

recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal and State agencies or other entities so they can consider these comments during the course of implementing recovery actions. We developed this recovery plan with input from the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Team, including a science team and a stakeholder team. We also coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game.

We listed the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep as an endangered distinct population segment (DPS) on January 3, 2000 (65 FR 20), following initial emergency listing on April 20, 1999 (64 FR 19300). At the time of listing, the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep population consisted of about 125 adults, known to exist among 5 geographic areas, with little probability of interchange among those areas. In 2000, on the basis of concurrence between genetic and morphometric data, Wehausen and Ramey (2000) reassigned populations of California bighorn outside of the Sierra Nevada to other subspecies, leaving bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada as their own subspecies. By the rules of zoological nomenclature, they again assume Grinnell's (1912) subspecies name *sierrae* (Wehausen *et al.* 2005). With that nomenclature change, the California bighorn subspecies was terminated. Concurrent with the proposed designation of critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn, on July 25, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally proposed a taxonomic revision to amend the final listing rule from DPS to subspecies, *Ovis canadensis sierrae*.

The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is threatened primarily by mountain lion predation, small population size, and the potential for disease transmission due to contact with domestic sheep and goats. Key elements for immediate action are: (1) Predator management; (2) augmentation of small herds with sheep from larger ones; and (3) elimination of the threat of a pneumonia epizootic resulting from contact with domestic sheep or goats. Actions needed to recover the bighorn sheep include: (1) Protection, maintenance, and enhancement of bighorn sheep habitat; (2) enhancing survivorship and reproductive output of bighorn sheep in order to increase population; (3) increasing the use of low-elevation winter ranges; (4) increasing the numbers of herds, and thereby the number of bighorn sheep; (5) developing and implementing a genetic management plan to maintain genetic diversity; (6) developing sources of translocation stock; (7) developing and

implementing a captive breeding program, if necessary; (8) monitoring status and trends of bighorn sheep herds and their habitat; (9) research; and (10) providing information to and working with the public.

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

Dated: February 6, 2008.

**Ken McDermond,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 8, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Office of the Secretary; Notice of Renewal of the Advisory Committee on Water Information Charter.

**AGENCY:** United States Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice of Renewal of the Advisory Committee on Water Information Charter

**SUMMARY:** Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior is renewing the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI).

The ACWI has been established under the authority of Office of Management and Budget Memorandum No. M-92-01 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of this Presidential Committee is to represent the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on Federal water-information programs and their effectiveness in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. Member organizations help to foster communications between the Federal and non-Federal sectors of sharing water information.

Membership represents a wide range of water resources interests and functions. Representation on the ACWI includes all levels of government, academia, private industry, and professional and technical societies. Member organizations designate their representatives and alternates. Membership is limited to a maximum of 35 organization.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Charter will be filed under the Act, 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Toni M. Johnson (Executive Secretary), Chief, Water Information Coordination Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 417, Reston, Virginia 20192. Telephone: 703-648-6810; Fax: 703-648-5644.

Dated: February 1, 2008.

**Dirk Kempthorne,**

*Secretary of the Interior.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Notice of an Open Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the 2008 annual meeting of the ACWS. This meeting is to discuss broad policy topics relating to National water initiatives; and the development and dissemination of water information, through reports from the eight ACWS subgroups. The agenda will include an update on the three pilot studies of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries and the first report from the Subcommittee on Ground Water on a National Ground Water Framework, as well as other water initiatives.

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Membership represents a wide range of water resources interests and functions. Representation on the ACWI includes all levels of government, academia, private industry, and professional and technical societies. Member organizations designate their representatives and alternates. Membership is limited to a maximum of 35 organizations.

**DATES:** The formal meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. on February 20, 2008, and will adjourn on February 21, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.