

well as commercial exploitation (collecting) and "gassing" are well documented as diminishing the population to a suggested viable presence only in the states of Florida and Georgia. The acquisition, preservation and management of large tracts of suitable habitat as opposed to small, isolated parcels is generally recommended.

Although not observed on site, the Applicant has requested authorization for incidental take of any Eastern Indigo snake occurring within the tract. In addition to the normal species specific precautionary and educational materials to be provided to on site personnel for the Eastern Indigo snake as outlined in the HCP, the mitigation strategy as identified above for the Florida scrub jay will be applied to offset unavoidable impacts to the Eastern Indigo snake.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives. The no action alternative may result in loss of habitat for *Aphelocoma coerulescens* and exposure of the Applicant under Section 9 of the Act. The on-site preservation alternative would preserve 8.2 acres of occupied habitat. This option would not require an ITP, however, the portion of commercially developable property would be reduced from 11 acres to 2.8 acres. In addition, this option would not provide any management for the Florida scrub-jay family currently located on the property. The third alternative, the off-site mitigation alternative, would provide funds to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fund for the Conservation of the Florida Scrub-jay to procure occupied Florida scrub-jay habitat in Volusia County, Florida to be managed into perpetuity. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the ITP with off-site mitigation. The affirmative conservation measures outlined in the HCP to be employed to offset the anticipated level of incidental take to the protected species are the following:

1. To mitigate for the up to 8.2 acres of occupied habitat that would be eliminated on site the applicant will provide funds to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$103,320.00 to be spent for procurement of occupied Florida scrub-jay habitat and conservation in Volusia County at a later date. This amount is based on mitigation at a ratio of 2:1 (two acres purchased for every one acre impacted and land costs of \$5,000 per acre), a \$1,000 per acre management endowment, and an administrative fee of five percent of the total cost for management of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fund for conservation of the Florida scrub-jay.

Upon procurement, the mitigation land would first be donated to and subsequently managed by a holding company. After initial habitat restoration, the property would then be conveyed to Volusia County or other acceptable land conservation program, along with a conservation easement, requiring preservation and management for Florida scrub-jays (and eastern indigo snakes) into perpetuity.

2. No clearing of scrub vegetation would occur during the nesting season of the Florida scrub jay.

3. The HCP provides a funding mechanism for these mitigation measures.

As stated above, the Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comment received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the EA and HCP.

An appropriate excerpt from the FONSI reflecting the Service's finding on the application is provided below:

Based on the analysis conducted by the Service, it has been determined that:

1. Issuance of an ITP would not have significant effects on the human environment in the project area.

2. The proposed take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity.

3. The Applicant has ensured that adequate funding will be provided to implement the measures proposed in the submitted HCP.

4. Other than impacts to endangered and threatened species as outlined in the documentation of this decision, the indirect impacts which may result from issuance of the ITP are addressed by other regulations and statutes under the jurisdiction of other government entities. The validity of the Service's ITP is contingent upon the Applicant's compliance with the terms of the permit and all other laws and regulations under the control of State, local, and other Federal governmental entities.

The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

Sam D. Hamilton,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-30346 Filed 11-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-951-99-1020-00]

Call for Nominations for Butte Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for the Elected Official position on the Butte Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The term of the position will expire in September 1999. RACs provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on land use planning and management of the public lands within their geographic areas. Public nominations will be considered for 45 days after the publication date of this notice.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in the planning and management of the public lands administered by the BLM. Each Council has 15 members who serve staggered terms. RAC membership must reflect a balanced representation of the various interests and users of the public lands. These include persons who are representatives of the following categories:

Category One—Holders of federal grazing permits and representatives of energy and mining development, timber industry, off-road vehicle use, and developed recreation.

Category Two—Representatives of environmental and resource conservation organizations, archaeological and historic interests, and wild horse and burro groups;

Category Three—Representatives of State, county and local government, Native American tribes, academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public at large.

At least one member of the RAC must be an elected official of general purpose government serving the people within the geographic area the RAC represents.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience of the issues and knowledge of the geographical area of the RAC. Nominees should have demonstrated a

commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of Montana. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience of the issues and knowledge of the geographical area of the RAC. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

DATES: All nominations should be received by the BLM Butte Field Office by January 4, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Sullivan, BLM Butte Field Office, 106 North Parkmont, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59701; telephone 406-494-5059.

Dated: November 12, 1998.

Gary Gerth,

Assistant Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-30968 Filed 11-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-330-4210-05, CACA 39081]

Notice of Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action.

SUMMARY: The following public land in Humboldt County, California, has been examined and found suitable for classification for transfer to the State of California under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869, *et seq.*). The State of California proposes to incorporate the land into Richardson Grove State Park and manage them under plans approved for that park.

Humboldt Base & Meridian

T.5S., R.3E.,

Section 11, SWSW.

Containing 40 acres, more or less.

The land is not needed for Federal purposes. Transfer is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest.

The patent, when issued, will be subject to the following terms:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all

applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove the minerals.

4. Those rights for ingress/egress and timber hauling granted to Coombs Tree Farms under Right-of-Way CACA 39081.

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for transfer under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested persons may submit comments regarding the proposed transfer or classification of the land to Lynda J. Roush, Field Manager, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521.

Classification Comments

Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for inclusion into Richardson's Grove State Park. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments

Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific proposed action in the application, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for inclusion into Richardson's Grove State Park. Comments received on the classification will be answered by the State Director with the right to further comment to the Secretary. Comments on the application will be answered by the State Director with the right of appeal to the IBLA.

Lynda J. Roush,

Arcata Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-30914 Filed 11-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-180-09-1430-01: SAC 079371]

Realty Action, Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Placer County, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action—Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Placer County, California.

SUMMARY: The following public lands in Placer County, California have been examined and found suitable for classification for conveyance to the Placer County Board of Supervisors under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*). The Placer County Board of Supervisors currently leases the following lands for a transfer station.

Mount Diablo Meridian, California

T. 13 N., R. 10 E.,

Sec. 3, lots 19 & 20. (Foresthill)

Containing 52.15 acres, more or less.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Conveyance is consistent with the current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest.

The patent, when issued, will be subject to the following terms, conditions, and reservations:

1. Provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and to all applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

2. A right-of-way for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

3. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove materials.

4. An easement for streets, roads, and utilities in accordance with the transportation plan for each County.

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, California.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the lands will be segregated from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and leasing under the mineral leasing laws. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested persons may submit