

consistent method to calculate this distribution cut off for each HUD region and sees no reason to make a change to this method at this time.

Comment: Several commenters suggested that HUD should provide additional funding to PHAs who undertake local area surveys.

HUD Response: HUD reminds PHAs that paying for local area rent surveys is an eligible expense to be paid from ongoing administrative fees or their administrative fee reserve account.

Comment: HUD received several comments from the Lenawee, MI community regarding the level of their FMRs. The commenters noted that the FMRs were too low and one commenter requested information on how information is gathered to calculate FMRs.

HUD Response: The requests for reevaluation of the FY 2019 FMRs in Lenawee County, MI were not accompanied by supporting statements from PHAs representing at least 50 percent of the voucher holders in the area and HUD was unable to grant the request. As for information on how HUD calculates the FMRs, HUD provides comprehensive documentation on how FMRs are calculated for each area. For FY 2019, please visit https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html#2019_query and follow the prompts after selecting the "Click Here For FY 2019 FMRs" button.

Comment: HUD should use more timely data when calculating FMRs. HUD should request more money to reimburse surveys. HUD should continue to refine the FMR calculation methodology.

HUD Response: There are no other data on gross rents paid that are consistently collected on a nationwide basis, available to HUD, that are more current than the data we receive from the ACS dataset. Proprietary rental data cannot be used as the basis for the FMR calculations because they are not consistently available for all areas and frequently are not statistically representative of the rental markets they cover. Some of these sources focus on rents for major apartment projects only. Other sources include single family homes, which are at least 30 percent of the rental market in major metropolitan areas and a greater portion in rural areas, are typically compiled from internet-based ads, or the small subset of professionally managed single-family rental units. Online listings of rents are similar to newspaper ads which have been excluded as a source of rent data for FMRs since the mid-1980s due to a directive issued by HUD's Inspector General.

As HUD has stated before, the Federal Government invests a substantial amount of resources in collecting socioeconomic data through the ACS.

Furthermore, the Census Bureau has statutory advantages in compelling responses to the ACS and receives significantly higher response rates than HUD could achieve if it was to undertake its own survey program.

Comment: Annual "erratic fluctuations" in FMRs within the same area do not follow established housing market dynamics and represent serious flaws in the FMR calculation methodology.

HUD Response: HUD has implemented steps to attenuate the fluctuations found in the annually updated survey data; however, with the statutory directive to use the most recent data available, HUD is compelled to update the data behind each area's FMR calculation when new data is released. Consequently, FMRs will change from year to year in accordance with changes in the underlying survey data. Furthermore, the commenter provides no references to academic literature that seeks to establish that it is impossible for rents to move both up and down over time. HUD emphasizes that the primary data source for FMRs is a survey (ACS) and while surveyors do their best to select unbiased random samples of the population they wish to study, sampling error still persists within survey statistics.

III. Environmental Impact

This Notice makes changes in FMRs for multiple FMR areas and does not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this Notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Dated: March 8, 2019.

Todd M. Richardson,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 2019-04691 Filed 3-13-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2019-N169;
FXES1114020000-190-FF02ENEH00]

Notice of Availability: Draft Amendments to the Environmental Assessment and Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of documents; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of an amended environmental assessment, under the National Environmental Policy Act, that evaluates the impacts of a 5-year extension of the Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) for incidental take of the federally listed American burying beetle resulting from oil and gas industry activities. The ICP Planning Area consists of 45 counties in Oklahoma. Individual oil and gas companies would continue to apply for Endangered Species Act permits for incidental take and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the ICP.

DATES: *Comments:* To ensure consideration, written comments must be received or postmarked on or before April 15, 2019. Any comments we receive after the closing date or not postmarked by the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on this action.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:*

- *Internet:* You may obtain copies of the draft amendments to the environmental assessment (EA) and Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) website at www.fws.gov/southwest/es/oklahoma/ABBICP.

- *U.S. Mail:* A limited number of CD-ROM and printed copies of the draft amendments to the EA and ICP are available, by request, from the Field Supervisor, by mail at the Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, 9014 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129; by phone at 918-581-7458; or by fax at 918-581-7467. Please note that your request is in reference to the ABB ICP.

