

Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. The Commission determined that all forms of human-caused removal of individuals from the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population will be incorporated in this annual taking limit (75 FR 65507; October 25, 2010). Under Section 502(a)(2) of the MMPA, it is unlawful to take any polar bear from the Alaska-Chukotka population in violation of this annual taking limit adopted by the Commission.

At its fourth annual meeting, held June 25–27, 2012 in Anchorage, Alaska, the Commission adopted a multi-year quota system that would allow the Commission to set a sustainable harvest level for a 5-year timeframe, and within the 5-year cycle, adjust the annual taking limit upward or downward depending on the actual harvest of bears the preceding year. For example, if harvest was above the annual taking limit in one year, which would constitute a violation of the 2000 Agreement and Title V of the MMPA, the annual taking limit could be reduced by the Commission for subsequent years. Alternatively, if ice conditions or other factors limit hunters' abilities to harvest polar bears in one year, the Commission could increase the annual taking limit in subsequent years as long as the sustainable harvest level over a 5-year period is not exceeded. Therefore, in 2012, based on the recommendation of the SWG, the Commission agreed upon a 5-year sustainable harvest level of 290 polar bears (*i.e.*, the annual sustainable harvest level of 58 bears x 5 years), with no more than one-third being female. Under this multiyear quota system, the 5-year sustainable harvest level would be allocated over a 5-year period and would include the identification of annual sustainable harvest levels for consideration by the Commission in setting annual taking limits. The Commission, at each of its subsequent annual meetings held in 2013 and 2014, was advised by the SWG that new biological information considered at the meeting did not suggest the need to change the sustainable harvest level established by the Commission. The Commission, therefore, at each of those meetings in 2013 and 2014 adopted the SWG's recommendation that no change be made to the existing sustainable harvest level of up to 58 polar bears per year to be shared equally between the United States and Russia, of which no more than one-third will be female.

At the seventh annual meeting of the Commission, held October 22–23, 2015, in Sochi, Russia, the SWG recognized that new biological information considered at the meeting did not

suggest the need to change the sustainable harvest level established by the Commission and, therefore, it recommended no change to the current annual sustainable harvest level of 58 polar bears per year to be shared equally between the United States and the Russian Federation, of which no more than one-third will be female, or to the multi-year quota system previously adopted by the Commission. The Commission unanimously adopted this recommendation.

Additionally, the U.S. Commissioners discussed their collaborative efforts over the past year to lay the foundation for effective implementation of the annual taking limit, and expressed their commitment to continuing that work together to achieve the goal of a sustainably managed polar bear subsistence harvest.

In consideration of these collaborative efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will develop regulations that establish a U.S. reporting and management regime for polar bears of the Alaska-Chukotka population, as authorized under Title V of the MMPA. Accordingly, the Service intends to issue a proposed rule in April, 2016, with finalization of the rulemaking by September, 2016. Consistent with the collaborative efforts to date, the Service will continue to work with the Alaska Nanuq Commission in the development of these regulations. Because harvest limits are new for the Alaska-Chukotka population, during the period of regulation development and outreach, the Service will use its enforcement discretion with respect to any take that exceeds the annual taking limit established by the Commission in 2010. Currently, the Service's MMPA implementing regulations at 50 CFR 18.23(f) require Alaskan natives who harvest any polar bears for subsistence purposes or for purposes of selling authentic Native articles of handicrafts and clothing to report such take to the Service and present the skin and skull to Service personnel or the Service's authorized local representative. Under these regulations, an Alaskan native may possess the unmarked, untagged, and unreported polar bear for a period of time not to exceed 30 days from the time of taking for the purpose of transporting the skin and skull to Service personnel or the Service's authorized local representative for marking, tagging, and reporting.

Determination of the Commission

Pursuant to section 507(b) of the MMPA, we are publishing in the **Federal Register** this notice of the U.S.-

Russia Polar Bear Commission's determination concerning the annual taking limit for the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. As detailed above, at its 2015 annual meeting, the Commission agreed to maintain the limit on the annual harvest of polar bears from this population to no more than 58 animals, of which no more than 19 may be female, to be shared equally between the United States and the Russian Federation. The Commission also agreed that no changes to the multi-year quota system, previously adopted by the Commission in 2012, was warranted.

