

adeno-associated virus types 1 through 4.

“Those agents not listed in Risk Groups (RGs) 2, 3 and 4 are not automatically or implicitly classified in RG1; a risk assessment must be conducted based on the known and potential properties of the agents and their relationship to agents that are listed.”

Appendix B-1, *Risk Group 1 (RGI) Agents*, is proposed to read:

“RGI agents are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans. Examples of RG1 agents include asporogenic *Bacillus subtilis* or *Bacillus licheniformis* (see Appendix C-IV-A, *Bacillus subtilis* or *Bacillus licheniformis* Host-Vector Systems, Exceptions), *Escherichia coli* K-12 (see Appendix C-II-A, *Escherichia coli* K-12 Host Vector Systems, Exceptions), adeno-associated virus types 1 through 4, and recombinant AAV constructs, in which the transgene does not encode either a tumor suppressor or a toxin molecule and are produced in the absence of a helper virus.

“Those agents not listed in Risk Groups (RGs) 2, 3 and 4 are not automatically or implicitly classified in RG1; a risk assessment must be conducted based on the known and potential properties of the agents and their relationship to agents that are listed.”

The proposed action was published in the **Federal Register** on February 17, 1999 (64 FR 7964) for public comment.

On March 11, 1999, the RAC discussed the proposed action to Appendix B-I with the opinions of AAV experts and the RAC Chair. A motion was made to accept the proposed action that the BL1 physical containment is appropriate for recombinant AAV vectors produced in the absence of helper viruses with a minor change. In the last sentence of the first paragraph delete “tumor suppressor” and insert “potentially tumorigenic gene product.” The motion passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and no abstentions.

The action is detailed in Section I-B—Summary of Action. I accept the RAC recommendation, and the *NIH Guidelines* will be amended accordingly.

I-B. Summary of Action

I-B-1. Amendment of Appendix B-1, Risk Group 1 (RGI) Agents

Appendix B-1 is to be amended to read:

“RGI agents are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans. Examples of RG1 agents include asporogenic *Bacillus subtilis* or *Bacillus*

licheniformis (see Appendix C-IV-A, *Bacillus subtilis* or *Bacillus licheniformis* Host-Vector Systems, Exceptions), *Escherichia coli* K-12 (see Appendix C-II-A, *Escherichia coli* K-12 Host Vector Systems, Exceptions), adeno-associated virus (AAV) types 1 through 4, and recombinant AAV constructs, in which the transgene does not encode either a potentially tumorigenic gene product or a toxin molecule and are produced in the absence of a helper virus.

“Those agents not listed in Risk Groups (RGs) 2, 3 and 4 are not automatically or implicitly classified in RG1; a risk assessment must be conducted based on the known and potential properties of the agents and their relationship to agents that are listed.”

OMB’s “Mandatory Information Requirements for Federal Assistance Program Announcements” (45 FR 39592) requires a statement concerning the official government programs contained in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Normally, NIH lists in its announcements the number and title of affected individual programs for the guidance of the public. Because the guidance in this notice covers virtually every NIH and Federal research program in which recombinant DNA techniques could be used, it has been determined not to be cost effective or in the public interest to attempt to list these programs. Such a list would likely require several additional pages. In addition, NIH could not be certain that every Federal program would be included as many Federal agencies, as well as private organizations, both national and international, have elected to follow the *NIH Guidelines*. In lieu of the individual program listing, NIH invites readers to direct questions to the information address above about whether individual programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance are affected.

Dated: April 29, 1999.

