

review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** Comments are due June 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development & Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451-7th Street, SW, Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410-6000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laurent V. Hodes or Robert W. Gray, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St., SW, Room 8154, Washington, DC 20410-6000, telephone 202-708-5537 extension 5736 or 5732. (This is not a toll-free number.) A copy of the proposed forms and other available documents to be submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Hodes or Mr. Gray.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate 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; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Reinstatement, "Customer-Survey of Households Living in Federally Assisted Units," OMB Control Number: 2528-0170, Expired 04/30/98.

*Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use:*

HUD recently developed and tested a cost-effective mail survey instrument for assessing resident satisfaction with, and rating of, housing units assisted through HUD programs. This survey, which

elicits renters' ratings of their housing, provided high response rates and high levels of agreement with independent condition ratings by professional inspectors. HUD plans to implement this survey as an ongoing tool to assess customer ratings of housing assisted through the Section 8 Certificate and Voucher programs. For limited evaluative or comparative purposes, HUD may also use this survey to assess resident ratings of other Federal housing assistance programs.

This survey will provide feedback to help local housing agencies improve their Section 8 programs, and will help HUD to focus its monitoring and technical assistance resources where program performance most needs improvement. It will also provide HUD's policy, budget, and program managers with improved measures for tracking national housing conditions over time.

*Members of the affected public:* Households receiving assistance from the Section 8 Certificate or Voucher Programs.

*Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:* Information will be collected by an annual mail survey of 267,000 of the 1.4 million households who are assisted through the Section 8 Certificate and Voucher programs. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete for an annual total of 66,750 hours of respondent burden. Because the survey will be administered to a sample of households, and because of turnover in the Section 8 programs, most households will not be asked to complete the survey two years in a row.

*Status of the proposed information collection:* The original information collection was suspended at the termination of HUD's pilot testing. This proposed reinstatement is pending submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance.

**Authority:** Sec. 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: March 29, 1999.

**Lawrence L. Thompson,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.*

[FR Doc. 99-8399 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Construction on a Single-Family Lot, in Volusia County, FL

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Linda B. Walters (Applicant), is seeking an incidental take permit (ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The ITP would authorize incidental take of the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), both threatened species, on a single family lot for a period of twenty (20) years. The proposed taking is incidental to land clearing and other activities associated with the construction of a single family home on a .685-acre lot in Volusia County, Florida (Project). Surveys on the Project site indicate that one family of Florida scrub-jays occupies the Project site. No eastern indigo snakes have been reported on the property; however, the Applicant has requested that the eastern indigo snake be included in the ITP based on the chance that this species could occur on the project site. A description of the mitigation and minimization measures outlined the Applicant's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to address the effects of the Project to the protected species is as described further in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

Further, the Service has determined that the Applicant's HCP qualifies as a "low-effect" HCP as defined by the Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). The Service has further determined that approval of the HCP qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1).

Copies of the Applicant's HCP may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

The Service specifically requests information, views, opinions from the public via this Notice, including information regarding the adequacy of

the HCP as measured against the Service's ITP issuance criteria found in 50 CFR Parts 13 and 17.

**DATES:** Written comments on the application and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before May 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the HCP 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, 6620 South Point Drive, South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912. Written data or comments 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 TE008789-0 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, facsimile: 404/679-7081.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Aphelocoma coerulescens* is geographically isolated from other subspecies of scrub-jays found in Mexico and the Western United States. The Florida scrub-jay 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 Florida scrub-jay population has been reduced by at least half in the last 100 years. Surveys have indicated that one family of Florida scrub-jays inhabit the Project site. Construction of the Project's infrastructure, commercial construction and construction of the individual home sites will likely result in death of, or injury to, *Aphelocoma 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.

Section 9 of the Act, and implementing regulations, prohibits taking the Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake. Taking, in part, is defined as an activity that kills, injures, harms, or harasses a listed endangered or

threatened species. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act provides an exemption, under certain circumstances, to the Section 9 prohibition if the taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of otherwise lawful activities.

Observations by Service biologists documented the presence of one family of Florida scrub-jays and use of suitable habitat on the applicant's property. The .685 acres of occupied habitat on the site is very overgrown due to fire suppression and a lack of any kind of management. The surrounding area is intensely developed with only scattered fragments of scrub habitat remaining. No evidence of eastern indigo snakes were found on the property; however, the applicant is requesting to be protected under an incidental take provision since this wide ranging species potentially may use the site. Initial construction of a single family home would sufficiently modify and cause impacts to occupied Florida scrub-jay habitat on the project site, as to meet the definition of "take" in the Act.

