

the HUD Secretary, for the 2022 calendar year funding cycle, provide renewal funding for each public housing agency (PHA) based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the **Federal Register**. This notice announces the FY 2022 inflation factors and describes the methodology for calculating them. Tables in PDF and Microsoft Excel formats showing RFIFs by HUD Fair Market Rent Area are available electronically from the HUD data information page at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/rfif/rfif.html>.

II. Methodology

RFIFs are used to adjust the allocation of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program renewal funds to PHAs for local changes in rents, utility costs, and tenant incomes. To calculate the RFIFs, HUD first forecasts a national inflation factor, which is the annual change in the national average PUC. HUD then calculates individual area inflation factors, which are based on the annual changes in the two-bedroom Fair Market Rent (FMR) for each area. Finally, HUD adjusts the individual area inflation factors to be consistent with the national inflation factor.

HUD's forecast of the national average PUC is based on forecasts of gross rent and tenant income. Each forecast is produced using historical and forecasted macroeconomic data as independent variables, where the forecasts are consistent with the Economic Assumptions of the Administration's FY 2022 Budget. The forecast of gross rent is itself based on forecasts of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rent of Primary Residence Index and the CPI Fuels and Utilities Index. Forecasted values of these series are applied to the FY 2022 national average two-bedroom FMR to produce a CY 2022 value. A "notional" PUC is calculated as the difference between gross rent value and 30 percent of family income (the standard for family rent contribution in the voucher program). The change between the forecasted CY 2022 notional PUC and the CY 2021 notional PUC is the expected national change in PUC, or 5.80 percent. HUD uses a notional PUC as opposed to the actual PUC to project costs that are consistent with PHAs leasing the same number and quality of units. For more information on HUD's forecast methodology, see 82 FR 26710.

The inflation factor for an individual geographic area is based on the

annualized change in the area's FMR between FY 2021 and FY 2022. These changes in FMRs are then scaled such that the voucher-weighted average of all individual area inflation factors is equal to the national inflation factor, *i.e.*, the expected annual change in national PUC from CY 2021 to CY 2022, and such that no area has a factor less than one. For PHAs operating in multiple FMR areas, HUD calculates a voucher-weighted average inflation factor based on the count of vouchers in each FMR area administered by the PHA as captured in HUD administrative data as of December 31, 2021.

III. The Use of Inflation Factors

HUD subsequently applies the calculated individual area inflation factors to eligible renewal funding for each PHA based on VMS leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year.

IV. Geographic Areas and Area Definitions

As explained above, inflation factors based on area FMR changes are produced for all FMR areas and applied to eligible renewal funding for each PHA. The tables showing the RFIFs, available electronically from the HUD data information page, list the inflation factors for each FMR area on a state-by-state basis. The inflation factors use the same OMB metropolitan area definitions, as revised by HUD, that are used in the FY 2022 FMRs. PHAs should refer to the Area Definitions Table on the following web page to make certain that they are referencing the correct inflation factors: http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/rfif/FY2022/FY2022_RFIF_FMR_AREA_REPORT.pdf. The Area Definitions Table lists areas in alphabetical order by state, and the counties associated with each area. In the six New England states, the listings are for counties or parts of counties as defined by towns or cities. HUD is also releasing the data in Microsoft Excel format to assist users who may wish to use these data in other calculations. The Excel file is available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/rfif/rfif.html>. Note that, as described earlier, the actual renewal funding inflation factor applied to agency funding will be the voucher-weighted average of the FMR area factors when the PHA operates in multiple areas.

V. Environmental Impact

This notice involves a statutorily required establishment of a rate or cost determination which does not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project

areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Todd Richardson,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-NWRS-2022-N004;
FXRS12610100000-223-FF01R00000]

Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Lake County, OR

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; record of decision.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a record of decision (ROD) for the final environmental impact statement for the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan for Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Oregon. The ROD documents the Service's decision to select a preferred alternative comprised of a combination of bighorn sheep habitat improvement and population management actions.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of the ROD and other documents associated with the decision by the following methods.

- *Internet:* https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hart_mountain/.

- *Upon Request:* You may request alternative formats of the documents directly from the Service (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Ludwig, by telephone at 541-947-3315, or by email at shannon_ludwig@fws.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service),

announce the availability of a record of decision (ROD) for the final environmental impact statement for the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan at the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (Refuge), in Lake County, Oregon. The ROD documents the Service's decision to select Alternative D, Comprehensive Integrated Management (Preferred), which is a combination of bighorn sheep habitat improvement and population management actions.

The bighorn sheep herd on the Refuge has declined from approximately 150 animals in 2017, to as few as 48 in 2020. Consequently, the herd is at risk of extirpation (local extinction) in the next few years without prompt management intervention. In response to the decline, the Service developed a bighorn sheep management plan and final environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze existing data and identify alternatives and actions needed to restore the herd to a sustainable population level. The EIS analyzes four alternatives: Continuing current management; a habitat management focus; a predator control focus; and a preferred alternative, which is a combination of habitat management and predator control. The alternatives reflect the urgency to implement short-term management actions that are based on the best available science, in combination with mid-to-long-term management and monitoring.

The ROD documents the Service's decision to select Alternative D, the Comprehensive Integrated Management approach. Considering complex interactions between habitat features and demographic factors that ultimately determine the sustainability of bighorn sheep on the Refuge, we prefer an integrated management approach. Alternative D includes a long-term focus on habitat improvement and a shorter-term focus on bighorn sheep and predator population management.

We are advising the public of the availability of the ROD, developed in compliance with agency decision making requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Our draft EIS and final EIS were made available to the public via Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Register notices on April 30, 2021 (86 FR 22963), and December 3, 2021 (86 FR 68661), respectively. In the draft and final EIS documents, we described in detail, evaluated, and analyzed all alternatives. Because we initiated the EIS process prior to the September 14, 2020, effective date for the Council on Environmental Quality's

updated NEPA regulations, the final EIS and ROD were completed consistent with the previous regulations (40 CFR 1506.13).

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6; 43 CFR part 46).

Hugh Morrison,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R8-ES-2022-0051;
FXES1114080000-223-FF08EVEN00]**

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for California Tiger Salamander and California Red-Legged Frog; Monterey County, CA; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Mike Knoop and Michelle Wright (applicants) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicants request the ITP to take the federally listed California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog, incidental to the development of a single-family residence in Carmel Valley, California. We request public comment on the ITP application, which includes the applicants' proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as "low effect," categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act. To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 24, 2022.

ADDRESSES:

To obtain documents: You may obtain copies of the documents online in Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0051 at <https://www.regulations.gov>, or you may request copies of the documents by email, phone, or U.S. mail (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

To submit comments: If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by any one of the following methods:

- **Online:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0051.

- **U.S. mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0051; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Sinclair, Biologist, by email at karen_sinclair@fws.gov, by phone at 805-677-3315, or by U.S. mail at the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Rd #B, Ventura, CA 93003.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft habitat conservation plan (HCP) and draft screening form for a low-effect incidental take permit (ITP) determination, and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental action statement (screening form) for activities described in an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The application was received from Mike Knoop and Michelle Wright (applicants). If granted, the permit would authorize take of the federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) incidental to activities described in the HCP for the construction of a single-family residence, within Monterey County Parcels 187-021-040 and 187-021-041, and driveway improvements within adjacent parcels 187-021-028 and 187-021-013, in the northern foothills of Carmel Valley, California. The applicants developed a draft HCP as part of their application for an ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The Service prepared a draft screening form in accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) to evaluate the potential effects to the natural and human environment resulting from issuing an ITP to the applicants. We