

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Availability of a Technical/ Agency Draft Recovery Plan for Endangered Fat Threeridge (*Amblema neislerii*), Shinyrayed Pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Gulf Moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee Moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), Oval Pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*) and Threatened Chipola Slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), and Purple Bankclimber (*Elliptoideus sloatianus*) for Review and Comment**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability for public review of the technical/agency draft recovery plan for endangered fat threeridge (*Amblema neislerii*), shinyrayed pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*) and threatened Chipola slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), and purple bankclimber (*Elliptoideus sloatianus*). These mussels are endemic to eastern Gulf Slope streams draining the Apalachicola Region of southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and north Florida. Their center of distribution is the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River basin of southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and northwest Florida. They are currently known from restricted portions of from one to four independent river systems. These species inhabit stable sandy and gravelly substrates in medium-sized streams to large rivers, often in areas swept free of silt by the current. The abundance and distributions of the seven mussel species decreased historically from habitat loss associated with reservoir construction, channel construction and maintenance, and erosion. These habitat changes have resulted in significant extirpations (localized loss of populations), restricted and fragmented distributions, and poor recruitment of young. We solicit review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** We must receive comments on the draft recovery plan on or before November 15, 1999 to receive consideration by us.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain a copy of the draft recovery plan by contacting the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Panama City Field Office, 1612 June Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405 (telephone 850/769-0552). Send written comments and materials regarding the plan to the Project Leader at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Gail A. Carmody at the above address and telephone number (extension 225).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals or plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of our endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, we are working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (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, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Despite intensive research and management efforts, the survival of these mussels is still perilous. Based upon available information concerning their range, biology, and threats to their continued survival, it is not yet possible to determine if or when full recovery of these species is possible. This draft recovery plan outlines a mechanism that provides for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the only known wild populations and the establishment of new wild populations in the future. We officially determined endangered status for five freshwater mussels, and threatened status for two freshwater mussels from eastern Gulf

Slope drainage of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia in Final rule of **Federal Register** 63(50):12664-12687. The eastern Gulf Slope streams draining the Apalachicola Region are defined as streams from the Escambia to the Suwannee River systems. Occurring in southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and north Florida, they collectively form one of the largest drainage areas in the eastern Gulf Coastal Plain. Historically, these rivers were known for their rich freshwater mussel populations. However, listed mussel species have undergone significant reduction in total range and abundance. We will use comments and information provided during this review in preparing the final recovery plan.

**Public Comments Solicited**

We solicit written comments on the recovery plan described. We will consider all comments received by the date specified above prior to approval of the plan.

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

Dated: September 10, 1999.

**Gail A. Carmody,**  
Project Leader.

[FR Doc. 99-24146 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-1060-00-24 1A]

**Call for Nominations for the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations for the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. The Board provides advice concerning management, protection, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on the public lands administered by the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture, through the Forest Service.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted to the address listed below under **ADDRESSES** no later than November 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Wild Horse and Burro Group, WO 260, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, 1849 "C" St., Mail Stop: 306 LS, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Delaney, (202) 452-7744.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Individuals may also nominate themselves for Board membership. All nomination letters should include the name, address, profession, relevant biographic data, and reference sources for each nominee, and should be sent to the address listed under **ADDRESSES**, above. You may make nominations for the following categories of interest:

Wild horse and burro advocacy group  
 Wild horse and burro research  
 (especially genetics and population biology)  
 Veterinary medicine (equine science)  
 Natural resources management  
 (especially rangeland science)  
 Humane organization  
 Wildlife management  
 Livestock management  
 Public-at-large

The specific category that the nominee will represent should be identified in the letter of nomination. Board membership must be balanced in terms of categories of interest represented. Each member must be a person who, as a result of training and experience, has knowledge or special expertise which qualifies him or her to provide advice from among the categories of interest listed above. Members will be appointed to staggered terms of 1-3 years.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, members of the Board cannot be employees of Federal or State Government.

Members will serve without salary, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for Government employees.

The Board will meet no less than two times annually. The Director, Bureau of Land Management may call additional meetings in connection with special needs for advice.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

**Robert E. Doyle,**

*Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management.*  
 [FR Doc. 99-23675 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-030-5101-00-A166; AZA-30690 & AZA-30831]

#### Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Griffith Energy Project

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716), as amended and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, Arizona, has issued a Record of Decision for a natural gas pipeline and electric transmission line associated with the Griffith Energy Project (reference Record of Decision issued by Western Area Power Administration and published in **Federal Register** on May 14, 1999). The Record of Decision documents the approval to construct 3.65 miles of natural gas pipeline, 2 miles of 230 kV Transmission Line, and 16 miles of upgrading of the existing Davis-Prescott 230 kV Transmission Line. These decisions were based on information from the Griffith Energy Project Final Environmental Impact Statement which was filed by EPA in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Record of Decision are available from: Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office, 2475 Beverly Ave., Kingman, Arizona, 86401-3629.

**DATES:** There is a 30 day appeal period starting on the date of publishing this notice of availability. For information on how to file an appeal please contact BLM's Kingman Field Office at (520) 692-4400.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:** Bill Wadsworth, phone: (520) 692-4400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Griffith Energy Project included public, state and private lands approximately 10 miles west of Kingman AZ, within Mohave County in northwestern Arizona. Western Area Power Administration was the lead agency for the project and has issued a Record of Decision concerning the interconnection to Western's transmission system.

Dated: September 3, 1999.

**John R. Christensen,**  
*Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-24164 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-330-3130-00; CACA-39081]

#### Opening of Public Lands; California

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Opening Order, Humboldt, California.

**SUMMARY:** This notice opens lands to disposal by Recreation and Public Purposes Grant.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately upon publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charlotte Hawks, Arcata Field Office, BLM, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata CA 95521-4573, (707) 825-2319.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 21, 1995, the land described below was proposed for land exchange CACA 39081 and segregated from all other applications. This parcel was dropped from the exchange. The segregation affecting these lands is hereby terminated. The lands are opened only to disposal by Recreation and Public Purpose Act Grant (Act of June 14, 1926, 43 U.S.C. 869):

Humboldt Meridian, California  
 T.5S., R.3E., Sec. 11, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>,  
 Containing 40.00 acres.

**Lynda J. Roush,**

*Arcata Field Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-24147 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ES-960-1420-00, ES-50496, Group 180, Minnesota]

#### Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Minnesota

The plat of the survey of two islands in Tom's Lake, Township 131 North, Range 39 West, 5th Principal Meridian, Minnesota, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on October 19, 1999.

The survey was requested by Steven H. Zimmerman, Managing Partner, Tom's Lake Farm, Elk River, Minnesota.

All inquiries or protests concerning the technical aspects of the survey must be sent to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., October 19, 1999.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.