-812-5759 (voice) or 503–231–6263 (TTY), or angela.butsch@fws.gov. Reasonable accommodation requests should be received at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to help ensure availability; 2 weeks notice is requested for ASL/ESL interpreter needs. We are also soliciting written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in the finalization of this plan. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

We would specifically appreciate comments on the following topics found in both options:

- The methods used to determine desired habitat percentages listed in Recovery Criterion 4. If recommendations are offered, respondents are asked to explain the scientific foundation supporting their comments;
- The biological need, design and feasibility of attempting to provide connectivity between the Olympic Peninsula and central Washington northern spotted owl populations;
- The biological value in identifying conservation areas in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon;
- The practicality of Appendix E, which provides examples of how a salvage logging action (Recovery Action 22) may be implemented;
- The identified boundaries of the Managed Owl Conservation Areas (option 1 only) and the Conservation Support Areas:
  - Methods for managing the threat posed by barred owls; and
  - Ways to create incentives for private land owners and managers to support recovery of the northern spotted owl.

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


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

[FR Doc. E7–8007 Filed 4–25–07; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 5-Year Review of 22 Southeastern Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating 5-year reviews of the Southeastern beach mouse (Peromyscus polionotus nivoventris), rice rat (Oryzomys palustris nator), Florida salt marsh vole (Microtus pennsylvanicus dukecampbelli), Key Largo woodrat (Neotoma floridana smalli), Florida grasshopper sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum florianus), Atlantic salt marsh snake (Nerodia clarkii taeinata), Schaus swallowtail butterfly (Heraclides aristodemus ponceanus), Squirrel Chimney Cave shrimp (Palaemonetes cumingii), Florida bonamia (Bonamia grandiflora), pigeon wings (Clitorea fragrans), short-leaved rosemary (Conradina brevifolia), Rugel’s pawpaw (Deeringothamnus rugellii), longspurred mint (Dicerandra cornuttissima), Lakela’s mint (Dicerandra immaculata), scrub buckwheat (Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium), Telephus spurge (Euphorbia telephioides), Highlands scrub hypericum (Hypericum cumulicola), scrub lupine (Lupinus aridorum), papery whiff—wort (Paronychia chartacea), Micosoukee gooseberry (Ribes echinellum), Cooley’s meadow rue (Thalictrum cooleyi), and Carter’s mustard (Warea carteri), under section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended (Act). The purpose of reviews conducted under this section of
the Act is to ensure that the classification of species as threatened or endangered on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12) is accurate. A 5-year review is an assessment of the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review.

DATES: To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, information submitted for our consideration must be received on or before June 25, 2007. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.


Information on the Telephus spurge and Micsosukee gooseberry should be sent to Janet Mizzi, Panama City Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405, fax 850–763–2177. Information on Cooley's meadow rue should be sent to Pete Benjamin, Raleigh Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 551–F Pylon Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27636, fax 919–856–4520. Information received in response to this notice of review will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at the same addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy MacPherson at the Jacksonville, Florida, address above (telephone, 904/232–2580, ext. 110, e-mail sandy_macpherson@fws.gov); Cindy Schulz at the Vero Beach, Florida, address above (telephone, 772/562–3909, ext. 305, e-mail cindy_schulz@fws.gov); Janet Mizzi at the Panama City, Florida, address above (telephone, 850/769–0552, ext. 247, e-mail janet_mizzi@fws.gov); and Dale Suiter at the Raleigh, North Carolina, address above (telephone, 919/856–4520, ext. 18, e-mail dale_suiter@fws.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Act, the Service maintains a list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plant species at 50 CFR 17.11 (for wildlife) and 17.12 (for plants) (collectively referred to as the List). Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. Then, on the basis of such reviews, under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether or not any species should be removed from the List (delisted), or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. Delisting a species must be supported by the best scientific and commercial data available and only considered if such data substantiate that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons: (1) The species is considered extinct; (2) the species is considered to be recovered; and/or (3) the original data available when the species was listed, or the interpretation of such data, were in error. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process.

Amendments to the List through final rules are published in the Federal Register.

