

national accreditation organization for hospices that request participation in the Medicare program, effective June 18, 1999, through June 18, 2003.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act

This document does not impose any information collection and record keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Consequently, it does not need to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the authority of the PRA. The requirements associated with granting and withdrawal of deeming authority to national accreditation, codified in part 488, "Survey, Certification, and Enforcement Procedures," are currently approved by OMB under OMB approval number 0938-0690, with an expiration date of August 31, 1999.

V. Regulatory Impact Statement

We have examined the impacts of this notice as required by Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (Pub. L. 96-354). Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects; distributive impacts; and equity). The RFA requires agencies to analyze options for regulatory relief for small businesses. For purposes of the RFA, States and individuals are not considered small entities.

Also, section 1102(b) of the Act requires the Secretary to prepare a regulatory impact analysis for any notice that may have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Such an analysis must conform to the provisions of section 604 of the RFA. For purposes of section 1102(b) of the Act, we consider a small rural hospital as a hospital that is located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area and has fewer than 50 beds.

This notice merely recognizes JCAHO as a national accreditation organization for hospices that request participation in the Medicare program. As evidenced by the following data for the cost of surveys, there are neither significant costs nor savings for the program and administrative budgets of Medicare. Therefore, this notice is not a major rule as defined in Title 5, United States Code, section 804(2) and is not an economically significant rule under Executive Order 12866.

Therefore, we have determined, and the Secretary certifies, that this notice will not result in a significant impact on

a substantial number of small entities and will not have a significant effect on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Therefore, we are not preparing analyses for either the RFA or section 1102(b) of the Act.

In fiscal year 1996, there were 2,148 certified hospices participating in the Medicare program. We conducted 258 initial surveys, 322 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$634,904), and 145 complaint surveys.

In fiscal year 1997, there were 2,270 certified hospices. This was an increase of 122 facilities. We conducted 180 initial surveys, 354 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$330,686), and 237 complaint surveys. The increase in the number of facilities is less than the number of initial surveys because of mergers, withdrawals, and closures during the year.

In fiscal year 1998, there were 2,290 certified hospices. This was an increase of 20 facilities. We conducted 126 initial surveys, 196 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$360,783), and 201 complaint surveys. The increase in the number of facilities is less than the number of initial surveys because of mergers, withdrawals, and closures during the year.

As the data above indicate, the number of hospices and the cost for conducting hospice surveys by State agencies are increasing. There was a 6.6 percent increase in hospices within 3 years (fiscal years 1996 through 1998). Hospices accredited by JCAHO would be surveyed every 3 years. The numbers of participating providers continue to increase. In an effort to better assure the health, safety, and services of beneficiaries in hospices already certified, as well as to provide relief to State budgets in this time of tight fiscal constraints, we deem hospices accredited by JCAHO as meeting our Medicare requirements. Thus, we continue our focus on assuring the health and safety of services by providers and suppliers already certified for participation in a cost-effective manner.

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, this notice was reviewed by OMB.

Authority: Sec. 1865(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb(b)(3)(A)). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance)

Dated: May 3, 1999.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,
Administrator, Health Care Financing
Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-15500 Filed 6-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4432-N-24]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 18, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Johnston, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7256, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1226; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: June 11, 1999.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 99-15221 Filed 6-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Technical/Agency Draft Revised Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability for public review of the technical/agency

draft revised Puerto Rican parrot recovery plan. As the common name implies, the Puerto Rican parrot is a bird species endemic to the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. We solicit review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: We must receive comments on the draft recovery plan on or before a August 17, 1999 to receive consideration by us.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the draft recovery plan by contacting Pablo Torres-Báez, Río Grande Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1600, Río Grande, Puerto Rico 00745 (telephone 787/887-8769). Send written comments and materials regarding the plan to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Pablo Torres-Báez at the above address and telephone number (extension 226).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals or plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of our endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, we are working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, 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 a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the

course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Despite intensive research and management efforts for more than 30 years, the survival of the Puerto Rican parrot is still perilous. Based upon available information concerning the range, biology, and threats to its continued survival, it is not yet possible to determine if or when full recovery of the Puerto Rican parrot is possible. This draft recovery plan outlines a mechanism that provides for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the only known wild population and the establishment of new wild populations in the future. We officially listed the Puerto Rican parrot as an endangered species in 1967 (32 FR 4001). The wild population reached an all time low of about 13 individuals in 1973. The same year, anticipating the possibility of losing the wild population to a catastrophic event, we initiated a captive breeding program to ensure survival of the species. Historically, the once abundant and widespread Puerto Rican parrot suffered from the negative effects of habitat loss, hunting, deleterious biological interactions, and the impact of hurricanes. We will use comments and information provided during this review in preparing the final recovery plan.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the recovery plan described. We will consider all comments received by the date specified above 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. 1533(f).

Dated: June 14, 1999.

Pablo Torres-Báez,

Acting Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-15505 Filed 6-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-1010-00]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, (BLM), Montana, Billings and Miles City Field Offices, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council will have a meeting July 15, 1999 in Lame Deer, Montana at the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Headquarters starting at 8:00 a.m. Agenda topics include tribal concerns plus updates on access, travel management, and grazing permit renewals.

The meeting is open to the public and the public comment period is set for 10:00 a.m. on July 15. The public may make oral statements before the Council or file written statements for the Council to consider. Depending on the number of persons wishing to make an oral statement, a per person time limit may be established. Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marilyn Krause, Public Affairs Specialist, Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59031, telephone (406) 233-2831.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management. The 15 member Council includes individuals who have expertise, education, training or practical experience in the planning and management of public lands and their resources and who have a knowledge of the geographical jurisdiction of the Council.

Dated: June 9, 1999.

Timothy M. Murphy,

Miles City Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-15422 Filed 6-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-956-98-1420-00]

Colorado: Filing of Plats of Survey

June 10, 1999.

The plats of survey of the following described land will be officially filed in the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215-7093, effective 10 am, June 10, 1999. All inquiries should be sent to this address.

Township	Range	Meridian	Group No.	Approval date
T. 1 N.	R. 103 W.	6th PM	1162	September 14, 1998.
T. 1 N.	R. 104 W.	6th PM	1162	September 14, 1998.