

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The REA directs the Secretary of the Interior to publish a six-month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established. Once the public comment period is complete, a new fee must be reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee prior to a final decision and implementation.

The Birch Creek Campground is located in Clark County, Idaho, approximately 75 miles northwest of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and 86 miles south of Salmon, Idaho. It is fairly remote and allows visitors to camp adjacent to the popular Birch Creek fishing area and enjoy the scenery of the Lemhi Mountain range. Visitors can also recreate with motorized vehicles on adjacent BLM- and U.S. Forest Service-managed lands.

There are approximately 60 campsites and four large identified group sites dispersed along a 5.5 mile stretch of Birch Creek. Approximately one-third of the campsites have picnic tables and fire rings. There are multiple restroom facilities throughout the campground. The campground is adjacent to Highway 28 and is accessed by one of three entrances. The BLM does not provide electricity or water at the individual campsites and there is no recreational vehicle (RV) dump station or refuse collection. The host site has hook-ups, and there is a water pump adjacent to the host site that allows visitors to fill up their RV tanks. This area is not currently a fee area.

The Upper Snake Field Office is proposing charging a fee for large groups to reserve one of the group sites to guarantee camping access for an entire group. The proposed group site reservation fee is classified as an "Expanded Amenity Fee" under REA and would only apply to visitors wanting to reserve a group site. The BLM receives 12-15 requests annually to reserve one of the group sites at Birch Creek Campground. Reasons for these requests vary: some want to reserve a campsite located near accessible restroom facilities, while others want to reserve the location for large family reunions or other special occasions. Without an amenity fee associated with the site, the BLM is unable to make such reservations, leaving visitors wishing to

reserve a group campsite with the sole option of seeking exclusive use, with an accompanying fee of \$200, which is prohibitive for most weekend campground users. Because the vast majority of identified campsites at Birch Creek Campground are individual, a reservation system for group campsites would not displace or inconvenience other campers. Based on these factors, visitors' willingness to pay a group reservation fee is expected to be high.

Outside of the proposed group site reservation fee, the BLM is not planning to assess fees for camping at Birch Creek Campground. Additionally, fees will not be charged for camping in designated group sites when the sites have not been reserved.

**Joe Kraayenbrink,**

*Idaho Falls District Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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#### Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative—Science Technical Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, North Slope Science Initiative, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI)—Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held February 19-22, 2013, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 401, International Arctic Research Center (IARC), 930 Koyukuk Drive, University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, Fairbanks, Alaska. Public comment will be accepted between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis Lassuy, Acting Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative, AK-910, c/o Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, (907) 271-3212 or email [dlassuy@blm.gov](mailto:dlassuy@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-

800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NSSI STAP provides advice and recommendations to the NSSI Oversight Group regarding priority information needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority information needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring, and research activities that contribute to informed resource management decisions. This meeting will include continued dialog for scenario planning for the North Slope and adjacent marine environments. Additionally, the STAP will continue with designing a long-term monitoring strategy for the North Slope.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Science Technical Advisory Panel through the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative. Each formal meeting will also have time allotted for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: January 15, 2013.

**Bud C. Cribley,**

*State Director.*

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