

comprehensively surveyed for gopher tortoise colonies. A management area will be designated for each colony where thinning, prescribed fire, and other measures will be used to reduce or eliminate encroaching shrubs, hardwoods, and as necessary pine trees to create an open forest and optimal conditions for gopher tortoises. Since the density of tortoises is greater in colonies, the objective of the plan is to conserve and manage segments of the population that most likely continue to breed.

Gopher tortoise surveys on 20,000 acres of transects on the Applicant's land have not identified any colonies or populations that are potentially viable with 50 or more interbreeding tortoises. Gopher tortoises occur, overall, at low densities on the Applicant's land. The focus of this interim plan is to conserve the most likely breeding segments of the population that are important for short-term survival. During this period, a long-term plan will be developed based on additional research and comprehensive surveys on up to 80,000 acres of habitat. The goal of the future plan is restore and manage habitat for aggregations of colonies with the greatest potential to contribute to recovery.

The HCP has the following objectives:

1. Survey Applicant's lands within the historic gopher tortoise range to identify tortoise occurrence in relation to soil type and other habitat parameters in order to develop predictive models of tortoise occurrence.

2. Conduct research to form a scientific basis for submission of an HCP for at least an additional 25 years that would seek to build and maintain viable gopher tortoise populations on the Applicant's lands.

3. Conduct research to evaluate adverse effects of mechanized forest management and harvesting, and other silvicultural practices on gopher tortoises.

4. Identify gopher tortoise colonies and designate management areas around these sites. Improve and perpetuate favorable habitat conditions around these management areas.

5. Conduct research necessary to implement long term mitigation with the goal of creating larger, contiguous gopher tortoise management units that will become viable population centers contributing to species recovery goals.

6. Demonstrate successful application of adaptive management, sound science, and third party involvement in development of a broad-base HCP that has the core objective of contributing to gopher tortoise recovery.

7. Establish management, mitigation, and monitoring protocol for implementation of future versions of the HCP in longer term incidental take authorizations.

8. Inform and train applicant's employees, contractors, and recreational users on the gopher tortoise management guidelines specified in the HCP.

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 draft EA and HCP.

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 17, 2000.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-30218 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare a ACEC/River Management Plan and EIS for the Wild and Scenic Klamath River in Oregon and That Portion of the Klamath River Down to the Slack Water of Copco Reservoir in California

AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management Oregon and California, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

ACTION: Notice of Intent To Prepare an ACEC/River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Klamath River in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District/Klamath Falls Resource Area will be directing the preparation of an ACEC/River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the impacts of river uses in southern Oregon and northern California.

DATES: This is a scoping notice and responses to scoping are to be received at the Klamath Falls Resource Area Office, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg. 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603 by January 31, 2001.

Public scoping meetings for the River Management Plan will be held after the first of the year, 2001, in Klamath Falls, Oregon and/or Copco or Yreka or Redding, California.

The Draft River Management Plan and DEIS analysis would be available for public review by the fall of 2001. Comments will be accepted for the DEIS for 90 days. After incorporation of DEIS comments the document will be finalized and re-sent out for review after the first of the year, 2002. Comments will be accepted on the FEIS for 30 days.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, ATTN: Klamath River Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Frazier, Natural Resources Branch Chief, (541) 883-6916.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed ACEC/River Management Plan is located on the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District, Oregon and the Redding Field Office, California. An ACEC designation for this project was completed as part of the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (1995). The Upper Klamath River was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a Scenic River and was included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system under section 2(a)(ii) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on September 22, 1994. The same reach of river was designated a State Scenic Waterway in 1988 under Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Act.

The ACEC designation begins from the John C. Boyle Dam.

The purposes of undertaking an ACEC/River Management Plan and EIS at this time are to evaluate current river uses in an environmental document that will then be included as part of the environmental review in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing process of hydroelectric uses on the river in 2005. The depth of analysis on some issues for the ACEC/River Management Plan will be dependent upon the results of scoping.

