

1998 and FONSI/ ROD Amendment dated March 23, 1998, are incorporated by reference;]

- The setting of research priorities to include: endangered species, effects of artificial waters, biodiversity and ecological issues, water quality, military activities, wilderness resources, and archaeological/ cultural resources;

- The closure of almost 30 miles of the existing "administrative trail system" within designated wilderness to any routine motorized administrative access;

- The closure and reclamation of almost 139 miles of old trails in designated wilderness not considered useful in the management of refuge resources;

- The enhancement of monitoring and evaluation of impacts of management and public activities of refuge resources;

- A focus on evaluating the effect of developed waters on refuge resources;

- A continuation and expansion of strategies that benefit desert bighorn sheep and endangered Sonoran pronghorn;

- An expansion of strategies that benefit a diversity of flora and fauna and their habitats;

- An allowance for maintenance and minor rehabilitation of a limited number of refuge waters within wilderness;

- A continuation of the use of photo-monitoring and telemetry of Sonoran pronghorn and other species;

- Implementation of a Recreational Impact Monitoring Plan;

- Development and implementation of strategies to prevent border cattle encroachment;

- Continuing development of strategies and time-frame for short and long term reclamation of the summit of Childs Mountain;

- Establishment of a watchable wildlife and interpretive area on Childs Mountain;

- A continuation of 4 wheel drive restrictions to access El Camino del Diablo and Christmas Pass/Tacna Roads;

- In accordance with Refuge Compatibility Policy, assess the possible expansion of the hunt program to include closely controlled deer hunting and small game hunting in a limited number of geographically defined areas of the refuge;

- Inclusion of management flexibility with respect to allowable vehicles in non wilderness areas;

- A continuation of case-by-case restrictions on the use of horses and pack animals on the refuge;

- Possible acquisition of 30 acres next to refuge headquarters for use as a desert interpretive site;

- Expansion of efforts to cooperate with adjoining jurisdictions and refuge stakeholders;

- Continued improvement in relationships with the military and other federal agencies, Tohono O'odham Nation, the Hia-Ced O'odham, and the Yuman Native American interests on the west side of the refuge;

- Improvements to staffing and funding;

- Continued restrictions on the use of wood campfires; and

- In accordance with Refuge Compatibility Policy, development of a Copper Canyon auto tour loop in cooperation with the BLM.

The Programmatic EA contained a range of four management-framework alternatives inclusive of: the Proposed Alternative, a No-Action Alternative, a Progressive Management (Development oriented) Alternative, and a Limited or Restricted Management Alternative.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the Programmatic EA, it was determined that the approval of the individual or cumulative approaches reflected in the Proposed Alternative, did not constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. However, it is the intent of the Service to revisit questions of potential significant environmental consequences in accordance with NEPA upon consideration of the implementation of site specific proposals called for and discussed in the final plan document.

**DATES:** The Service will be open to written advice and comment on the draft CCP Objectives and Strategies through November 15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Address requests for copies of the document, comments on the draft CCP objectives and strategies, or request for more information to: Mr. Tom Baca, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region, Division of Refuges and Wildlife, PO Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** It is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered and will continue to consider many elements, including

habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Continued public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP document when finalized will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

Review of these projects will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, including the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

The Service anticipates that a Final CCP will be available by December 30, 1998.

Dated: September 22, 1998.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-25963 Filed 9-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Comment on the Proposal to Develop the "Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard" as a Federal Geographic Data Committee Standard**

**ACTION:** Notice; Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FGDC is soliciting public comments on the proposal to develop a "Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard." If the proposal is approved, the standard will be developed following the FGDC standards development and approval process and will be considered for adoption by the FGDC.

In its assigned federal leadership role in the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the Committee recognizes that FGDC standards must also meet the needs and recognize the views of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views. The FGDC invites the community to review the proposal and comment on the objectives, scope, approach, and usability of the proposed standard; identify existing related standards; and indicate their interest in

participating in the development of the standard.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 15, 1998.

**CONTACT AND ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted via Internet mail or by submitting electronic copy on diskette. Send comments via internet to: gdc-taxpro@www.fgdc.gov.

A soft copy version, on a 3.5×3.5 diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 or 6.0/6.1 format, along with one hardcopy version of the comments may be sent to the FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox) at U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Following is the complete proposal for the "Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard".

*Project Title:* Development of a Biological Nomenclature and Taxonomy Data Standard.

*Date of Proposal:* June 3, 1998.

*Submitting Organization:* FGDC Biological Data Working Group.

*Point of Contact:* Barbara Lamborne, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. (202) 260-3643 lamborne.barbara@epa.gov.

*Objectives:* The objectives are to provide a standardized, comprehensive, and consistent reference of scientific names (nomenclature) and associated classification (taxonomy) for biological species. This comprehensive standard will thus support the coordination, discovery, comparison, exchange, organization and integration of biological data among different government and non-government agencies, organizations, and individuals. The standard will be based on the cooperative activities of many groups (including several federal agencies) that are maintaining active programs in developing standardized credible nomenclatures and taxonomies for specific biological groups of interest to meet their respective missions. This data standard will also link to and support the implementation of the existing FGDC Vegetation Classification Standard, FGDC Wetlands Classification Standard, and the proposed Biological Profile of the FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata, as well as other biologically oriented standards, by serving as the accepted standard reference for biological nomenclature and taxonomy for these standards.

*Scope:* This standard will focus on providing a standardized and consistent reference for scientific names (including scientific synonyms and common names) and taxonomy for plant, animal, fungal, moneran and protist species.

The standard should be used to support the discovery, comparison, exchange, organization and integration of any biological data (or related information product) that includes scientific names of species (or higher taxonomic groups) as part of its data structure.

*Justification/Benefits:* Most biological data sets include some data on the scientific names (nomenclature) and/or common (vernacular) names and associated classification (taxonomy) of the species and/or higher taxonomic groups (genera, families, etc.) which are the focus of the data set. Due to the long scientific history and inherent complexity of the science of payments, many species have been assigned two or more different scientific names and associated classifications by different specialists. The application of common names to organisms is even less consistent and thus more complex. This relatively common situation obviously makes it difficult to locate, compare, share, exchange, and integrate biological data among different agencies and organizations in an accurate and efficient manner. Therefore, a key element in fostering development of a distributed federal of biological data and information through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (and the complementary National Biological Information Infrastructure) is the availability of a comprehensive, standardized reference for biological nomenclature and taxonomy that can be used by anyone interested in locating, comparing, exchanging, and integrating two or more biological data sets. This proposed standard will provide a consistent reference of the "accepted" scientific names for biological species, together with synonyms and common names. Users will thus be able to rely upon this standard reference to determine the accepted scientific name which then can be used to compare, relate, exchange and/or integrate biological data that may use different scientific or common names for the same species.

The proposed standard will also serve as the source of scientific nomenclature and taxonomy for the existing FGDC Vegetation Classification Standard, FGDC Wetlands Classification Standard, and for the proposed Biological Profile of the FGDC geospatial metadata content standard. It will thus support the further implementation of these FGDC standards efforts.

*Development Approach:* Currently, six Federal agencies (Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the

United States Geological Survey, and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History) are participating in the development and operation of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), a WWW-accessible database of scientific names and taxonomy for biota (<http://www.itis.usda.gov/itis>).

ITIS relies on the continuance of independently-funded, scientific activities of various agencies, organizations, and institutions to contribute reliable data that are compliant with ITIS standards. Through this federation of scientific entities agreeing to work together through common standards, the creation and maintenance of a standardized, comprehensive taxonomic reference for the Nation is possible. It is inherent in the adoption of ITIS as the biological nomenclature and taxonomic standard that the FGDC and its members recognize the data contributors to ITIS, particularly supporting U.S. Federal projects such as the PLANTS database of USDA, which has previously been recognized as an FGDC standard.

ITIS was endorsed as a national-level standard in the National Performance Review/Government Information Technology Services Board recent report "Access America—Reengineering Through Information Technology". The report recommends "Implementing the national-level standards that are needed to support greater sharing and use of biological information" and broadening the ITIS community of partners.

The FGDC Biological Data Working Group will work with an interagency project team representing the ITIS Federal partner agencies to develop a draft FGDC data standard, based on the consideration of the existing ITIS system as the possible "foundation" for this standard. The draft standard then will be submitted by the Biological Data Working Group to the FGDC Standards Working Group for review and approval prior to being distributed for full public review.

*Development and Completion Schedule:* The Biological Data Working Group will ask ITIS Federal agency partners to form an ad hoc standards project team to begin development of the draft data standard as soon as the initial public review of the standards proposal is completed. It is expected that development of a draft data standard will take the standards project team approximately 3 full months, with another 2 months for the FGDC Biological Data Working Group to review and revise the work of the standards project team as needed. The Biological Data Working Group will

then submit the draft standard to the Standards Working Group for review and approval before release of the standard for the requisite 90-day public review period. Following public review, the standard project team will evaluate and summarize all comments received, make the necessary revisions to the standards, and prepare the final draft for submission to the Standards Working Group, via the Biological Data Working Group. It is expected that the standard could be completed and approved by the FGDC Committee within approximately 10–12 months from the time the Standards Working Group approves this standards proposal.

