

Clark County and the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Mesquite, and Boulder City are seeking a 30-year permit for the incidental take of federally-listed threatened and endangered species, and other non-listed species of concern in the event that these species become listed under the Act during the term of the permit, in connection with the development of non-Federal lands within Clark County, Nevada. In addition, the Nevada Department of Transportation has joined as an Applicant for the permit to allow the incidental take of desert tortoise within desert tortoise habitat below 5,000 feet in elevation and south of the 38th parallel in Nye, Lincoln, Mineral, and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada, and the incidental take of other non-listed species of concern within Clark County in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads, highways, and material sites.

The permit to the Applicants would authorize incidental take of 79 species on no more than 145,000 acres of land potentially available for development in Clark County. This acreage includes non-Federal lands that currently exist and non-Federal lands which result from sales or transfers from the Federal government after the issuance of the permit. This acreage excludes existing development, the Boulder City Conservation Easement established under the current Desert Conservation Plan for the desert tortoise, and State lands managed for resource values. The 79 species proposed for incidental take coverage under the Multispecies Plan (covered species) include 2 listed species (the desert tortoise and the southwestern willow flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii extimus*), 1 candidate for listing (Blue Diamond cholla, *Opuntia whipplei* var. *multigeniculata*), and 76 unlisted species including 4 mammals, 7 birds, 14 reptiles, 1 amphibian, 10 invertebrates, and 40 plants.

To minimize and mitigate the impacts of take of species, the Applicants propose to impose a \$550-per-acre development fee and maintain an endowment fund that will provide up to \$4.1 million per biennial period to fund conservation measures for covered species and to administer the Multispecies Plan. The plan includes measures to implement a public information and education program; purchase grazing allotments and interest in real property and water; maintain and manage allotments, land, and water rights which have been acquired; construct barriers to wildlife movement along linear features such as roads; translocate displaced desert tortoises;

participate in and fund local habitat rehabilitation and enhancement programs; and develop and implement an adaptive management process that allows for responses to new information.

The underlying purpose of the Multispecies Plan is to achieve a balance between (1) long-term conservation of natural habitat and native plant and animal diversity that are an important part of the natural heritage of Clark County, and (2) the orderly and beneficial use of land in order to promote the economy, health, well-being, and custom and culture of the growing population of Clark County, Nevada.

On March 3, 1997, the Service published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 9443) announcing that the we would take the lead in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement addressing the Federal actions associated with the Multispecies Plan. The notice invited comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. Our consideration of the comments received were reflected in the Draft Multispecies Plan/Environmental Impact Statement made available for comment (65 FR 36709).

The Draft Multispecies Plan/Environmental Impact Statement analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Federal action requested in support of the proposed development of up to 145,000 acres of non-Federal land in Clark County, and identified various alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Multispecies Plan, the Low Elevation Ecosystems Multispecies Plan, a Permit Only for Threatened or Endangered and Candidate Species, and Alternative Permit Durations for the Multispecies Plan. Alternatives considered but not advanced for further analysis included a Permit to Include the Entire Mojave Desert Ecosystem, a Permit to Mitigate Impacts Only on Non-Federal Lands, and a High Elevation Ecosystems Multispecies Plan.

The analysis provided in the Final Multispecies Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is intended to accomplish the following: Inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives; address public comment received during the scoping period; disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each of the alternatives; and indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

Dated: September 14, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Deputy Manager, Region 1, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 00-24199 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Exchange of Lands With Federal Interest on South Fox Island, Leelanau County, Michigan, Between the State of Michigan and a Private Citizen

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior, lead; National Park Service, Interior, cooperating.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed exchange of lands with Federal interest on South Fox Island, Leelanau County, Michigan.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) intends to gather the information necessary for the preparation of an EA. The actions to be evaluated by this EA are: (1) The approval by FWS of the exchange of 325.8 acres, acquired by the State with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration assistance, for lands with equal monetary and wildlife restoration values; (2) the approval by the National Park Service (NPS) for the State to exchange 115.1 acres with NPS interest for private lands with equal or better public value; and (3) the related exchange of 212.4 acres of unencumbered State-owned land for fee title and easements for private lands of equal value. All acreage is approximate. This will consolidate and confine State ownership to approximately the northern one-third of South Fox Island, Leelanau County, Michigan, about 30 miles WNW of Charlevoix, in Lake Michigan.

The Service Regional Director is considering, under the authority of 50 CFR 80.14 and 43 CFR 12.71, exchange of lands acquired with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds. The NPS and General Service's Administration are considering the removal of a title reversion clause to allow the disposal of certain lands on South Fox Island and for the placement of a title reversion clause on replacement lands of equal public value. Alternatives could include approval, disapproval, or modification of the State's current proposal of the land exchange. Modifications could include, but are not limited to: changes

in the boundaries and acreage of tracts to be exchanged; elimination of the NPS tract from the exchange; and deed restrictions on private lands to protect wildlife and historic resources.

This notice is being furnished as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22). The intent of the notice is to obtain suggestions and additional information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EA. Comments and participation in this scoping process are solicited.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 23, 2000. A scoping meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2000 at Charlevoix City Hall, 215 State Street, Charlevoix, Michigan, with duplicate sessions from 2 to 5 pm and from 7 to 10 pm. This meeting will also be announced in the local news media.

Public Involvement: The public will be invited to participate in the scoping process, a public meeting, and review of the draft EA when it is produced. One scoping meeting is scheduled on October 12, 2000, at the Charlevoix, Michigan City Hall and will be announced in the local news media. Release of the draft EA for public comment will also be announced in the local news media, as these dates are established. Written scoping comments should be received within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent.

All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6(f)]. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If a respondent wishes us to withhold his/her name and/or address, this must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comment.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Regional Director, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111. Electronic mail comments may also be submitted within the comment period to: fw3foxisland@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Craig Czarnecki, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, East Lansing Field Office, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48823, telephone: (517) 351-8470, facsimile: (517) 351-1443; Mr. Jon Parker, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111; telephone: 612-713-5142, facsimile: (612) 713-5290; or Mr. John Kelly, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109, telephone (617) 223-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 115.1-acre State owned tract with NPS and GSA interest contains the South Fox Island Lighthouse facilities that are either listed or are likely eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places; other historical or archeological resources may be present. The National Historic Preservation Act and other laws require these properties and resources be identified and considered in project planning. The public is requested to inform the FWS of concerns about archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns.

The NPS tract also includes proposed Critical Habitat for the Federally Endangered Piping plover. The tract also contains Federally Threatened Pitcher's thistle, which is also present at other locations on the island.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has unresolved claims to title and other property rights on the island. There is an Indian cemetery on the private lands.

There have been ongoing conflicts over trespass on both public and private land parcels on the island. Public access is an ongoing issue.

The Service estimates that the draft EA will be made available to the public by early November, 2000.

Barbara Milne,

Acting Regional Director, Region 3, Fort Snelling, MN.

[FR Doc. 00-24249 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin

Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss *et seq.*). The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force (Task Force) will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2000 and from 8 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2000.

PLACE: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Miner's Inn, 122 East Miner Street Yreka, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald A. Iverson, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, California 96097, telephone (530) 842-5763.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For background information on the Task Force, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: September 8, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting California/Nevada Operations Manager, California/Nevada Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00-24369 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), Pub. L. 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved the Tribal-State Compact for Class III Gaming Between the Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe and the State of Washington, which was executed on April 20, 2000.

DATES: This action is effective September 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, 20240, (202) 219-4066.