

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of the ESA and our endangered species program. Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer required under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The ESA requires the development of a recovery plan for endangered or threatened species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. The draft recovery plan for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* was available for public comment from October 15, 2003, to December 15, 2003 (68 FR 59414). Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan and is summarized in the appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to the appropriate Federal agencies or other entities so they can take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery actions.

Sidalcea oregana var. *calva* was listed as an endangered species on December 22, 1999 (64 FR 71680). This rare, attractive member of the mallow family (Malvaceae) is endemic to Chelan County, Washington, where it is found in wetlands and moist meadows of the Wenatchee Mountains. Just five populations are known, and four of these five number from only eight to a few hundred individuals. Populations occur on a mixture of private, State, and Federal lands. Critical habitat was designated for this species on September 6, 2001 (66 FR 46536).

The primary threats to *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* include habitat fragmentation, degradation, or loss due to conversion of native wetlands to orchards and other agricultural uses; rural residential development and associated impacts; altered hydrology; competition from native and nonnative plants; recreational impacts; woody plant encroachment; and activities associated with fire suppression. To a lesser extent the species is threatened by

livestock grazing, road construction, and timber harvesting and associated impacts including changes in surface runoff. The species is highly vulnerable to extirpation from demographic factors or random, naturally occurring events due to the very small size of most of the remaining populations.

The primary objective of this recovery plan is to recover the plant to the point that it can be delisted under the ESA. Actions necessary to achieve this objective include: (1) Maintaining the current geographical distribution of the species through effective management and coordination with private landowners and other agencies; (2) identifying potential habitat and developing a sound protocol for reintroducing the species within its historical range; (3) conducting research and monitoring essential to the conservation of the species; (4) collecting seed representing the genetic diversity of the species across its range and storing it in a secure facility; (5) surveying to identify potential additional populations; and (6) developing outreach materials to provide information about the species, its habitat, and management recommendations to local landowners.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: July 22, 2004.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 04-22188 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WO-310-1310-01-PB-241A and OMB Control Number 1004-0034]

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On February 7, 2003, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 6505) requesting comments on the collection. The comment period closed on April 8, 2003. BLM received one comment. You may obtain copies of the proposed collection of information and related explanatory material by contacting the

BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below.

OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration, your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be directed within 30 days to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0034), at OMB-OIRA via facsimile to (202) 395-6566 or e-mail to OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov. Please provide a copy of your comments to the BLM Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630) Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

Nature of Comments: We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;
3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
4. Ways to minimize the information collection burden on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title: Oil and Gas Lease Transfers by Assignment of Record Title or Operating Rights (Sublease) (43 CFR 3106, 3135, 3216).

OMB Approval Number: 1004-0034.

Abstract: Respondents supply information on these forms (3000-3 and 3000-3a) to assign/transfer an interest in an oil and gas or geothermal lease.

Form Numbers: 3000-3 and 3000-3a.

Frequency: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: Individuals, small businesses, large corporations.

Estimated Completion Time: 30 minutes each form.

Annual Responses: 60,000.

Filing Fee Per Response: \$25 for oil and gas and \$50 for geothermal.

Annual Burden Hours: 30,000.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Ian Senio, (202) 452-5033.

Dated: September 24, 2004.

Ian Senio,

*Bureau of Land Management, Information
Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-22094 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-080-1310-00]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Chapita Wells-Stagecoach Area Gas Development Project, Uintah County, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and notice of
scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah, will be preparing an EIS on EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) proposed gas development on about 31,872 acres in the Chapita Wells-Stagecoach Area gas producing region. The Vernal Field Office Manager will be the authorized officer for this project.

DATES: A 30-day public scoping period will begin on the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. A public scoping open house and information meeting will be conducted during the scoping period. Details on this meeting will be released to the public at least 15 days from the scheduled date. If you have any information, data or concerns related to potential impacts of the proposed action, including the issues identified above, or have suggestions for additional alternatives, please submit them to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Written scoping comments should be sent to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, ATTN: QEP Field Development Project.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They may be published as part of the EIS and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, you must state this prominently at the

beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Nitschke-Sinclear, 435-781-4437 or e-mail: jean_nitschke-sinclear@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area is located about 30 miles southeast of Vernal, Utah. It involves about 71% BLM-administered lands (22,693 acres); 6% (1,914 acres) State of Utah-administered lands; 21% Northern Ute Tribal and/or allotted lands administered by the BIA (6,577 acres); and, 2% (688 acres) patented land. Currently 325 producing gas wells, with their attendant service roads, exist within the project area, and about 100 additional wells have been approved for drilling under a Decision Record, dated April 11, 2000, entitled Chapita Wells Unit Infill Development, Uintah County, Utah (EA No. UT-080-1999-032). There are currently no oil wells or produced water disposal wells in the project area. EOG's long term development plan includes drilling additional wells at the rate of about 90 wells per year, over a period of 7 years, or until the resource base is fully developed. A total of up to 627 new wells would be drilled. Of these, 473 would be new locations and 154 would be twins drilled from existing locations (representing 25% of the total new wells that would be drilled). About 3% of the total wells drilled may result in dry holes. The total number of wells drilled would depend largely on factors outside of EOG's control, such as production success, engineering technology, economic factors, availability of commodity markets, and lease stipulations and restrictions.

Required infrastructure includes electric power lines, roads, gas flowlines and pipelines, well pads, water injection facilities, and gas treatment facilities. Gas would be transported via pipeline to existing centralized compression and treatment facilities. Produced water would be trucked to approved evaporation pits or EOG water injection wells where it would be re-injected into the oil reservoir or disposal zone via an injection well system. Major issues at this time include potential impacts on desert and semi-desert ecosystems and their dependent wildlife species (including antelope, sage grouse, white-tailed prairie dog colonies and their associated species), vegetation (including noxious weeds and reclamation), and riparian habitat associated with the Green River

corridor. Alternatives identified at this time include the proposed action, the no action alternatives and in accordance with national policy, an alternative incorporating Best Management Practices designed to reduce the environmental effects of production operations. Best Management Practices considered could include burial of flowlines in the roadbeds for transport of condensate, water and gas to centralized facilities, more extensive interim reclamation of production areas, and other techniques designed to substantially reduce the footprint of new and existing oil and gas production facilities and infrastructure."

Dated: September 20, 2004.

William Stringer,

Vernal Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 04-22056 Filed 9-30-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO 850-1820-XA-241A]

Acceptance of Electronic Forms and Digital Signatures

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will accept the electronic submission of forms, including the use of digital signatures where practicable.

DATES: October 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop LS 1000, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on BLM's online forms, Karen Wrenn, BLM Forms Manager, 303-236-0233. For information on BLM's e-Government initiative, Peter G. D. Ertman, BLM e-Government Program Manager, 202-452-7706.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective October 1, 2004, the BLM will accept as "properly filed" any form in electronic format that was previously available only in paper format. If you choose to file on-line, you must use the forms available from <http://www.nc.blm.gov/blmforms>. BLM will not accept as "properly filed" the use of electronic forms in other formats or from other sources. In addition to using the form from the BLM forms Web site, you must also have a Federal Bridge Trusted credential. This credential provides a secure means of identifying you across the Internet. At the present time, you may obtain these credentials from two