

review by August 1998. An announcement of the meeting will appear in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 142, Brooksville, Mississippi 39739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is the policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The plan will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions of the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies. The Service began the comprehensive management planning process for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in March 1998.

Some of the issues to be addressed in the plan include the following:

- (a) public use management;
- (b) habitat management;
- (c) wildlife population management; and
- (d) cultural resource identification and protection.

Alternatives that address the issues and management strategies associated with these topics will be included in the environmental document.

The refuge was established in 1940, to provide a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge is located in eastern Mississippi and consists of 47,879 acres.

Dated: May 1, 1998.

Sam D. Hamilton,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-12238 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report on the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan for the South Subregion of Orange County, CA; and Announcement of Public Scoping Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (Impact Statement/Report) for an anticipated incidental take permit application from the Environmental Management Agency, County of Orange (County), California. The Service has been notified by the County that they intend to prepare a Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (Conservation Plan) to conserve coastal sage scrub and adjacent habitats in the South Subregion of Orange County. Interested persons are encouraged to attend a public scoping meeting to identify and discuss issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the Conservation Plan and in the Impact Statement/Report. This notice is provided as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act regulations.

DATES: A joint public scoping meeting will be held on May 14, 1998, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Written comments related to the scope and content of the Conservation Plan and Impact Statement/Report should be received by the Service at the Carlsbad address below by June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at San Clemente High School, Little Theater, 700 Avenida Pico, San Clemente, California 92673. Oral and written comments will be taken at the meeting. Written comments also may be mailed to Mr. Jim Bartel, Assistant Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008; or sent by facsimile to (760) 431-9624.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Bradley, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Carlsbad, California; telephone (760) 431-9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Background material may be obtained by contacting the County Environmental Management Agency, Planning and Zoning Administrator, 300 N. Flower Street, Santa Ana, California 92702. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday), at the Service's Carlsbad office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Background

The County intends to prepare a Conservation Plan pursuant to the State of California's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The purpose of the statewide Natural Community Conservation Planning Program is to provide for subregional and regional protection of natural diversity, while allowing compatible and appropriate development within the Natural Community Conservation Planning subregion. This program intends that these goals be achieved through the development and implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans. The program is designed to provide an alternative to single-species conservation efforts by formulating natural community-based habitat protection programs on a regional basis to protect the numerous species inhabiting each of the targeted communities. The Natural Community Conservation Planning process is sponsored jointly by the California Resources Agency and California Department of Fish and Game, and is conducted in cooperation with the Service pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between Fish and Game and the Service dated December 4, 1991.

The proposed Conservation Plan would identify those actions necessary to maintain the viability of the remaining coastal sage scrub habitat for the three "target species" residing in coastal sage scrub habitats in accordance with the State's Conservation Guidelines. The target species are the threatened California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*), cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), and orange-throated whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*). The Conservation Plan would treat the three target species as listed species and would be subject to the standards set forth in section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, and 50 CFR 17.32(b) and 17.22(b). In addressing the habitat needs of the three target species, the Conservation Plan would benefit other species that may be addressed as species receiving regulatory coverage pursuant to the provisions of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act. The Natural Community Conservation Plan would function as a multiple species conservation plan that could establish the basis for maintaining the viability of the remaining coastal sage scrub

ecosystem and other habitats at the community level.

If the Conservation Plan is approved by the Service, the Service would authorize incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher through the special section 4(d) rule (60 FR 36010) via the Service's issued written concurrence that the Conservation Plan meets the standards set forth in 50 CFR 17.32(b)(2). In addition, the Service, at the request of the County, would simultaneously issue an Endangered Species Act section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. The Conservation Plan, coupled with an implementation agreement, likely would form the basis for issuing an incidental take permit for the cactus wren and orange-throated whiptail lizard, and any additional species proposed for regulatory coverage should these species subsequently be listed.

The proposed agenda for the facilitated public meeting includes a summary of the proposed action, status of and threats to subject species, tentative issues, concerns, opportunities and alternatives. Attendees of the scoping meeting will have an opportunity to discuss the specific coastal sage scrub conservation goals and conservation planning alternatives and other aspects of the proposed Conservation Plan and related Impact Statement/Report. Submittal of independent written comments is encouraged.

This notice is provided as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*, 50 CFR 17.22), and National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.7) regulations.

Dated: May 1, 1998.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98-12111 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Technology Transfer Act of 1986; Cooperative Research and Development Agreement With U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center, Alexandria, VA and EarthData Technologies, LLC, Hagerstown, MD

AGENCY: Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) negotiations.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is planning to enter into a Cooperative Research and

Development Agreement (CRADA) with the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center, Alexandria, Virginia and EarthData Technologies, LLC, Hagerstown, Maryland. The purpose of the CRADA is to jointly research and develop a camera calibration methodology and capability for digital airborne cameras. Any other organization interested in pursuing the possibility of a CRADA for similar kinds of activities should contact the USGS.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries may be addressed to the Acting Chief of Research, U.S. Geological Survey, National Mapping Division, 500 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; Telephone (703) 648-4643, facsimile (703) 648-4706; Internet "ebrunson@usgs.gov".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ernest B. Brunson, address above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Richard E. Witmer,

Chief, National Mapping Division.

[FR Doc. 98-12091 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-17-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-4210-01]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Number 1004-0107

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request an extension of existing approval to collect certain information from respondents identified in 43 CFR 2800 and 2880. This information is in addition to that collected on the Form SF-299, OMB No. 1004-0060, and is necessary for those large complex projects which require a right-of-way. The authorization for such collection is provided by the 2800 and 2880 regulations. On multi-million dollar energy production and transmission projects, and complex communication sites for which a right-of-way is required, information over and above that provided on the application form is required such as construction and other plans; a more detailed map; specific certificates, permits, and approvals from other agencies; and any

other necessary information relative to the completion of the project.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by July 6, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Director (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW., Room 401LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WoComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include "Attn: 1004-0107" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carl C. Gammon, (202) 452-7777.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in a published current rule to solicit comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility, (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The BLM will review and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

BLM grants rights-of-way on public lands through the authority of Title V of the FLPMA, 90 Stat. 2776, 43 U.S.C. 1761 and the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 185. Information in addition to that collected on the right-of-way form (SF-299) is needed for large complex projects. There is no standard form for the collection of this required additional information. The authorization for such collection is provided by the 2800 and