

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Revised Recovery Plan for the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the revised Recovery Plan for the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). This is the third revision of the recovery plan for this species; the original was completed in 1980. The whooping crane is found in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and in central Canada. This revision to the recovery plan was developed by an international team and will be jointly adopted by the United States and Canada.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the recovery plan on CD may be obtained from the Whooping Crane Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 100, Austwell, Texas 77950, or the plan may be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/Endangered> (type "whooping crane" in the species search field).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Stehn, USFWS Whooping Crane Coordinator, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 100, Austwell, Texas 77950; telephone (361) 286-3559, ext. 221, facsimile (361) 286-3722, e-mail: Tom_Stehn@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (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, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service considers all information provided during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and others take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery plans.

In the United States, the whooping crane (*Grus americana*) was listed as Threatened with Extinction in 1967 and Endangered in 1970—both listings were "grandfathered" into the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Critical habitat was designated in 1978. In Canada, it was designated as Endangered in 1978 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada; critical habitat in Canada will be designated upon publication of the final recovery strategy on the Species at Risk Act public registry.

Whooping cranes occur only in North America. Approximately 343 individuals exist in the wild at 3 locations, and 135 whooping cranes are in captivity at 9 sites. Only the Aransas—Wood Buffalo National Park population (AWBP) that nests in Canada and winters in coastal marshes in Texas is self-sustaining, with approximately 220 in the flock. With so few individuals surviving, the population remains in danger of extinction. Historic population declines resulted from habitat destruction, shooting, and displacement by activities of man. Current threats include limited genetics, loss and degradation of migration stopover habitat, collisions with power lines, and degradation of coastal habitat and threat of chemical spills.

The revised recovery plan includes scientific information about the species and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist the species. Recovery actions designed to achieve these objectives include protection and enhancement of the breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for the AWBP to allow the wild flock to grow and reach ecological and genetic stability; reintroduction and establishment of geographically separate self-sustaining wild flocks to ensure resilience to catastrophic events; and maintenance of a captive breeding flock to protect against extinction that is genetically managed to retain a minimum of 90 percent of the whooping crane's genetic material for 100 years.

The current recovery goal is to reclassify (downlist) the species from endangered to threatened status. Criteria to delist the species are not being proposed at this time because the status

and biology of the species dictate that considerable time (over 20 years) is needed to reach downlisting goals. Additional threats are expected to arise and will have to be overcome before downlisting occurs. Additional information is also needed on the conservation biology of small populations, including a determination of effective population size (N_e) for whooping cranes to maintain genetic viability over the long-term, and impacts of stochastic and catastrophic events on population survival. Delisting criteria will be established, as appropriate, in a subsequent revision of, or amendment to, this recovery plan.

Downlisting can be achieved when (1) There are a minimum of 40 productive pairs in the AWBP and 25 productive pairs in each of two additional self-sustaining populations, or (1A) there are 100 productive pairs in the AWBP and 30 productive pairs in a second self-sustaining population, or (1B) there are 250 productive pairs in the AWBP, and (2) there are at least 21 productive pairs in the captive population.

This revision to the recovery plan was developed by an international recovery team, and will be jointly adopted by the United States and Canada.

Authority

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

Dated: July 21, 2006.

Benjamin N. Tuggle,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on May 22, 2007.

[FR Doc. E7-10099 Filed 5-25-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[F-14858-A, F-14858-B; AK-964-1410-HY-P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

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 lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Gana-a'Yoo, Limited, Successor in Interest to Notaaghleedin, Limited. The lands are in the vicinity of Galena, Alaska, and are located in:

Lots 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13, U.S. Survey No. 6664, Alaska.

Containing 101.65 acres.

T. 7 S., R. 10 E.,
Secs. 19, 30, and 31.

Containing 1,775.79 acres.

T. 10 S., R. 11 E.,
Secs. 21, 28, and 29; Secs. 30 to 33,
inclusive.

Containing 4,345.45 acres.

Aggregating 6,222.89 acres.

The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Doyon, Limited when the surface estate is conveyed to Gana-a'Yoo, Limited. 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 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** 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.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

Jenny M. Anderson,

Land Law Examiner, Branch of Adjudication II.

[FR Doc. E7-10222 Filed 5-25-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-820-1430-EQ]

Notice of Seasonal Closure of Public Lands, San Juan County, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of seasonal closure.

SUMMARY: The San Juan Public Lands Center, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that public lands near the Silverton Ski Area as described below, will be seasonally closed to all entry, from November 1 *through the end of the seasonal ski area operation, but not later than June 15 of each year*. This closure is necessary to protect skiers within the ski area boundaries and the general public during periods of avalanche control work as authorized under BLM permit/lease.

The lands affected by this closure are described as a portion of those federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 of protracted Township 42 N., R.7 W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. These lands are further described as: beginning at a point 0.5 mile north of Cascade Gulch and extending northeasterly along the east side of Colorado State highway #110A to the junction of San Juan County #52, thence southeasterly along the Middle Fork of Cement Creek to the divide between the Middle Fork Cement Creek and the South Fork of the Animas River, thence south along the ridge line forming the Colorado Basin to Storm Peak, thence west along a descending ridge line to the tree line between Grassy Gulch and Cascade Gulch, thence, northwest to the point of the beginning.

The BLM will post closure signs in this area. You may obtain maps of the closure area and information from the San Juan Public Lands Center in Durango, CO.

Discussion of the Rule: Under the authority of 43 CFR 9268.3(d)(1)(I) and 43 CFR 8364.1(a), the BLM will enforce the following rule on public lands within the closed area as described above:

You must not enter the closed area between November 1st *through the end of the seasonal ski area operation, or June 15 of each year whichever is the last date of seasonal operation.*

Exemptions: Persons who are exempt from these rules include any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties; Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty; and any person authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management.

Penalties: The authorities for this closure are section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), 43 CFR 9268.3(a)(4) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months,

or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charlie Higby, BLM Realty Specialist, (970) 385-1374; San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, Colorado 81301.

Pauline E. Ellis,

Field Office Manager, Columbine Field Office.

[FR Doc. E7-10166 Filed 5-25-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-910-07-1990-EX]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the January 2007 Amendment to the Plan of Operations for the Barrick Goldstrike Mine (Also Known as the Betze Project), Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 43 CFR part 3809, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko Field Office will be preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed amendment to the Plan of Operations for the Goldstrike Mine also known as the Betze Project, 25 miles north of Carlin, Nevada. The original EIS was completed in 1991. The Goldstrike Mine has continued in operation since that date.

DATES: Public comments must be received in the Elko Field Office within 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

—**Fax:** (775) 753-0255.

—**Mail:** Sent to the attention of the January 2007 Barrick Goldstrike Amendment Manager, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirk Laird, Project Manager at the Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho, Elko, NV 89801. Telephone (775) 753-0200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The current amendment proposes to expand the Goldstrike Mine from 7,771 acres of disturbance to 9,031 acres of which 493 acres of new disturbance will be on public land managed by the BLM Elko