

Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to focus on the establishment of simplified procedures for transborder movements of live animals for exhibition (circuses), as there was no time for discussion of this issue at the meeting. The members of the Working Group are the United States (Chair), Germany, and Switzerland. The United States is to convene the Group, whose work will be carried out through correspondence. We invite information and comments on this issue.

Request for Information and Comments on the Issue of the Use of Product Annotations in the CITES Appendices

The United States is very interested in resolving issues pertaining to the use of product annotations when transferring populations or species from CITES Appendix I to II. Product annotations are those qualifications to the listing of a species that limit commercial trade in the species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof to specific parts or products of that species that are to be included in Appendix II. Parts or products of the species that are not specifically included in the annotation for Appendix II are still considered to be subject to the treaty provisions and requirements of Appendix I. Two examples of product annotations are certain populations of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and the vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*).

The United States supports adoption of clear criteria for the use of such annotations. At COP10, the Parties adopted Decision 10.70, directed to the CITES Standing Committee, which requires that a report be presented to COP11 by the Standing Committee on ways to clarify legal and implementation issues related to the use of annotations in the Appendices. At its last meeting, the Standing Committee discussed the issue and agreed to establish a Working Group with the following members: Switzerland (Chair), Germany, Namibia, and the United States. The Working Group is expected to submit a draft resolution to the Standing Committee at the Committee's next meeting, for approval and submission to COP11. The Working Group members have already agreed that the starting point will be that any new annotation or any amendment of an annotation must be in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24, and in accordance with all requirements for proposals to amend the CITES Appendices. We intend to be an active participant in this process in order to clarify the criteria to be used for such product annotations, avoid

implementation and enforcement problems, and facilitate species conservation. We invite information and comments on this issue.

Observers

Article XI, paragraph 7 of CITES provides: "Any body or agency technically qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora, in the following categories, which has informed the Secretariat of its desire to be represented at meetings of the Conference by observers, shall be admitted unless at least one-third of the Parties present object:

(a) International agencies or bodies, either governmental or non-governmental, and national governmental agencies and bodies; and

(b) National non-governmental agencies or bodies which have been approved for this purpose by the State in which they are located.

Once admitted, these observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote."

National agencies or organizations within the United States must obtain our approval to participate in COP11, while international agencies or organizations must obtain approval directly from the CITES Secretariat. We will publish information in a future **Federal Register** notice on how to request approved observer status.

Future Actions

We expect the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to be held sometime between November 1999 and May 2000, in a host country to be determined. We have developed a tentative U.S. schedule to prepare for that meeting. The United States must submit any proposals to amend Appendix I or II, or any draft resolutions or agenda items for discussion at COP11, to the CITES Secretariat 150 days prior to the start of the meeting. In order to accommodate this deadline, we plan to publish a **Federal Register** notice approximately 10 months prior to COP11 to:

(a) Announce the host country and dates of COP11;

(b) Include the provisional agenda; and

(c) Announce tentative species proposals, draft resolutions, and agenda items to be submitted by the United States, and to solicit further information and comments on them.

Approximately nine months prior to COP11, we will hold a public meeting to allow for additional public input. Another **Federal Register** notice approximately four months prior to

COP11 will announce our decisions on those species proposals, resolutions, and agenda items submitted by the United States to the CITES Secretariat. The deadline for submission of the proposals, resolutions, and agenda items to the Secretariat is expected to be sometime between June 1999 and December 1999, as COP11 is currently being planned to take place sometime between November 1999 and May 2000.

Through a series of additional notices in advance of COP11, we will inform you about preliminary and "final" negotiating positions on resolutions and amendments to the Appendices proposed by other Parties for consideration at COP11, and about how to obtain observer status from us. We will also publish announcements of public meetings expected to be held approximately nine months prior to COP11, and approximately two months prior to COP11, to receive public input on our positions regarding COP11 issues.

Author: This notice was prepared by Mark Albert, Office of Management Authority, under the authority of U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: August 26, 1998.

John G. Rogers,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 98-23843 Filed 9-3-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV 910 0777 30]

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting Location and Time

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Resource Advisory Councils' meeting location and time.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C., the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Council meetings will be held as indicated below. The agenda for the first day's meeting includes: introduction of new Council members, approval of minutes of the previous meeting, Las Vegas Water Applications, Standards and Guidelines (including Wild Horses), 3809 Mining Regulations, and determination of the subject matter for future meetings.

Day two of this meeting will be a field tour of the Buck, Bald and Diamond

Mountains and Newark Valley, north and west of Ely, Nevada. The tour will cover approximately 150 miles on unpaved roads. It will depart from and return to the Ely Field Office, Ely, Nevada. The tour will include opportunities to view and evaluate areas of past land treatments. Possible tour sites could include: wild horse gathers, wild fire, mine reclamation, riparian enclosures, vegetation manipulation (chaining) for deer habitat and an archaeological excavation.

Those attending the field tour should wear clothing and footwear suitable for walking through rugged, brush covered terrain. Food and beverages will be an individual responsibility; sack or small ice cooler lunches including an equivalent of one gallon of water per person are recommended.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. The public comment period for the Council meeting is listed below. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Field Office Manager at the Ely Field Office, HC 33 P.O. Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301, telephone (702) 389-1800.

DATES, TIMES: The time and location of the meeting is as follows: Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, BLM Field Office, 702 Industrial Way, Ely, Nevada 89301, September 23, 1998, starting at 1:00 p.m.; public comments will be at 3:00 p.m.; tentative adjournment 5:00 p.m.

The field tour beginning and returning to the Ely Field Office on September 24, 1998, will start at 8:00 a.m. and end approximately 3:45 p.m.; public comments will be at 4:00 p.m.; tentative adjournment at 5:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Curtis G. Tucker, Team Leader for the Northeastern Resource Advisory Council, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408, telephone 702-289-1841.

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 the management of the public lands.

James Perkins,

Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-23902 Filed 9-3-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Yakima, WA

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the Conservation Advisory Group, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Yakima, Washington, established by the Secretary of the Interior, will hold a public meeting. The purpose of the Conservation Advisory Group is to provide technical advice and counsel to the Secretary and the State on the structure, implementation, and oversight of the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program.

DATES: Thursday, September 17, 1998, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, September 18, 1998, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Reclamation Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Esget, Manager, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, P.O. Box 1749, Yakima, Washington, 98907; (509) 575-5848, extension 267.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Bureau of Reclamation's water acquisition process and procedures and develop recommendations on the process to facilitate voluntary sale or lease of water. Progress Reports will be provided on the Basin Conservation Plan and the Yakima River Basin Wetlands and Floodplain Habitat Plan.

Dated: August 28, 1998.

James A. Esget,

Acting Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-23846 Filed 9-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-M

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Agency For International Development

Board for International Food and Agricultural Development One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Meeting; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of the one hundred and twenty-seventh meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 22, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 1998, both days, at the International Trade Center, Ronald Reagan Building, Meridian Suite, Room C, located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523.

As part of its agenda, BIFAD will discuss current Title XII legislation and steps required for its amendment; food aid targeting; and revisions to the CRSP Guidelines. BIFAD will also discuss recent agricultural transition in Russia including agricultural reforms and restructuring. The meeting is open to the public. Any interested person may attend the meeting, may file written statements with the Committee before or after the meeting, or present any oral statements in accordance with procedures established by the Committee, to the extent that time available for the meeting permits.

Those wishing to attend the meeting should contact Mr. George Like at the Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 2.11-072, Washington, DC 20523-2110, telephone (202) 712-1436, fax (202) 216-3010 or internet [glike@usaid.gov] with your full name.

Anyone wishing to obtain additional information about BIFAD should contact Mr. Tracy Atwood the Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD. Write him in care of the Agency for International Development, Ronald Reagan Building, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 2.11-005, Washington, DC 20523-2110, telephone him at (202) 712-5571 or fax (202) 216-3010.

Tracy Atwood,

AID Designated Federal Officer, (Deputy Director, Office of Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Growth Center, Bureau for Global Programs).

[FR Doc. 98-23854 Filed 9-3-98; 8:45 am]

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