

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.

[FR Doc. 04-1298 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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.

[FR Doc. 04-1170 Filed 1-20-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-M

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

Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 248-0654; faxogram (970) 248-0601; or e-mail: aspinalleis@uc.usbr.gov. Written comments should be received no later than March 15, 2004, to be most effectively considered.

Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, should contact Ed Warner at the above address or send an e-mail request to aspinalleis@uc.usbr.gov. When the draft EIS is complete, its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register**, in the local news media, and through direct contact with interested parties. Comments will be solicited on the draft document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Warner, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 248-0654; e-mail: ewarner@uc.usbr.gov; or Steve McCall, Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 248-0638; e-mail: smccall@uc.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of Reclamation's proposed action is to operate the Aspinall Unit to avoid jeopardy to endangered species while maintaining the congressionally authorized Unit purposes. Alternative operations will be considered. Authorized purposes include (1) Regulating the flow of the Colorado River, (2) storing water for beneficial consumptive use, (3) providing for the reclamation of arid and semi-arid land, (4) providing for the generation of hydroelectric power, (5) providing for fish and wildlife enhancement and public recreation, (6) providing for the control of floods, and (7) allowing the Upper Basin States to develop Colorado River Compact apportioned waters.

The Aspinall Unit is located on the Gunnison River in Gunnison and Montrose Counties, Colorado, and consists of Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs, Dams, and Powerplants. Blue Mesa Reservoir is the most upstream reservoir and is the largest reservoir in Colorado. Blue Mesa and Morrow Point Reservoirs currently operate to meet peaking power demands for the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP). Crystal Reservoir, the most downstream reservoir, is operated to regulate flows in the Gunnison River.

Flow Recommendations

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published flow recommendations entitled *Flow Recommendations to Benefit Endangered Fishes in the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers* in July 2003. In general, the flow recommendations call for higher flows in the spring and moderate baseflows the remainder of the year. Reclamation will develop alternatives to address the Service's flow recommendations. These alternatives will be the basis of analysis for this EIS. Copies of the flow recommendations are available on the Internet at <http://www.r6.fws.gov/crrip/doc/GunnCoflowrec.pdf>.

Aspinall Unit and the Colorado River Storage Project

The Aspinall Unit was authorized in 1956 as part of the CRSP. The CRSP provides for comprehensive development of the Upper Colorado River Basin by furnishing the long-term water storage needed to permit states in the Upper Basin to meet their flow obligation at Lee Ferry, Arizona, as defined in the Colorado River Compact, and still utilize their apportioned water. The CRSP includes four storage units: Glen Canyon on the Colorado River, Flaming Gorge on the Green River, Navajo on the San Juan River, and Aspinall on the Gunnison River. The reservoirs formed by the four units of the CRSP have a total capacity of nearly 34 million acre-feet.

Reclamation is required to comply with the ESA for operations of CRSP facilities, including the Aspinall Unit. Within the exercise of its discretionary authority, Reclamation must avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of listed species and destroying or adversely modifying designated critical habitat.

The Aspinall Unit was constructed between 1963 and 1977 and consists of a series of three dams and reservoirs (Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal) along a 40-mile reach of the Gunnison River. Primary water storage occurs in the uppermost and largest reservoir, Blue Mesa. Powerplants at Blue Mesa and Morrow Point are operated on a peaking basis, while the dam and powerplant at Crystal are operated to regulate downstream flows. Since 1965, recreational development and use of lands associated with the Aspinall Unit has been managed by the National Park Service as the Curecanti Recreation Area. The Western Area Power Administration markets hydropower from the Aspinall Unit. Fish and wildlife facilities, including wildlife

areas and fishing easements, are managed by other agencies.

