

population. Population biologists (Ehrlich and Murphy 1982) assert that random population changes due to stochastic events are more likely to cause the loss of small populations than are genetic changes.

**Recovery Objectives:** To protect and maintain through proper vegetation management, all of the defined skipper habitat on public land in the South Platte River drainage so that fragmentation of habitat is avoided and skippers are distributed throughout the range.

Recovery efforts will concentrate on creation of Memoranda of Understanding between land management agencies to provide for maintenance and enhancement of habitat; monitoring skipper presence; monitoring skipper habitat quality and trends, determination of management criteria for habitat maintenance; and education of private landowners and seeking opportunities for conservation agreements to allow enhancement of skipper habitat on private lands.

#### **Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the recovery plan.

#### **Authority**

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: January 21, 1998.

#### **Terry Terrell,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*  
[FR Doc. 98-2159 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Request for Small Grants Proposals for 1998**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is currently entertaining proposals that request match funding for wetland conservation projects under the Small Grants Program. Projects must meet the purposes of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as amended. Funding priority will be given

to projects from new grant applications with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits.

**DATES:** Proposals must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 1, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals should be addressed to: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants Coordinator, or Ms. Pat Bond, Secretary, North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 703/358-1784; facsimile 703/358-2282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), as amended, is to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitat through partnerships. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, creation, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetlands-associated habitat.

In 1996 and 1997, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) initiated a pilot Small Grants program with an allocation of \$250,000 per year. The objective was to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who may not otherwise be able to complete in the regular grants program. It was also hoped that successful participants in the Small Grants program would be encouraged to participate in the NAWCA-based Regular Grants program. Over the first two years, about 220 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$6.4 million competed for funding. Ultimately, 19 projects were funded. For 1998, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, the Council has made the Small Grants program operational with a \$500,000 allocation.

To be considered for funding in 1998, proposals must have a grant request no greater than \$50,000. All wetland conservation proposals will be accepted that meet the requirements of the Act. However, funding priority will be given to projects from new grant applicants (individuals or organizations who have never received a NAWCA grant) with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits.

In addition, proposals must represent on-the-ground projects, and any overhead in the project budget may be no greater than 10 percent of the grant amount. The anticipated magnitude of wetlands and wildlife resources benefits that will result from project execution is an important factor to be considered in proposal evaluation, and there should be a reasonable balance between acreages of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands.

Please keep in mind that NAWCA and matching funds may only be used for wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration, they may not be used for signage, displays, trails or other education features, materials and equipment, even though the goal of the project may ultimately be to support wetland conservation education curricula. Projects oriented toward education are not ordinarily eligible for NAWCA funding because education is not a primary purpose of the Act. However, useful project outcomes can include educational benefits resulting from conservation actions. Research is also not a primary purpose of the Act, and research proposals will not be considered for funding.

Even though requiring less total information than those submitted for the regular grants program, Small Grant proposals must still be clearly explained and meet the basic purposes given above and the 1:1 or greater non-Federal matching requirements of the NAWCA. Small Grants projects must also be consistent with Council guidelines, objectives and policies. All non-Federal matching funds and proposed expenditures of grant funds must be consistent with Appendix A of the Small Grants instructions, "Eligibility Requirements for Match of NAWCA Grant and Non-Federal Funds."

Small Grants proposals may be submitted at any time prior to the due date but must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 1, 1998. Address submitted proposals as follows: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, VA 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

It is essential that grant request packages be complete when they are received in the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, including all of the documentation of partners (partner letters) with funding pledge amounts. Information of funding in partner letters, i.e., amounts and description regarding use, must correspond with budget amounts in the

budget table and any figures provided in the narrative.

With the volume of proposals received, it is expected that the NAWWO will not be able to contact proposal sources to verify and/or request supplement data and/or materials. Thus, those proposals lacking required information or containing conflicting information will not be considered for funding.

