

Gunnison sage-grouse in cooperation with the Service, and has applied to the Service for a permit under section 10(a) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), which would authorize future incidental take of the Gunnison sage-grouse by the CDOW and cooperating landowners. The CDOW and the Service believe approval of the Agreement is necessary to promote implementation of conservation measures on non-Federal lands. The CDOW and the Service believe implementation of the Agreement will make a significant contribution to the long-term viability of the species, which may help defend that Federal listing is not warranted. Without the Agreement, the CDOW and the Service are concerned that the population of the Gunnison sage-grouse in Colorado may continue to decline. Further decline of the species could trigger listing under the ESA, which could provide a disincentive to private landowners for conservation of the species on private lands. The lack of conservation efforts on private lands could reduce the potential for successfully achieving long-term viability for the species.

Under the Agreement and permit, Participating Landowners would provide certain Gunnison sage-grouse habitat protection of enhancement measures on their lands. These measures would be primarily those identified in the 2005 Gunnison sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, but additional conservation practices could be determined throughout the 20-year period of the Agreement. Protection and enhancement measures will be directed towards Gunnison sage-grouse lek, nest, roost, and/or winter habitat. If the Gunnison sage-grouse is listed under the ESA, and after a Participating Landowner has provided the agreed-upon habitat conditions for the specified period of time, the permit would authorize incidental take of Gunnison sage-grouse as a result of the non-Federal landowner's agricultural or industrial related activities (*e.g.*, crop cultivation, crop harvesting livestock grazing, farm equipment operation, commercial/residential development).

We are providing this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and National Environmental Policy Act regulations. The Service also will evaluate whether the issuance of the

Agreement complies with section 7 of the ESA by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation on the issuance of the permit. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will sign the Agreement and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of ESA to the CDOW for take of Gunnison sage-grouse incidental to otherwise lawful activities in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. We will not make our final decision until after the end of the 60-day comment period and we will fully consider all comments received during the comment period.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1521 *et seq.*) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 10, 2005.

**Ralph O. Morgenweck,**

*Regional Director, Denver Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[AK-964-1410-HY-P; AA-38080, F-21916, F-22864, F-21944, F-21978, F-21979, F-21973, F-21949, F-21954 (BSA-7); AK-964-1410-HY-P; F-22285, F-22290, F-22269, F-22214, F-22341 (NAA-8)]**

### Alaska Native Claims Selection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decisions approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that fourteen appealable decisions approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Bering Straits Native Corporation and NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. for lands located in the vicinity of Norton and Kotzebue Sounds, Alaska. Notice of the decisions will also be published four times in the Nome Nugget.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decisions shall have until August 5, 2005 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decisions by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43

CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the decisions may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dina Torres by phone at 907-271-3248, or by e-mail at [Dina\\_Torres@ak.blm.gov](mailto:Dina_Torres@ak.blm.gov).

**Dina L. Torres,**

*Land Law Examiner, Branch of Adjudication II (964).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[AK963-1410-HY-P; F-14946-A, F-14946-B, F-14946-D; BSA-3]**

### Alaska Native Claims Selection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Teller Native Corporation. The lands are located in U.S. Survey No. 8892, T. 4 S., R. 36 W., T. 5 S. R. 37 W., and T. 5 S., R. 40 W., Kateel River Meridian, in the vicinity of Teller, Alaska, and contain 6,596.51 acres. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the *Nome Nugget*.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until August 5, 2005 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Jennifer L. Noe, by phone at (907) 271-3169, or by e-mail at [jennifer\\_noe@ak.blm.gov](mailto:jennifer_noe@ak.blm.gov). Persons who