

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*):

PRT-840307

Applicant: James Clinton Nalley, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during surveys) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in Georgetown County, South Carolina, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

PRT-840384

Applicant: Brian W. Keeley, Bat Conservation, International, Inc., Austin, Texas.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during surveys) the endangered gray bat, *Myotis grisescens*, Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, and Ozark big-eared bat, *Plecotus townsendii* ingens, from throughout the species' ranges in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Written data or comments on these applications should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received by April 20, 1998.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-7313; Fax: 404/679-7081.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-7274 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[HE-952-9911-24 1A; OMB Approval Number 1004-NEW]

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review 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 (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On August 29, 1997, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 45867) requesting comments on this proposed collection. The comment period ended October 28, 1997. No comments were received from the public in response to this notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM 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 of your comments, suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-NEW), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Nature of Comments

We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for BLM's proper functioning, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: In-Kind Crude Helium Contract.
OMB Approval Number: 1004-NEW.
Abstract: BLM is seeking OMB approval to collect information under a

revised helium distribution contract, called. The Helium Privatization Act of 1996 altered the method by which private firms can acquire Federal helium gas. This required revising the contract. Two reporting formats are attached to the contract. One requests information about deliveries of refined helium to a Federal agency or Federal agency contractor. The other requests information about the sales of refined helium. Deliveries are reported quarterly; sales are reported annually.

Bureau Form Number: Part of contract, 1004-NEW (to be supplied when OMB attaches an approval number.)

Frequency of Collection: Annually for sales, quarterly for deliveries.

Description of Respondents:

Respondents are holders of approved helium distribution contracts. These contracts allow qualified entities to receive Federal crude helium gas according to the amount of refined helium supplied to Federal agencies and their contractors. Estimated completion time: 15 minutes, four times a year, for reporting deliveries; 30 minutes, once a year, for reporting sales; plus record keeping time of 5 minutes four times per year.

Annual Respondents: 14.

Annual Responses: 70.

Annual Burden Hours: 26.8, including record keeping.

Information Collection Clearance Officer: Carole Smith, (202) 452-0367.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

Carole Smith,

BLM Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-7231 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4316-84-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-066-08-1610-00]

Proposed South Coast Resource Management Plan Amendment, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will prepare an environmental assessment and proposed

South Coast Resource Management Plan amendment affecting public lands within the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office management area. The proposed plan amendment would consist of three separate amendments. Amendment One would change the disposal categories of two parcels of BLM public land from R for retention to P for protective disposal. Amendment Two proposes to designate three existing Stephens' Kangaroo Rat core reserves in western Riverside County as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Amendment Three proposes to adjust the boundary of the Santa Ana River Wash ACEC from 755 to 595 acres.

DATES: Citizens are requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed plan amendments. Recommendations from citizens regarding additional plan amendments may also be considered, for example, new ACECs or changing land use designations. Comments must be submitted no later than April 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments in writing to the following address: Ms. Julia Dougan, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, P.O. Box 1260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260. Citizens submitting comments will automatically be included in the mailing list to receive a copy of the Proposed Plan Amendments and Environmental Assessment when available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elena Misquez, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, telephone (760) 251-4800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The affected public land parcels in Amendment One are located in Township 5 South, Range 4 West, Section 22 (19.8 acres; BLM parcel No. 176-221), and in portions of Sections 29, 31, 32, Township 8 South, Range 2 West and part of Section 6, Township 9 South, Range 2 West (970.94 acres; BLM parcel No. 219-291). The BLM is proposing to change the disposal category of these two parcels from R for retention to P for protective disposal, in which these lands would be made available for disposal from BLM stewardship provided the new land owner will compensate or protect any sensitive resources contained on those lands. If the proposed amendment is approved, these lands would then be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by Act of Congress for the benefit

of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians.

Amendment Two. In 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted a Section 10(a) permit to the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) which allowed take of the federally-listed-as-endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) thereby facilitating new construction in western Riverside County. To compensate for the loss of the SKR, seven core reserves were established by the RCHCA for the protection of SKR habitat. Negotiations are in progress such that BLM may take responsibility for managing three of these core reserves. To be consistent with the management objectives for which the SKR reserves were established, BLM proposes to designate the three core reserves as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The three core reserves are located as follows: (1) Estelle Mountain Reserve in portions of Sections 13, 14, 22-24, Township 4 South, Range 6 West; in portions of Sections 18-20, 29-33 Township 4 South and 5 West; in portions of Sections 4-8, Township 5 South, Range 5 West; (2) Badlands Core Reserve in portions of Sections 2, 4 and 10, Township 3 South, Range 2 West; (3) Steele Peak Reserve in portions of Sections 4, 9, 20, Township 5 South, Range 4 West, and portions of Sections 27, 32, Township 4 South, Range 4 West.

Amendment Three. The Santa Ana River Wash ACEC contains an illegally created pit in the NE 1/4 of Section 10, Township 1 South, Range 3 West. This quarter section (160 acres) does not contain pristine Alluvial Sage Scrub habitat. The BLM proposes to drop this quarter section from the ACEC and to make this land available for exchange to acquire more biologically viable areas.

Nothing in this Proposed Plan shall have the effect of terminating any validly issued rights-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities in such rights-of-way in accordance with Sections 509(a) and 701(a) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

Julia Dougan,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98-7332 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-340-1430-01; CACAAA 160265]

Opening Order; California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice opens 4,607.87 acres of public lands to the operation of the public land laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. The lands were withdrawn by the Act of Congress of March 3, 1927 (44 Stat. 1359) for the Bureau of Land Management's Cow Mountain Recreation Area. The Act also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to restore any of the lands, withdrawn by that Act, to the operation of the public land laws if he or she deemed that action to be in the public interest. The Act did not withdraw the lands from either the mining or the mineral leasing laws. This opening order is necessary to facilitate the completion of a pending land exchange and other pending conveyances. The withdrawal no longer serves a needed purpose as to the lands and it is in the public interest to complete the pending lands actions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 20, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Duane Marti, BLM California State Office (CA-931.4), 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, California 95825-0451; telephone number 916-978-4675.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Act of Congress of March 3, 1927 (44 Stat. 1359) withdrew the following public lands for the Bureau of Land Management's Cow Mountain Recreation Area. The lands are withdrawn from the operation of the public land laws, but not the mining or mineral leasing laws. The lands are described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 13 N., R. 10 W.,

Sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 16 N., R. 10 W.,

Sec. 7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 17, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 18, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 19, lots 3-6, inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 20, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

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

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 29, SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 30, lots 9, 11, 12, and 16;

Sec. 31, lots 5, 10-16, inclusive.

T. 13 N., R. 11 W.,