

under pre-priced indefinite-delivery contracts established by the Department; and,

3. Purchases using the Government-wide Commercial Credit Card system in accordance with the Department's directives governing credit card purchasing. Authority redelegated to the Commercial Credit Card Program Administrator may be further redelegated by the Program Administrator to qualified Headquarters employees for purchases within the micro-purchase threshold established in FAR Part 13.

2. The President of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) is authorized to exercise procurement authority with respect to requirements related to GNMA's programmatic functions. The President of GNMA is authorized to redelegate any of the powers or authority redelegated to him or her to qualified GNMA employees.

3. Each Director, Administrative Service Center (ASC), and Director, ASC Contracting Division, is designated as a Contracting Officer and is authorized to, subject to any limitations imposed by the Senior Procurement Executive:

a. Enter into and administer all procurement contracts and interagency agreements for property and services required by the Department (including the placement of paid advertisements in newspapers) with regard to: Activities within his or her ASC service area; or, activities which may be national in scope or which cover more than one ASC service area when specifically delegated by the Director, Office of Procurement and Contracts. However, any purchase of Federal Information Processing (FIP) supplies or services (i.e., ADP-related contract actions) requires the prior approval of the Director, Office of Information Policies and Systems;

b. Order a Limited Denial of Participation sanction, pursuant to HUD regulations at 24 CFR 24.700;

c. Make determinations and findings regarding the use of advance payments under FAR Subpart 32.4 and HUDAR 2432.402;

d. Further redelegate the award and administration of an individual or class of procurement contracts or interagency agreements to another director, ASC Contracting Division, with the concurrence of the Senior Procurement Executive; and,

e. Further redelegate the authority redelegated in paragraph 3.a., above, to any of the following personnel, provided that they meet experience, education, and training requirements established by the Senior Procurement

Executive and provided that any other requirements listed below are met:

(i) To ASC Contracting Division personnel;

(ii) To Office of Housing personnel in State or Area Offices within the ASC service area for procurement contracts which concern programmatic functions and which are funded by the FHA Fund. At a minimum, this authority shall be delegated to a specific Office of Housing management official designated by the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner in each State and Area Office for the following purposes:

1. Emergency procurement authority;

2. Small purchase authority (FAR Part 13) in offices without full-time contracting personnel.

The Office of Housing will be given 30 days advance notice if any of the above authority in paragraph 3.e.(ii) will be withdrawn and subsequently redelegated to ASC personnel.

(iii) To Administration personnel within the ASC service area for the following purposes:

1. Small purchases (FAR Part 13); and,

2. Issuance of delivery orders under contracts established by other Government sources (FAR Part 8, e.g. GSA Federal Supply Schedules) or under pre-priced indefinite-delivery contracts established by the Department.

(iv) To Departmental personnel within the ASC service area, for purchases using the Governmentwide Commercial Credit Card system, in accordance with the Department's directives governing credit card purchasing. Authority redelegated to the Director, Administrative Resources Division may be further redelegated by that Director to qualified field personnel within the service area for purchases within the micro-purchase threshold established in FAR Part 13.

Section B. Authority Revoked

All power and authority redelegated at Section A. of the Notice of Redelegation of Authority, published on April 15, 1994 at 59 FR 18277, is revoked.

Authority: Sec. 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act [42 U.S.C. 3535(d)].

Dated: July 28, 1995.

Marilynn A. Davis,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Regarding the Application for Incidental Take and Implementation of a Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, an Endangered Species, in Western Riverside County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the draft Joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report on the application to Incidentally Take Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) in Riverside County, California, is available for public review. The Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for a 30-year Incidental Take Permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service also advises the public that the application package prepared by the RCHCA, which includes the SKR Long-term Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Implementing Agreement (IA), and Incidental Take Permit Application, is available for public review. Comments are requested and a public hearing will be held. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: Written comments are requested by September 18, 1995. A public meeting will be conducted on September 6, 1995, in Riverside, California, beginning at 1:00 pm. Agency representatives will be available to answer questions and receive either written or oral comments concerning the draft Joint EIS/EIR.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Gail C. Kobetich, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Ave. West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (619) 431-9618. The public meeting will be held at the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Administrative Center, 14th Floor, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Sorensen, Endangered Species Division Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Ave. West, Carlsbad, California 92008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Individuals wishing copies of this draft Joint EIS/EIR for review should immediately contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Field Office at the above referenced address, or by telephone at (619) 431-9440. Individuals wishing to review the SKR Long-term HCP and IA should immediately contact the RCHCA at (909) 275-1100. Documents will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday) at the RCHCA, 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, California 92501. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday) at the Service's Office at the above referenced address and telephone. Documents will also be available for public inspection at numerous libraries throughout the planning area. The location of specific libraries having copies can be obtained by contacting the Service at the above number. Copies of the draft EIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