The HCP describes measures the Applicant will take to avoid and mitigate such taking resulting from the Project. To minimize impacts, the Applicant will ensure clearing of vegetation within 150 feet of active nests will not take place during the nesting season for Florida scrub-jays (March 1 through July 1). Appendix C of the habitat conservation plan (HCP) details the avoidance measures that the Applicant has agreed to implement to reduce potential impacts to any eastern indigo snakes which may be found on the project site. To mitigate for the up to .685 acres of occupied habitat that would be eliminated on-site, the applicant will contribute \$8631.00 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fund for the conservation and management of the Florida scrub-jay. This money will be used, along with other funds received from Section (a)(1)(B) permits, to purchase scrub-jay habitat in Volusia County, Florida. This amount is based on replacement at a rate of 2:1 (replaced: lost), provides a \$1,000 per acre management endowment for perpetual management, and includes a five percent fee for the administration of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation account. Once purchased, the land will be transferred to a third party land management organization along with the \$1,000 per acre management endowment for management into perpetuity. This will be accomplished through the use of a conservation easement, specifying that the land be left undeveloped and managed into perpetuity. It is believed

that ensuring the protection and viability of quality, occupied habitat in a large contiguous preserve is more beneficial to the scrub-jay and indigo snake than any on-site mitigation plan could offer. No mitigation other than the standard protection measures are offered for the eastern indigo snake, although that species would also generally benefit from conservation and management of a large tract of land.

As earlier stated, the Service has determined that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" HCP as defined by the Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Low-effect HCPs are those involving: (1) Minor or negligible effects on federally listed and candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources. The Applicant's HCP qualifies for the following reasons:

1. Approval of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on the Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake, and their habitats. The Service does not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects to the Florida scrub-jay or eastern indigo snake resulting from construction of the Project.

2. Approval of the HCP would not have adverse effects on known unique geographic, historic or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

3. Approval of the HCP would not result in any significant adverse effects on public health or safety.

4. The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, nor does it threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

5. Approval of the Plan would not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The Service has therefore determined that approval of the Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the NEPA, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). No further NEPA documentation will therefore be prepared.

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the eastern indigo

snake. 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 consultation, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP; the final decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: March 29, 1999.

**H. Dale Hall,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-8403 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-09-0777-42]

#### Meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Pub. Ls. 92-463 and 94-579, that the California Desert District Advisory Council to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, will participate in a field tour of the BLM-administered public lands within the West Mojave Management Planning area on Thursday, May 6, 1999 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and meet in formal session on Friday, May 7 from 8 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, May 8 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Friday and Saturday meetings will be held in the conference room at the Barstow Holiday Inn, located at 1511 East Main Street, Barstow, California.

All Desert District Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Time for public comment may be made available by the Council Chairman during the presentation of various agenda items, and is scheduled at the beginning of the meeting for topics not on the agenda.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the California Desert District Advisory Council, c/o Bureau of Land Management, Public Affairs Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California 92507-0714. Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carole Levitzky at (909) 697-5217 or Doran Sanchez at (909) 697-5220, BLM California Desert District Public Affairs.

Dated: March 31, 1999.

**Tim Salt,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-8405 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-350-1020-00]

#### Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Northeast California Resource Advisory Council, Susanville, California.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94-579), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Northeast California Resource Advisory Council will meet Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7, 1999, at the Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Thursday, May 6, the council will convene at 9 a.m. at the Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA. At 9:30 a.m., the council will depart for a field tour of the Fort Sage Off Highway Vehicle Area near Doyle, CA. Members of the public are welcome on the tour, but they must provide their own transportation in a high clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle. The tour will return to Susanville at approximately 5 p.m. On Friday, the council will convene at 8 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Field office for a business meeting.

Agenda items include an update from the BLM California State Office, discussion about the RAC meeting budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, and reports from managers of the BLM Alturas, Eagle Lake and Surprise field offices. The council will discuss off-highway vehicle management issues in each field office, and discuss development of management guidelines for off-highway vehicles. Public comments will be taken at 1 p.m. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit could be established.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeff Fontana, public affairs officer, at (530) 257-5381.

**Linda D. Hansen,**

*Eagle Lake Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-8406 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-930-1410-00-NPRA; F-85600]

#### Designation of Additions to Special Areas in National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska; Alaska

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides official publication of additions to the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and the Colville River Special Area located within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The designation of these additions is pursuant to the Naval Petroleum Reserves Act of 1976, and in accordance with the Record of Decision for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS).

**DATES:** April 6, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gene Terland, BLM Alaska State Office, 907-271-3344 or Michael Kunz, BLM Northern Field Office, 907-474-2302. Mail may be sent to the Bureau of Land Management (930), Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1977, to assure protection of significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, historical and scenic values, the Secretary of the Interior designated the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and Colville River Special Area, located within the NPR-A.

In 1998, the BLM prepared the IAP/EIS for a 4.6-million-acre area within the NPR-A to determine the appropriate multiple-use management consistent with existing statutory direction which encourages oil and gas leasing while protecting important surface resources and uses. In order to meet these management responsibilities, the BLM recommended the Pik Dunes Land Use Emphasis Area (LUEA) be added to the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and areas encompassing the Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk Rivers be added to the Colville River Special Area. On October 7, 1998, the Secretary of the Interior