Harold Varmus,

Director, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 99-11839 Filed 5-10-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice To Extend the Public Comment Period for the Draft Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gives notice that the comment period announced in the March 8, 1999, notice of availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills, California, will be extended an additional 30 days until July 7, 1999. Substantial public interest in the draft plan led the Service to distribute additional copies and to provide additional opportunities for the public to comment on the plan. This recovery plan includes six plant species, of which five are federally listed as endangered or threatened. The draft plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the plants—Stebbin’s morning-glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*), Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*), Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens*), El Dorado bedstraw (*Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae*), and Layne’s butterweed (*Senecio layneae*), and an additional species, El Dorado mule-ears (*Wyethia reticulata*), that is considered to be a species of concern. The Service extends the current 90-day comment period and solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by July 7, 1999, will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California (telephone (916) 979-2710); and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Ecological Services, 911 NE 11th Ave., Eastside Federal Complex, Portland Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone (503) 231-6131). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Wayne S. White, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Sacramento address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Elam, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Sacramento address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service’s

endangered species program. To help guide recovery efforts, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided. The six species of plants covered in the draft recovery plan are primarily restricted to gabbro soils habitat in the central Sierra Nevada foothills of California. Conversion of habitat to urban uses has extirpated the listed species and species of concern from a significant portion of their historic ranges. The remaining natural communities are highly fragmented, and many are marginal habitats in which these species may not persist during catastrophic events. The objectives of this recovery plan are two-fold: (1) to delist the plants Stebbin's morning-glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, Pine Hill flannelbush, El Dorado bedstraw, and Layne's butterweed by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and appropriately managing their habitat; and (2) to ensure the long-term conservation of the one species of concern, El Dorado mule-ears, that occurs in the same gabbro soils habitats with the listed species.

Public Comments Solicited

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

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

Dated: May 5, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 99-11775 Filed 5-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-957-1910-00-4817]

Idaho: Filing of Plats of Survey; Idaho

The plats of the following described land were officially filed in the Idaho State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho, effective 9 a.m., on the date the plat was accepted.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of portions of the east boundary and of the subdivisional lines, and the subdivision of section 25, and a metes-and-bounds survey in sections 25, T. 14 N., R. 43 E., Boise Meridian, Idaho, Group 960, was accepted March 29, 1999.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the subdivision of sections 16 and 17, T. 4 S., R. 5 E., Boise Meridian, Idaho, Group 1034, was accepted March 31, 1999.

These surveys were executed to meet certain administrative needs of the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Air Force.

All inquiries concerning the survey of the above described land must be sent to the Chief, Cadastral Survey, Idaho State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho, 83709-1657.

Dated: March 31, 1999.

Duane E. Olsen,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Idaho.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(MT-924-1430-01; MTM 89001)

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to withdraw 760 acres of public land and 10 acres of non-

federal land, if acquired, to protect the archaeological, educational, interpretive, and recreational integrity of the Four Dances Natural Area. This notice closes the land for up to 2 years from location and entry under the mining laws. The public land has been and will remain open to surface entry and mineral leasing.

DATES: Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by August 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Montana State Director, BLM, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, 406-255-2949, or June Bailey, Billings Field Office, 406-238-1543.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 21, 1999, a petition was approved allowing the Bureau of Land Management to file an application to withdraw the following described public land and non-federal land if acquired, from location and entry under the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights:

Principal Meridian, Montana

PARCEL A: Township 1 North, Range 26 East, of the Principal Montana Meridian, in Yellowstone County, Montana.

Section 34, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 6.

EXCEPTING therefrom the following two tracts of land:

1. That part conveyed to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of its State Highway Commission by Bargain and Sale Deed recorded June 16, 1960, in Book 700, Page 407, under Document #643695, records of Yellowstone County, Montana, more particularly described as follows: "938+00 to 945+63

A tract of land in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 6, Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 26 East, M.P.M., Yellowstone County, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

All that land in said S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 6 lying on the Northwesterly side of a line which is parallel to and 110 feet distant Southeasterly when measured at right angles from the following described center line:

Beginning at a point on the center line of Montana Interstate Highway Project I 90-8(5)433, which said point is South 2107.0 feet, and West 1434.7 feet, more or less, from the Northeast corner of said Section 34;

Thence from the said point of beginning North 71°09'30" East, 200.0 feet to a point;

Also all that land in said S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 6 lying on the Northwesterly side of a line which is parallel to and 170 feet distant Southeasterly when measured at right angles from the following described center line;

Thence continuing from the last described point North 71°09'30" East, 563.0 feet, more or less, to a point on the center line of said Montana Interstate Highway Project I 90-8(5)433, which said point is South 1860.5