

outside the scope of the Governor's Appeal process.

Finally, the BLM has prepared the Buffalo PRMPA/FSEIS in accordance with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. The BLM did carefully review and consider applicable State, local, and other Federal agency plans, policies, and programs in the development of the Buffalo PRMPA/FSEIS. The BLM is consistent, to the extent practicable, with these plans as per the provisions of FLPMA and the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610-3-2."

(Authority: 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e))

**Nada Wolff Culver,**  
Principal Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 2024-31314 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[PO4820000251]

#### Filing of Plats of Survey: Oregon/ Washington

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior

**ACTION:** Notice of official filing.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon, 30 calendar days from the date of this publication.

**DATES:** Protests must be received by the BLM prior to the scheduled date of official filing, January 29, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the plats may be obtained from the Public Room at the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, upon required payment. The plats may be viewed at this location at no cost.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Femling, telephone: (503) 808-6633, email: [rfemling@blm.gov](mailto:rfemling@blm.gov), Branch of Geographic Sciences, Bureau of Land Management, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Mr. Femling during normal business hours. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed

in the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon:

### WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, OREGON

T. 34 S., R. 7 W. accepted September 11, 2024

T. 38 S., R. 3 E., accepted September 12, 2024

T. 33 S., R. 3 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 33 S., R. 2 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 15 S., R. 8 W., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 34 S., R. 2 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 39 S., R. 1 W., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 39 S., R. 5 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 38 S., R. 5 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 36 S., R. 3 E., accepted October 22, 2024

T. 37 S., R. 3 E., accepted October 22, 2024

A person or party who wishes to protest one or more plats of survey identified above must file a written notice of protest with the Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Oregon/ Washington, Bureau of Land Management. The notice of protest must identify the plat(s) of survey that the person or party wishes to protest. The notice of protest must be filed before the scheduled date of official filing for the plat(s) of survey being protested. Any notice of protest filed after the scheduled date of official filing will be untimely and will not be considered. A notice of protest is considered filed on the date it is received by the Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Oregon/ Washington during regular business hours; if received after regular business hours, a notice of protest will be considered filed the next business day. A written statement of reasons in support of a protest, if not filed with the notice of protest, must be filed with the Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Oregon/ Washington within 30 calendar days after the notice of protest is filed. If a notice of protest against a plat of survey is received prior to the scheduled date of official filing, the official filing of the plat of survey identified in the notice of protest will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat of survey will not be officially filed until the next business day following dismissal or resolution of all protests of the plat.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a notice of protest or statement of reasons, you should be aware that the documents you submit—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available in their entirety at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C., chapter 3)

**Robert Femling,**

Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Oregon/ Washington.

[FR Doc. 2024-31029 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331-25-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

[PO #4820000251]

#### Notice of Availability of the Records of Decision for Reconsideration of a Highway Right-of-Way Application and Associated Amendment of an Incidental Take Permit, Washington County, UT

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior; Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as co-lead agencies, announce the availability of the records of decision (RODs) for the Northern Corridor highway right-of-way (ROW) and associated amendment of an incidental take permit (ITP) located in Washington County, Utah. The RODs constitute the decisions of the BLM and FWS.

**DATES:** The Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior signed a ROD for the Northern Corridor highway ROW on December 19, 2024. The FWS's Deputy Regional Director for the Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6) signed a ROD to amend the ITP issued to Washington County (County) on December 19, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The RODs are available on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026562/510>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dawna Ferris-Rowley, National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager, Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash NCAs, telephone (435) 688-3200; address 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790; email [BLM\\_UT\\_NorthernCorridor@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_NorthernCorridor@blm.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 for contacting Ms. Ferris-Rowley. 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. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM and FWS are issuing this Notice of availability pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 (as amended on May 20, 2022, 87 FR 23453); and the Department of the Interior's NEPA regulations, 43 CFR part 46.

On September 4, 2018, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) applied for a ROW grant for the Northern Corridor project north of the City of St. George, Utah, on BLM-managed and non-Federal lands within the Red Cliffs NCA and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. The Red Cliffs NCA was established through the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 460www). Prior to the NCA's designation, the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve was established for the protection of the Mojave desert tortoise as part of the 1995 Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In 2015, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Washington County applied to renew and amend the HCP and associated ITP. The restated and amended HCP described the Northern Corridor highway as a potential changed circumstance, which would be partially offset with the addition of a sixth zone to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (Zone 6) as the primary conservation strategy. To consider the ROW application and the proposed Zone 6, the BLM needed to also consider amending the St. George Field Office and Red Cliffs NCA Resource Management Plans (RMPs).