Dated: January 5, 2016.

Stephen Guertin,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMTC 00900.L16100000.DP0000
MO#4500089568]

Notice of Public Meeting, Dakotas Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public 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) Dakotas Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Dakotas Resource Advisory Council meeting will be held on February 3, 2016 in Bowman, North Dakota. When determined, the meeting place and time will be announced in a news release.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Jacobsen, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301; (406) 233-2831; mjacobse@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-677-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member council advises the Secretary of

the Interior through the BLM on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in North and South Dakota. At this meeting, topics will include: An Eastern Montana/Dakotas District report, North Dakota and South Dakota Field Office manager reports, individual RAC member reports, RAC recommendations status updates and other issues the council may raise. All meetings are open to the public and the public may present written comments to the council. Each formal RAC meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations should contact the BLM as provided above.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4-2

Lori (Chip) Kimball,

Acting Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[(LLMT926000-L1440000.BJ0000);
16XL1109AF; MO#4500089204]

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; North Dakota

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plats of survey.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plat of survey of the lands described below in the BLM Montana State Office, Billings, Montana, on February 19, 2016.

DATES: Protests of the survey must be filed before February 19, 2016 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Protests of the survey should be sent to the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Montoya, Cadastral Surveyor, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101-4669, telephone (406) 896-5124 or (406) 896-5003, HMontoya@blm.gov. Persons who

use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This survey was executed at the request of the Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana, and was necessary to determine Federal Leasable Mineral lands.

The lands we surveyed are:

Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota

T. 147 N., R. 95 W.

The plat, in two sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the adjusted original meanders of the former left and right banks of the Little Missouri River, through section 2, and a certain division of accretion line, the subdivision of section 2, and the survey of the meanders of the present left and right banks of the Little Missouri River, through section 2, the limits of erosion in section 2, the left and right banks and medial line of an abandoned channel of the Little Missouri River, in section 2, certain division of accretion and partition lines, and the medial line and partition lines of the present bed of the Little Missouri River, through section 2, Township 147 North, Range 95 West, Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota, was accepted January 5, 2016.

Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota

T. 148 N., R. 95 W.

The plat, in four sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the west boundary of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, a portion of the south boundary, a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the adjusted original meanders of the former left and right banks of the Little Missouri River, through sections 33, 34, and 35, the subdivision of certain sections, and the survey of the meanders of the present left and right banks of the Little Missouri River, through sections 33, 34, and 35, the limits of erosion in section 35, the left and right banks and medial line of an abandoned channel of the Little Missouri River, in section 35, certain division of accretion and partition lines, and the medial line and partition lines of the present bed of the Little Missouri River, through sections 33, 34, and 35, Township 148 North, Range 95 West, Fifth Principal

Meridian, North Dakota, was accepted January 5, 2016.

We will place a copy of the plats, in six sheets, and related field notes we described in the open files. They will be available to the public as a matter of information. If the BLM receives a protest against this survey, as shown on this plat, in six sheets, prior to the date of the official filing, we will stay the filing pending our consideration of the protest. We will not officially file this plat, in six sheets, until the day after we have accepted or dismissed all protests and they have become final, including decisions or appeals.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. chap. 3.

Joshua F. Alexander,

Acting Chief, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZA 24749A]

Notice of Application for Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of the Navy (DON) filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw approximately 26.794 acres of public land within the DON Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma (MCAS, Yuma), for a period of 20 years, from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the public land laws, including the United States mining and mineral leasing laws. The DON has also requested that jurisdiction of these lands be transferred to the Department of Defense for the use of MCAS, Yuma. The purpose of the withdrawal would be to protect the existing structures and facilities that were installed or developed under the prior withdrawal, Public Land Order No. 6804, which expired in 2010. This notice temporarily segregates the land for up to 2 years while the withdrawal application is being considered. This notice also gives the public an opportunity to comment on the withdrawal application and to request a public meeting.

DATES: Comments and/or requests for a public meeting should be received by April 19, 2016.