in each unit; (4) patches contained in each reserve are within 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) of each other to allow for pollinator movement and gene flow among them; (5) an average of 5 years of demographic data indicate that populations in at least 7 of the 9 reserves within the 3 recovery units have average population numbers that are stable or increasing, without decreasing trends lasting more than 2 years; and (6) 75 percent or more of the plants are reproductive each year, with 30 percent annual seed maturation and recruitment evident in all populations.

Authority

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

Dated: August 1, 2003.

Carolyn A. Bohan,

Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03–24280 Filed 9–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Approved Recovery Plan for the Lake Erie Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the approved recovery plan for the Lake Erie water snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*). This species is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), on the offshore islands and in the waters of the western Lake Erie basin of Ohio. Actions needed for recovery of the Lake Erie water snake include monitoring the population, protecting and managing habitat on both public and private land, administering public outreach to address intentional and accidental human-induced mortality, and collecting important ecological data on the snake and its habitat.

ADDRESSES: This recovery plan is available from the following addresses:

1. Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (the fee for the plan varies depending on the number of pages).
2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Field Office, 6950 Americana Parkway, Suite H, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068–4127.
3. The World Wide Web at: *http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Field Office, (see **ADDRESSES** section No. 2 above), telephone (614) 469–6923 ext.16. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 492–6403 or (800) 582–3421. TTY users may contact Ms. Seymour and the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when threats to the species are removed so that populations of the species are self-sustaining. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for delisting species, and provide estimates of the time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

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, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and the opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal agencies and other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

Lake Erie water snakes on the offshore islands and surrounding waters of Lake Erie were listed as threatened on August 30, 1999, under the Act. Water snakes found on the near-shore Ohio islands and Ohio mainland are not protected by the threatened designation due to the likelihood that these snakes represent intergrades between the Lake Erie water snake and northern water snake. The Lake Erie water snake spends summers basking on the rocky shorelines of the limestone and dolomite islands in the western Lake Erie basin. Hibernation habitat for the snake is comprised of areas inland from the shore that typically have soil and rock substrates and consist of natural openings or fissures. Human-made structures such as crib docks and erosion control protection can provide suitable summer habitat, whereas old building foundations and drainage tiles may provide suitable hibernation habitat. The primary threats to the snake include both accidental and intentional human-induced mortality and loss of suitable summer and hibernation habitat through development. There are nine U.S. islands and seven Canadian islands that currently provide year-round habitat for the snake, whereas two U.S. islands only provide summer habitat. The Lake Erie water snake has been extirpated from one U.S. island and two Canadian islands.

Recovery will be achieved and the species removed from the list of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife (50 CFR part 17) when the following criteria are met: (1) A minimum of 5,555 adult snakes exist on 9 U. S. islands combined for 6 or more consecutive years, including at least 900 snakes on Kelleys Island, 850 snakes on South Bass Island, 620 snakes on Middle Bass Island, and 410 snakes on North Bass Island, with the remaining snakes occurring on any of the islands; (2) a total of 7.4 km of shoreline habitat and 51 hectares of hibernation habitat distributed proportionately among the 4 largest U. S. islands are protected in perpetuity by a written agreement approved by the Service; and (3) an objective analysis of public attitude indicates that human persecution is no longer a threat to the continued existence of the snake, and accidental human-induced mortality no longer poses a significant threat to the population.

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

Dated: August 28, 2003.

Charles M. Wooley,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03–24281 Filed 9–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between

the State of Montana and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved the Extension to the Tribal-State Compact for Class III gaming between the State of Montana and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation. The Extension renews and extends the term of the existing agreement to September 30, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: August 29, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–24298 Filed 9–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO–03–840–1610–241A]

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 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) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Monument) Advisory Committee (Committee), will meet as directed below.

DATES: Meetings will be held October 21, 2003, and November 14, 2003, at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado at 9 a.m. The public comment period for each meeting will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. and the meetings will adjourn at approximately 3:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LouAnn Jacobson, Monument Manager or Stephen Kandell, Monument Planner, Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323; Telephone (970) 882–5600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The eleven member committee provides counsel and advice to the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, concerning development and implementation of a management plan developed in accordance with FLMPA, for public lands within the Monument. At this meeting, topics we plan to discuss include:

(1) Planning update and overview of BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C;

(2) Comment and discussion on Draft Public Participation Plan and Advisory Committee Meeting Strategy;

(3) Lunch at the Anasazi Heritage Center;

(4) Review of current planning issues and management concerns;

(5) Overview of Monument land health determinations;

(6) Public comment period; and

(7) Agenda for next meeting.

