

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the receipt of an application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit that would be issued pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application was developed in accordance with the Template Safe Harbor Agreement (Template SHA) for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*). The permit applicant is the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Issuance of a permit to WDNR would exempt incidental take of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit, which would otherwise be prohibited by section 9 of the Act, that is above the baseline conditions of WDNR properties enrolled under the Template SHA and that may result from the permittee's otherwise lawful management activities. The Service requests comments from the public regarding the proposed issuance of a permit to WDNR. All comments received will become part of the public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All comments received from organizations, businesses, or individuals representing organizations or businesses are available for public inspection in their entirety.

**DATES:** To be fully considered, written comments from interested parties must be received on or before November 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office, 11103 East Montgomery Drive, Spokane, Washington 99206. You may also send comments by facsimile, at (509) 891-6748, or by electronic mail, at: [fw1cbprabbit@fws.gov](mailto:fw1cbprabbit@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Warren at (509) 893-8020.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Availability of Documents**

Copies of the WDNR permit application, the Template SHA, and other relevant documents addressing the Service's proposed issuance of the subject permit are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Upper

Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**), or they may be viewed on the internet at the following address: <http://www.fws.gov/easternwashington/>. You may also request copies of the documents by contacting the Service's Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). The Service is furnishing this notice to provide the public, other State and Federal agencies, and interested Tribes an opportunity to review and comment on the Service's proposed issuance of a permit to the WDNR.

**Background**

On September 7, 2006, the Service announced the availability for public review and comment of a draft Template SHA, which was jointly developed by the Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and a draft Environmental Assessment, which was developed by the Service pursuant to Federal responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (71 FR 52816). The final Template SHA was signed by the Service and WDFW on October 24, 2006. To date, the Service has issued 16 Permits under the Template SHA, which cover 109,425 acres that fall within the historic distribution of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. The WDNR has requested to enroll an additional 11,148 acres of State trust lands under the Template SHA.

The primary objective of the Template SHA is to facilitate collaboration between the Service, WDFW, and prospective participants to voluntarily implement conservation measures to benefit the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. Another objective of the Template SHA is to facilitate the processing of enhancement of survival permits that will provide incidental take coverage for participants to relieve them of additional section 9 liability under the Act if implementation of their conservation measures results in increased numbers or distribution of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits on their enrolled properties.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. The Service has previously determined that implementation of the Template SHA will result in conservation benefits to the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit and will not result in significant effects to the human environment. The Service will evaluate the permit application noticed herein, related documents, and any comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application is consistent with the measures prescribed by the Template

SHA and whether it complies with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit to exempt incidental take of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit will be issued to the applicant. The final permit determination will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period, and will fully consider all comments received.

Dated: September 29, 2008.

**David J. Wesley,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. E8-23557 Filed 10-7-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[ES-020-09-1610-DO-015M]

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Jackson Field Office, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States and Associated Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management—Eastern States (BLM-ES), Jackson Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Southeastern United States and, by this notice, is announcing public scoping meetings. The RMP will bring all BLM land in the Southeastern United States under a land use plan.

**DATES:** The BLM will announce public scoping meetings to identify relevant issues through local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site [http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson\\_Home\\_Page.html](http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson_Home_Page.html) at least 15 days prior to the first meeting. We will provide formal opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft RMP/EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods: Web Site: [http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson\\_Home\\_Page.html](http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/fo/Jackson_Home_Page.html)

- E-mail: [Gary\\_Taylor@blm.gov](mailto:Gary_Taylor@blm.gov)

- Fax: (601) 977-5440

- Mail: Jackson Field Office, BLM, Attn: Gary Taylor, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, Mississippi 39206.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Jackson Field Office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Gary Taylor, telephone (601) 977-5413; or e-mail [Gary\\_Taylor@blm.gov](mailto:Gary_Taylor@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document provides notice that the BLM Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi, intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the BLM resources located in the Southeastern United States and intends to hold public scoping meetings that will be announced at a later date with public notice prior to those meetings.

The planning area is located in the States of: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. This planning activity encompasses approximately 2,000,000 acres of public lands and resources. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM management policies. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. Coal resources exist in the State of Kentucky. This notice serves as a call for coal reserve information.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. These issues also guide the planning process. You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit formal scoping comments within 30 days after the last public meeting. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views he or she expressed. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. The BLM will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety. Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date regarding the existing issues and concerns with current land management. The major issues that will be addressed in this planning effort include: future management of the Federal resources in the southeast; protection of resources such as wetlands, sensitive species habitat and historic properties while allowing oil and gas development and mining; and management of surface lands within the planning area. Because of the scattered public land ownership pattern and small size of most parcels, land tenure adjustments have the potential to provide greater efficiencies in management and reduce workloads and costs. Some of the lands may be suitable for disposal under a variety of authorities. Some may be retained in public ownership and possibly transferred to other agencies.

After public comments as to what issues the plan should address are gathered, they will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the plan as to why we placed an issue in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

Dated: October 2, 2008.

**Juan Palma,**  
State Director.

[FR Doc. E8-23803 Filed 10-7-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### National Capital Region

**ACTION:** Notice/Request for Comments—The Lighting of the National Christmas Tree and the subsequent 27 day event.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service is seeking public comments and suggestions on the planning of the 2008 Lighting of the National Christmas Tree and the subsequent 27 day event.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Park Service is seeking public comments and suggestions on the planning of the 2008 Lighting of the National Christmas Tree and the subsequent 27 day event, which opens on December 4, 2008, on the Ellipse (President's Park), south of the White House. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on November 12, 2008 in Room 234 of the National Capital Region Headquarters Building, at 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC (East Potomac Park).

Persons who would like to comment at the meeting should notify the National Park Service by November 7, 2008 by calling the White House Visitor Center weekdays between 9 a.m., and 4 p.m., at (202) 208-1631. Written comments may be sent to the Park Manager, White House Visitor Center, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242, and will be accepted until November 12, 2008.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on November 12, 2008. Written comments will be accepted until November 12, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 12, 2008, in room 234 of the National Capital Region Headquarters Building, at 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC (East Potomac Park). Written comments may be sent to the Park Manager, White House Visitor Center, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242. Due to delays in mail delivery, it is recommended that comments be provided by telefax at 202-208-1643 or by e-mail to [Scott\\_Tucker@nps.gov](mailto:Scott_Tucker@nps.gov). Comments may also be delivered by messenger to the White House Visitor Center at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., in Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Tucker at the White House Visitor Center weekdays between 9 a.m., and 4 p.m., at (202) 208-1631.