

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from Mr. Robert Campbell for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize take of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara distinct population segment), incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the Campbell Home Ranch draft low-effect habitat conservation plan. We invite public comment.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: *To obtain documents:* You may download a copy of the draft habitat conservation plan and draft low-effect screening form and environmental action statement at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>, or you may request copies of the documents by sending U.S. mail to our Ventura office, or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

To submit written comments: Please send us your written comments using one of the following methods:

- *U.S. mail:* Send your comments to: Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003.
- *Facsimile:* Fax your comments to 805-644-3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Henry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, 805-677-3312 (phone), or at the Ventura address in **ADDRESSES**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have received an application from Mr. Robert Campbell (applicant) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA). The applicant has agreed to follow all of the conditions in the draft habitat conservation plan for the project. The permit would authorize take of the Santa Barbara distinct population segment of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the draft Campbell Home Ranch Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). We invite public comment on the application, the draft HCP, draft low-effect screening form, and environmental action statement.

Background

The Santa Barbara distinct population segment (DPS) of the California tiger

salamander was listed by the Service as endangered on September 21, 2000 (65 FR 57242). Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. “Take” is defined under the ESA to include the following activities: “[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532); however, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. “Incidental take” is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Under the ESA, protections for federally listed plants differ from the protections afforded to federally listed animals. Issuance of an incidental take permit also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. All species included in the incidental take permit would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Applicant's Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the California tiger salamander. The potential take will occur in association with activities necessary for the installation and operation of vineyard, berries and other agricultural development activities and/or construction of a residential development including one single-family residence. The HCP includes avoidance and minimization measures for the covered species and mitigation for unavoidable loss of occupied upland habitat through establishment of a conservation easement on applicant-owned land.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that issuance of the incidental take permit is neither a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), nor will it individually or cumulatively have more than a negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the permit qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, draft HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: September 27, 2017.

Stephen P. Henry,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office Ventura, California.

[FR Doc. 2017-21914 Filed 10-10-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: Harris County, Texas

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) from RKE-2 Real Estate, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, pursuant to Section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, and the implementing regulations for certain surface land located in Harris County, Texas. This Notice is intended to inform the public of the pending application, give notice of BLM's intention to grant the requested DRI, and provide a public comment period for the proposed Disclaimer of Interest.

DATES: Comments on this action should be received by January 9, 2018. Absent any valid objection, this Notice will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior and an RDI may be issued January 9, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Additional information pertaining to this application can be reviewed in case file TXNM136311 located in the BLM Oklahoma Field Office, 201 Stephenson Parkway, Room 1200, Norman, OK 73072–2037. Written comments must be sent to the Deputy State Director, Lands and Resources, BLM, New Mexico State Office, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502–0115.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Ledbetter, Realty Specialist, BLM Oklahoma Field Office, (405) 579–7172, jledbetter@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 the above individual during normal business hours. The Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RKE–2 Real Estate, LLC, submitted an application for a Disclaimer of Interest pursuant to Section 315 of the FLPMA, as amended, and the implementing regulations in 43 CFR subpart 1864. The purpose of this Disclaimer is to remove a cloud on the title of the surface estate of a parcel of land situated in Harris County, Texas.

By deed dated October 6, 1936, the United States Department of Agriculture obtained multiple tracts of land in Harris County, Texas. In describing the acquired land, the acquisition deed first cited the legal description as “Lots 1 to 16 inclusive of Block 18 of Highland Farms,” as well as multiple other tracts. Following this initial description of the lots and blocks, the deed continued by restating the description of the same area as “more particularly described by metes and bounds,” and went on to cite a lengthy metes and bounds description.

On January 1, 1944, the United States disposed of these acquired properties, except and reserving to the United States three-quarters of the oil, gas, coal, and other mineral rights. The resulting quitclaim deed cited the same metes and bounds description that was used in the 1936 acquisition deed, omitting the lots and blocks description. Thereafter, certain subsequent deeds, purporting to convey this same property, cited the lots and blocks descriptions included in the 1936 deed. It was apparently unknown at the time and did not become known until sometime later that these two descriptions of the same land from the 1936 deed did not match exactly. Due to the 1936 deed legal description inconsistency, the 1944 deed and other subsequent deeds were plagued with the same inconsistency in the description.

The historical evidence provided by the applicant in the form of deeds and correctional documents demonstrate and support that the two descriptions used in the 1936 acquisition deed were not identical. This inconsistency remains to date and causes a cloud on the title.

The BLM New Mexico State Office Cadastral Survey Program has reviewed and compared the legal land descriptions of the 1936 and 1944 deeds. According to the Land Surveyor Report dated September 26, 2016, the land description in the two deeds do not appear to be identical. However, since the subdivision plat is lacking in detail, and the two descriptions purport to describe the same property, the metes and bounds description must be either based on a survey the BLM does not have access to, or is the wrong interpretation of the plat. The discrepancy in descriptions manifests itself as a 0.2813-acre triangular parcel within Lot 16, Block 18, Highland Farms, and creates a cloud on the title. The BLM believes that the intent of the 1944 disposition deed was to dispose of the entire surface estate of the lot acquired in 1936, and not to reserve this triangular parcel. Therefore, in order to remove the cloud on the title to the lot, the BLM intends to disclaim the land described as:

Harris, Texas

All of Lot 16, Block 18, Highland Farms according to the plat or map recorded in Volume 7, Page 60 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas (surface estate only).

This proposed RDI does not address any mineral interest that may still be vested with the United States of America.

The public is hereby notified that comments may be submitted to the Deputy State Director, Lands and Resources at the address shown above within the comment period identified in the notice. Any adverse comments will be evaluated by the State Director who may modify or vacate this action and issue a final determination.

In the absence of any valid objection, this Notice will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior and a RDI may be issued 90 days from publication of this Notice.

Comments, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public review at the BLM New Mexico State Office (see address above), during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 43 CFR 1864.2(a).

Melanie Barnes,

Deputy State Director, Lands and Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYR01000 L14400000.ER0000 17X; WYW–165353]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Alkali Creek Reservoir Project, Big Horn County, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), through the Worland Field Office, Worland, Wyoming, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Alkali Creek Reservoir Project (Project). The BLM, through this Notice, is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: Comments may be submitted in writing until November 13, 2017. In order to be included in the analysis, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation, as appropriate. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media, newspapers, and the BLM ePlanning Web site at: <http://rebrand.ly/AlkaliCreekReservoirEIS>.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** BLM_WY_AlkaliCreekReservoirEIS@blm.gov.
- **Fax:** 307–347–5128.