

advertised a joint public scoping meeting, held on July 7, 1993. The scoping process was initiated in accordance with NEPA to solicit comments from a variety of Federal, State, and local entities on issues/alternatives to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. A report was prepared in September 1993, summarizing the scoping process. A joint Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR/EIS, and Notice of Receipt of applications for incidental take permits associated with the Orange County Central/Coastal Subregion NCCP Plan/HCP, was published in the Federal Register on December 15, 1995 (60 FR 64447).

Adverse and beneficial effects, associated with the implementation of each alternative, were described in the Draft EIR/EIS. The Service received 76 letters of comment on the Draft EIR/EIS that mainly focused on the following issues: (1) Creation of a permanent habitat Reserve System; (2) Headlands/Pacific pocket mouse issues; (3) reserve design and process; (4) habitat coverage; (5) species coverage; (6) adequacy of biological linkages/connectivity; (7) Coal Canyon habitat linkage; (8) El Toro Marine Corps Air Station; (9) extension of the comment period; (10) changes requested by local jurisdictions; (11) revisions to the draft IA; (12) role of adaptive management; and (13) assurance of implementation. Copies of all comments received and responses to all comments are available for public review. The Draft EIR/EIS, Draft NCCP Plan/HCP, and Draft IA were revised, where appropriate, based on public comments. No new issues or additional significant impacts were identified as a result of public comment on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Alternatives Analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS

Due to the scale of the NCCP program for the Subregion, the lead agencies assessed various regional conservation strategies and reserve designs. Four alternatives were advanced for detailed analysis in the Final EIR/EIS: (1) Proposed Project Alternative (approve and implement the NCCP Plan/HCP), (2) No Project/No Action Alternative, (3) No Take Alternative, and (4) a Programmatic Alternative. Each alternative was evaluated for its potential to result in significant adverse environmental impacts, and the adequacy or inadequacy of the proposed measures to avoid, minimize, and substantially reduce and mitigate such negative effects.

The Service's preferred action is approval of the NCCP Plan/HCP, and issuance of incidental take permits with

the mitigating, minimizing, and monitoring measures outlined in the Proposed Project Alternative. (See Background section for a description of this alternative).

Under the No Project/No Action Alternative, a comprehensive regional conservation strategy would not be undertaken, and a Reserve System would not be established. Development would occur as planned by the local jurisdictions. Protection of the coastal California gnatcatcher and its CSS habitat, and other federally listed species, would occur on a project-by-project basis through the section 7 and section 10 processes of the Act, as appropriate. Other unlisted species might be protected if included in the planning process for each project.

The No Take Alternative is similar to the No Project Alternative, except that it assumes that no take of gnatcatchers or their associated habitat would be allowed within the Subregion pursuant to section 9 of the Act, and that the section 7 and 10 processes would not be used to authorize or exempt such incidental take. Development would be limited to those projects that do not result in take of the gnatcatcher or its occupied habitat. Protection of other species (not federally listed) would occur only to the extent currently required by State environmental regulations.

Similar to the Proposed Project Alternative, the Programmatic Alternative would involve a subregional conservation strategy, including the creation of a large-scale habitat reserve and the implementation of a long-term management program. However, under the programmatic approach, specific boundaries for a habitat reserve system and design of the management program would be developed over time, as specific projects requiring mitigation are undertaken that contribute mitigation fees or dedication lands to a management entity.

The underlying goal of the Proposed Project Alternative is to implement ecosystem-based conservation measures, aimed at the protection of multiple species and multiple habitats on a regional scale, while accommodating compatible development. The Central and Coastal Orange County NCCP Plan/HCP would result in the implementation of a comprehensive reserve strategy for CSS and related habitats in the Subregion, that is expected to provide long-term benefits to the coastal California gnatcatcher and 43 other covered species and their habitats. The Service intends to approve the Orange County Central/Coastal NCCP Plan/HCP and issue section 10

incidental take permits to the applicants.

Dated: May 23, 1996.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, OR.

[FR Doc. 96-13538 Filed 5-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-933-1430-01; IDI-31741]

Notice of Public Meetings for Proposed Land Withdrawal; Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Air Force proposes to withdraw 11,583.34 acres under Alternative Site No. 1 or 9,673.34 acres under Alternative Site No. 2 of public land from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, mining laws and mineral leasing laws, for the Mountain Home Air Force Base Enhanced Training in Idaho (ETI) site. Several public meetings will be held to gather comments on the proposal, at the dates, times, places and addresses described in this Notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Hedrick, BLM Idaho State Office, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706-2500, 208-384-3197.

The Department of the Air Force proposes that 11,583.34 acres under Alternative Site No. 1 or 9,673.34 acres under Alternative Site No. 2 of public land be withdrawn for a period of 20 years to provide protection of the ETI. The lands are described as follows:

Boise Meridian

(Alternative Site No. 1)—Proposal: Clover Butte Drop Zone

T. 12 S., R. 8 E.,

Sec. 10, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 13;

Sec. 14;

Sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 23 to 26 inclusive;

Sec. 27, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 34, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 35.

T. 12 S., R. 9 E.,

Sec. 7, lot 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 17 to 20 inclusive;

Sec. 29 to 32 inclusive.

