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Acting Assistant Director—Refuges and Wildlife.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the North Cascade Ecosystem Recovery Plan Chapter for the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: To further the recovery of the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), the Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the North Cascade Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Chapter. The North Cascade ecosystem is located in Washington. This chapter has been appended to the existing Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan approved in 1993. The availability of the draft of the chapter was announced to the public in the **Federal Register** on November 15, 1993 (58 FR 60208).

DATES: The North Cascade Ecosystem Chapter of the revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was signed by the Regional Director, Denver Regional

Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, on June 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The document announced in this notice is available from: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503-1273.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Frederick, Western Washington Office Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone (360) 753-9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened plant or animal to a point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is 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 the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for starting the needed recovery measures.

Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Service approved the revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan on September 10,

1993 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1993). The Plan approved in 1993 did not contain a complete chapter on the North Cascade ecosystem because the specific information necessary to develop this chapter was not available. On June 23, 1997, the Service approved the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Chapter. The agencies responsible for development of this chapter included the Service, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and British Columbia Ministry of Environment. This chapter was developed by a cooperative effort of the involved agencies and a wide range of interested citizens from throughout the area. Public involvement in drafting the chapter identified issues that include livestock depredation, effects on recreation and big game species/hunting, human health and safety, land use policy/restrictions, the role of the grizzly bear in the ecosystem (naturalness), economics, State and Federal authorities, private property rights, illegal killing/parching, and effects of grizzly bears on other species (such as listed salmon). The availability of the draft of the chapter was announced to the public in the **Federal Register** on November 15, 1993 (58 FR 60208).

The grizzly bear was once a common inhabitant of the North Cascades ecosystem in the northern Cascade Mountains of Washington. Grizzly bears were removed from the North Cascades ecosystem by humans as they settled the area. Primary reasons for these removals included livestock protection, uncontrolled hunting, and trapping and shooting for sale of hides (Almack et al. 1993). From 1849 to 1851 Hudson Bay Company records show that at least 429 grizzly bear hides were processed at trading posts within or near the North Cascades area (Sullivan 1983). Recent records indicate a small population of grizzly bears remains in the North Cascades with 21 credible reports from 1964 to 1991 (Almack et al. 1993). In addition, grizzly bears still occur immediately north of the United States-Canada border in the Cascade Range of British Columbia. The grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in the conterminous 48 States in 1975 under the Act. The Recovery Plan Chapter for the North Cascades ecosystem outlines the necessary actions to recover the grizzly bear in this ecosystem. Alternative actions to recovery grizzly bears in the North Cascades ecosystem, including adding bears from other areas to the small number of bears currently existing within the ecosystem, would be considered through the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The public would be informed of the Service's intent to implement the NEPA process through press releases and a notice in the **Federal Register**.

References Cited

- Almack, J.A., W.L. Gaines, R.H. Naney, P.H. Morrison, J.R. Eby, G.F. Wooten, M.C. Snyder, S.H. Fitkin, and E.R. Garica. 1993. North Cascades Grizzly Bear Ecosystem evaluation; final report. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Denver, Colorado. 156 pp.
- Sullivan, P.T. 1983. A preliminary study of historic and recent reports of grizzly bears in the North Cascades area of Washington. Washington Department of Game, Olympia, Washington.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Grizzly bear recovery plan. Missoula, Montana. 181 pp.

Authority

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

Dated: June 30, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 97-17716 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Utah—Notice of Invitation To Participate in Coal Exploration Program; Beaver Brook Coal LLC—UTU-76558 Scofield East

Pursuant to section 2(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act of February 20, 1920, as amended by section 4 of the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 1083, 30 U.S.C. 201(b), and to the regulations adopted as Subpart 3410, Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Beaver Brook Coal LLC in the proposed exploration of certain Federal coal deposits in the following described lands in Utah and Carbon Counties, Utah.

Utah County

- T. 11 S., R. 7 E., SLM, UT
 Sec. 2, All;
 Sec. 3, lots 1-3, 6, 7, S2NE, SENW, E2SW, SE;
 Sec. 9, E2;
 Secs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, All;
 Sec. 17, E2;
 Sec. 20, E2;
 Secs. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, All;