

timber harvesting and associated impacts including changes in surface runoff. The species is highly vulnerable to extirpation from demographic factors or random, naturally occurring events due to the very small size of most of the remaining populations.

The interim objective of this draft recovery plan is to stabilize the existing populations and accomplish increases in population sizes and geographic distribution across the historical range of the species sufficient to consider downlisting of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* to threatened status. The primary objective of the plan is to recover the species to the point that it can be delisted.

Actions proposed to achieve the recovery of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include maintaining the current geographical distribution of the species through effective management and coordination with private landowners and other agencies; identifying potential habitat and developing a sound protocol for reintroducing the species within its historically occupied range; conducting research and monitoring essential to the conservation of the species; collecting seed representing the genetic diversity of the species across its range and storing it in a secure facility; surveying to identify potential additional populations; and developing outreach materials to provide information about the species, its habitat, and management recommendations to local landowners.

#### Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing a final recovery plan.

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

Dated: August 11, 2003.

**Don Weathers,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-310-2810-DG]

#### Notice of Intent To Amend Land Use Plans and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to amend land use plans in Alaska and prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to address wildland fire and fuels management in its land use plans, through a statewide plan amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA). This amendment will provide a consistent approach for incorporating current wildland fire and fuels management policy into land use plans in order to comply with the National Fire Plan and 2001 Federal Fire Policy. It will also provide interim guidance for wildland fire and fuels management on BLM-managed lands for which completion of new land use plans is scheduled or on-going. The amendment will include an analysis of fire and fuels management actions on a landscape scale and their impacts on the human environment. An EA level analysis is anticipated to be sufficient to address the complexity of known issues.

The amendment will provide wildland fire and fuels management direction to all public lands managed by the Anchorage, Glennallen and Northern Field Offices. The following land use plans will be addressed during this amendment process and amended as appropriate: the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), Southcentral MFP, Fortymile MFP, Northwest MFP, Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP), White Mountains National Recreation Area RMP, Utility Corridor RMP, Fort Wainwright RMP, Fort Greely RMP, and the Steese National Conservation Area RMP. Fire management direction will also be developed for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in conjunction with this planning effort.

Several concurrent land use planning efforts will be occurring at each Field Office. These include the Ring of Fire RMP (Anchorage Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005), the Kobuck-Seward RMP (Northern Field Office, scheduled to begin 2004), and the East Alaska RMP (Glennallen Field Office, draft due 2004, final 2005). The fire decisions reached through the fire planning effort outlined in this **Federal Register** notice will be incorporated into these and other future land use planning efforts as they are completed.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) planning process (43 CFR 1600) will be used for all lands, except for the Alaska Petroleum Reserve-Alaska lands, which are not governed by the FLPMA planning process. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to

identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This process will take into account local, regional and national needs and concerns. This includes public and firefighter safety. This notice initiates the public scoping process to identify specific issues and develop planning criteria. The scoping process will include an evaluation of the needs and interests of the public.

**DATES:** The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice and end 60 days after publication. Comments regarding issues and planning criteria should be received on or before the end of the scoping period. Specific dates and locations for public participation will be published in local papers and broadcast on local community calendars at a later date.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding the Wildland Fire and Fuels Management Land Use Plan Amendment for Alaska should be sent to: Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Lynch, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703, (907) 356-5863.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Alaska Fire Service at the address listed above.

Fire suppression in Alaska has been addressed on an interagency, multi-jurisdictional, landscape scale in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 1998 (AIWFMP). Four appropriate management responses defined as Management Options