**Resources Required:** The members of the FGDC Biological Data Working Group, working with the standards project team comprised of representatives of the ITIS Federal agency partners, have adequate resources (primarily staff time) available to support development of the standard. If there is interest on the part of NSGIC and/or the National Association of Counties (or other FGDC collaborating groups or organizations) in attending and participating in meetings of the FGDC Biological Data Working Group focused on development of the proposed data standard, it is possible that FGDC funds may be needed to help defray travel costs for these non-Federal participants.

**Potential Participants:** The FGDC Biological Data Working Group includes representatives of eight different Federal agencies, plus The Nature Conservancy. The ITIS partnership includes six different U.S. Federal agencies, plus biological scientists from other government agencies, natural history museums, universities, and international organizations. ITIS has recently expanded its partnership to include the Canadian government. This diverse group of existing participants will be enhanced during the standards development process by an aggressive "outreach" campaign to enlist the participation and input of other agencies, organizations, and individuals with expertise, responsibilities, and/or interests in the area of biological nomenclature and taxonomy and biological data exchange.

**Related Standards:** The proposed standard related directly to and will support full implementation of the FGDC Vegetation Classification Standard and the proposed Biological Profile of the FGDC metadata content standard. It also relates to the FGDC Wetlands Classification Standard.

**Other Targeted Authorization Bodies:** This proposed standard is not currently targeted for consideration by any other

authorizing bodies. Because of its direct linkage to the FGDC Vegetation Classification Standard and FGDC metadata content standard (through the proposed Biological Profile), it is anticipated that the proposed standard (once approved by the FGDC) potentially could be "linked" with either or both of these FGDC standards in any subsequent review and authorization of these standards by ANSI, ISO, or other group.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**Richard E. Witmer,**

*Chief, National Mapping Division.*

[FR Doc. 98–25819 Filed 9–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–Y7–M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board; Notice and Agenda for Meeting

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**SUMMARY:** The OCS Policy Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory Board will meet at the Marriott Bay Point Village Resort in Panama City, Florida, on October 20–21, 1998.

The agenda will cover the following principal subjects:

- Comprehensive National Energy Strategy
- President's Decision on the Leasing Moratoria Extension
- National Ocean Commission and Federal Follow-Up Activities
- Preparation for Developing the Next 5-Year Leasing Program
- Coastal Impact Assistance
- OCS Scientific Committee Update
- Regional Updates: Alaska, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Regions
- Subcommittee on Oil Spill Financial Responsibility Report
- Hard Minerals Update

The meeting is open to the public. Upon request, interested parties may make oral or written presentations to the OCS Policy Committee. Such request should be made no later than October 9, 1998, to the Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, MS–4001, Herndon, Virginia, 20170, Attention: Jeryne Bryant.

Requests to make oral statements should be accompanied by a summary of the statement to be made. For more information, call Jeryne Bryant at (703) 787–1211.

Minutes of the OCS Policy Committee meeting will be available for public

inspection and copying at the Minerals Management Service in Herndon, Virginia.

**DATES:** Tuesday, October 20 and Wednesday, October 21, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The Marriott Bay Point Village Resort, 4200 Marriott Drive, Panama City, Florida 32408—(850) 234–3307 or (800) 874–7105.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeryne Bryant at the address and phone number listed above.

**Authority:** Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. No. 92–463, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular No. A–63, Revised.

Dated: September 21, 1998.

**Carolita U. Kallaur,**

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.*

[FR Doc. 98–25855 Filed 9–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Correction; Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Concession Permit for Operation of the Ok-A-Beh Marina at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (North Unit)

**CORRECTION:** In notice document 98–15129, appearing on page 31228, of the June 8, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 109) issue, and in the correction notice appearing on page 41589, of the August 4, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 149) issue, the **EFFECTIVE DATE** and **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** is corrected to read as follows:

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The application period is extended ninety (90) days. Offers will be accepted for one hundred eighty (180) days under the terms described in the Prospectus. Any offer, including that of the existing concessioner, must be received by the Superintendent, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 485, Fort Smith, Montana 59035, by December 16, 1998, to be considered and evaluated.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This permit renewal has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

The existing concessioner, LuCon Corporation, has performed their obligations to the satisfaction of the Secretary under the existing permit which expires by limitation of time on December 31, 1998. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Concessions