

Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due date: February 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments must be received within thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB approval number should be sent to: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay F. Weaver, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-0050. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Weaver.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department has submitted the proposal

for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The Notice lists the following information: (1) The title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9) whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the names and telephone numbers of an agency official familiar with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: January 8, 1997.

David S. Cristy,

Acting Director, Information Resources Management Policy and Management Division.

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB

Title of Proposal: HUD Systems for Approval of Single Family Housing in New Subdivisions (FR-3095).

Office: Housing.

OMB Approval Number: 2502-0496.

Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use: HUD requires the builder to complete a certification (HUD-92541) that notes any adverse site/location factors on the property. HUD needs this information so that they will not insure a mortgage on a property where site/location conditions will pose a health or safety risk to the occupant or will adversely affect the continued marketability of the property.

Form Number: HUD-92541.

Respondents: Business or Other-For-Profit.

Frequency of Submission: On Occasion.

Reporting Burden:

	Number of Re- spondents	×	Frequency of Response	×	Hours per Re- sponse	=	Burden Hours
Information Collection	800		82		.25		16,400

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 16,400.

Status: Reinstatement, without changes.

Contact: Ken Crandall, HUD, (202) 708-2121; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.

Dated: January 8, 1997.

[FR Doc. 97-949 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the City of Sacramento has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered

Species Act of 1973, as amended. The application has been assigned permit number PRT-823773. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the federally threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*); the federally endangered peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and palmate bird's beak (*Cordylanthus palmatus*); the proposed threatened slender orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) and hairy orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*); and the proposed endangered Sacramento orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*). The proposed taking of these species would be incidental to development for urban uses within the 55,000-acre Natomas Basin in Sacramento and Sutter Counties. The proposed permit also would authorize future incidental take of the currently

unlisted California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum californiense*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis tubida*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*) and Ahart's dwarf flax (*Juncus leiostermus var aharti*), should any of these species become listed under the Endangered Species Act in the future. The permit would be in effect for 50 years.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the incidental take permit application, which includes the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan fully describing the proposed project and mitigation, and the accompanying Implementing Agreement. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, Environmental Assessment and Implementing Agreement should be received on or before March 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the application or adequacy of the Environmental Assessment and Implementing Agreement should be addressed to, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 3310 El Camino, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340. Please refer to permit number PRT-823773 when submitting comments. Individuals wishing copies of the application, Environmental Assessment or Implementing Agreement for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Horton, Sacramento Field Office, 916-979-2725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits the "taking" of a species listed as threatened or endangered. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32; regulations governing permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

Background

The Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan addresses development within the 55,000-acre Natomas Basin in Sutter and Sacramento Counties. The Natomas Basin is subject to several approved or proposed land use plans that will convert portions of the Basin to urban uses. Based on these plans, approximately 17,500 acres of undeveloped land is expected to be urbanized during the 50-year term of the proposed permit. Development activities may result in take of covered species and permanent disturbance to their habitats. In addition, the proposed permit would cover incidental take that occurs during implementation of rice farming activities within the permit area. Rice farming may result in take of the giant garter snake because rice fields are used as habitat by this species.

The Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan establishes a mitigation program for urban development, water system operation, and agriculture. The focus of the

program is a system of mitigation lands which would be managed as wetland and upland habitat for the giant garter snake, the Swainson's hawk and other covered species. One-half acre of mitigation land would be established for every acre of land developed within the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan Area. The mitigation land would be acquired and managed by the Natomas Basin Conservancy, a non-profit conservation organization that would be established at the time the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan is implemented. Currently, the City of Sacramento is the only entity seeking a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to cover land use approvals and public works activities; however, entities such as the County of Sacramento and the County of Sutter, among others, could apply to be added to this permit or apply for separate permits in the future.

Habitat acquisition and management would be funded by one-time assessments ("base fees") on development. The base fee is projected to be \$2,240.00 (in 1995 dollars, to be adjusted using the Consumer Price Index to reflect current dollars at the time of permit issuance) per acre of development. All lands developed within the area of the proposed permit would be subject to the base fee; no distinction would be made between areas with approved land use plans and areas currently zoned for agriculture. The base fee also would be adjusted as necessary throughout the term of the permit to provide for inflation. In addition, the base fee could be adjusted to cover increasing costs of mitigation. This adjustment would be limited to increases of no more than 10 percent per year (not including adjustments made for inflation), with a maximum cumulative base fee increase of 50 percent above the base fee at the time of permit issuance.

Initially, a minimum of 80 percent of the mitigation lands acquired to mitigate for the loss of giant garter snake habitat would be located within the Natomas Basin; up to 20 percent of the giant garter snake mitigation lands could be located in specified areas outside of the Natomas Basin. After completion of the yet-to-be-developed Giant Garter Snake Recovery Plan, location of the mitigation lands could be shifted to a minimum of 50 percent within the Basin and up to 50 percent outside of the Basin, as directed by the Giant Garter Snake Recovery Plan and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mitigation lands would be managed as a combination of rice farms and marsh habitat, with at least 25 percent of the mitigation lands in marsh

habitat and 25 percent in rice-farm habitat. The remaining 50 percent of the giant garter snake mitigation lands would be either marsh or rice, as determined by the Giant Garter Snake Recovery Plan.

The Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of four alternatives. Alternative 1, the proposed action, consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit to the City of Sacramento and implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan and its Implementing Agreement. This alternative is preferred because it satisfies the purpose and needs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Sacramento, and the impacts of urbanization are minimized and mitigated by the establishment of habitat preserves. The specifications of the habitat preserves under this alternative ensure that long-term wetland and upland habitat values are maintained for the giant garter snake, Swainson's hawk, and other species covered by the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan. Alternative 2 proposes a variable mitigation ratio in which landowners with documented occurrences of covered species or "high quality" habitat would be required to compensate at a higher ratio than landowners with no documented occurrences of covered species or "poor quality" habitat. Under this alternative, each parcel of land proposed for development would need to be inspected and a mitigation ratio assessed based on existing habitat quality and/or species utilization. This alternative would place a greater emphasis on proving presence or absence of covered species, primarily giant garter snake. Because survey procedures used to locate giant garter snakes and/or determine suitability of habitat are not fully reliable, it is likely that this method would not adequately reflect the ecology of the giant garter snake and would not effectively address the indirect and cumulative impacts of urbanization on the species.

Alternative 3 is similar to the proposed action except that the minimum percentage of mitigation lands to be maintained as managed marsh habitat (as opposed to rice-farm habitat) would increase from 25 to 50 percent. This alternative would likely provide greater habitat values than the proposed action because a greater proportion of the habitat preserves would be enhanced and managed as marsh. This alternative, however, contains a greater risk that the smaller proportion of revenue-generating rice lands could result in economic instability and consequently have an

adverse impact on the maintenance and management of the preserve system. Under Alternative 4, the no action alternative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not issue an incidental take permit. Under this alternative, development within the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan area would occur with individual development projects mitigating for their impacts independently in an unstructured manner. The current process of individual consultation on each development project has resulted in mitigation which is fragmented over the landscape and is likely to be of limited long-term value in providing for the conservation of species such as the giant garter snake.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 45 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: January 7, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-967 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project

AGENCIES: Forest Service, USDA; Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statements.

SUMMARY: Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP). The purpose for this revised notice of intent is to provide public notice of the changed completion schedule for the ICBEMP's environmental impact statements (EIS).

This Federal Register notice revises the schedule published in the September 11, 1996 Federal Register (61 FR 47859) for the completion of the EISs. The Executive Steering Committee (ESC), at its meeting from December 2-4, 1996, took the important step of approving the alternatives for inclusion in the draft EISs. The ESC also directed changes to the draft EISs to improve them and address specific concerns raised in its earlier internal review of the draft documents. The directed changes focus on clarification of the objectives and standards for the alternatives. Based on the amount of time to implement these changes and then to prepare and print the document, the draft EISs are now planned to go to the printer in April, with a scheduled release for public comment in June 1997. Release of the final EISs and Records of Decision is anticipated approximately one year later.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda S. Colville, Project Management Team, Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project; 304 North 8th Street, Room 246, Boise, Idaho 83702, phone 208-334-1770.

Dated: January 6, 1997.

Robert W. Williams,

Regional Forester.

Dated: January 6, 1997.

Elaine Y. Zielinski,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 97-963 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M; 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-040-07-1060-00]

Notice of Public Hearing

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

SUMMARY: A public hearing on the use of helicopters in wild horse roundup activities will be held at the White Mountain Library, Grace Gasson Room. **DATE:** February 19, 1997, 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: White Mountain Library, 2935 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Chávez, District Manager, Rock Springs District Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming, (307-352-0200).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda will be limited to:

1. Introduction and opening remarks.

2. Review of the Wild Horse Management Plan.

3. Use of helicopters in the Plan.

4. Film presentation of roundup activity.

5. Public comment period.

The meeting is open to the public and interested persons may make statements on the subject.

All statements will be recorded.

Michelle Chávez,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-585 Filed 1-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

[ID-990-1020-00]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Upper Columbia—Salmon Clearwater Districts, Idaho.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the meeting of the Upper Columbia—Salmon Clearwater District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) on Friday, January 31, 1997. The meeting will be held via telephone conference.

The purpose of the meeting is for the RAC members to discuss and make recommendations to the District Manager, State Director and Secretary of the Interior concerning the procedures and implementation schedule for the proposed rangeland standards and guidelines. Other administrative issues may be discussed as time permits. The RAC will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (PST). The public may address the Council during the public comment period starting at 10:00 a.m. at BLM's Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 1808 N. Third St., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to make oral statements, a per-person time limit may be established by the District Manager.

The Council's responsibilities include providing long-range planning and establishing resource management priorities; and assisting the BLM to identify state standards for rangeland health and guidelines for grazing.