In 2019 and 2020, the BLM and FWS prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions and reasonable alternatives. The BLM also consulted with the FWS to meet the requirements in section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. The FWS issued a biological opinion to the BLM that determined the ROW and the amendments to the RMPs were not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Mojave desert tortoise or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise. In addition, the FWS issued an intra-agency biological opinion that determined that the ITP was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Mojave desert tortoise, Holmgren milkvetch, Shivwits milkvetch, dwarf bear-poppy, Siler pincushion cactus, Gierisch

mallow, and Fickeisen plains cactus or result in the adverse modification of critical habitat for any of the above-listed species.

On January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the Interior signed a ROD that approved the Northern Corridor ROW application and approved the amendments to the RMPs. The decision approving the ROW was effective immediately. The BLM then signed and issued the ROW grant to UDOT on the same day. Also on January 13, 2021, the FWS Regional Director for the Mountain-Prairie Region signed a ROD approving the issuance of an ITP to Washington County. The FWS issued the ITP to Washington County on January 13, 2021. Because the BLM approved the UDOT ROW application, the changed circumstance was triggered, and Zone 6 was formally added to the Reserve.

On June 3, 2021, seven conservation organizations (collectively, Plaintiffs) filed an initial complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Case No. 1:21-cv-01506. Among other claims, plaintiffs alleged the BLM's ROW decision violated both NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Plaintiffs stated, in part, the Final EIS did not fully address the changed circumstances of wildfire in the region and the impacts it may have on the Mojave desert tortoise, desert tortoise habitat, and the spread of invasive annual grasses. The Plaintiffs also alleged that the BLM failed to comply with the consultation requirements under section 106 of the NHPA. On July 27, 2021, Plaintiffs amended their complaint to include the FWS and additional claims related to NEPA and the ESA.

During the litigation, the United States and plaintiffs reached a settlement agreement that was signed on August 30, 2023. Prior to executing that agreement, the United States moved for the remand and partial vacatur of the BLM's and FWS's 2021 decisions. In the motion, the United States acknowledged the BLM did not fully comply with the NHPA and the agencies had concerns that the Final EIS may lack sufficient analysis of certain resource effects, including the effects of the construction and use of the Northern Corridor project in the context of the following: (1) the trend in the increasing frequency and extent of wildfires in the Mojave Desert; (2) the rise of non-native/exotic and invasive vegetation in post-burn areas; and (3) the impacts increased fire and new non-native/exotic and invasive vegetation have on desert tortoise. On November 16, 2023, the court issued an Order that granted the remand of all decisions associated with the January

2021 RODs issued by the BLM and FWS and denied the BLM's request to vacate the ROW grant issued to UDOT in January 2021. On March 8, 2024, at the request of the BLM and consistent with the Settlement Agreement, the FWS withdrew the Biological Opinion for the Northern Corridor ROW grant.

A 30-day public scoping period for a supplemental EIS was initiated with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 2023 (88 FR 78781). The scoping period was extended at the request of Washington County and the State of Utah until December 28, 2023. The scoping period included a public open house held in St. George, Utah on December 6, 2023, with over 200 attendees. A total of 8,993 comment submissions were received, of which 8,145 were form letters, 793 were unique submissions, and 55 did not include a comment or were comments not relevant to scoping. The BLM and FWS considered all comments received during the scoping period in preparation of the Draft Supplemental EIS. A scoping report is available for public review on the BLM ePlanning project website (see **ADDRESSES**).

A Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2024 (89 FR 40504), initiating a 45-day public review and comment period. In addition, the BLM issued media releases and sent notifications via email to cooperating agencies, Tribal Nations, and the updated project mailing list. The BLM and FWS held an in-person public open house on June 4, 2024, at the Dixie Convention Center in St. George, Utah, during the public comment period.

