

soliciting proposals in this case. Responding to national priorities and global trends is our highest priority and requires science that not only builds on our existing strengths and partnerships but also demands the innovation made possible by integrating the full breadth and depth of our capabilities with other strong science partners which includes other government agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations and private industries. The USGS chooses to go forward at this time because the science issues that will be addressed will represent major challenges for our Nation's natural resources. We would like to assure you, that as with all our efforts, we will be fair and unbiased in selecting the future sites and ever mindful concerning the advancement of our scientific integrity. We are thankful for your response and concern in this matter.

As the commenter did not address this specific information collection, we have not made any changes as a result of the comment.

We again invite comments concerning this ICR on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden on the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 publically 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.

Dated: January 20, 2010.

**Susan D. Haseltine,**

*Associate Director for Biology, U.S. Geological Survey.*

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**BILLING CODE 4311-AM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLES956000-L14200000-BJ0000]

#### Eastern States: Filing of Plats of Survey

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arkansas and Illinois.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plats of survey of the lands described below in the BLM-Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153. Attn: Cadastral Survey.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The survey in the State of Arkansas was requested by the U.S. Forest Service. The survey in the State of Illinois was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lands surveyed are:

#### Fifth Principal Meridian, Arkansas

T. 13 N., R. 25 W.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of portions of the south boundary (Standard Parallel North), Township 14 North, Range 25 West; east boundary, Township 13 North, Range 26 West, east boundary, a portion of the south boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of certain sections, the survey of certain Forest Service tracts, and exceptions to certain Forest Service tracts of Township 13 North, Range 25 West, of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the State of Arkansas, and was accepted September 28, 2009.

#### Fourth Principal Meridian, Illinois

T. 6 S., R 6 W.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of the fractional township boundary, the subdivisional lines, and the resurvey of the lock and dam no. 24 acquisition boundary, of Township 6 South, Range 6 West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian, in the State of Illinois, and was accepted September 29, 2009.

We will place copies of the plats we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against a survey, as shown on the plat, prior to the date of the official filing, we will

stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file a plat until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions on appeals.

Dated: January 19, 2010.

**Dominica Van Koten,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

[FR Doc. 2010-1584 Filed 1-26-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLES956000-L14200000-BJ0000-LXSITRST0000]

#### Eastern States: Filing of Plat of Survey

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

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of plats of survey; Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM-Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153. Attn: Cadastral Survey.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These surveys were requested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The lands surveyed are:

#### Fifth Principal Meridian, Minnesota

T. 143 N., R. 41 W.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of a portion of the west boundary and a portion of the subdivisional lines and the dependent resurvey and survey of the subdivision of section 30, of Township 143 North, Range 41 West, of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the State of Minnesota, and was accepted October 14, 2009.

#### Fourth Principal Meridian, Minnesota

T. 48 N., R. 17 W.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of a portion of the north boundary and the subdivisional lines and the survey of the subdivision of section 4, Township 48 North, Range 17 West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian, in the State of Minnesota, and was accepted December 23, 2009.

#### Fourth Principal Meridian, Wisconsin

T. 47 N., R 2 W.

The plat of survey represents the dependent resurvey of portions of the south,

west, and east boundaries, a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the east and west centerline of sections 23, 24, 28, and 31, of Township 27 North, Range 2 West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian, in the State of Wisconsin, and was accepted December 16, 2009.

We will place copies of the plats we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If BLM receives a protest against a survey, as shown on the plat, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest.

We will not officially file a plat until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions on appeals.

Dated: January 19, 2010.

**Dominica Van Koten,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a General Management Plan Amendment/Wilderness Study, for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Alaska

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a General Management Plan Amendment/Wilderness Study, for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement for a general management plan amendment, including a wilderness study, for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Alaska. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Regional Director, Alaska Region.

A notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for a backcountry management plan/general management plan amendment for Gates of the Arctic was published in the September 23, 2002, **Federal Register** 67(184). However, that plan was never completed. This notice of intent replaces the September 23, 2002, notice.

The general management plan amendment will establish the overall

direction for both the park and preserve (referred to hereafter as park), setting broad management goals for managing the area during the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will prescribe desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained throughout the park based on such factors as the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, the body of laws and policies directing park management, resource analysis, and public input. The plan also will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and developments that would be appropriate in the park in the future. In addition, the plan will generally address visitor-use related issues and provide management direction for the six designated wild rivers within the park. The wilderness study will evaluate portions of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for possible recommendation for wilderness designation. The wilderness study will be included as part of the general management plan amendment.

A range of reasonable alternatives for managing the park will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, a no-action and a NPS preferred alternative. Major issues the plan amendment will address include visitor access and use of the park, level of administrative and scientific research activities, management of natural and cultural resources, protection of the wilderness character, management adaptations to climate change, external threats the park is or will be facing, partnership opportunities, and collaboration with other land managers to address regional issues. The environmental impact statement will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the alternative management approaches and the possible proposal for additional wilderness designation within the park.

As the first phase of the planning process, the National Park Service is identifying the issues to be addressed in the general management plan amendment/wilderness study/environmental impact statement. All interested persons, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on issues and concerns that should be addressed in the general management plan amendment/wilderness study/environmental impact statement, and the range of appropriate alternatives that should be examined.

**DATES:** The National Park Service is planning to begin public scoping in January 2010 via a newsletter to State and Federal agencies; associated native

corporations; neighboring communities; borough; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the congressional delegation; and other interested members of the public. In addition, the National Park Service will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan amendment in the winter of 2010 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and many of the resident zone communities of Gates of the Arctic. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media, on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/gaar>, and will also be available by contacting the park headquarters. In addition to attending the scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input to this initial phase of developing the general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement may mail or e-mail comments to the park at the address below.

Written comments concerning the scope of the general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement will be accepted for 60 days from the publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** If you wish to comment on any issues and opportunities associated with the plan, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may comment via the Internet to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gaar>. You may also mail comments to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the park at the above address.

General park information and requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to: the Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, at the address above. Telephone: 907-457-5752. General information about Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/gaar>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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.