

will incorporate public concerns in the analysis of impacts associated with the proposed action and associated project alternatives. The draft environmental assessment will be made available for a minimum 30-day public review period, during which comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the document. After scoping, it may be determined that an environmental impact statement is required. If so, a Notice of Intent will be published in the **Federal Register**. The final NEPA document (e.g., environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) will address the comments we receive during public review and will be furnished to all who commented on the draft environmental document, and made available to anyone who requests a copy. This notice is provided pursuant to regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6).

A new proposal to designate critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher may be substantially different from the previously designated critical habitat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997a, 1997b). The process to designate critical habitat will include at least the following elements: (1) Compilation and analysis of all new biological information on the species; (2) review and update of the administrative record; (3) review of the overall approach to the conservation of the southwestern willow flycatcher by Federal, State, local, or Tribal agencies in the bird's current range and other areas where the species historically occurred; (4) review of available information that pertains to the habitat requirements of this species, including material received during the public comment period from this notice and comments on the listing and previous designation; (5) review of actions identified in the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002); (6) development of a precise definition of the primary constituent elements, including a discussion of the specific biological and physical features essential to the survival of the southwestern willow flycatcher; (7) maps of critical habitat within river reaches; (8) analysis of the potential economic and other relevant impacts of designating critical habitat; and (9) analysis of the potential consequences of the preferred alternatives through NEPA.

#### References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this notice is available, upon request, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 14, 2004.

**Craig Manson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-910-0777-26-241A]

#### State of Arizona Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Arizona Resource Advisory Council meeting notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting and tour of the Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

The business meeting will be held on February 18, 2004, at the BLM Yuma Field Office, 2555 East Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, Arizona. It will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. The agenda items to be covered include: Review of the December 4, 2003 meeting minutes; BLM State Director's Update on Statewide Issues; Presentations on BLM Land Tenure and Acquisition Program, Cultural Resources Program and the Wild Horse and Burro Foundation; RAC discussion and comments on the BLM Draft Grazing Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Grazing Regulation changes; RAC Questions on Written Reports from BLM Field Office Managers; Field Office Rangeland Resource Team Proposals; Reports by the Standards and Guidelines, Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Use, Public Relations, Land Use Planning and Tenure, and Wild Horse and Burro Working Groups; Reports from RAC members; and Discussion of future meetings. A public comment period will be provided at 11 a.m. on February 18, 2004, for any interested persons who wish to address the Council.

On February 19, 2004, the RAC will tour Sears Point, a significant cultural site with prehistoric and historic petroglyphs near Yuma, Arizona from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deborah Stevens, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, 222

North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2203, (602) 417-9215.

**Michael Taylor,**

*Acting Arizona State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

#### Reservoir Operations To Benefit Endangered Fishes in the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers, Aspinall Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and announcement of public scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to describe potential effects of operational changes for the Aspinall Unit that are related to compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Reclamation is the lead Federal agency for NEPA compliance for the proposed Federal action.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** To receive input from interested agencies, organizations, and individuals, public scoping meetings will be held in Gunnison, Delta, and Grand Junction, Colorado. Scoping is an early and public process for determining the issues to be addressed and for identifying any significant issues and suggested alternatives related to the proposed Federal action. The scoping period will be open from January 21, 2004 to March 15, 2004. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

- February 24, 2004-6:30 to 9 p.m., Gunnison County Multipurpose Building (Fairgrounds), 275 South Spruce Street, Gunnison, Colorado.

- February 25, 2004-6:30 to 9 p.m., Delta Middle School Auditorium, 822 Grand Avenue, Delta, Colorado.

- February 26, 2004-6:30 to 9 p.m., Mesa State College, Liff Auditorium, 12th and Elm Street, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Reclamation also invites written comments during the scoping period. Written comments regarding the scope and content of the draft EIS should be sent directly to Ed Warner, Bureau of