Agencies, organizations, and individual stakeholders were able to submit comments through the U.S. Postal Service and the BLM ePlanning project website (see **ADDRESSES**). The comment period was extended until July 9, 2024, after an updated Traffic Analysis Memorandum, prepared by the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, and an Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Vegetation Survey Technical Report were made available for public review on the BLM ePlanning project website. The BLM and FWS announced the availability of these documents, and the date of the extended public review and comment period, through social media releases, a posting on the BLM ePlanning project website, and email messages to the project mailing list.

A total of 4,255 comment submissions were received during the 60-day public comment period, of which 3,354 were part of organized letter-writing

campaigns and 901 were unique comment submissions. The BLM and FWS considered all comments received during the extended comment period in the preparation of the Final Supplemental EIS. The BLM and FWS responded to substantive comments and made appropriate revisions in the Final Supplemental EIS or explained why a comment did not warrant a change, as documented in Appendix F of the Final Supplemental EIS.

The BLM's 2024 ROD decision is to terminate the UDOT ROW grant issued on January 13, 2021, and to endorse the Red Hills Parkway Expressway alternative. The termination of the BLM ROW grant is effective immediately. The FWS's ROD amends the 2021 ITP to authorize incidental take of the desert tortoise to Washington County caused by covered activities, without the Northern Corridor changed circumstance. The amended ITP reinstates take authorization of desert tortoise in the 3,341 acres of State and private land in Zone 6, previously required as mitigation under the Northern Corridor changed circumstance.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6; 40 CFR 1506.10 (2022))

**Matthew A. Preston,**  
Acting State Director.

**Anna Munoz,**  
Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 2024-30978 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4331-25-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[PO #4820000251]

#### Notice of Termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Twin Metals Project in the Superior National Forest, Lake and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of termination.

**SUMMARY:** By this notice, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northeastern States District, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is announcing the termination of the Twin Metals Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**DATES:** This termination takes effect immediately.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kurt Wadzinski, NSDO Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at 414-297-4408 or by email to [kwadzins@blm.gov](mailto:kwadzins@blm.gov).

*blm.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations, the BLM published its Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Twin Metals Project in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39206). The EIS would have analyzed the potential impacts of issuing a proposed new preference right lease (MNES 57965) and approving a mine plan of operations for that lease and an existing lease (MNES 1352) held by Twin Metals Minnesota (Twin Metals) in the Superior National Forest in Lake and St. Louis counties, Minnesota.

In October 2021, the USDA Forest Service submitted an application to withdraw the lands in question from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws. The BLM published a notice of its receipt of that application in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 58299), which segregated the lands from the operation of the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the BLM subsequently rejected the preference right lease application submitted by Twin Metals in accordance with 43 CFR 2310.2(d).

In January 2022, the Department of the Interior cancelled two hardrock mineral leases held by Twin Metals, including lease MNES 1352, because the leases were improperly renewed. Because Twin Metals did not have an underlying land use authorization, the BLM subsequently rejected the mine plan of operations. On January 31, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior issued Public Land Order 7917 (88 FR 6308), which withdrew approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws for a period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. As a result, new mineral leasing is prohibited for 20 years from the date of the withdrawal.

Based on BLM environmental policy, the bureau must announce in the **Federal Register** when it does not complete previously initiated NEPA actions.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.9)

**Mitchell Leverette,**  
Eastern States State Director.

[FR Doc. 2024-31215 Filed 12-27-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4331-18-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[PO #4820000251]

#### Public Land Order No. PLO 7954; Withdrawal of National Forest System Lands for the Schwartz and Leff Administrative Site; California

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Public land order.

**SUMMARY:** This Public Land Order (PLO) withdraws 39.6 acres of National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws or disposal under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, for a period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights, to protect the integrity of the historic and cultural resources located within the Schwartz and Leff Administrative Site along the North Fork of the Salmon River in Siskiyou County, California.

**DATES:** This PLO takes effect on December 30, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heather Daniels, BLM California State Office, telephone: (916) 978-4674, email: [hdaniels@blm.gov](mailto:hdaniels@blm.gov); or Zareen Ali, Forest Service Regional Office, telephone: (707) 562-8964 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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:** The United States Forest Service will manage the lands to protect the integrity of the historic and cultural resources located within the Schwarz and Leff Administrative Site along the North Fork of the Salmon River in the Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou County, California.

### Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section