

Dated: November 18, 2002.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 02-30960 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of the Recovery Plan for the Bruneau Hot Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*)

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

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the final recovery plan for the Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*; springsnail). This endangered freshwater snail is a member of the family Hydrobiidae and occurs in a 5-mile reach of the Bruneau River and the lower one-third of Hot Creek in Owyhee County, Idaho.

ADDRESSES: Recovery plans that have been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.r1.fws.gov/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/default.htm>. In addition, recovery plans for the springsnail may also be obtained from: Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 301-429-6403 or 800-582-3421. The fee for the plan varies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Lysne or Jeri Wood, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709 (telephone; 208-378-5243).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate the time and cost associated with implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), 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 during recovery plan development, the Service provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. The Service will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The springsnail was listed as endangered on June 17, 1998 (FR 63 32981). This freshwater, aquatic snail exists only in an approximately 5-mile reach of the Bruneau River and its tributary, Hot Creek, in southwestern Idaho. The springsnail inhabits flowing geothermal springs and seeps with temperatures ranging from 15.7 to 36.9 degrees Celsius. The springsnail is found in these habitats on the exposed surfaces of various substrates including rocks, gravel, sand, mud, and algal films. The principal threat to the springsnail is the reduction and/or elimination of their geothermal spring habitat as a result of agricultural groundwater withdrawals.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the springsnail so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Recovery is contingent upon protecting and managing the remaining springsnail habitat to maintain and enhance viable populations of the springsnail.

The springsnail will be considered for reclassification when: (1) Water levels in the regional geothermal aquifer have increased and stabilized at 815 meters (2,674 feet) in elevation; (2) the total number of geothermal springs discharging within the recovery area is 200 or more and are distributed within the current range of the springsnail; (3) more than two-thirds of available geothermal springs within the recovery area are occupied by stable, medium to high density populations of reproducing hot springsnails; and (4) groundwater levels are permanently protected against further reductions through implementation of groundwater management activities.

Authority

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

Dated: September 30, 2002.

Anne Badgley,

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

[FR Doc. 02-30982 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through this delegated authority, has approved the extension agreement to the class III gaming compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 9, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: November 13, 2002.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-30966 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved

Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved the second amendment to the Tribal-State Compact for class III gaming between the Quinault Indian Nation and the State of Washington.

EFFECTIVE DATES: December 9, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: November 22, 2002

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-30968 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Nation—State Gaming Compact taking effect.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, is publishing the notice that the Nation-State Compact for class III gaming between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the State of New York executed on August 18, 2002, is considered approved. By the terms of IGRA, this compact is considered approved, but only to the extent the compact is consistent with the provisions of IGRA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 9, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: November 18, 2002.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-30967 Filed 12-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ 020-03-1610-DO-089A]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Phoenix Field Office

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Phoenix Field Office. These lands are located in Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, and Gila Counties, Arizona.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Phoenix Field Office intends to prepare a RMP for the southern portion of the Phoenix Field Office (referred to as Phoenix South RMP) in association with the Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP (notice published in the **Federal Register** Vol. 67, No. 79, 20158; Wednesday April 24, 2002) with one associated EIS for the two planning efforts. This planning activity encompasses approximately 1 million acres of public land. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), other laws, regulations, and BLM management policies. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The first phase of the planning process is scoping which includes the identification of issues that should be addressed in the planning process and development of planning criteria.

DATES: The scoping comment period commences with the publication of this notice and will continue for at least 60 days. Public meetings will be held in approximately late 2002–early 2003. Public notice will be provided specifying when the meetings will occur and will include notification of when the scoping period will close.

Public Participation: Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meeting locations will be rotated among towns in the planning area. Towns in the planning area include the metro-Phoenix area, Tonopah, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Maricopa, Ajo, Sells, Casa Grande, and

Miami-Globe. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the public lands. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. Written comments will be accepted throughout the planning process. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.az.blm.gov>). In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the draft RMP/EIS.

ADDRESSES: Phoenix South—Sonoran Desert NM Planning, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office, 21605 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; Fax 623-580-5580. For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact the Phoenix Field Office, Telephone 623-580-5500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The planning area is generally bounded by: Interstate 10 and Highway 60 on the north, the Maricopa-Yuma County line on the west, the U.S.-Mexican border on the south, and the eastern Phoenix Field Office boundary on the east. The resulting Phoenix South RMP will replace the Lower Gila South RMP, and parts of the Lower Gila North MFP and the Phoenix RMP. Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. Additional issues and modifications to known issues will be identified during public scoping. The major issues that will be addressed in the plan effort include, but are not limited to, management of public land resources including natural resource management; cultural resource management and protection; recreation/visitor use and safety; access and transportation on the public lands; location and management of utility corridors; management of grazing, mining, mineral materials, and other uses; and integration of public land management, local community, tribal, and other agency needs and plans.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.