

determine whether or not to issue the ITP. If it is determined that the requirements of the Act are met, the ITP will be issued for the incidental take of the Florida scrub-jay.

Authority

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

Dated: August 21, 2013.

Larry Williams,

Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.

[FR Doc. 2013-20850 Filed 8-26-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2013-N196;
FXIA1671090000P5-123-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

DATES: We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before September 26, 2013. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by September 26, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and

in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Phoenix Herpetological Society, Scottsdale, AZ; PRT-10934B & 11018B

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female American crocodiles (*crocodylus acutus*) from the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary in Belize, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Applicant: Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA; PRT-032027

The applicant requests amendment and renewal of the permit to rescue, rehabilitate, and release southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) that are stranded along the California coast for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species section 10(a)(1)(A) and as per section 109(h)/112(c) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The request also includes authorization for euthanasia of animals too ill or injured for recovery. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal

Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[S1D1SS08011000SX066A000
67F134S180110; S2D2SS08011000SX066
A00033F13XS501520]

Notice of Intent To Initiate Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Area F of the Rosebud Coal Mine, Rosebud and Treasure Counties, Montana

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to initiate public scoping and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, and the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Western Region (WR), Denver, Colorado, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS, to be prepared in conjunction with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and its implementing rules, will analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed action to permit the operation and reclamation of the proposed Area F expansion of the Rosebud Coal Mine.

A single EIS that meets the requirements of both MEPA and NEPA and evaluates all components of the proposed project will be prepared. OSM and DEQ are requesting public comments on the scope of the EIS and significant issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: The public scoping period will be 45 days in length. Comments concerning the proposed action must be postmarked by October 11, 2013, to be considered in preparing the draft EIS.

OSM, in conjunction with DEQ, will hold a public scoping meeting in Colstrip, Montana, on Thursday, September 12, 2013, from 3pm-7pm at

the Isabel Bills Community Learning Center. The meeting will include an open house from 3pm-4pm with the opportunity to view project information. There will be brief presentations from OSM regarding the EIS process and from Western Energy Company (WECO) regarding the proposed project. Presentations will begin at 4pm followed by the opportunity for the public to provide oral and/or written testimony. If you require reasonable accommodations to attend the meeting, contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least one week before the meeting.

The draft EIS is expected to be released for public comment in the second quarter of 2014, and the final EIS is expected by the second quarter of 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted in writing or by email. At the top of your letter or in the subject line of your email message, please indicate that the comments are "Rosebud Mine Area F EIS Comments." All comments received must contain: name of commenter, postal service mailing address, and date of comment. Comments sent as an email message should be sent as an attachment to the message.

Email your comments to: osm-western-energy-area-f-eis@osmre.gov.

Mail/Hand-Delivery/Courier written comments to: Franklin Bartlett, Project Coordinator, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region, Casper Area Office, Dick Cheney Federal Building, PO Box 11018, 150 East B Street, Casper, WY 82601-7032.

The public scoping meeting on September 12, 2013, will be held at the Isabel Bills Community Learning Center located at 520 Poplar Drive, Colstrip, MT 59323.

A scoping newsletter is available upon request or an electronic copy may be viewed at (Web site): <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Franklin Bartlett, Project Coordinator, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Region, Casper Area Office, Dick Cheney Federal Building PO Box 11018, 150 East B Street, Casper, WY 82601-7032; phone: (307) 261-6543, or email: fbartlett@osmre.gov; or consult (Web site): <http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area is 12 miles west of Colstrip, Montana, in Rosebud and Treasure counties. The surface of the permit area is entirely privately owned, and the subsurface minerals are either privately

or federally held. WECO, a subsidiary of Westmoreland Coal Company, operates the Rosebud Mine.

WECO submitted a permit application (C2011003F) to DEQ in October 2011 for Area F, a proposed expansion of the mine. DEQ determined that WECO's revised application was administratively complete on August 1, 2012, and began its review for technical adequacy, which is currently ongoing. This permit application involves Federal lands. Pursuant to 30 CFR 746, no mining shall be conducted on Federal lands until the Secretary has approved the mining plan. The decision to approve a mining plan for the proposed Area F is a Federal action and NEPA analysis will be required.

A single EIS that meets the requirements of both MEPA and NEPA and evaluates all components of the proposed project will be prepared. This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIS. At this stage of the planning process, site-specific public comments are being requested to determine the scope of the analysis and identify significant issues and alternatives to the proposed action. OSM and DEQ are requesting public comments on the scope of the EIS and significant issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

Rosebud Mine

The Rosebud Mine is a 25,576-acre surface coal mine producing low-sulfur subbituminous coal. The proposed permit area for Area F would add 6,746 acres (4,287 acres would be disturbed by the mining operations, highwall reduction, soil storage, scoria pits, haul road construction, and other miscellaneous disturbances) in Township 2 North, Range 38 and 39 East, and Township 1 North, Range 39 East. If approved, Area F would add coal reserves to the existing Rosebud Mine and extend mine life by an estimated 19 years.

Current land uses include grazing land, pastureland, cropland, and wildlife habitat. Tributaries of Horse Creek and West Fork Armells Creek, including Black Hank Creek, Donley Creek, Robbie Creek, and McClure Creek (all of which lie within the drainage of the Yellowstone River), drain the proposed mine area. A ridge in the western portion of the proposed mine area divides the Horse Creek and West Fork Armells Creek drainages.

Proposed Action

Beginning in 2015, WECO proposes to mine 2,164 acres within the proposed 6,746-acre Area F permit area and would complete mining operations by