At the November 14, 2003 meeting, topics will include planning issues and management concerns, partnerships, science and other issues as appropriate.

All meetings will be open to the public and will include a time set aside for public comment. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at any meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of all Committee meetings will be maintained at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days of the meeting. In addition, minutes and other information concerning the Committee can be obtained from the Monument planning Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/rmp/canm* which will be updated following each Committee meeting.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

LouAnn Jacobson,

Manager, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

[FR Doc. 03–24279 Filed 9–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–AG–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Revised Basin Management Plan Project, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement and notice of public hearing [DES 03–53].

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) Revised Basin Management Plan Project.

The purpose of the project is to address groundwater overdraft and seawater intrusion problems in the Pajaro Valley Basin. The proposed action is the approval of the connection of a PVWMA pipeline to the Santa Clara Conduit; the funding for the design, planning, and construction of a recycled water facility; and the delivery to and use of Central Valley Project (CVP) water in the Pajaro Valley.

DATES: Submit written comments on the DEIS on or before November 24, 2003 to Lynne Silva, Reclamation, at the below address.

A public hearing will be held to receive comments from interested parties, organizations, and individuals on the environmental impacts of the proposal. The hearing will be held on October 29, 2003 at 7:00 pm at the address below.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Watsonville Senior Center, 114 East 5th Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

Written comments on the DEIS should be addressed to Ms. Lynne Silva, Reclamation, at the below address.

Copies of the DEIS may be requested from Reclamation's South-Central California Area Office or from PVWMA's office at the following addresses:

- Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, 1243 N Street, Fresno, CA 93721–1813.
- Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, 36 Brennan Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Lynne Silva, Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, telephone (559) 487–5807; or Mr. Charles McNiesh, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, (831) 722–9292.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

AUG 29 2003

Honorable Arlyn Headdress
Chairman, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
of the Fort Peck Reservation
P. O. Box 1027
Poplar, Montana 59255

Dear Chairman Headdress:

On July 17, 2003, we received the Extension to the Class III Compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation (Tribe) and the State of Montana (State). We have completed our review of this Extension and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Federal law, or our trust responsibility. Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of IGRA, we approve the Extension. This Extension shall take effect when the notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11(d)(3)(B) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

We wish the Tribe and the State success in their economic venture.

Sincerely,

Aurene M Martin

ACTING Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Similar Letter Sent to: Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

cc: Rocky Mountain Regional Director
National Indian Gaming Commission
Montana United States Attorney

EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION AND THE STATE OF MONTANA REGARDING CLASS III GAMING ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

RECITALS

The State of Montana ("Montana") and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation ("Tribes") entered into an Agreement ("Agreement") dated April 6, 1992, to authorize under specific conditions Class III gaming on the Fort Peck Reservation. This Agreement was extended by letter amendments to July 5, 2002, September 30, 2002, December 30, 2002 and June 30, 2003. The Tribes and the State are continuing their good faith negotiations to agree on terms and conditions for another long-term compact.

To enable the Tribes and others to continue gaming on the Reservation pursuant to the existing Agreement while the parties continue to negotiate, the parties hereby agree to extend the Agreement for approximately ninety days, until September 30, 2003, on the terms and conditions set forth below.

This Renewal is entered into in furtherance of the goals of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq. and Montana Governor Judy Martz's Proclamation affirming the principle and integrity of government-to-government relationships between the State of Montana and federally recognized tribes located within the borders of Montana.

AGREEMENT

In furtherance of good relations and mutual cooperation between the parties, and in accordance with Article VIII. A., "Effective Date and Term," of the existing Agreement as previously amended and extended, by this writing the parties hereby renew and extend the term of the Agreement to September 30, 2003.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect and shall govern the conditions of Class III gaming on the Reservation until September 30, 2003, or until a revised or new compact has been executed by the parties, whichever first occurs.

RECEIVED
JUL 17 2003
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF INDIAN GAMING MANAGEMENT

Montana and the Tribes indicate their consent to be bound to this Extension and Amendment by signature of their authorized representatives below.

ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

Arlyn Headdress

ARLYN HEADRESS, Chairman

STATE OF MONTANA

Judy Martz

JUDY MARTZ, Governor

Approved Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 18-11-105 (2001).

MIKE McGRATH, Attorney General
State of Montana

APPROVED:
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY: Woodrow W. Appel Jr for DATED: 8-29, 2003
Aurene M. Martin
Acting Assistant Secretary--Bureau of Indian Affairs