The regulations at 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing those species currently under active review. This notice announces our active review of the following species that are currently listed as endangered: rice rat, Florida salt marsh vole, Key Largo woodrat, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Schaus swallowtail butterfly, short-leaved rosemary, Rugel's pawpaw, longspurred mint, Lakela's mint, Telephus spurge, Highlands scrub hypericum, scrub lupine, Cooley's meadow rue, and Carter's mustard. This notice also announces our active review of the following species that are currently listed as threatened: Southeastern beach mouse, Atlantic salt marsh snake, Squirrel Chimney Cave shrimp, Florida bonamia, pigeon wings, scrub buckwheat, papery whitlow-wort, and Micsosukee gooseberry.

The List is also available on our internet site at http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species.

What information is considered in the review?

A 5-year review will consider the best scientific and commercial data that have become available since the current listing determination or most recent status review of each species, such as:

A. Species biology, including but not limited to population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;

B. Habitat conditions, including but not limited to amount, distribution, and suitability;

C. Conservation measures that have been implemented to benefit the species;

D. Threat status and trends (see five factors under heading “How do we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened?”); and

E. Other new information, data, or corrections, including but not limited to taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

Definitions Related to This Notice

The following definitions are provided to assist those persons who contemplate submitting information regarding the species being reviewed:

A. Species includes any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plant, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate which interbreeds when mature.

B. Endangered means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

C. Threatened means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

How do we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened?

Section 4(a)(1) of the Act establishes that we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened based on one or more of the following five factors:

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

C. Disease or predation;

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

What could happen as a result of this review?

If we find that there is new information concerning any of these 22 species indicating that a change in classification may be warranted, we may propose a new rule that could do one of the following: (a) Reclassify the species from endangered to threatened; (b)
reclassify the species from threatened to endangered; or (c) delist the species. If we determine that a change in classification is not warranted, then the species will remain on the List under its current status.

Public Solicitation of New Information

We request any new information concerning the status of any of these 22 species. See “What information is considered in the review?” heading for specific criteria. Information submitted should be supported by documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, methods used to gather and analyze the data, and/or copies of any pertinent publications, reports, or letters by knowledgeable sources. 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 names and home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority: This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. E7–8006 Filed 4–25–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID 100 1220MA 214A: DBG071007]

Notice of Public Meeting: Resource Advisory Council to the Boise District, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the 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 Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will hold a meeting as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 22, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Boise District Office located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho. Public comment periods will be held at intervals throughout the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MJ Byrne, Public Affairs Officer and RAC Coordinator, BLM Boise District, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705, Telephone (208) 384–3393.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15–member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in southwestern Idaho.

The Board will formally approve the members of the new RAC Recreation Subcommittee, including one non-RAC member. Elections of officers for the 2007 fiscal year will be held. The RAC will be given a brief status report on both the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the Bruneau RMP. Hot Topics will be discussed by the District Manager and Field Office managers will provide highlights on activities in their offices.

Agenda items and location may change due to changing circumstances, including wildlife emergencies. 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. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM Coordinator as provided above. Expeditied publication is requested to give the public adequate notice.


David Wolf,
Acting, District Manager.

[FR Doc. 07–2061 Filed 4–25–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–GG–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–922–07–1310–FI–P; NDM 93550]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NDM 93550

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Per 30 U.S.C. 188(d), Upton Resources, Encore Operating, LP, Northern Energy Corporation and WHC Exploration, LLC timely filed a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease NDM 93550, Billings County, North Dakota. The lessees paid the required rental accruing from the date of termination.

No leases were issued that affect these lands. The lessees agree to new lease terms for rentals and royalties of $10 per acre and 16½ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate. The lessees paid the $500 administration fee for the reinstatement of the lease and $163 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessees met the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). We are proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to:
• The original terms and conditions of the lease;
• The increased rental of $10 per acre;
• The increased royalty of 16½ percent or 4 percentages above the existing competitive royalty rate; and
• The $163 cost of publishing this Notice.


Karen L. Johnson,
Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section.

[FR Doc. E7–7942 Filed 4–25–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[Wy–923–1310–Fi; WWV147007]

Wyoming: Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.