

suitable for subsequent private investment that may lead to the development of products that address public needs.

The NIH will provide approved GWAS data users with information regarding any significant associations within GWAS genotype-phenotype data and other pre-computed analyses (described under the Data Access section on page 4) as a component of the GWAS datasets distributed through the GWAS data repository.

The NIH expects that NIH-supported genotype-phenotype data made available through the GWAS data repository and all conclusions derived directly from them will remain freely available, without any licensing requirements, for uses such as, but not necessarily limited to, markers for developing assays and guides for identifying new potential targets for drugs, therapeutics, and diagnostics. The intent is to discourage the use of patents that would prevent the use of or block access to any genotype-phenotype data developed with NIH support. The NIH encourages broad use of NIH-supported genotype-phenotype data that is consistent with a responsible approach to management of intellectual property derived from downstream discoveries as outlined in NIH's Best Practices for the Licensing of Genomic Inventions (http://www.ott.nih.gov/policy/genomic_invention.html) and its Research Tools Policy (http://ott.od.nih.gov/policy/research_tool.html).

The filing of patent applications and/or the enforcement of resultant patents in a manner that might restrict use of NIH-supported genotype-phenotype data could substantially diminish the utilization of information and the potential public benefit they could provide. Approved Users and their institutions, through the execution of an NIH Data Use Certification, will acknowledge the goal of ensuring the greatest possible public benefit from NIH-supported GWAS.

Expectations for Investigators Under the Proposed Policy

Although the detailed expectations are enumerated in the individual sections of this proposed policy, they are summarized as follows:

Investigators submitting GWAS data will be expected to:

- Provide descriptive information about their studies;
- Submit coded genotypic and phenotypic data to the GWAS data repository;
- Submit certification by the responsible IRB that it has reviewed and

approved submission to the NIH, noting any limitations on data use based on the relevant informed consents; and

- Submit an assurance from the responsible institution that all data are submitted to the NIH in accord with applicable law.

Investigators requesting GWAS data will be expected to:

- Submit a description of the proposed research project;
- Submit a Data Use Certification co-signed by their sponsoring institution;
- Protect data confidentiality; and
- Submit annual progress reports detailing significant research findings.

Information Requested

The goal of the proposed policy is to advance science for the benefit of the public through the creation of a centralized NIH GWAS data repository. Maximizing the availability of resources facilitates research and enables medical science to better address the health needs of people based on their individual genetic information. The NIH is seeking public input and advice on the overall concept of the proposed policy and specific feedback on the following questions:

1. What are the potential benefits and risks associated with wide sharing of phenotypic and genotypic data where identifying information has been removed?
2. In addition to removing personal identifying information, what protections are needed to minimize risks to research participants whose phenotypic and genotypic data are included in a centralized NIH data repository and shared with qualified investigators for research purposes?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed:
 - a. Centralized NIH data repository?
 - b. Approach to data submission?
 - c. Approach to scientific publication?
 - d. Approach to intellectual property?
4. What specific resources may investigators and institutions need to meet the goals of this proposed policy?

Responses

The NIH encourages comments concerning its proposed policy to enhance access to GWAS data as outlined in this notice. Persons, groups, and organizations interested in commenting on NIH's proposed policy should direct their comments to the following NIH Web site: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfi_files/NOT-OD-06-094_rfi_add.htm. As an alternative, comments may be submitted by e-mail to GWAS@nih.gov or sent by mail to the following address: NIH GWAS RFI Comments, National

Institutes of Health, Office of Extramural Research, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 350, Bethesda, MD 20892-7963.

Dated: August 24, 2006.

Sally Rockett,

Acting Deputy Director for Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1657-DR]

Alaska; Amendment No. 1 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Alaska (FEMA-1657-DR), dated August 4, 2006, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 21, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Director, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, William M. Lokey, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

This action terminates my appointment of Lee Champagne as Federal Coordinating Officer for this disaster.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individuals and Households Housing; 97.049, Individuals and Households Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050, Individuals and Households Program—Other Needs; 97.036, Public

Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

R. David Paulison,

Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management and Director of FEMA.

[FR Doc. E6-14414 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1650-DR]

New York; Amendment No. 4 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of New York (FEMA-1650-DR), dated July 1, 2006, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 22, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of New York is hereby amended to include the following area among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 1, 2006: Westchester County for Public Assistance.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individuals and Households Housing; 97.049, Individuals and Households Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050; Individuals and Households Program—Other Needs; 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

R. David Paulison,

Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management and Director of FEMA.

[FR Doc. E6-14415 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1655-DR]

Virginia; Amendment No. 4 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Virginia (FEMA-1655-DR), dated July 13, 2006, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 22, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby amended to include the following area among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 13, 2006: The independent City of Galax for Public Assistance.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individuals and Households Housing; 97.049, Individuals and Households Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050; Individuals and Households Program—Other Needs; 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

R. David Paulison,

Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management and Director of FEMA.

[FR Doc. E6-14413 Filed 8-29-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Choctaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge in Choctaw County, Alabama.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge are available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It describes how the refuge will be managed for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plan may be obtained by contacting Robbie Dailey, Refuge Manager, Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 808, Jackson, Alabama 36545; telephone: 251/246-3583; fax: 251/246-5414. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Web site <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The availability of the draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for a 45-day review period was announced in the **Federal Register** on January 24, 2006 (71 FR 3878). The Service analyzed four alternatives for managing the refuge and selected alternative D as the preferred alternative. This alternative will promote greater protection for the refuge's fish, wildlife, and habitats and will emphasize wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for visitors. Hunting and fishing will continue with greater emphasis on increasing opportunities and enhancing the quality of the experience. Education and interpretation will be promoted with regular programs and partnerships with local schools. Wildlife observation and photography opportunities will be expanded, including a trans-refuge birding trail and an observation tower, highlighting refuge management programs and unique wildlife habitats.

Research studies on the refuge will be fostered and partnerships developed with other agencies and universities, providing needed resources and experiment sites while meeting the needs of the refuge's wildlife and habitat management programs. Research will also benefit conservation efforts throughout southwest Alabama to conserve, enhance, restore, and manage native habitat. New surveys on birds, reptiles, and amphibians will be initiated to develop baseline information.

Additional staff will include management and biological personnel. An assistant refuge manager and a wildlife biologist will be added to accomplish objectives for establishing