United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

NOV 13 2002

Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Martz:

On October 1, 2002, we received the Extension to the Class III Compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation (Tribe) and the State of Montana (State). We have completed our review of this Extension and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Federal law, or our trust responsibility. Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of IGRA, we approve the Extension. This Extension shall take effect when the notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11(d)(3)(B) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

We wish the Tribe and the State success in their economic venture.

Sincerely,

Aurene M Martin

Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Similar Letter Sent to: Honorable Arlyn Headdress
Chairman, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
of the Fort Peck Reservation
P. O. Box 1027
Poplar, Montana 59255

RECEIVED
NATIONAL INDIAN
GAMING COMMISSION
2003 JAN 16 PM 3:54

EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION AND THE STATE OF MONTANA REGARDING CLASS III GAMING ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

RECITALS

The State of Montana ("Montana") and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation ("Tribes") entered into an Agreement ("Agreement") dated April 6, 1992, to authorize under specific conditions Class III gaming on the Fort Peck Reservation. This Agreement was extended by letter amendment to July 5, 2002 and further extended by letter amendment to September 30, 2002. The Tribes and the State are continuing their good faith negotiations to agree on terms and conditions for another long-term compact.

To enable the Tribes and others to continue gaming on the Reservation pursuant to the existing Agreement while the parties continue to negotiate, the parties hereby agree to extend the Agreement for approximately 90 days, until December 30, 2002, on the terms and conditions set forth below.

This Renewal is entered into in furtherance of the goals of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq. and Montana Governor Judy Martz's Proclamation affirming the principle and integrity of government-to-government relationships between the State of Montana and federally-recognized tribes located within the borders of Montana.

Agreement

In furtherance of good relations and mutual cooperation between the parties, and in accordance with Article VIII. A., "Effective Date and Term," of the existing Agreement as previously amended and extended, by this writing the parties hereby renew and extend the term of the Agreement to December 30, 2002. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect and shall govern the conditions of Class III gaming on the Reservation until December 30, 2002, or until a revised or new compact has been executed by the parties, whichever first occurs.

Montana and the Tribes indicate their consent to be bound to this Extension by signature of their authorized representatives below.

ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

ARLYN HEADRESS, Chairman

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ, Governor

Approved Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 18-11-105 (2001).

MIKE McGRATH, Attorney General
State of Montana

APROVED:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY: Aurene M Martin DATED: 11/13/02, 2002
~~NEAL McCALEB~~
Acting Assistant Secretary--Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Ftpeck-extension.

Dated: November 18, 2002.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 02–30960 Filed 12–6–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of the Recovery Plan for the Bruneau Hot Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*)

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service) announces the availability of the final recovery plan for the Bruneau hot springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*; springsnail). This endangered freshwater snail is a member of the family Hydrobiidae and occurs in a 5-mile reach of the Bruneau River and the lower one-third of Hot Creek in Owyhee County, Idaho.

ADDRESSES: Recovery plans that have been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are available on the World Wide Web at: *http://www.r1.fws.gov/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/default.htm*. In addition, recovery plans for the springsnail may also be obtained from: Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 301–429–6403 or 800–582–3421. The fee for the plan varies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Lysne or Jeri Wood, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709 (telephone; 208–378–5243).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate the time and cost associated with implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that during recovery plan development, the Service provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. The Service will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The springsnail was listed as endangered on June 17, 1998 (FR 63 32981). This freshwater, aquatic snail exists only in an approximately 5-mile reach of the Bruneau River and its tributary, Hot Creek, in southwestern Idaho. The springsnail inhabits flowing geothermal springs and seeps with temperatures ranging from 15.7 to 36.9 degrees Celsius. The springsnail is found in these habitats on the exposed surfaces of various substrates including rocks, gravel, sand, mud, and algal films. The principal threat to the springsnail is the reduction and/or elimination of their geothermal spring habitat as a result of agricultural groundwater withdrawals.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the springsnail so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Recovery is contingent upon protecting and managing the remaining springsnail habitat to maintain and enhance viable populations of the springsnail.

The springsnail will be considered for reclassification when: (1) Water levels in the regional geothermal aquifer have increased and stabilized at 815 meters (2,674 feet) in elevation; (2) the total number of geothermal springs discharging within the recovery area is 200 or more and are distributed within the current range of the springsnail; (3) more than two-thirds of available geothermal springs within the recovery area are occupied by stable, medium to high density populations of reproducing hot springsnails; and (4) groundwater levels are permanently protected against further reductions through implementation of groundwater management activities.

Authority

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

Dated: September 30, 2002.

Anne Badgley,

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

[FR Doc. 02–30982 Filed 12–6–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through this delegated authority, has approved the extension agreement to the class III gaming compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 9, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: November 13, 2002.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02–30966 Filed 12–6–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved