

Working Group meetings will be taken on day two of the meeting.

(5) Adjournment of meeting.

Day 2

The agenda for the October 27, 2017, full Committee meeting is as follows:

(1) Introduction.

(2) Swear in newly appointed Committee members.

(3) Remarks from U.S. Coast Guard Leadership.

(4) Designated Federal Officer announcements.

(5) Roll call of Committee members and determination of a quorum.

(6) Reports from the following Working Groups:

(a) Task Statement 87, Review of policy documents providing guidance on the implementation of the December 24, 2013, International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers rulemaking;

(b) Task Statement 96, Review and comment on the course and program approval requirements including 46 CFR 10.402, 10.403, 10.407 and Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 03–14 guidelines for approval of training courses and programs;

(c) Task Statement 98, continue the progress made by the military services towards meeting the goals on the use of Military Education, Training and Assessment for STCW and National Mariner Endorsements as identified in the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 and subsequent legislation;

(d) Task Statement 99, Review and comment on the “Guidelines for Issuing Endorsement for Tankerman PIC Restricted to Fuel Transfers on Towing Vessels” policy letter (CG–MMC Policy Letter No. 01–17);

(e) Task Statement 100, Provide input to MARAD’s working group that will examine and assess the size of the pool of U.S. mariners necessary to support the U.S. flag fleet in times of national emergency;

(f) Task Statement 101, Provide feedback and avenues to further enhance open communication between external stakeholders and the U.S. Coast Guard’s mariner credentialing program regarding all aspects of the program;

(g) Task Statement 102, consider and make recommendations regarding the current requirement for a U.S. Merchant Mariner to read and write using English;

(h) Task Statement 103, Input to Support Regulatory Reform of Coast Guard Regulations-Executive Orders 13771 and 13783.

(7) Other items for discussion:

(a) Report on the Mariner Credentialing Program;

(b) Report on National Maritime Center activities from the National Maritime Center Commanding Officer, such as medical requirements and legal authorities;

(c) Briefings about on-going U.S. Coast Guard projects related to personnel in the U.S. merchant marine.

(8) Public comment period.

(9) Discussion of Working Group recommendations.

The Committee will review the information presented on each issue, deliberate on any recommendations presented by the Working Groups, approve/formulate recommendations and close any completed tasks. Official action on these recommendations may be taken on this date.

(10) Closing remarks/plans for next meeting.

(11) Adjournment of meeting.

A public comment period will be held during each Working Group and full Committee meeting concerning matters being discussed.

A copy of all meeting documentation will be available at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/merpac> no later than October 18, 2017. Alternatively, you may contact Mr. Davis Breyer as noted in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section above.

Public comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Please note that the public comment periods will end following the last call for comments. Please contact Mr. Davis Breyer, listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, to register as a speaker.

Please note that the meeting may adjourn early if the work is completed.

Dated: September 18, 2017.

Jeffrey G. Lantz,

Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

[FR Doc. 2017–20209 Filed 9–21–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–3388–EM; Docket ID FEMA–2017–0001]

Seminole Tribe of Florida; Emergency and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of an emergency for the Seminole Tribe of

Florida (FEMA–3388–EM), dated September 8, 2017, and related determinations.

DATES: The declaration was issued September 8, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–2833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated September 8, 2017, the President issued an emergency declaration under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5207 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the emergency conditions in the lands associated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida resulting from Hurricane Irma beginning on September 4, 2017, and continuing, are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (“the Stafford Act”). Therefore, I declare that such an emergency exists for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and associated lands.

You are authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the designated areas. Specifically, you are authorized to provide assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.

Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance is supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration for the approved assistance to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Justo Hernández, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared emergency.

The following areas have been designated as adversely affected by this declared emergency:

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and associated lands for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used

for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Brock Long,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2017–20191 Filed 9–21–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R8–MB–2017–N049; FF08M00000–FXMB1231080000–145]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Hycroft Mining Company; Request for Take Permits Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement; notice of scoping meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a joint environmental impact statement (EIS) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We are a cooperating agency with the BLM on the development of this EIS. The BLM will be analyzing potential impacts of their decision regarding Hycroft Resource and Development Incorporated's (Hycroft/ applicant) proposed expansion as described in BLM's notice of intent published in December 2014. This EIS will also analyze impacts associated with the Service's eagle take permit decisions. The Service will evaluate the applicant's Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP), which describes their request to remove inactive golden eagle nests and their request for incidental take authorization for impacts resulting from removing eagle nests, mining operations, and expansion of the existing facility. We are considering the applicant's request, as allowed under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act), for nest removal for the

purpose of resource development and recovery operations and incidental take. The BLM has already conducted public scoping regarding the proposed expansion of the Hycroft mine.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by November 21, 2017. Public scoping meetings will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at the Hyatt Place Reno-Tahoe Airport, 1790 East Plumb Lane, Reno, NV 89502; and on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at the Winnemucca Convention Center, 50 West Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445.

ADDRESSES: To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comment is in reference to the Hycroft Mine Eagle Conservation Plan EIS.

- *Email:* fw8_eaglepermits@fws.gov. Include "Hycroft Mine Eagle Conservation Plan EIS" in the subject line of the message.
- *U.S. Mail:* Heather Beeler, Migratory Bird Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825.
- *Fax:* Heather Beeler, Migratory Bird Program, (916) 414–6486; Attn: Hycroft Mine Eagle Conservation Plan EIS Scoping.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Beeler, Migratory Bird Program, at the address shown above or at (916) 414–6651 (telephone). If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the Service, intend to prepare a joint environmental impact statement (EIS) with the BLM in response to Hycroft's permit application to remove inactive golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests and for incidental take under the Eagle Act. Hycroft submitted a draft Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) as part of their permit application. The draft ECP is a comprehensive plan that addresses the removal of inactive golden eagle nests and also provides measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for the loss of golden eagle nesting territories. The draft EIS will evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the proposed issuance of permits by the Service to allow the removal of inactive golden eagle nests for natural resource extraction and authorization of incidental take, including the potential loss of up to two golden eagle breeding territories. The Hycroft mine is located near the historical town of Sulphur, in

Pershing and Humboldt Counties, Nevada.

We provide this notice to (1) describe the proposed action; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, potentially affected tribal interests, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS; (3) announce the initiation of a 60-day public scoping period; and (4) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and possible alternatives to be included in the EIS. We are particularly interested in comments regarding the creation of new golden eagle nest sites or territories, a potential mitigation option.

We also announce plans for public scoping meetings and the opening of a public comment period. We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from the public, governmental agencies, the scientific community, tribes, industry, or any other interested party.

We publish this notice in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347 *et seq.*; NEPA), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 1500–1508, as well as section 668a of the Eagle Act (16 U.S.C. 668a–668d).

Background

Golden eagles are protected under the Eagle Act, which prohibits take of both bald and golden eagles and eagle nests. "Take" under the Eagle Act includes any actions that pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, and disturb eagles. "Disturb" is further defined in 50 CFR 22.3 as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

The BLM will be the lead agency in development of the EIS, and will be evaluating the applicant's request for the proposed expansion of their operations at the Hycroft Mine. The current mining operations were approved by BLM in a record of decision (ROD) issued in August of 2012.

During biological surveys conducted in 2011 and 2012 for BLM's 2012 EIS, a golden eagle nest and two older nests were discovered on an outcrop at the northern end of the Silver Camel feature. Mining of the Silver Camel feature and the occurrence of the nests