For more information, and to request the Small Grants instructional booklet, call (703) 358-1784, facsimile (703) 358-2282, or send e-mail to R9ARW\_NAWWO@MAIL.FWS.GOV. Contact the Small Grants Coordinator, Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, if you would like to receive the instructions booklet e-mail or on a computer disk.

In conclusion, the Service requires that upon their arrival in the NAWWO, proposal packages must be complete with regard to all of the information requested, in the format requested, and on time.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-2581 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-066-1310-03]

#### **Amendment to Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Natural Gas Development in Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah**

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

**ACTION:** Amendment to Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Natural Gas Development in Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(G)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office is directing the preparation of an EIS by a third-party contractor on the impacts of proposed natural gas development on public, National Forest, State and private lands in Carbon and Emery Counties in central Utah. The U.S. Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest, is participating in EIS preparation as a cooperating agency in accordance with Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1501.6.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Development of natural gas in the Castle

Valley area is proposed by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Chandler and Associates, Inc., Questar Pipeline Company and Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. The BLM is preparing an EIS to analyze a conceptual natural gas development model based on the companies' proposals. Subsequent to initial scoping for the EIS, the project area boundary was adjusted to include a small portion of National Forest System Lands. The U.S. Forest Service was invited to participate as a cooperating agency to provide information regarding direct impacts of proposed wells on National Forest System Lands and information needed to address potential project-related cumulative effects adjacent to Forest lands and resources. Additionally, The Forest Service will make a NEPA decision dealing with activities on National Forest System lands.

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

Field development of existing Federal leases within an area of approximately 111,000 acres in the Castle Valley area of Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah, is proposed. The project would involve 375 wells with related facilities including roads, pipelines, power lines compressor stations, and water disposal facilities. Up to 10 of these wells may be on National Forest System lands. The BLM and USFS also propose to approve development of natural gas within the project area and approve individual drilling applications, right of way authorizations and special use permits. The BLM and USFS propose to make independent NEPA decisions for activities on lands under their respective jurisdictions.

#### **Alternatives**

The EIS will analyze the Proposed Action, a No-Action Alternative, An Environmental Protection Measure Alternative, and a Wildlife Corridor Protection Alternative.

#### **Other Relevant Information**

To accommodate existing Federal leases in the area and help define the project area ecologically, the western border of the south project area in Emery County was adjusted to primarily follow the 8000-foot contour line. This boundary shift incorporated approximately 10,000 acres of National Forest System Lands. The BLM and USFS will prepare separate Record of Decision for respective portions of the EIS.

Additional information, including maps, a scoping summary and a list of issues developed through the scoping process are included in the Ferron

Natural Gas EIS Homepage located at: [blm.gov/utah/minerals/ferron.html](http://blm.gov/utah/minerals/ferron.html)

The project schedule is as follows:

File Draft EIS—May 1998

File Final EIS—November 1998

Record of Decision—December 1998

#### **Public Input**

Three public scoping meetings were held in February 1997 to receive oral comments. Comments received from the public were included in development of EIS issues and alternatives. The BLM and USFS determined that inclusion of National Forest System Lands did not change the scope of the proposal.

**ADDRESSES:** Any comments should be sent to George Diwachak, Team Leader, Ferron Natural Gas EIS, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT, 84145-0155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Diwachak, (801) 538-4043.

Dated: January 26, 1998.

**G. William Lamb,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-932-2810-00; GP8-0091]

#### **Fire Management Activities: Oregon and Washington**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to review and modify fire management plans, as necessary, and to conduct associated public participation.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Oregon (Burns, Coos Bay, Eugene, Lakeview, Medford, Prineville, Roseburg, Salem, and Vale Districts) and Washington (Spokane District) are reviewing their fire management activities on all of the BLM-administered public lands in Oregon and Washington. New fire management plans for all BLM districts must be completed in Fiscal Year 1998. The initial phase for completing these plans will address fire management direction based on existing land management plans, and will be available for public review by early February at the BLM offices indicated below. Other possible public involvement activities may include open houses, workshops, and/or field trips if there is sufficient interest.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Meeting dates and other public participation activities in BLM