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Regional Offices

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035-9589, (413) 253-8614 (NY-59P)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30345, (404) 679-7086 (SC-01)

Field Offices

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, NY 13045, (607) 753-9334 (NY-59P)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412, (803) 727-4707 (SC-01)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is sponsoring a public review to review the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata, known as the FGDC Metadata Standard. After this public review, the revised Standard will be considered for adoption as a revised FGDC standard. The Standard must be followed by all Federal agencies to document all geospatial data collected directly or indirectly, through grants, partnerships, or contracts. In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC also intends that the Metadata Standard meet the needs and recognize the view of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit the views of these groups.

This review is limited to three areas:

(1) Formalizing a method of creating "user-defined" metadata elements; elements outside the present Standard, but needed by the data producer; (2) establishing the methodology for creating a customized metadata profile, such as those for cultural and demographic data sets; and (3) refining the Standard's production rules for implementation. A second public review, to be announced later this summer, will address additional user concerns and the relationship between the FGDC Metadata Standard and the

International Standards Organization (ISO) Metadata Standard. The comments received at that time will contribute to the United States' position on the ISO standard.

For the current review, the proposed modifications will make the FGDC Metadata Standard easier to use while keeping it compatible with the emerging ISO Standard. It is desirable that the modifications resulting from the review do not adversely affect present compliant metadata implementations. The highest priority is compatibility with metadata collected under the current FGDC Metadata Standard.

Since the FGDC Metadata Standard was approved in 1994, it has been implemented by numerous Federal, state, and local agencies, companies, and groups. It has also been used by other nations as they develop their own national metadata standards. Changes to the FGDC Metadata Standard have been suggested during the time since it was issued. In 1995 an implementor's workshop was held specifically to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and proposed improvements. Drawing on this body of knowledge, the FGDC proposes to modify the current Metadata Standard in the three areas described above.

The public review is open to all interested parties, and all are encouraged to participate. Participants in the public review are encouraged to limit their comments to the specific modifications in the proposed revision. All participants who make comments during the public review period will receive an acknowledgment of their comment. After comments have been considered, participants will receive notification of how their comments were addressed. After the formal adoption of the revised Standard by the FGDC, the revised Standard, and a summary analysis of the changes, will be made available at the FGDC World Wide Web (WWW) site. The primary review activity will be conducted on the Internet, using Web sites, electronic mail and an online HyperNews threaded discussion list. However, Internet access is not required, and participants wishing to use other means should contact the FGDC. Currently available documents include a description of the public review process and scope of the Standard revision activity, the current FGDC Metadata Standard, the Draft Revised Standard, and an explanation of the modifications to the current Standard.

DATES: The public review will be open, and comments will be accepted until July 9, 1997.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: Requests for written copies of the "Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata" should be addressed to: FGDC Secretariat (Attention: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192; telephone 703.648.5514; facsimile 703.648.5755; or Internet "metadata@www.fgdc.gov". For answers to metadata related questions, please call Richard Pearsall 703.648.4532 or Ruth Hildenberger 703.648.6084.

There are three ways to participate in the public review:

1. The FGDC Web site link to the Metadata Standard public review site at <http://www.fgdc.gov>.

The Metadata Standard public review Web site is the focal point of information distribution during the public review period. News, announcements, documents, and the entrance to the HyperNews on-line threaded discussion list can be found here. In addition, this page links to the other methods of participation in the public review. Using an Internet browser, participants can make a suggestion, comment on another's suggestion, or propose a new idea. The discussion is presented as a set of topics with comments, similar to news groups in Usenet. Users can log on to read, respond, and propose new topics for discussion. All topics and comments in this forum are available to everyone. This particular HyperNews site contains topics relevant to this limited scope revision.

2. Metadata-related electronic mail to metadata@www.fgdc.gov

An electronic mail account has been established to receive correspondence relating to the Standard and the public review. This electronic address may be used to send comments directly to the FGDC. Also, if a participant wants to comment in the HyperNews discussion and remain anonymous, they may send their comment and request to this address. The comment will be placed into HyperNews without the author's name. Participants who would like to make a comment directly to the FGDC or would like to remain anonymous in the HyperNews discussion should send electronic mail to this address.

3. Participation without Internet access or without computer access.

Participants may contact the FGDC at the address given above for paper copies of the revision documents or copies of the HyperNews on-line threaded discussion list.

Participants without computer access interested in having their comments

included in the HyperNews on-line discussion may send comments typed or printed (no handwritten notes, please); one comment per page on white unlined paper; use Times Roman or Times New Roman font; use font size of 14 point or larger. These comments will be scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software and a digital copy will be loaded into the HyperNews on-line threaded discussion list. In addition, participants may send one hardcopy version of their comments and one softcopy version, preferably on 3.5" diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 or 6.0/6.1 format.

Dated: April 9, 1997.

Wendy Budd,

*Associate Chief, National Mapping Division,
U.S. Geological Survey.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-97-1220-00]

Closure and Land Use Restrictions— Amendment to Notice NV-030-97002

EFFECTIVE DATES: The closure and activity restrictions become effective February 28, 1997. Interested persons may submit comments to the Carson City District Manager.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John O. Singlaub, District Manager, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, Nevada 89706, Telephone: (702) 885-6000.

Dated: January 27, 1997.

John O. Singlaub,

District Manager, Carson City District.

[FR Doc. 97-10004 Filed 4-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-033-97-1220-00]

Temporary Closure of Public Lands: Nevada, Carson City District

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior Department.

ACTION: Temporary closure of certain public lands in Lyon and Storey Counties on and adjacent to two Off Highway Vehicle race courses: May 10-11, 1997: Virginia City Grand Prix—Permit Number NV-030-97-011; May 25, 1997: Yerington 300 Desert Race—Permit Number NV-030-96-10.

SUMMARY: The Acting Assistant District Manager, Non-Renewable Resources announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under his administration. This action is being taken to provide for public safety and to protect adjacent resources.

EFFECTIVE DATES: May 10, 11 & 25, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fran Hull, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, Nevada 89706, Telephone: (702) 885-6000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A map of the closures may be obtained at the contact address. The event permittees are required to clearly mark and monitor the event routes during the closure periods. Spectators and support vehicles may drive on existing accessory roads only. Spectators may observe the races from safe locations as directed by event officials and LBM personnel.

Specific information pertaining to each event is as follows:

1. *Western States Racing Association—Virginia City Grand Prix Motorcycle Race—Permit Number NV-030-99-011.* This event is a multiple-lap motorcycle race on dirt roads and trails near Virginia City, Nevada in Storey County within T16N R21E and T17N R21E. Bureau lands to be closed to public use include the width and length of those roads and trails identified by colorful flagging and paper arrows attached to wooden stakes designating the race route on the ground. Camping on public lands within the vicinity of and in conjunction with the race shall be prohibited. This closure will be in effect from 6:00 a.m. on May 10 through 4:00 p.m. on May 11, 1997.

2. *Valley Off-Road Racing Association Yerington 300 Desert Race—Permit Number NV-030-96-10.* A multiple-lap OHV race on roads and washes near Yerington, Nevada in Lyon County, within T12N R24E; T13N R24E; T14N R24E; T15N R24E; T16N R24E; T13N R25E; T15N R25E; T16N R25E; T17N R26E. Bureau lands to be closed to public use include the width and length of those roads and washes identified with colorful flagging and paper arrows attached to wooden stakes designating the race course on the ground. Designated spectator areas include: the Start/Finish gravel pit; points along Gallagher Pass and Churchill Canyon Roads. This closure will be in effect from 6:00 a.m. until midnight on May 25, 1997.

The above restrictions do not apply to race officials, law enforcement and agency personnel monitoring the event.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364 and 43 CFR 8372.

Penalty

Any person failing to comply with the closure order may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

Dated: April 3, 1997.

Daniel L. Jacquet,

Acting Assistant District Manager, Non Renewable Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-10005 Filed 4-17-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-060-07-1310-00]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Gillette South Coalbed Methane Project, Campbell County, Wyoming

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Gillette South Coalbed Methane Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which analyzes the environmental consequences of coalbed methane development within the Gillette South Project area. This development area is located in Campbell County and generally located within Townships 42 through 49 North; Ranges 70 through 73 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 59 south of Gillette, Wyoming. Access to the interior of the project area is provided by a road system developed to service prior and ongoing drilling and production activities.

DATES: Comments on the DEIS will be accepted through May 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft EIS should be sent to Mr. Richard Zander, Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Resource Area, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft EIS analyzes a proposed action and the no action alternative. It also considers four other alternatives: restrict timing of approval of Federal wells, reduce number of Federal wells approved, change the method of surface water disposal, and inject produced water underground. The proposal presented by the project operators is to continue to drill additional wells on their leased acreage within this natural gas development area.

Over the next 3 to 5 years, the project operators propose to drill up to 400