Background

The Service listed the SKR as an endangered species, effective October 31, 1988 (53 FR 38485). Because of its listing as an endangered species, the SKR is protected by the Act's prohibition against "take", that is, no one may harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect the species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). The Service, however, may issue permits to conduct activities involving endangered species under certain circumstances, including carrying out scientific purposes, enhancing the propagation or survival of the species, or incidentally taking the species in connection with otherwise lawful activities.

The RCHCA presently has a short-term 10(a)(1)(B) permit (PRT-739678) from the Service to incidentally take SKRs in connection with various proposed public and private projects in the western portion of Riverside County. Under the program established through this interim permit, SKR habitat in public and private ownership is being acquired and managed for the long-term benefit of the species. Acquisition of private lands is funded in part from

mitigation fees collected by the RCHCA as developments proceed.

As intended when the interim permit was granted in August 1990, the RCHCA is applying to the Service for a 30-year incidental take permit for the same purposes. The area covered by the proposed 30-year permit will include much of the historical range of the SKR in Riverside County. The procedures for the RCHCA to incidentally take SKRs under the proposed 30-year permit are evaluated in the EIS/EIR.

This draft Joint EIS/EIR has been developed cooperatively by the Service's Carlsbad Field Office (lead agency for the draft EIS), the RCHCA, and California Department of Fish and Game.

In the development of this draft Joint EIS/EIR, the Service has initiated action to assure compliance with the purpose and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. Scoping activities were undertaken preparatory to developing the draft EIS with a variety of Federal, State, and local entities. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 1993.

The RCHCA's preparation of the long-term HCP has been on-going since the short-term permit was authorized. In March 1993 the Service and the RCHCA initiated a joint scoping process for the preparation of a joint EIS/EIR in anticipation of the Service receiving a permit application for a 30-year Section 10(a) permit for incidental take of SKR. The scoping process was initiated in accordance with NEPA to solicit comments on issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Because of the extended 2-year scoping process, a draft Scoping Report was prepared to update public knowledge of the scoping process. That report summarizes the 2-year scoping process, identifies the scoping issues raised by interested parties at public meetings and in written statements, and outlines the issues and alternatives that will be addressed in the draft EIS/EIR. The availability of the draft Scoping Report was published in the **Federal Register** on March 24, 1995.

Key issues addressed in this draft EIS/EIR are identified as the effects that implementation of various alternatives would have upon: (1) The endangered SKR; (2) other wildlife and their habitats; (3) land uses and general plans; (4) provision of public facilities, services and utilities; and (5) social and economic conditions.

More than 10 alternatives were considered before limiting the alternatives to be advanced for further study. Ultimately, 4 alternatives were

selected for detailed analysis: (1) Proposed Action/Project (approve and implement the Long-term SKR HCP); (2) Expanded Conservation/Protection (conserve more SKR habitat); (3) Existing Reserves/Public Lands (focus on SKR habitat already protected); and (4) a No Project/No Action Alternative (assume no regional program). The Service will identify its preferred alternative and environmentally preferable alternative as defined in the NEPA in the final EIS/EIR.

Each alternative was evaluated in terms of its potential to result in significant adverse impacts, and the adequacy or inadequacy of the proposed measures to avoid, minimize, and substantially lessen the effects.

Dated: July 27, 1995.

David L. McMullen,

Acting Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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Bureau of Land Management

[AK-964-1410-00-P; F-14944-A]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision to issue conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(a) and 22(j) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(a), will be issued to Tozitna, Limited for approximately 330 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Tanana, Alaska, within T. 4 N., R. 22 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599 ((907) 271-5960).

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government or regional corporation, shall have until September 5, 1995 to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart