ADDRESSES) and should be received on or before September 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecosystem Office, Post Office Box 2676, Vero Beach, Florida 32961–2676. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Requests for the documentation must be in writing to be processed. Comments must be submitted in writing to be processed. Please reference permit number PRT–832536 in such comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679–7110; or Mr. Mike Jennings, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecosystem Office , (see ADDRESSES above), telephone: 561/562–3909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens* is geographically isolated from other subspecies of scrub jays found in Mexico and the Western United States. The FSJ is found almost exclusively in peninsular Florida and is restricted to scrub habitat. The total estimated population is between 7,000 and 11,000 individuals. Due to habitat loss and degradation throughout the State of Florida, it has been estimated that the FSJ has been reduced by at least half in the last 100 years.

The status of FSJs in southwest Florida cannot accurately be estimated because no historical biological data exists with which to compare current species status. Based on the information identified in the Service's EA, the Service concludes that xeric habitats have been destroyed or degraded because of agricultural and urban uses, but FSJ responses to habitat disturbances are not well documented. However, based on existing soils data, the Service believes that much of the FSJ habitat that was once widespread along a narrow strip along coastal and riverine portions of Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota counties has been lost. Because of the loss in habitat, the Service concludes that the number and distribution of FSJs has also declined.

FSJ families occupying the Project site and Manasota Gardens Subdivision are part of a larger complex of FSJ families that persist in southwest Sarasota and northwest Charlotte counties. FSJ inhabiting the Project site represent one of eight confirmed FSJ families that reside within the Manasota Gardens Subdivision. The status of FSJ within the Project site and adjacent areas is not secure over the long term. Recent biological studies of the FSJ population suggests that FSJ families within Manasota Gardens Subdivision will likely decline in the future due to decreasing habitat quality and availability because of habitat fragmentation associated with residential development. The Service, through consultation with other experts, believes that FSJs will decline, over time, in residential settings.

Construction of the Project's infrastructure and subsequent construction of the individual homesites will likely result in death of, or injury to, *Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens* incidental to the carrying out of these otherwise lawful activities. Habitat alteration associated with property development will reduce the availability of feeding, shelter, and nesting habitat.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives. The no action alternative may result in loss of habitat for *Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens* and exposure of the Applicant under Section 9 of the Act. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the ITP. To compensate for the destruction of 0.59 acres of FSJ habitat and the take of one FSJ family, the Applicant has proposed to preserve 0.10 acres of scrub on the Project site. Further, clearing of vegetation and/or construction would not be allowed within 46 meters of any active FSJ nest during the nesting season, approximately March 1 to June 30 to comply with State law. Based on the Applicant's HCP, financial compensation was also offered to the local chapter of the Audubon Society to be used for FSJ monitoring in southern Sarasota County, but the Audubon Society rejected the offer. The Service did not specifically request other mitigation for the Project's impacts and no other compensation was offered by the Applicant.

As stated above, the Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comment received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. An appropriate excerpt from the FONSI reflecting the Service's finding on the application is provided below:

Based on the analysis conducted by the Service, it has been determined that:

1. Issuance of an ITP would not have significant effects on the human environment in the project area.

2. The proposed take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity.

3. The Applicant has minimized impacts on the project site to the extent practicable.

4. Other than impacts to the threatened species as outlined in the documentation of this decision, the indirect impacts which may result from issuance of the ITP are addressed by other regulations and statutes under the jurisdiction of other government entities. The validity of the Service's ITP is contingent upon the Applicant's compliance with the terms of the permit and all other laws and regulations under the control of State, local, and other Federal governmental entities.

The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with Section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97–20433 Filed 8–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Fish and Wildlife Service

[OR–015–97–1020–00: G7–0140]

Plan Amendment to the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), DOI.

ACTION: Notice of Intent, Plan Amendment to the Warner Lake Management Framework Plan and Jurisdictional Land Exchange with the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

SUMMARY: The Lakeview District (BLM) and Hart Mountain National Antelope

Refuge (USFWS) are initiating the planning process for a proposed plan amendment to the Warner Lakes Management Framework Plan (MFP, as amended) and jurisdictional land exchange with the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. The proposed amendment/land exchange would transfer management jurisdiction of approximately 10,932 acres of BLM-administered lands to the USFWS and approximately 5,317 acres of USFWS-administered lands to the BLM.

DATES: This notice announces the beginning of the public scoping comment period on the proposal. Interested individuals, organizations, and other agencies are encouraged to provide written comments within 30 days of the date of this notice to the address below. Public meetings will be held on the following dates:

August 14, 1997, 7 p.m.—USFWS Office, Kietzke Plaza, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Building B, Room 111, Reno, Nevada

August 26, 1997, 7 p.m.—BLM, Lakeview District Office conference room, 1000 South Ninth Street, Lakeview, Oregon

August 27, 1997, 7 p.m.—Bend Welcome Center, 63085 North Highway 97, Bend, Oregon.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action consists of transferring management jurisdiction of approximately 10,932 of BLM-administered lands to the USFWS and approximately 5,317 acres of USFWS-administered lands to BLM. The lands proposed for transfer are located in south central Lake County, Oregon, and are legally described below:

Legal description	Acres of BLM transferred to USFWS	Acres of USFWS transferred to BLM
T. 39S, R. 27E, Secs. 2, 10, and 11	0	480
T. 38S, R. 26E, Secs. 1–4, 5, 6, and 8–16	5,169	134
T. 38S, R. 27E, Secs. 3–6, 12–14, 26, 35 and 36	2,377	1,280
T. 37S, R. 25E, Sec. 30	0	168
T. 37S, R. 24E, Secs. 1, 2, and 12	793	0
T. 36S, R. 24E, Secs. 8, 17–19, and 36	38	945
T. 36S, R. 28E, Secs. 6 and 8	0	360
T. 35S, R. 25E, Secs. 1, 10, 11, 15, 20, 21, 29, and 32	182	624
T. 34S, R. 28E, Secs. 5 and 6	320	0
T. 34S, R. 26E, Secs. 2, 10, 11, 20, 28, 30, and 31	6	604
T. 34S, R. 25E, Secs. 36	302	0
T. 32S, R. 26E, Secs. 24, 25, and 35	320	29
T. 32S, R. 27E, Secs. 3, 9, 17–19	1,425	650
Totals	10,932	5,317

A map showing the lands proposed for jurisdictional transfer can be viewed at the BLM or USFWS offices listed below.

An integrated planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will be prepared in accordance with applicable planning and NEPA regulations which will evaluate the potential impacts of the jurisdictional land transfer. USFWS lands located along the western boundary of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge transferred to the BLM which fall within the boundary of the Warner Wetlands Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) would be managed in accordance with the Warner Lakes Plan Amendment for Wetlands and Associated Uplands (1989), the Warner Wetlands ACEC Management Plan (1990), and subsequent activity level management plans (1990). Isolated parcels of USFWS land location south of the refuge (i.e. Shirk Ranch) transferred to the BLM would be managed in accordance with the Warner Lakes MFP (1983) and Lakeview Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Record of Decision (1982). Additional details of the related, but separate on-going effort to develop an allotment management plan and environmental impact statement for the Beaty Butte allotment (0600) located south and east of the refuge in southeastern Lake County and southwestern Harney County, Oregon (see **Federal Register,** Vol 61, No. 246). All BLM lands transferred to the USFWS would be managed in accordance with the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge Comprehensive Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (1994).

Currently, three preliminary issues have been identified. These include: (1) How would the lands be managed once the transfer is completed? (2) how will the transfer improve management?, and (3) how would the transfer affect current uses (i.e. off-highway vehicle use, mineral management, and livestock grazing)?

Only two preliminary alternatives have been identified: (1) no action (i.e. do not conduct the transfer and continue current management), (2) transfer management jurisdiction of the described lands between the two agencies through formal land withdrawals, withdrawal revocations, or other title transfer, as appropriate.

