

satisfaction of the obligation of the United States owed to California for school land grants. There are, however, many federally-owned public lands, other than the Ward Valley lands, that are available in California and that are suitable for this purpose, whereas, as documented in the DHS site selection process and the EIR/EIS, public lands in the State of California having the same geological and hydrological characteristics of the Ward Valley lands are extremely scarce or nonexistent. Accordingly, the value of the Ward Valley lands for use as a low level waste disposal site is very high and meets a unique public purpose.

Further, FLPMA sanctions direct sales to support important public policies and objectives and provides for such sales to be conditioned to insure proper land use and protection of the public interest. In contrast, the state indemnity selection acts do not contain provisions authorizing the imposition of terms or conditions that address the potential impacts of subsequent uses of the land and that are intended to assure their maximum future use as for example, in this case, a site for the disposal of low level waste. Additionally, a direct sale made pursuant to FLPMA avoids the need for an additional administrative transfer of the lands from the SLC to the DHS (if the former should be so inclined) to allow siting of the proposed waste facility.

In light of the foregoing, and after having weighed all the relevant factors, I conclude that the Ward Valley lands should remain in federal ownership under multiple use management, as provided in the California Desert Conservation Plan of 1980, as amended. This will allow transfer of the Ward Valley lands for low level radioactive waste disposal purposes to the State of California by direct sale, the method of transfer the State Governor prefers, and will provide the opportunity to include appropriate conditions and safeguards regarding future use of the lands when and if they may be sold to the State. If the lands are not disposed of to the State, they will remain subject to BLM planning and management.

In accordance with the pending classification petition of the SLC and 43 C.F.R. Part 2400, the above described lands are classified for retention and the SLC indemnity selection application accompanying the petition is rejected.

Dated: June 29, 1995.

Edward L. Hastey,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 95-16519 Filed 7-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

U.S. Geological Survey

Calista Corp.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Geological Survey is planning to enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Calista Corporation, an Alaska Native regional corporation. The purpose of the CRADA is to conduct geologic mapping and geochemical sampling in the Holy Cross A-4 and A-5 quadrangles on both Calista land and adjoining Federal land. Any other organizations interested in pursuing the possibility of a CRADA for similar kinds of activities should contact the U.S. Geological Survey.

DATE: This notice is effective July 6, 1995.

ADDRESS: Information on the proposed CRADA is available to the public upon request at the following location: U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Alaskan Geology, 4200 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4667.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marti L. Miller of the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Alaskan Geology, at the address given above; telephone 907/786-7437; fax 907/786-7401; email mmiller@tardaddy.wr.usgs.gov.

P. Patrick Leahy,
Chief Geologist.

[FR Doc. 95-16603 Filed 7-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-31-M

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of Wetlands Classification System

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is sponsoring a public review of an existing wetlands classification system, "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States," by Cowardin et al., USFWS, FWS/OBS-79/31, to be considered for adoption as an FGDC standard. If adopted, the standard must be followed by all Federal agencies for data collected directly or indirectly (through grants, partnerships, or contracts).

In its assigned leadership role for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the FGDC recognizes that the standards also must meet the needs and recognize the views of State and local governments, academia, industry, and the public. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views. The FGDC invites the community to review, test, and evaluate the proposed classification system.

Comments are encouraged about the content, completeness, and usability of the proposed standard.

The FGDC anticipates that the proposed wetlands standard, after updating or revision, will be adopted as a Federal Geographic Data Committee standard. The standard may be forwarded to other standards organizations for adoption if interest warrants such actions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 15, 1995.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: Requests for written copies of the classification system being proposed as a standard, and reviewer comments concerning this standard, should be sent by mail to Wetlands Standards Review, FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 22092; telephone 703-648-5514; facsimile 703-648-5755; or Internet "gdc@usgs.gov". The proposed standard may also be purchased from the Government Printing Office/Superintendent of Documents at 202-512-1800, Document No. 024-010-00665-0, or the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at 703-487-4650; it is also available for viewing on the Internet at the National Wetlands Inventory Home Page; the URL is: <http://www.nwi.fws.gov>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For classification purposes, wetlands are defined as: *lands that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water, and that have one or more of the following attributes: (1) At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.*

Areas of deepwater, traditionally not considered wetlands, are included in this classification system as Deepwater Habitats. Deepwater Habitats are defined as: *permanently flooded lands lying below the deepwater boundary of wetlands, including environments where surface water is permanent and often deep, with water, rather than air, the principal medium within which the dominant organisms live.*

The classification system presents a method for grouping ecologically similar wetlands. It is hierarchical, with wetlands differentiated as follows: system, subsystem, class, subclass, hydrologic modifiers, water chemistry modifiers, dominance type, special