- *In-Person:* Copies of the draft amendments to the EA and ICP are also available for public inspection and review at the following locations, by appointment and written request only, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

○ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Avenue SW, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

○ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9014 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129.

Comment submission: You may submit comments by one of the following methods. Please note that your comments are in reference to the ABB ICP.

○ *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office, 9014 E 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129; by phone at 918–581–7458; or by fax at 918–581–7467.

○ *Electronically:* fw2_hcp_permits@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonna Polk, Field Supervisor, 918–581–7458 (phone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of an amended environmental assessment, under the National Environmental Policy Act, that evaluates the impacts of a 5-year extension of the Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) for incidental take of the federally listed American burying beetle (ABB) resulting from oil and gas industry activities. Individual oil and gas companies would continue to apply for Endangered Species Act permits for incidental take and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the ICP.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), this notice advises the public that we, the Service, have gathered the information necessary to determine impacts of the draft amendments to the EA and ICP related to the proposed issuance of incidental take permits (ITPs) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), to oil and gas companies (applicants) who agree to the conditions in the ICP. The ICP is a habitat conservation plan (HCP) that covers take of the ABB that is incidental to covered activities associated with geophysical exploration (seismic), development, extraction, or transport of crude oil, natural gas, and/or other petroleum products, as well as maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of oil and gas pipelines and well field infrastructure, and will include measures necessary to minimize and mitigate impacts to the covered species and its habitat to the maximum extent practicable.

The Service is proposing to amend the Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) to extend the timeframe for oil and gas

companies' (industry) participation in the ICP and the expiration date of the ICP and permits by 5 years.

The original ICP allows industry to apply for a permit to participate for the first 2 years (from the date of approval and signature—May 20, 2014, through May 20, 2016) and operations and maintenance for up to an additional 20 years (May 20, 2036). A previous amendment extended the ICP signup period for 3 years (until May 20, 2019), and this amendment would extend the signup period for an additional 5 years (until May 20, 2024). Permittees with existing ICP permits will not be automatically enrolled and must apply for an amendment to their permit to obtain coverage under the amended ICP. ICP applications must be received by May 20, 2024, but may be approved after that date. Applications for Individual Project Plans (IPP), under an approved ICP, must be received by May 20, 2027. All construction related to approved IPPs must be completed by May 20, 2030. Operation and maintenance activities are authorized until the permit expires on May 20, 2039. Therefore, incidental take issued under this ICP may occur for a maximum of 25 years following the original ICP authorization on May 20, 2014. All incidental take coverage provided by the ICP will end when the permit expires on May 20, 2039, regardless of when the ICP or IPP applications were approved. Providing date-certain limits for each period will reduce confusion and simplify tracking for both permittees and the Service.

The Service has assessed the potential impacts of the 5-year extension for the ICP and reviewed the associated environmental assessment (EA) and biological opinion (BO) for industry-related activities within the eastern Oklahoma planning area. The estimates of potential impacts from industry activities for the ICP were based on recent history of development and industry predictions. Industry activity and impacts have been less than expected due to reduced petroleum prices and market conditions. Therefore, the amount of take issued under the ICP has been significantly lower than anticipated (32,234 acres allowed, with only about 5,255 acres issued as of December 19, 2018). The current ICP is only open for new applications through May 20, 2019, and incidental take authorized through the ICP is unlikely to approach the 32,234 acres allowed by that date.

The change in timelines is the only proposed revision to the ICP, EA, and BO. There are no proposed changes to the federally listed species or area

covered, and no increases in the total amount of incidental take provided through this ICP amendment. The ABB is the only species with incidental take in the ICP. Extending the same level of take over additional years should reduce potential impacts to local habitat and ABB populations. Much of the oil and gas related impacts are temporary and can be restored within 2–5 years. Spreading the soil disturbance impacts out to 2030 would allow temporary soil disturbance initiated in the first few years to be partially or fully restored before impacts from later projects have begun. The ABB is an annual species, and reducing take in any year should allow more adult beetles to survive into the next year. Incidental take authorized through the extension would not be increased, is a very small percentage of the total ABB habitat, and would not change the BO determination that the take would not jeopardize the continued existence of the ABB. The ICP Planning Area covers the following 45 Oklahoma counties: Adair, Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cleveland, Coal, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Garvin, Haskell, Hughes, Johnson, Kay, Latimer, Le Flore, Lincoln, Love, Marshall, Mayes, McClain, McCurtain, McIntosh, Murray, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Seminole, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington.

