

March 1993, the Service and the RCHCA initiated a joint scoping process for the preparation of a combined EIS/EIR in anticipation of the Service receiving a permit application for a 30-year Section 10(a) permit for incidental take 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 two-year scoping process, the Draft Scoping Report was prepared to update public knowledge of the scoping process. This report summarized the 2-year scoping process, identified the scoping issues raised by interested parties at public meetings and in written statements, and outlined the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the Draft EIS/EIR. The availability of the Draft Scoping Report was published in the Federal Register on March 24, 1995.

A Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS/EIR and receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for SKR in Western Riverside County, California was published in the Federal Register August 4, 1995.

Potential consequences, in terms of adverse impacts and benefits associated with the implementation of each alternative, were described in the Draft EIS/EIR. The Service received 39 letters of comment on the Draft EIS/EIR that primarily focused on the following subject areas: (1) The range of alternatives in the document; (2) inadequate analysis of effects to SKR, effects on local General Plans, effects on local economic conditions, cumulative effects, and growth-inducing effects; (3) mitigation measures for effects to SKR; (4) population viability analysis model; and (5) analysis of funding requirements, sources and assurances.

The Responses to Comments document for the FEIS/EIR contains copies of all comments received and responses to all comments received. Issues and potential consequences remain constant from the Draft to the Final EIS/EIR.

#### Alternatives Analyzed in the Final EIS/EIR

Four alternatives were considered for analysis in the Final EIS/EIR: (1) Proposed Action/Project (approve and implement the Long-term SKR HCP); (2) Expanded Conservation/Protection (conserve additional SKR habitat); (3) Existing Reserves/Public Lands (focus of SKR habitat already protected); and (4) a No Project/No Action Alternative (assume no regional program). Issuance of the permit with the mitigating, minimizing, and monitoring measures outlined in the Proposed Action/Project

alternative is the Service's preferred action and is discussed above. Key issues addressed in the Final 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. In addition, a second assessment of funding was prepared in response to comments on the Draft EIS/EIR.

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

Dated: February 22, 1996.  
Thomas Dwyer,  
*Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*  
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#### Extension of the Public Comment Period for the "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance With the Endangered Species Act"

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service is extending the comment period for review of the draft "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines For Oil And Gas Activities In Wyoming For Compliance With The Endangered Species Act."

**DATES:** Comments on the draft guidelines must be received on or before March 15, 1996, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft guidelines may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4000 Morrie Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Written comments and materials regarding the draft guidelines should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Cheyenne address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck Davis (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone 307/772-2374.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a Notice of Availability of the draft "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance with the Endangered Species Act" which appeared in the Federal Register on January 30, 1996 (61 FR 3051). It established a public comment period ending on February 29, 1996. Requests for extending the comment period have been received from persons that have indicated that 30 days is not sufficient time to review and comment on the Guidelines. The comment period is, therefore, extended to march 15, 1996.

##### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft guidelines described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the guidelines.

Dated: February 23, 1996.  
Terry T. Terrell,  
*Deputy Regional Director, Denver, CO.*  
[FR Doc. 96-4806 Filed 2-29-96; 8:45 am]  
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#### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-054-1040-00-24-1A]

##### Land Closure; Utah

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.  
**ACTION:** Notice of closure and restriction on public land.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that, effective immediately and until further notice, the last 1,000 feet of the road leading to the warm springs, near Gandy Utah, located in the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Sec. 31, T. 15 S., R. 19 W. S.L.B.M., Utah, is closed to all vehicular traffic. Personnel that are exempt from the closure include any federal, state, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty, or any person authorized by the Bureau. Foot traffic will be allowed.

The purpose of the closure is to protect the riparian and wildlife values associated with the spring and to reduce erosion caused by vehicle travel on this section of road.

The authority for this closure is the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43 Subpart 8364.1.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rex Rowley, House Range Resource Area Manager, P.O. Box 778 Fillmore, UT 84631 or Phone 801-743-6811.