

The closest Metro access is from the Crystal City station.

If you wish to attend the meeting and/or make presentations on the proposed rule, please contact and submit a copy of your presentation by March 6, 2003, to: General Services Administration, Acquisition Policy Division (MVP), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4033, Attn: Linda Nelson, Washington, DC 20405, Telephone: (202) 501-1900.

Submit electronic presentation materials via e-mail to: [meeting.2002-G505@gsa.gov](mailto:meeting.2002-G505@gsa.gov).

Please submit only presentations to this e-mail address and cite Public Meeting 2002-G505 in all correspondence related to this public meeting. The submitted presentations will be the only record of the public meeting. If you intend to have your presentation considered as a public comment on the proposed rule, the presentation must be submitted separately as a public comment as instructed in the proposed rule. (See 68 FR 3220, January 23, 2003.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Regulatory Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, (202) 501-4225, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. The TTY Federal Relay Number for further information is 1-800-877-8973. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Linda Nelson, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-1900. Please cite GSAR case 2002-G505.

### Special Accommodations

The public meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mrs. Linda Nelson (202-501-1900) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

**Laura G. Smith,**

*Director, Acquisition Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 03-4053 Filed 2-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-A145

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status and Special Regulation for the Mountain Plover

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On December 5, 2002, we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), published a notice of new information and reopened the comment period to propose listing the mountain plover as a threatened species (67 FR 72396), under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We hereby give notice that the comment period is reopened until March 21, 2003.

**DATES:** The comment period on the proposed listing rule is reopened until March 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and materials should be sent to the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 764 Horizon Drive, Building B, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946. You may send electronic mail (e-mail) comments to [fw6\\_mountainplover@fws.gov](mailto:fw6_mountainplover@fws.gov). You also may obtain a copy of the 1999 proposed rule to list the mountain plover (64 FR 7587) and other pertinent documents from this office, or access them at our Web site at <http://www.r6.fws.gov/mtnplover/>. We will make comments and materials we receive available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Leachman at the above address; telephone: 970-243-2778; facsimile: 970-245-6933; or e-mail: [robert\\_leachman@fws.gov](mailto:robert_leachman@fws.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On February 16, 1999, we published a proposed rule to list the mountain plover as a threatened species (64 FR 7587). Higher priority listing actions precluded listing work on the mountain plover during Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001. On October 16, 2001, Earthjustice (representing the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Biodiversity Associates, and Center for Native Ecosystems) submitted a 60-day notice of intent to sue to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director for failure to meet listing deadlines for the mountain plover, as required by section 4(b)(6)(A) of the Act. We responded by publishing a notice of new information and reopening the comment period on the listing proposal on December 5, 2002 (67 FR 72396). The comment period closed on February 3, 2003.

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act requires that public hearings regarding proposals for listing be held promptly when

requested by the public within 45 days of the proposal's publication in the **Federal Register**. We received public hearing requests and requests to extend the comment period during the allotted time period from California Congressman Bob Filner, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, the Kansas Farm Bureau, and Holland and Hart LLP, representing the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. Following discussions with each of these parties, each agreed that informational meetings rather than formal hearings would be acceptable. Therefore, we scheduled, advertised, and conducted informational meetings in El Centro, California, and Elkhart, Kansas. We are also reopening the comment period in response to these requests. Comments already submitted in response to the December 5, 2002, rulemaking document need not be resubmitted and will be fully considered in our decisionmaking on this proposed rule.

### Author

The author of this notice is Robert Leachman (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*).

### Authority

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

Dated: February 11, 2003.

**Steve Williams,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-4152 Filed 2-20-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 020403B]

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notification of two proposals for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the EFP applications from the University of Rhode Island (URI)