Reclamation operates the Aspinall Unit within certain sideboards including annual hydrologic conditions, senior water rights, minimum downstream flow requirements, powerplant and outlet capacities, reservoir elevation targets, fishery management recommendations, and others. Some sideboards can be considered mandates, such as honoring senior water rights and flood control, while others, such as reservoir elevation criteria to reduce landslides, are given a high priority. To conserve water for later use, an operational target is to fill Blue Mesa Reservoir by the end of July. Another operational target is to draw Blue Mesa Reservoir down to an elevation of 7,490 feet by December 31 to provide space for the next spring's runoff, and to avoid ice damage upstream. In general, operation of the Aspinall Unit has reduced downstream spring peak flows and increased flows during the remainder of the year.

The Aspinall Unit was largely completed prior to passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973. Operation of the Unit, which is located upstream from historical habitat of four endangered fish species, changed the flow regime of the lower Gunnison and Colorado Rivers within what is now critical habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail. ESA consultation on the operation of the Aspinall Unit will be completed concurrently with the EIS process.

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Since 1988, Reclamation and the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) have worked together to address upper Colorado River water issues. The Recovery Program is a partnership created to recover the endangered Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail while allowing for continued and future water development. The Recovery Program was initiated in 1988 when a cooperative agreement was signed by the Governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming; the Secretary of the Interior; and the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration. Recovery Program partners include the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, Colorado Water Congress, Western Resource Advocates, State of Colorado, State of Utah, State of Wyoming, The Nature Conservancy, Reclamation, the Service, National Park Service, Utah Water Users Association, Western Area

Power Administration, and Wyoming Water Association.

Public Disclosure

It is our practice to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identify from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: January 14, 2004.

Connie L. Rupp,

*Assistant Regional Director—UC Region,
Bureau of Reclamation.*

[FR Doc. 04–1171 Filed 1–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MN–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—AAF Association, Inc.

Notice is hereby give that, on December 19, 2003, pursuant to section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), AAF Association, Inc. has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, BAÉ Systems, San Diego, CA; Curious Rabbit Software, Livermore, CA; Diaquest LLC, Benicia, CA; Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY; Merging Tech Inc., Northbrook, IL; Synthetic Aperture, San Juan Capistrano, CA; and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain have been added as parties to this venture. Also, da Vinci Systems, Inc., Coral Springs, FL; Leitch Incorporated, Burbank, CA; and VRT (Vlaamse Radio- en Televisieomroep), Brussels, Belgium have been dropped as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and AAF Association, Inc. intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On March 28, 2000, AAF Association, Inc. filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act on June 29, 2000 (65 FR 40127).

The last notification was filed with the Department on September 11, 2003. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on October 1, 2003 (68 FR 56650).

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 04–1155 Filed 1–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Deep Trek High Temperature Electronics

Notice is hereby given that, on December 18, 2003, pursuant to section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), Deep Trek High Temperature Electronics has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of invoking the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the parties are Honeywell International Inc., Plymouth, MN; Schlumberger Technology Corporation, Sugar Land, TX; Baker Hughes Incorporated, Houston, TX; Halliburton Engine Services, Carrollton, TX; Goodrich Engine Control Systems, Birmingham, United Kingdom; Quartzdyne, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT; Novatek Engineering, Inc., Provo, UT; and BP America Inc., Houston, TX. The nature and objectives of the venture are to develop a suite of high temperature electronic components for the purpose of addressing the need for high temperature instrumentation in

the gas and petroleum deep well domain. The project is being conducted in connection with Honeywell's role as the prime recipient under U.S. Department of Energy Cooperative Agreement Number DE–FC26–03NT41834.

Dorothy B. Fountain,

Deputy Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 04–1160 Filed 1–20–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Interchangeable Virtual Instruments Foundation, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that, on December 12, 2003, pursuant to section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), Interchangeable Virtual Instruments Foundation, Inc. has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Easbeacon Test Systems Ltd., Beijing, People's Republic of China has been added as a party to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and Interchangeable Virtual Instruments Foundation, Inc. intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On May 29, 2001, Interchangeable Virtual Instruments Foundation, Inc. filed its original notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act of July 30, 2001 (66 FR 39336).

The last notification was filed with the Department on September 22, 2003. A notice was published in the **Federal**