

Task force seeks comments on wetlands

The Domestic Policy Council's Wetlands Task Force today announced it would seek public comments on appropriate national policies for working toward the national goal of "no net loss" of wetlands, according to the Department of the Interior.

The Task Force announced that it would hold six regional public meetings this summer.

The public meetings started in Bismarck, N.D., last week; Peoria, Ill., today; New Orleans, Aug. 27; Olympia, Wash., Sept. 5; Anchorage, Sept. 7; and Providence, R.I., Sept. 17.

The cities were selected to enable

the task force to explore the widest possible range of regional wetland issues.

Wetlands are regarded as among the most productive wildlife habitats in the United States. They also help control erosion and flooding, abate water pollution, recharge groundwater, and serve as an ideal setting for many recreational activities.

Today, less than half the wetlands present in the contiguous United States remain from colonial times.

The public meetings will feature presentations by invited representatives of state and local governments

and the private sector and may include wetland user interests, conservation groups, and technical wetland experts. Also, each public meeting will include an open microphone session during which audience members may present their views.

Each meeting will attempt to focus on regional as well as national wetland issues around the country. The Department of the Interior has been assigned primary responsibility for setting up the public meetings.

For those people who are unable to

attend the meetings, the period for public comment on working toward the "no net loss" goal will be open until Sept. 28. These comments will be summarized and provided to the task force for its consideration.

Anyone wishing to provide recommendations to the task force is invited to do so by sending their comments to:

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