

within a 10–15 mile radius of the Walker Creek unit. This somewhat isolated cluster of spotted owl sites is reflective of the lack of suitable nesting habitat available in the region. The suitable spotted owl nesting habitat in the Walker Creek unit serves to support this cluster of owl sites. Additional erosion of suitable habitat, especially nesting quality habitat, would weaken the ability of this area to retain a population of reproducing spotted owls, and weaken the ability of spotted owls in this cluster to produce offspring that may be able to disperse to any available habitat in or outside the area. Alternative plans the Service suggested, would minimize and mitigate owl take at the Walker Creek site by maintaining older forest structural features that could contribute to maintenance of spotted owls in the area, particularly in the long term. Alternative mitigation options suggested by the Service, which Boise Cascade has stated that it is not interested in pursuing at this time, include:

1. Restricting harvest-related activities, including road building, to times outside of the spotted owl's breeding season (March 1–September 15).
2. Retaining old growth and mature trees to meet the Oregon Forest Practices Act requirements in a scattered distribution with allowances for blow-down and, retaining the standing dead and down timber that could be safely retained.
3. Retaining a mixture of only old growth and mature trees to meet the Oregon Forest Practices Act Rules leave tree requirement in clumped distributions.
4. Retaining eight green trees per acre greater than 20 inches dbh, including three trees greater than 32 inches dbh per acre. Additionally, retaining three snags per acre of the largest size class available. Where snags are not available, green trees of the largest size class available would be substituted on a 2:1 basis. Seventy percent of the retained trees should be in clumps of at least 0.5 acres in size. The remainder would be dispersed or in clumps smaller than 0.5 acres. A minimum of 15 percent of the harvest unit area (7.5 acres) would be retained. Trees in riparian management areas would not be counted towards meeting the above retention objectives.
5. Retaining clumps of trees of a few acres in which no harvest would occur that include multiple old-growth trees that would serve as the foundation for future suitable spotted owl nesting habitat. This would include retaining the two old growth trees that contained previous spotted owl nests.

6. Retaining old growth and mature trees in a clump around the known spotted owl nest trees, and scattering the remaining old growth and mature leave trees to meet Oregon Forest Practices Act Rules with allowances for blow-down.

The Service also has identified issues regarding some of the language in the proposed Implementation Agreement. These issues include, but are not limited to, the following. First, it is unclear why the company proposes to have the National Marine Fisheries Service as a signatory when it has not applied for a permit for coho. Second, paragraph 1.1 does not fully represent the court's reasoning in issuing the injunction enjoining the company from logging this unit. Third, paragraph 1.7 characterizes the requested permit as covering owls that "formerly nested on the Walker Creek Unit and those that might reside there in the future" although the requested duration of the permit is for only one year. Fourth, paragraph 1.9 states that the purpose of the Implementation Agreement is to "obtain approval" of the Plan and permit; however, the principal purpose of an Implementation Agreement is to provide adequate assurances that a Plan and permit would be implemented. Fifth, neither the Plan nor the Implementation Agreement address whether the mitigation would be completed within the one-year requested permit length, or discuss changed circumstances that may affect the mitigation and that can reasonably be anticipated by plan developers. See 50 CFR §§ 17.3 and 17.22. The public may wish to comment on these or other issues related to the Implementation Agreement.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, Plan, Implementation Agreement, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the northern spotted owl. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: December 17, 1998.

**Anne Badgley,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 98–34093 Filed 12–22–98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO–220–1020–01–24 1A; OMB Approval Number 1004–0041]

#### Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On July 28, 1998, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 40305) requesting comments on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on September 28, 1998. BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM clearance officer at the telephone number listed below.

The Office of Management and Budget is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration, your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004–0041), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20503, telephone number (202) 395–7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO–630), 1849 C St., N.W., Mail Stop 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

*Nature of Comments:* We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for BLM's proper functioning, including whether the information will have practical utility;
  2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
  3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
  4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, and other forms of information technology.
- Title:* 43 CFR 4130.1, Grazing Preference Statement.

*OMB Approval Number:* 1004–0041.

**Abstract:** BLM proposes to renew the approval of an information collection for an existing rule at 43 CFR 4130.1. The form associated with this rule is called the "Grazing Preference Statement." The form is computer-generated and sent annually to grazing lessees and permittees. These individuals need only provide information to BLM when they want to change their authorized grazing level for the coming season. Otherwise, they sign and date the form. Their signature and date act as confirmation that BLM's record of the grazing use under the terms of their permit or lease is correct. BLM uses the information to compute grazing fee bills and to determine whether the lessees and permittees are complying with the terms of their permit or lease.

**Bureau Form Number:** 4130-3a.

**Frequency:** Annually.

**Description of Respondents:** Holders of BLM-issued grazing leases and permits.

**Estimated Completion Time:** Range of 5 to 30 minutes, with an average of 14 minutes.

**Annual Responses:** 23,000.

**Annual Burden Hours:** 1,794.

**Collection Clearance Officer:** Carole Smith, (202) 452-0367.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

**Carole J. Smith,**

*Bureau of Land Management, Information Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-33902 Filed 12-22-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-220-09-1060-00-24 1A]

#### Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

**DATES:** The advisory board will meet Wednesday, January 13, 1999, and Thursday, January 14, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. local time, and on Friday, January 15, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. local time.

Submit written comments no later than close of business January 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The advisory board will meet at the Heritage Hotel and Convention Center, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California 95815.

Send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, WO-610, Mail Stop 406 LS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access and filing address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Knapp, Wild Horse and Burro Public Affairs Specialist, (202) 452-5176. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Rely Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Public Meeting**

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

*Wednesday, January 13, 1999*

—Breakout into the four subcommittees (horses on the range, horses off the range, science and burros) to address the following topics: fee reduction clarification; sanctuary issues; interim selective removal policy; holding and training facilities; training of wild horses; fertility control guidelines; remote sensing; burro capture methods; 1992 Strategic Plan; range monitoring; setting appropriate management levels; and zeroing out herd management areas.

*Thursday, January 14, 1999*

—Review of the proposed plan for the adoption of the Oklahoma foals;  
 —Review of requirements for report to Congress;  
 —Public Comment and an opportunity for members of the public to address questions to the advisory board and to the BLM;  
 —Subcommittee follow-up;  
 —Review of BLM handbooks (Adoption; Management Considerations; Capture and Removal of Wild Horses and Burros; and Compliance).

*Friday, January 15, 1999*

—The advisory board will make formal recommendations to the BLM, discuss and agree on subcommittee

assignments, and plan a preliminary agenda for their next meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. The advisory board will make detailed minutes of the meeting. BLM will make the minutes available to interested parties who contact the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The meeting sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the hearing, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled hearing date. Although BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Under the Federal advisory committee management regulations (41 CFR 101-6.1015(b)), BLM is required to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

##### **II. Public Comment Procedures**

Members of the public may make oral statements to the advisory board on January 14, 1999, at the appropriate point in the agenda, which is anticipated to occur at 1:00 p.m. local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with BLM by noon on January 14, 1999, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the advisory board may limit the length of presentations. Speakers should address specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the advisory board meeting is not a prerequisite for submittal of written comments. BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and explain the reason for any recommendation. BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, commenters should submit two copies of their written comments where