

and exportation of these commodities. Additionally, since the United States is a member of CITES, much of the collected information is compiled in an annual report that is forwarded to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. Submission of an annual report on the number and types of imports and exports of fish, wildlife, and wildlife products is one of our treaty obligations under CITES. We also use the information obtained from Form 3-177 as an enforcement tool and management aid in monitoring the international wildlife market and detecting trends and changes in the commercial trade of fish, wildlife, and wildlife products. Our Division of Scientific Authority and Division of Management Authority use this information to assess the need for additional protection for native species. In addition, nongovernment organizations, including the commercial wildlife community, request information from us that we obtain from Form 3-177.

You must file Form 3-177 with us at the time and port where you request clearance of your wildlife import or export. In certain instances, Form 3-177 may be filed with the U.S. Customs Service. The standard information collection includes the name of the importer or exporter and broker, the scientific and common name of the fish or wildlife, permit numbers (if a permit is required), a description of the fish or wildlife, quantity and value of the fish or wildlife, and natural country of origin of the fish or wildlife. In addition, certain information, such as the airway bill or bill of lading number, the location of the fish or wildlife for inspection, and the number of cartons containing fish or wildlife, assists our wildlife inspectors if a physical examination of the shipment is required.

**Title:** Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife.

**Approval Number:** 1018-0012.

**Service Form Number:** 3-177.

**Frequency of Collection:** Whenever clearance is requested for an importation or exportation of fish, wildlife, or wildlife products.

**Description of Respondents:** Businesses or individuals that import or export fish, wildlife, or wildlife products; scientific institutions that import or export fish or wildlife scientific specimens; government agencies that import or export fish or wildlife specimens for various purposes.

**Total Annual Responses:** Approximately 116,000 individual Form 3-177s are filed with us in a fiscal year.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** The total annual burden is approximately 22,601 hours. We estimate the reporting burden to average 14 minutes per response when completed by hand. We estimate that approximately one-third (33%) of responses received will be submitted electronically, with a reporting burden of about seven minutes per response for electronic submissions. The estimate of electronic responses we expect to receive is based upon a recent pilot program of the electronic declaration (eDecs) system. We anticipate that the use of the eDecs system will expand in the future, which would further reduce the burden on the public.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is useful and necessary for us to do our job, (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden on the public to complete the form; (3) ways to enhance the quality and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This information collection is part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may also be limited circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from the rulemaking record, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this clearly at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments. We generally make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: March 11, 2003.

**Anissa Craghead,**

*Information Collection Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Final Revised Recovery Plan for the Southern Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the final revision of the southern sea otter recovery plan. This species occurs along the central coast of California from Half Moon Bay south to Point Conception.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the final revised recovery plan are available by written request addressed to the Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Recovery plans may also be obtained from: Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 301-429-6403 or 1-800-582-3421. The fee for the plan varies depending on the number of pages of the plan. This final revised recovery plan will be made available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/ecoservices/Endangered/recovery/default.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carl Benz at the above Ventura address (telephone 805-644-1766).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate the time and costs of implementing recovery actions.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. Information presented during the public

comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final revised recovery plan, and is summarized in the appendix to the plan. As we move forward to implement the final recovery plan, we welcome public input and comment regarding our implementation efforts.

The southern (California) sea otter was listed as threatened on January 14, 1977 (42 FR 2968). It is also recognized as a depleted population pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Reduced range and population size, vulnerability to oil spills, and the oil spill risk from coastal tanker traffic were the primary reasons listing of the sea otter. The southern sea otter population contains about 2,150 individuals and ranges between Half Moon Bay and Point Conception, California. Approximately 27 otters, including pups, are at San Nicolas Island as a result of translocation efforts to establish an experimental population. After review of new biological information, we, with the assistance of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Team, drafted a revised recovery plan for public review and comment in 1991. A second draft revision was released for public review in 1996. After review of public comments on those drafts, and review of new technical information regarding oil spill risk to southern sea otters, we, with the assistance of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Team and technical consultants, completed a new draft revised recovery plan, which was released to the public for comment in January 2000. Public comments were reviewed by the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Team and us, and changes based on these comments are incorporated into this final revised recovery plan.

The objective of the final revised recovery plan is to delist the southern sea otter through implementation of a variety of recovery measures including: Monitoring otter populations; implementing plans to minimize the risk of, and impacts from, oil spills; minimizing incidental and intentional take of sea otters; assessing and minimizing other threats; evaluating the sea otter translocation program; improving captive management techniques; and implementing an outreach program and providing information to the public.

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

Dated: January 29, 2003.

**Daniel S. Walsworth,**

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-01-1310-EI]

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Jackson Field Office, Eastern States intends to prepare Planning Analyses/Environmental Assessments (PA/EA) to consider leasing scattered tracts of Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. The PA/EA will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM management policies. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below. Due to the limited scope of this PA/EA process, public meetings are not scheduled. BLM will, however, consider requests for one or more public meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, MS 39206.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Reiss, Lead for PA/EA, Jackson Field Office, (601-977-5400).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM has responsibility to consider nominations to lease Federal mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and development. An interdisciplinary team will be used in the preparation of the PA/EAs. Preliminary issues, subject to change as a result of public input, are (1) potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on the

surface resources and (2) consideration of restrictions on lease rights to protect surface resources. The number of separate analyses that will be prepared for the tracts will depend on their proximity to each other. Tract locations, along with acreage, are listed below.

#### Alabama, Fayette County, Huntsville Meridian

T16S, R9W,  
Sec. 20, NWNE;  
Sec. 23, SW;  
Sec. 25, E2SW, SWSW;  
Sec. 26, NESE, S2SW;  
Sec. 30, SWNW;  
Sec. 36, NENW, SESW.

T16S, R10W,  
Sec. 1, SWNW;  
Sec. 10, NESE;  
Sec. 13, SWNW;  
Sec. 24, NWNE.

#### Alabama, Lamar County, Huntsville Meridian

T 15S, R 15W,  
Sec. 13, SESE.

#### Alabama, Tuscaloosa County, Huntsville Meridian

T17S, R9W,  
Sec. 14, E2NW;  
Sec. 34, NESE.

T17S, R10W,  
Sec. 1, NENE;  
Sec. 8, SESW;  
Sec. 10, SENE.

T18S, R7W,  
Sec. 7, NWNW.

T18S, R9W,  
Sec. 3, NWNE, NESE.

#### Alabama, Walker County, Huntsville Meridian

T16S, R8W,  
Sec. 21, NESW.

T17S, R7W,  
Sec. 6, NWSW.

#### Arkansas, Franklin County, Fifth Principal Meridian

T10N, R26W,  
Sec. 2, SESE, SESW, NENW, NWNE.

#### Louisiana, Bienville Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T16N, R10W,  
Sec. 4, lots 5-8;  
Sec. 5, lot 1;  
Sec. 8, lots 1-6;  
Sec. 9, lots 8-10;

#### Louisiana, Bossier Parish, Louisiana Meridian

T 16N, R 11W,  
Sec. 14, W2NW, SENW, E2SW, NWSW.

#### MS Wayne Mississippi, Wayne County, St Stephens Meridian

T7N, R7W,  
Sec. 2, W2NWNW, N2SWNW;  
Sec. 3, E2NENE.

T8N, R9W,  
Sec. 4, NWSW;