

cottonwood gallery forest for migratory landbirds?

- What are our options for preventing the introduction and dispersal of invasive plants and animals?

- What is the refuge's role in supporting native fish and restoring riparian habitat in Camas Creek?

- How can we maintain, manage, and restore the refuge's sagebrush, wet meadow, and upland habitats to support the long-term viability of native wildlife populations, and maximize habitat values for key wildlife species?

- How can the refuge adaptively manage habitat in response to climate change issues?

- How can we protect the refuge's cultural and historical resources?

- What is the most appropriate refuge land management strategy for providing contiguous and quality habitats for focal wildlife resources?

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: August 5, 2010.

Theresa E. Rabot,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 2010-23243 Filed 9-16-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-ES-2008-N188; 60120-1113-0000; C2]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Utah Prairie Dog

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for review and comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of a draft revised recovery plan for the Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*). This species is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service solicits

review and comment from the public on this draft revised plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before November 16, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available by request from the Utah Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50, West Valley City, UT 84119; telephone 801-975-3330. Submit comments on the draft recovery plan to the Field Supervisor at this same address. An electronic copy of the draft recovery plan is available at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/recovery-plans.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Field Supervisor, at the above address, or telephone 801-975-3330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service prepares recovery plans for the federally listed species native to the United States where a plan will promote the conservation of the species. Recovery plans describe site-specific actions necessary for the conservation of the species, establish objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species no longer needs the protection of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and provide estimates of the time and cost for implementing the needed recovery measures.

The Act requires recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information received during a public comment period when preparing each new or revised recovery plan for approval. The Service and other Federal agencies also will take these comments into consideration in the course of implementing approved recovery plans. It is our policy to request peer review of recovery plans. We will summarize and respond to the issues raised by the public and peer reviewers in an appendix to the approved recovery plan.

The Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*), found only in southwestern and central Utah, was listed as an

endangered species on June 4, 1973 (38 FR 14678). At the time of listing, the species was threatened by habitat destruction and modification, overexploitation, disease, and predation. Subsequently, Utah prairie dog populations increased significantly in portions of their range, and on May 29, 1984 (49 FR 22330), the species was reclassified as threatened with a special rule to allow regulated take of the species. This special rule was amended on June 14, 1991 (56 FR 27438), to increase the amount of regulated take allowed throughout the species' range. Recent Utah prairie dog population trends appear to be relatively stable, although the species remains vulnerable to several serious threats. These include habitat loss, plague, changing climatic conditions, unauthorized take, and disturbance from recreational and economic land uses.

The recovery of Utah prairie dogs will rely on effective conservation responses to the issues facing the species, which remain varied and complex. These issues include plague, urban expansion, grazing, cultivated agriculture, vegetative community changes, invasive plants, off-highway vehicle and recreation uses, climate change, energy resource exploration and development, fire management, poaching, and predation. Strategically, these issues can be reduced to two overriding concerns: loss of habitat and plague. The recovery strategy for the Utah prairie dog focuses on the need to address colony loss and disease through a program that encompasses threats abatement, population management, research, and monitoring. We emphasize conserving extant colonies, many of which occur on non-Federal lands; establishing additional colonies on Federal and non-Federal lands via habitat improvement or translocations; controlling the transmission of plague; and monitoring habitat conditions.

Request for Public Comments

The Service solicits public comments on the draft recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified in **DATES** will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor (*see ADDRESSES* section). Comments and materials received will be available, by appointment, for public inspection during normal business hours at the above address.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 18, 2010.

Hugh Morrison,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-23234 Filed 9-16-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYP07000; L16100000.DU0000]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Buffalo Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Fortification Creek Planning Area and Environmental Assessment, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (RMPA/EA) for the Buffalo Field Office (BFO) and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The RMPA/EA will amend the 1985 Buffalo Resource Management Plan. The BLM also announces the availability of information regarding a proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) considered in the Draft RMPA/EA.

DATES: The BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMPA/EA and on the proposed ACEC information within 60 days following the date that this Notice of Availability appears in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Draft RMPA/EA by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification_creek.html.

- *E-mail:* Fort_Crk_WYMail@blm.gov.

- *Fax:* (307) 684-1122.

- *Mail:* Buffalo RMP Amendment/ Fortification Creek EA, BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

Copies of the Draft RMPA/EA are available in the Buffalo Field Office at the above address and at the following location:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Thomas

Bills, Buffalo RMPA Team Leader, telephone at 307-684-1133; mailing address at BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834; e-mail at tom_bills@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fortification Creek Planning Area (FCPA) is described as requiring "special management" in the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (PRB EIS). The FCPA also contains an isolated elk herd, a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and a citizen-proposed ACEC. The FCPA is 100,655 acres in size and located in the center of the Powder River Basin in parts of Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties, Wyoming.

An RMP amendment has been initiated to simplify, consolidate and unify overlapping planning decisions in the FCPA while ensuring the viability of the existing elk herd and maintaining other management activities in the planning area.

The Draft RMPA/EA documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of three alternatives for management of BLM-administered public lands and mineral resources within the Fortification Creek Area of the BFO. The alternatives incorporate best management practices for oil and gas development and other measures necessary to address impacts to transportation, public safety, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, visual resources, air quality, wilderness characteristics, and other relevant issues. The following descriptions of alternatives considered in the Draft RMPA/EA have been included to provide context for reviewers. Three alternatives are analyzed in detail:

Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative): Continues the existing management direction in conformance with the current RMP and would not designate an ACEC in the FCPA;

Alternative 2: Amends the existing RMP to allow overhead power lines on BLM surface within pre-defined corridors, applies elk security habitat standards as recommended by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), prescribes acceptable mitigation measures, and would designate an ACEC based on citizen proposed boundaries (33,757 acres; primarily public surface); and

Alternative 3 (Agency Preferred Alternative): Amends the existing RMP by allowing overhead power lines along roads on BLM surface, applies elk security habitat standards developed

jointly by the BLM and WGFD, establishes standards for performance based mitigation, and does not designate any area as an ACEC.

There are no ACECs in the existing BFO land use plan. As proposed in the Draft RMPA/EA, there is potential for designation of a Fortification Creek ACEC. Values of concern include steep slopes, erosive soils, elk habitat, cultural resources, and visual resources.

When commenting, please include reference to either the page or section in the Draft RMPA/EA to which the comment applies. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, the BLM encourages those individuals submitting comments to submit them in electronic format.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and e-il addresses of respondents will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Donald A. Simpson,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-R-2010-N150; 50133-1265-CHNP-S3]

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County, VA; Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; announcement of public scoping and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), are gathering information to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and associated environmental impact statement (EIS)