Tentative issues to be addressed are water quality and quantity, fisheries, recreation, cultural resources, wildlife, botanical resources, scenic river, and hydroelectric relicensing processes.

The proposed project area for the Klamath River in Oregon is @11 miles long from the John C. Boyle Dam to the OR/CA State Line and encompasses @4960 acres. The California portion of the project is from the OR/CA State Line to the slack water of Copco Reservoir in California, a distance of @10 miles and encompasses @4200 acres.

The proposed project is within Klamath County, Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The proposed project is approximately 12–25 miles south west of Klamath Falls, Oregon beginning at the John C. Boyle Dam.

The BLM/Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg. 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, (541) 883–6916 will be the lead agency in preparation of documents. Future documents will be available from this address. Related documents include the Final Eligibility and Suitability Report for the Upper Klamath Wild and Scenic River Study (1990) (Department of the Interior). Copies of this document are available from the Klamath Falls Resource Area office. Another related document is the Klamath Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report and Environmental Assessment (1994) (National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region). Copies of this document are available at the National Park Service, Northwest Regional Office, 909 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104–1060.

The interdisciplinary team will be made up of a team leader, wildlife, fisheries, botany, archaeology, recreation, hydrology, and planning specialists. An Interagency Review Committee comprised of representatives from county, state, and federal agencies will ensure the project complies with regulatory processes in California and Oregon. The Upper Basin Subcommittee of the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will assist in the gathering of information from private river users, local private landowners and other interested parties to include in the interdisciplinary analysis.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is a cooperative agency in the preparation of this document. Other cooperating agencies are the BLM/Redding Field Office in California. The proposed project is for the BLM/Klamath Falls Resource Area to prepare an ACEC/River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Klamath River project area. For this River Management Plan and EIS, the State of Oregon will prepare a chapter in the EIS document that will be the management plan for the State scenic waterway and the scenic river.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Klamath Falls Resource Area office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M–F, except holidays) and may be published as part of the EIS or other related documents. Individuals may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this promptly at the beginning of your written comment. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If this management direction is approved, one or more of the alternatives would amend the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (June 1995) and the Redding Resource Management Plan (June 1993). If the proposed direction amends the RMP plans in both California and Oregon, Bureau of Land Management regulations and associated manuals and handbooks for land use planning would apply.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Raml,

Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area.

[FR Doc. 00–30064 Filed 11–24–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–020–1220–XQ]

Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council—Notice of Meeting—Agenda Amendment, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Amend the **Federal Register** Notice, published November 1, 2000 for the Special Resource Advisory Council Meeting—Black Rock Desert Management Plan, to include discussion of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act acquisition nominations.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), a Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Council meeting will be held

as indicated below. Topics for discussion include the review of public comments received on the Black Rock Desert Management Plan, and the time line proposed for completion of the final management plan and environmental impact statement. The second round of Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act acquisition nominations will also be discussed. This meeting is open to the public. The public comment period for the Black Rock Desert Management Plan will begin at 11 a.m. The public comment period for the Southern Nevada Public Management Act will begin at 3 p.m. The public may present written comments to the Council. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting, should contact Les Boni at the Winnemucca Field Office, BLM, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89445, or by telephone at (775) 623–1500.

LOCATION, DATE AND TIME: The Council will meet on Monday, December 4, 2000, beginning at 9 a.m. and may continue into the evening, at the Fernley Town Complex, 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Fernley, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Les Boni, Assistant Field Manager Nonrenewable Resources, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, telephone (775) 623–1500.

Dated: November 12, 2000.

Terry A. Reed,

Winnemucca Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00–30062 Filed 11–24–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO–200–1430–EQ]

Notice of Realty Action—Lake County

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Realty Action, Federal Land Policy and Management Act Section 302 Lease, in Lake County, Colorado.

SUMMARY: All public land within the City of Leadville, Colorado is available for lease under Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as amended, and the regulations thereunder 43 CFR part 2920 for authorization of historic commercial or residential use. Owners of qualified improvements may make application and after analysis they may be offered a 20-year lease to allow continued