

members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification to threatened status or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that recovery plans be developed 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 during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. 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 they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Karner blue butterfly was listed as endangered on January 21, 1992. The butterfly depends on savanna and barrens habitats that support wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), the only plant on which Karner blue butterfly larvae (or caterpillars) are known to feed. Continued loss and alteration to habitat due to commercial, residential, and agricultural development, fragmentation, and habitat degradation through succession have been identified as the primary reasons for this species' endangered status and continue to be the primary threats to its recovery. Today, the butterfly inhabits remnant savanna and barrens habitats, as well as other more disturbed habitat sites including forest stands, military bases, utility and road rights-of-way, and airports. Wisconsin and Michigan support the majority of populations throughout the range.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Karner blue butterfly so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR part 17). The Karner blue butterfly will be considered for reclassification to threatened when a minimum of 27 metapopulations [19 viable metapopulations (supporting 3,000 butterflies each), and 8 large viable metapopulations (supporting 6,000 butterflies each)] are established within

at least 13 recovery units across the butterfly's range and are being managed consistent with the recovery objectives outlined in this plan. Delisting will be considered when a minimum of 29 metapopulations (13 viable and 16 large viable metapopulations) have been established within at least 13 recovery units and are being managed consistent with the plan.

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

Dated: May 9, 2003.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1610-DP; G-03-0234]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/Draft EIS) for the Andrews Management Unit and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and under authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, a Draft RMP/Draft EIS has been prepared for the Andrews Management Unit and the CMPA. The planning area, which consists of the Andrews Management Unit (public land in the Andrews Resource Area outside of the CMPA totaling 1,221,314 acres) and public land in the CMPA (totaling 428,156 acres), lies in Harney and Malheur Counties, Oregon. The Draft RMP/Draft EIS provides direction and guidance for the management of public lands and resources within the Planning Area as well as monitoring and evaluation requirements. Once approved, the Andrews Management Unit and CMPA RMPs will supersede all existing management plans for the public land within the Planning Area, including amending a portion of the Three Rivers

Resource Area RMP (1991) for those lands included within the CMPA boundary. The Draft RMP/Draft EIS evaluates five alternative management approaches, including a No Action (current management) Alternative.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be accepted for 90 days following publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability for this Draft RMP/Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. Future public meetings and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, the project Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/>, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Rhonda Karges, Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738; Fax (541) 573-4411 or e-mail (Rhonda_Karges@or.blm.gov). Comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to request that BLM consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information such as Internet address, Fax or phone number, from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. BLM will honor requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis to the extent allowed by law. BLM will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

Copies of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS have been sent to affected Federal, Tribal, State and local Government agencies, and to interested publics and are available at the Burns District Office. The planning documents and direct supporting record for the analysis for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be available for inspection at the Burns District Office during normal business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays). The Draft RMP/Draft EIS and other associated documents may be viewed and downloaded in PDF format at the project Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact