

Dated: February 28, 1996.

Tom Steger,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-5352 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

[MT-926-06-1420-00]

Land Resource Management

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the following described land are scheduled to be officially filed in the Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, thirty (30) days from the date of this publication.

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 6 S., R. 50 E.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines and the subdivision of section 28, and survey of portions of the right and left bank meanders of the Powder River, downstream, through section 28, and the subdivision of section 32 and survey of portions of the right and left meanders of the Powder River, Township 6 South, Range 50 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted February 15, 1996.

T. 7 S., R. 50 E.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of portions of the north boundary, subdivisional lines, and the adjusted original meanders of the former left bank of the Powder River, downstream, through section 6, and the subdivision of section 6, and the survey of the new meanders of the present left bank of the Powder River, downstream, through section 7, and through a portion of section 6, and certain division of accretion lines in sections 6 and 7, Township 7 South, Range 50 East, Principal Meridian, Montana, was accepted February 15, 1996.

These surveys were executed at the request of the Miles City District Office for a proposed land exchange.

The triplicate original of the proceeding described plats will be immediately placed in the open files and will be available to the public as a matter of information.

If a protest against these surveys, as shown on these plats, is received prior to the date of the official filings, the filings will be stayed pending consideration of the protests. These particular plats will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been accepted or dismissed and become

final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 26800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800.

Dated: February 26, 1996.

Larry E. Hamilton,

State Director.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Rare Species of Soldier Meadows for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the threatened desert dace, *Eremichthys acros*, and the category 1 candidate Soldier Meadows cinquefoil, *Potentilla basaltica*. These species are endemic to Soldier Meadows, Humboldt County, Nevada. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before May 6, 1996, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the State Supervisor, Nevada State Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Building C-125, Reno, Nevada, 89502-5093 (Phone: 702-784-5227). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be sent to Mr. Carlos H. Mendoza, State Supervisor, at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Selena Werdon at the above address and telephone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) 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 the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification or delisting, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

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

Desert dace are endemic to Soldier Meadows, located in western Humboldt County, Nevada. The species occupies 10 thermal spring systems and approximately 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) of spring outflow stream habitat. No recent population estimate is available, but the species is considered to be relatively abundant in some spring systems. Threats to the species when listed included habitat modifications due to agricultural diversions, potential geothermal and/or mineral development; and introductions of nonnative fishes; and parasites. Potential threats include trampling and overgrazing by livestock and wild horses and burros, and increasing recreational use of the species' habitat. Recovery efforts will focus on restoring historical habitat in one spring outflow, monitoring population stability and health, and eliminating threats from ongoing habitat modification and sympatric nonnative species. Habitat for desert dace is currently public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and private land under a conservation easement.

Soldier Meadows cinquefoil are also endemic to Soldier Meadows, although one additional population occurs in Ash Valley, Lassen County, California. In Soldier Meadows, the species occupies alkali meadow, seep, and marsh habitats bordering thermal springs, outflow streams, and depressions. Soldier Meadows contains 10 subpopulations of the cinquefoil. An estimated 84,650 individual plants are distributed on approximately 28 hectares (69 acres). Threats to the species include habitat