At this time, individuals, organizations, agencies, and tribal government are invited to provide input on the preliminary issues, alternatives to be considered, and other aspects of the proposal that they feel should be addressed. All comments should be submitted in writing to the attention of Scott Florence, at the BLM address listed below within 30 days after this notice appears in the **Federal Register**. Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the NEPA/planning document. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from businesses, organizations, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Persons wishing to be added to the mailing list for the plan amendment/

NEPA document may do so by contacting Paul Whitman at the BLM address below. The draft document is expected to be available for review during the fall of 1997 and will have a minimum 45-day comment period starting on the date the Notice of Availability appears in the **Federal Register**. The supporting planning record will be maintained at the BLM and USFWS Offices below and will be available for public inspection during normal business hours. Because of recent court rulings, it is very important that those interested in the proposed action participate during appropriate comment opportunities, so that any substantive comments are provided at a time when the BLM and USFWS can meaningfully consider them.

ADDRESSES: BLM, Lakeview District Office, P.O. Box 151, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630, Telephone: (541)–947–2177, or Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Post Office Building, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630, Telephone: (541)–947–3315.

Dated: July 14, 1997.

Scott R. Florence,

Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97–20446 Filed 8–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–33–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Comment on the Proposal to Develop the ''Content Standard for Remote Sensing Swath Data'' 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 ''Content Standard for Remote Sensing Swath Data.'' If the proposal is approved, the standard will be developed following the FGDC standards development and approval process. If the standard is adopted by the FGDC, it must be followed by all Federal agencies collecting remotely sensed swath data directly or indirectly, through grants, partnerships, or contracts.

In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC recognizes that the 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.

Title: Remote Sensing Swath Data Content Standard.

Date of Proposal: July 3, 1997.

Type of Standard: Content standard for remote sensing swath data.

Submitting Organization: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Point of Contact: Candace Carlisle, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 505, Greenbelt, MD 20771. Phone: (301) 614–5186.

Objectives

The primary objective of this proposed standard is to define the content for remote sensing swath data (subsequently called the swath data model), thereby providing a solid basis from which to develop interoperable data formats for this common form of remote sensing data. The data model shall define the minimal content requirements for a swath and the relationships among its individual components. It shall also discuss the treatment of optional supporting information within the swath model.

Project Scope

As stated in Executive Order 12906, dated April 13, 1994, the FGDC shall coordinate the Federal Government's development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The Executive Order is intended to strengthen and enhance the general policies described in OMB Circulars A–16 and A–119. The swath data model for remote sensing supports the development of the NSDI by providing a common framework for the organization of a wide range of remotely sensed data. The model will be particularly useful for data from scanning, profiling, staring, or push-broom type remote sensing instruments, whether they be ground based, shipboard, airborn, or spaceborne.

The Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS), an international standards body, has endorsed the development of data models for remotely sensed swath through its Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) Data Subgroup.

Justification/Benefit

In order to facilitate interoperability among agencies with remote sensing data holdings and member agencies of international remote sensing groups, participants must first be able to exchange information. Ideally, data from one organization should be easily useable by other organizations performing similar work. In practice, however, each organization has developed its own methods of encoding data that are generally not particularly compatible with those developed by other organizations. The unfortunate results are that data are generally not easily shared among these groups and that researchers who wish to use data from multiple sources find the task of reconciling the data particularly daunting. Clearly, it is in the interest of the entire remote sensing community that there be a common data encoding mechanism in use by many organizations. Before such an encoding mechanism can become widely accepted, however, each party must share a common conceptual model of the data in question. This is exactly the purpose of the swath data model or content standard. It will provide a common conceptual framework, within which the sharing of remote sensing swath data will become possible.

Development Approach

The data standardization and modeling are major research issues within the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS). The Earth Science Data and Information System (ESDIS) Project is responsible for EOSDIS and has already sponsored much preliminary research into these issues for remote sensing applications. Some early results of the research are presented in EOSDIS Version 0 FY92 Data Structures Report, an internal ESDIS report. Those early results have been further developed into data standards for the EOSDIS Core System (ECS) through soliciting input and comments from scientists around the world and from EOSDIS's Data Model Working Group. As one of the efforts to publicize the EOSDIS data standards and solicit comments, NASA plans to have a software vendor workshop on EOSDIS data standards during this year. The proposed FGDC content standard for remotely sensed swath data will based on the ECS swath data standard.

Related Standards

The proposed standard will be based on the NASA EOSDIS standards for remote sensing swath data. The NASA standard specifies the minimal content requirements for a swath and the relationships among its individual components. Based on the standard, ESDIS project has developed an encoding mechanism and a set of software tools for EOSDIS.