The historic range of the black-footed ferret (Mustela nigripes) overlaps with suitable habitat supporting black-tailed, white-tailed, and Gunnison’s prairie-dog (their primary prey) in portions of the 12 States of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Canada and Mexico. The black-footed ferret was twice considered extinct or nearly extinct before all known wild ferrets were captured for captive breeding in 1985. Today, due to reintroduction efforts, 20 populations exist throughout the species’ range. However, the Service’s 1988 Recovery Plan and 2009 Spotlight Species Action Plan for the ferret advise that more ferret populations be established to move toward recovery.

Therefore, we have developed the proposed Agreement to provide incentives for landowners to volunteer lands with adequate habitat for ferret reintroductions across the historic range of the species within the United States. Under the proposed Agreement, we would issue a permit to the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Coordinator, who would then enroll willing landowners under certificates of inclusion that would confer incidental take authorization and assurances to the enrollees. Consistent with the Safe Harbor policy (64 FR 32717) and section 7 of the ESA, we would also provide non-enrolled neighboring landowners with incidental take authorization through the section 7 biological opinion and assurances to those neighbors who sign a separate agreement.

To enroll in the Agreement, an eligible landowner would voluntarily work with the Coordinator to develop a site-specific reintroduction plan. Each reintroduction plan would identify a conservation zone on the enrollee’s property, consisting of either (a) at least 1,500 acres of habitat occupied by black-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys ludovicianus) or (b) 3,000 acres occupied by white-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys leucurus) or Gunnison’s prairie dogs (Cynomys gunnisoni). The conservation zone would be targeted for ferret reintroductions. Depending on the needs of the enrollee, a management zone surrounding the conservation zone might also be established. Because grazing is considered compatible with ferret habitat, enrollees may graze their cattle in the both zones throughout the life of the reintroduction plan. If necessary, efforts to control diseases, such as sylvatic plague, will be carried out in both zones. Prairie dog control may also occur within the management zone, as necessary, but not in the conservation zone. Where beneficial, State wildlife agencies, tribes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service—Wildlife Services, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners may be party to the reintroduction plan to assist implementation by the enrolled landowner. Each reintroduction plan would have a term of 10 to 40 years within the duration of the Agreement, which is proposed to be 50 years.

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 review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.


Michael Thabault,
Acting Regional Director—Ecological Services, Mountain-Prairie Region, Denver, Colorado.

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BILLING CODE 4310–55–P
for public safety reasons. The area will be closed under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1—Closures and Restrictions and in conformance with IM 2010–028 Change 1. Due to unsafe conditions and danger to the public, it is imperative for the BLM to close the area immediately. The proposed target shooting closure would affect approximately 900 acres on the lower slopes of the southeast bench of the Lake Mountains. The closure would be in effect for two years or until an analysis of impacts is completed through the land use planning process. The Lake Mountains are a small mountain range located on the west side of Utah Lake. The range is only about 8 miles wide and 12 miles long. The city of Saratoga Springs borders the north side of the mountains and the city of Eagle Mountain is along the west side. State Highway 68 runs along the eastern bench of the Lake Mountains; it is a main arterial road and is used by residential, agricultural and recreational traffic. There are a number of communications sites on the top of the mountain as well as a major power line that runs along a lower elevation ridge. There are private residences along the lake shore. Utah Lake is a popular area for recreationists, boaters, and anglers. A lake access point known as the Knolls is one of the few public access points on the western side and is located just off Highway 68. The Lake Mountains are comprised of a mixed ownership pattern and includes lands managed by the BLM, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and several private property owners. The area is primarily used by residents of Utah and southern Salt Lake counties for target shooting. The Lake Mountains receive about 4,000 visitors each month and on weekends; as many as 400 people concentrate into five areas, including other dispersed locations. The slopes of the Lake Mountains provide a natural backstop ideal for target shooting; however, some shooters choose to target practice in the relatively flat terrain on the lower slopes. Given the topography of the area and the number of people who visit it, the area subject to this Order is not conducive to safe target shooting. Target shooting in the area has resulted in near-misses of homes, automobiles, and people. Recently, bullets shot from BLM-administered land traveled approximately 2,000 feet to neighboring private land and into a home, just missing the homeowner. In another case, school children were in the line of fire of target shooters. This closure would be made under the authority of the regulations in 43 CFR 8364.1 (a), which states: “To protect persons, property, and public lands and resources, the authorized officer may issue an order to close or restrict use of designated public lands.” The closure would be for target shooting only and would not affect legal hunting. Any person who violates the above restriction may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than $1,000, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364.1.

Jenna Whitlock, Associate State Director.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2012–0091]

Notice of Determination of No Competitive Interest, Offshore Maine

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Determination of No Competitive Interest (DNCI) for Proposed Commercial Wind Lease Offshore Maine.

SUMMARY: This notice provides BOEM’s determination that there is no competitive interest in the area requested by Statoil North America (Statoil NA) for a commercial wind lease as described in the Notice of Potential Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Offshore Maine, Request for Interest (RFI), that BOEM published on August 10, 2012, (77 FR 47877). The RFI described Statoil NA’s application for a commercial lease for a four-turbine wind energy project on the OCS off the coast of Maine, and provided an opportunity for the public to submit comments about the proposal.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Aditi Mirani, Project Coordinator, BOEM, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 381 Eelden Street, HM 1328, Herndon, Virginia 20170. (703) 787–1320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

This DNCI is published pursuant to subsection 8(p)(3) of the OCS Lands Act, which was added by section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(3)), and the implementing regulations at 30 CFR part 585. Subsection 8(p)(3) of the OCS Lands Act requires that OCS renewable energy leases, easements, and rights-of-way be issued “on a competitive basis unless the Secretary [of the Department of the Interior] determines after public notice of a proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way (ROW) that there is no competitive interest.” The Secretary delegated the authority to make such determinations to BOEM.

Determination and Next Steps

This DNCI provides notice to the public that BOEM has determined there is no competitive interest in the proposed lease area, as no indications of competitive interest were submitted in response to the RFI. In the RFI, BOEM also solicited public comment on site conditions and multiple uses within the proposed lease area that would be relevant to the proposed project or its impacts. In response to the RFI, BOEM received public comment submissions from eleven entities. BOEM will use the comments that it received to inform its subsequent decisions. After the publication of this DNCI, BOEM will proceed with the noncompetitive lease issuance process outlined at 30 CFR 585.231.

Map of the Area

A map of the area proposed for a commercial lease can be found at the following URL: http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/State-Activities/Maine.aspx.


Tommy P. Beaudreau,
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337–TA–835]

Certain Food Containers, Cups, Plates, Cutlery, and Related Items and Packaging Thereof; Commission Determination Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting a Joint Motion To Terminate the Investigation as to Respondents on the Basis of a Settlement Agreement; Termination of Investigation


ACTION: Notice.