

and the highlands of central Mexico. The American peregrine falcons that nest in subarctic areas generally winter in South America. Those that nest at lower latitudes exhibit variable migratory behavior; some do not migrate.

The American peregrine falcon declined precipitously in North America following World War II, a decline attributed largely to organochlorine pesticides, mainly DDT, applied in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Because of the decline, the American peregrine falcon was listed as endangered on June 2, 1970, under the precursor of the Endangered Species Act (35 FR 16047). Recovery goals were substantially exceeded in some areas, and on August 25, 1999, the American peregrine falcon was removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (64 FR 46541). There are currently between 2,000 and 3,000 pairs breeding each year across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and the population continues to increase.

Section 4(g)(1) of the Act requires that we monitor for not less than 5 years, in cooperation with States, the status of all species removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants due to recovery. In keeping with that mandate, we have developed this Monitoring Plan to guide our ongoing monitoring efforts in cooperation with State resource agencies, recovery team members, independent scientists, biostatisticians, and other cooperators. A 30-day public comment period was opened on July 31, 2001 (66 FR 39523), and again on September 27, 2001 (66 FR 49395), and the Monitoring Plan received additional review by States, cooperators, and other private organizations and individuals in December 2002 and January 2003.

The Monitoring Plan is designed to monitor the status of the American peregrine falcon by detecting whether the number of occupied American peregrine falcon territories across the contiguous United States and Alaska is declining, and whether American peregrine falcons are experiencing a decrease in nesting success and productivity, which are indices of population health. The Monitoring Plan also includes a contaminant monitoring component. Data will be collected from a randomly selected subset of American peregrine falcon territories (494 across the nation) for five sampling periods, at three-year intervals starting in 2003 and ending in 2015. The 2003 monitoring effort is currently underway. We will publish a report on the results of the 2003 monitoring once the data are

analyzed. This will be the first of our triennial reports. A Notice of Availability for the triennial and final reports will be published in the **Federal Register** and posted on the World Wide Web as outlined in the Monitoring Plan.

We will work cooperatively with the States, other agencies, and partners to collect this information. We will analyze the information after each monitoring effort and will propose adjustments to the sampling design, if necessary. The Monitoring Plan is designed to detect declines in the health of American peregrine falcon populations that might arise from a variety of threats including, but not limited to, environmental contaminants and diseases (such as West Nile Virus). If these data indicate that this species is experiencing significant decreases in territory occupancy, nest success, or productivity, we will initiate more intensive review or studies to determine the cause, or take action to re-list the American peregrine falcon under section 4 of the Act, if necessary.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements included in the Monitoring Plan have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB control number 1018-0101, which expires March 31, 2005. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended in 1988 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: October 23, 2003.

**Matt Hogan,**

*Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-080-1030-PH]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater Resource Advisory Council Meeting; ID

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater (UCSC) District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** January 8 and 9, 2004. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. each day and end at approximately 3 p.m. on January 9th. The public comment period will be from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on January 9, 2004. The meeting will be held at the Grant Creek Inn, 5280 Grant Creek Road, Missoula, Montana, because Missoula is centrally located for Council members traveling from the northern and south-central parts of Idaho.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Snook, RAC Coordinator, BLM UCSC District, 1808 N. Third Street, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 or telephone (208) 769-5004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Idaho. The agenda items for the January 8 and 9, 2004, meeting include:

- RAC new member orientation;
- Rangeland Ecology training session;
- Development of an Annual Work Plan;
- Subgroup reports and follow-up on Off-Highway-Vehicles, the Wild Horse Program, and other natural resource issues.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided above.

Dated: November 26, 2003.

**Lewis M. Brown,**

*Acting District Manager.*

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