

(c) *Ending date.* An employee's extended benefit period ends on the 97th day after it began. If an employee attains age 65 during an extended sickness benefit period, such extended benefit period will terminate on the day next preceding the date on which the employee attains age 65, except that it may continue for the purpose of paying benefits for his or her days of unemployment, if any, during such extended period. If an extended sickness benefit period terminates because the employee has attained age 65, and if at that point the employee has rights to normal sickness benefits, the employee will be paid normal sickness benefits if he or she is otherwise entitled to payment thereof.

(d) *Maximum number of compensable days.* Extended benefits may be paid for a maximum of 65 days of unemployment (or 65 days of sickness, as the case may be) within an employee's extended benefit period.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 30

Changes in Cost Accounting Practices

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement, in conjunction with the National Contract Management Association, is sponsoring a public meeting to discuss alternatives to the Cost Accounting Standard Board's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM-II) regarding "Changes in Cost Accounting Practices," published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 45700 on August 20, 1999. The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement would like to hear the views of interested parties on potential alternatives to the approach proposed by the Cost Accounting Standards Board in SNPRM-II. One such alternative is available on the Internet Home Page of the Office of Cost, Pricing, and Finance at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp/cpf>.

The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement is particularly concerned about the complexity and level of detail contained in SNPRM-II, and the additional administrative burden for contractors and contracting officers that

would result from its implementation. The Office is also concerned that the addition of unnecessary and cumbersome requirements for contractor submissions and government reviews would lengthen the process for resolving the cost impact of a change in cost accounting practice and increase the potential for disputes.

If feasible alternatives to SNPRM-II can be identified, working groups may be formed to refine the alternatives if necessary. The alternatives would then be provided to the Chairman of the Cost Accounting Standards Board for the Board's consideration.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 17, 1999, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Contract Management Association, 1912 Woodford Drive, Vienna, VA 22182. Directions may be found on the Internet at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp/cpf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Capitano, Office of Cost, Pricing, and Finance, by telephone at (703) 695-7249, by FAX at (703) 693-9616, or by e-mail at capitadj@acq.osd.mil; or Ms. Claudia Low, National Contract Management Association, by telephone at (703) 734-5440.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF79

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Threatened Status for the Plant *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's Catchfly)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule and notice of petition finding.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose to list *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). *Silene spaldingii* is currently known from a total of 52 populations. Seven populations occur in west-central Idaho, 7 in northeastern Oregon, 9 in western Montana, 28 in eastern Washington, and 1 in adjacent

British Columbia, Canada. This taxon is threatened by a variety of factors including habitat destruction and fragmentation from agricultural and urban development, grazing and trampling by domestic livestock and native herbivores, herbicide treatment, and competition from non-native plant species. This proposal, if made final, would implement the Federal protection and recovery provisions afforded by the Act for the plant.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by February 1, 2000. Public hearing requests must be received by January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Supervisor, Snake River Basin Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Ruesink, Supervisor, at the above address (telephone 208/378-5243; facsimile 208/378-5262).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A member of the pink or carnation family (Caryophyllaceae), *Silene spaldingii* Watson is a long-lived perennial herb with four to seven pairs of lance-shaped leaves and a spirally arranged inflorescence (group of flowers) consisting of small greenish-white flowers. The foliage is lightly to densely covered with sticky hairs. Reproduction is by seed only; *S. spaldingii* does not possess rhizomes or other means of vegetative reproduction (Lesica 1992). Plants range from approximately 2 to 6 decimeters (dm) (8 to 24 inches (in)) in height (Lichthardt 1997).

First collected in the vicinity of the Clearwater River, Idaho, between 1836 and 1847, *Silene spaldingii* was originally described by Watson (Watson 1875). This taxon was retained as a full species in a recent, comprehensive regional flora (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973). *Silene spaldingii* differs from the related, common species *S. scouleri* by having petal blades 2 millimeters (mm) (0.08 in) in length; *Silene scouleri* has deeply lobed petal blades that are 6 to 7 mm (0.24 to 0.28 in) long. *Silene douglasii* also occurs with *S. spaldingii* in some areas but typically has multiple, slender stems, narrower leaves, and is rarely sticky-pubescent (Lichthardt 1997).