Background

Potential impacts as a result of the extension are not expected to increase beyond those already identified in the EA. Environmental consequences were reviewed for the ICP extension, and potential impacts to the following resources were evaluated: Geology, Soils, Water Resources, Water Quality, Air Quality, Vegetation, Wetlands, General Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Land Use, Aesthetics and Noise, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Tribal Jurisdiction, and Cultural Resources. Minor benefits to Water Resources, Water Quality, Air Quality, Vegetation, Wetlands, General Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Land Use, and Aesthetics and Noise could occur, because any impacts of oil and gas construction activity would be spread out over more years. Local impacts of project-related soil disturbance, such as removal of vegetation, erosion, and dust, may be reduced, and some recovery of natural resources could be expected if spread out over additional years.

The ICP extension is not expected to significantly affect oil and gas activity,

but would help support industry activity by streamlining ESA compliance, while continuing conservation efforts for the ABB. The 5-year ICP extension is expected to trigger no new environmental consequences; no new impacts to local economies or cultural resources; and no changes to direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. The ICP extension would not authorize any additional activities or incidental take. The same types and quantities of activities previously described in the EA are expected to occur with the 5-year extension. Based on the proposed amendment, construction-related impacts could occur until May 20, 2030, instead of only during the original 2-year timeframe, and operation and maintenance-related impacts could occur until May 20, 2039.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: February 5, 2019.

Amy Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 2019-04761 Filed 3-13-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-NERO-GATE-27367; PPNEGATEB0, PPMVSCS1Z.Y00000]

Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the National Park Service (NPS) is hereby giving notice that the Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will take place on Friday, March 29, 2019. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with a public comment period at 11:30 a.m. (Eastern).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the park visitor center, Thompson Park, 805 Newman Springs, Lincroft, New Jersey 07738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daphne Yun, Acting Public Affairs Officer, Gateway National Recreation Area, 210 New York Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10305, or by telephone (718) 815-3651, or by email daphne_yun@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established on April 18, 2012, by authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) under 54 U.S.C. 100906, and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee provides advice to the Secretary, through the Director of the National Park Service, on matters relating to the Fort Hancock Historic District of Gateway National Recreation Area. All meetings are open to the public.

Purpose of the Meeting: The agenda will include an update on the leasing program (new leases, letters of intent, and building proposals), and a general park update, including possible summer plans. The final agenda will be posted on the Committee's website at <https://www.forthancock21.org>. The website includes meeting minutes from all prior meetings.

Interested persons may present, either orally or through written comments, information for the Committee to consider during the public meeting. Written comments will be accepted prior to, during, or after the meeting. Members of the public may submit written comments by mailing them to Daphne Yun, Acting Public Affairs

Officer, Gateway National Recreation Area, 210 New York Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10305, or by email daphne_yun@nps.gov.

Due to time constraints during the meeting, the Committee will be unable to read aloud written public comments submitted into the record. Individuals or groups requesting to make oral comments at the public Committee meeting will be limited to no more than five minutes per speaker. All comments will be made part of the public record and will be electronically distributed to all Committee members. Detailed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection within 90 days of the meeting.

Public Disclosure of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your written comments, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information will be publicly available. 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.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Alma Ripps,

Chief, Office of Policy.

[FR Doc. 2019-04697 Filed 3-13-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NRNL-DTS#-27418; PPWOCRADIO, PCU00RP14.R50000]

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before March 2, 2019, for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by March 29, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent via U.S. Postal Service and all other carriers to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW, MS 7228, Washington, DC 20240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The properties listed in this notice are being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations for their consideration were received by the