(No Drop Zone)

T. 11 S., R. 4 E.,

Sec. 23, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 9 S., R. 6 E.,

Sec. 21.
T. 13 S., R. 4 E.,
Sec. 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

(Emitters)

T. 8 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 34, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 9 S., R. 6 E.,
Sec. 15, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 11 S., R. 4 E.,
Sec. 23, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 11 S., R. 5 E.,
Sec. 17, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 12 S., R. 3 E.,
Sec. 26, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 12 S., R. 10 E.,
Sec. 30, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ within lot 4.
T. 13 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The areas described aggregate 11,583.34 acres in Owyhee County.

(Alternative Site No. 2)—Proposal; Grasmere Drop Zone

T. 11 S., R. 4 E.,
Secs. 25 to 27 inclusive;
Secs. 34, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 35.
T. 11 S., R. 5 E.,
Sec. 30, lots 1 to 4 inclusive;
Sec. 31, lots 1 to 4 inclusive.
T. 12 S., R. 4 E.,
Secs. 1 to 4 inclusive;
Sec. 9;
Sec. 10, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 12;
Sec. 13, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 14, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 15, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

(No Drop Zone)

T. 12 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 20, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 9 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 21.
T. 13 S., R. 4 E.,
Sec. 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

(Emitters)

T. 8 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 34, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 9 S., R. 6 E.,
Sec. 15, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 11 S., R. 4 E.,
Sec. 23, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 11 S., R. 5 E.,
Sec. 17, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 12 S., R. 3 E.,
Sec. 26, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 12 S., R. 10 E.,
Sec. 30, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ within lot 4.
T. 13 S., R. 9 E.,
Sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The areas described aggregate 9,673.34 acres in Owyhee County.

Two (2) public meetings are scheduled at the following dates, times, places, and addresses:

1. July 2, 1996, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Lion's Den, Jordan Valley, Oregon.
2. July 1, 1996, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Elko County Library, 720 Court Street, Elko, Nevada.

These meetings are the first step in soliciting public comments on the proposed withdrawal. Information gathered at these meetings will be used in the development of an environmental impact statement (EIS). Comments given at these meetings should focus on the merits of the proposal, the feasibility of the identified alternatives, the availability of other alternatives, issues which should be addressed in the EIS, any other comments the public wishes the Air Force and BLM to consider, and any questions concerning the withdrawal proposal. Those who desire to submit written statements, should file them not later than August 1, 1996, to BLM/USAF, P.O. Box 329, Boise, Idaho 83701-0329.

Dated: May 23, 1996.

J. David Brunner,
Deputy State Director for Resource Services.
[FR Doc. 96-13592 Filed 5-30-96; 8:45 am]
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[MT-924-1430-01; MTM 84500]

Notice of Intent to Prepare a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Analysis; Notice of Public Meetings; Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a NEPA analysis on a mineral withdrawal in southwestern Montana.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), concurrence proposes to withdraw approximately 19,100 acres of Federal lands from location and entry under the mining laws to protect the watersheds within the drainages of the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone, Soda Butte Creek, and the Stillwater River, and the water quality and fresh water fishery resources within Yellowstone National Park. The FE and BLM will jointly prepare a NEPA analysis and, if necessary, amend Custer and Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plans. The FES will recommend a preferred alternative. This is a separate action not connected to the ongoing New World Mine EIS being prepared by the Gallatin National Forest.

The following described National Forest System lands are affected by this proposal:

Principal Meridian, Montana

T. 8 S., R. 14 E.,
Sec. 25, surveyed;
Sec. 33, partly surveyed;
Secs. 34 to 36, inclusive, surveyed.
T. 9 S., R. 14 E.,
Secs. 1 to 28, inclusive;
Secs. 33 to 36, inclusive, partly surveyed.
T. 8 S., R. 15 E.,
Secs. 30 and 31.
T. 9 S., R. 15 E.,
Secs. 5 to 8, inclusive;
Secs. 17 to 20, inclusive;
Secs. 29 to 32, inclusive.

The areas described aggregate approximately 19,100 acres in Park County, Montana.

DATES: The public meetings will be held on Monday, July 15, 1996, in Red Lodge, Montana, at the LuPine Inn, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, 1996, in Cooke City, Montana, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall; on Wednesday, July 17, 1996, in Cody, Wyoming, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cody Club Room; and on July 18, 1996, Livingston, Montana, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the park County Courthouse.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal NEPA Analysis Team, BLM, Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Thompson, Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal NEPA Analysis Team, BLM, Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406-255-2852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the Federal Register, 60 FR 45732, September 1, 1995, which segregated the lands described from location and entry under the mining laws. Notice is hereby given that a series of meetings will be held to provide an opportunity for public involvement regarding the proposed withdrawal and the preparation of a NEPA analysis by the FS and BLM. These meetings fulfill the public meeting requirements for withdrawals proposals under 43 CFR Part 2310.3-1. Comments and recommendations on this proposal should be received by August 29, 1996.

Dated: May 24, 1996.

Thomas P. Lonnie,
Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

Dated: May 24, 1996.

Nancy T. Curriden,
Forest Supervisor Custer National Forest.
[FR Doc. 96-13692 Filed 5-30-96; 8:45 am]

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