

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 modifications due to agricultural diversions, trampling and overgrazing by livestock and wild horses and burros, and recreational use; and competing nonnative plants. Conservation efforts will focus on eliminating threats from ongoing habitat modification and invading nonnative plants, and monitoring population stability and health. Habitat for Soldier Meadows cinquefoil in Soldier Meadows is currently public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and private land under a conservation easement.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the *Recovery Plan for the Rare Species of Soldier Meadows*. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

#### Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1553(f).

Dated: February 9, 1996.

Thomas Dwyer,

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 96-4375 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

#### North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Meeting Announcement

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) will meet on March 13 to review proposals for funding submitted pursuant to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Upon completion of the Council's review, proposals will be submitted to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission with recommendations for funding. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** March 13, 1996, 9:00 A.M.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area at a location yet to be determined. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator is located at Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Byron Kenneth Williams, Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, (703) 358-1784.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Pub. L. 101-233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended), the North American Wetlands Conservation Council is a Federal-State-private body which meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement and management projects for recommendation to and final approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The Council requires that proposals from State, Federal, and private sponsors contain a minimum of 50 percent non-Federal matching funds.

Dated: February 15, 1996.

John G. Rogers,

*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-4356 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

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#### Geological Survey

##### Institute of Gas Technology; Radon Use in Natural Gas to Detect Water-Front Movement in Gas Reservoirs; Research

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is planning to enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the Institute of Gas Technology (IGT) to conduct research into the use of radon in natural gas to detect water-front movement in gas reservoirs. Any others wishing to pursue the possibility of a CRADA for

similar activities should contact the U.S. Geological Survey no later than 30 days from the publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Information on the proposed CRADA is available to the public upon request at the following location: U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, MS 430, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22092.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas F. Kraemer, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division at the address given above; telephone 703-648-5868; FAX 703-648-5484; email tkraemer@usgs.gov.

R. Hirsch,

*Chief Hydrologist.*

[FR Doc. 96-4332 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

#### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-320-1330-01-24 1A]

##### OMB Approval Number 1004-0103; Notice of Proposed Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collection of information from applicants who apply for purchase of mineral materials from public lands under the 43 CFR 3600 regulations. Respondents supply information as to their identity and address and the location and amount of material desired for purchase. The information enables the authorized officer to identify and communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the effect of the proposal on the environment and land uses and to determine whether or not a mineral material contract may be granted.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by April 29, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WO140@attmail.com. Please include "ATTN: Patrick Boyd" and your name and return address in your Internet message. Comments may be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record,

Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, DC. Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Durga N. Rimal, (202) 452-0350.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), the BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning a proposed collection of information to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 601, 602), provides for the disposal of mineral materials such as sand, gravel, and petrified wood from the public lands by sale or free use. Such disposals are made at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, consistent with the 43 CFR 3600 regulations. These regulations were last revised in 1983. The methods and information required from the public are still the same.

The information that the regulations require an applicant/permittee to submit will be used by the BLM to determine if the sale of materials is in the public interest, to mitigate environmental impacts of mineral materials development, to get fair market value for the materials sold, and to prevent trespass removal of the materials.

An applicant requesting purchase of mineral materials must submit a written request to the authorized officer. Information requirements are not specified in the regulations but the authorized officer is required to make all sales agreements on contract forms approved by the Director of the BLM. Two forms are used. Form 3600-4 is used when the total sale value is less than \$2,000 and full payment is due upon execution of the contract. Form 3600-5 is used for sales of \$2,000 or greater and provides for installment

payments. Both forms require that the applicants provide their name, address, and authorized signature, and location and amount of material to be purchased. In addition to being necessary for a binding contractual agreement, the information is used by the authorized officer to identify and communicate with the applicant. Without binding contractual agreements, the Government would not be able to require appropriate reclamation of disturbed sites, protect natural resources, and ensure regular payment for mineral materials sold.

The public reporting burden for this entire collection, including the form, is estimated to average one-half hour per response. The respondents are sand, gravel, stone and other mineral materials operators. The number of responses per respondent is one to two per year.

The majority of respondents consist of permittees with small sales contracts, for sales amounting to less than \$2,000. Depending on the site and amount of material the authorized officer may require the applicant to provide an outline of a mining and reclamation plan at the time of application, prior to processing of the application (43 CFR 3602.1). However, a majority of sales occur from community pits for which the BLM has already developed a mining and reclamation plan, and there is no burden to the applicant. Estimated average preparation time for completing Form 3600-4 and Form 3600-5 and preparing supporting documents, is about 30 minutes. Actual time varies from 15 minutes (most common) to several days for larger projects. The number of new responses is estimated to be 2,500 per year. The estimated total annual burden on new respondents is collectively 1,250 hours. For sales contracts whose terms exceed one year, the respondents are required to submit annual production reports during the duration of the contract (43 CFR 3610.1-3). The average reporting burden for such respondents is about 30 minutes. The estimated number of respondents with contracts requiring annual production reports is 470 with annual burden collectively estimated to be 235 hours. The regulations allow an applicant to perform sampling and testing of deposits, by obtaining a letter of use authorization from the authorized officer, prior to the issuance of a sales contract or permit (CFR 3602.2). A majority of mineral materials sales are made from known deposits where the applicants perform sampling and testing of deposits, by obtaining a letter of use authorization from the authorized officer, prior to the issuance of a sales contract or permit (CFR 3602.2). A

majority of mineral materials sales are made from known deposits where the applicants do not ask for permits for sampling and testing. In an average year only about 100 such authorizations are issued and the permittees are required to submit their findings to the authorized officer. The collective annual burden on respondents is estimated to be 75 hours. The total burden for all respondents would collectively total 1,560 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 22, 1996.

Annetta Cheek,

*Chief, Regulatory Management.*

[FR Doc. 96-4415 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

[NM-070-06-1050-00]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment [EA] to the Farmington Resource Management Plan Farmington District, New Mexico, Involving Designating Cultural Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Plan Amendment/EA and invitation for public involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Farmington District Office is initiating preparation of a Plan Amendment/EA for designation of Cultural Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the northwest corner of New Mexico. The public is invited to participate in this planning effort with the identification of additional sites, issues and planning criteria.

The planning document will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists within the Farmington District Office. The Proposed Plan Amendment/EA will be made available to all those on the mailing list.

**DATES:** Written comments relating to the identification of issues and planning criteria will be accepted through the close of business March 15, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests to be included on the mailing list should be sent to: Mike Pool, District Manager; Bureau of Land Management, Farmington District Office: 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, New Mexico 87401.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**