

State, Federal, and local agencies; The Nature Conservancy; Moody Air Force Base; and adjacent landowners to fulfill the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and promote sound ecological landscape management. Public use opportunities on the refuge include fishing, boating (e.g., small engine, canoe, and kayak), wildlife observation and photography, and hiking.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: October 31, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E7-23643 Filed 12-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit Associated With the Reintroduction of Black-Footed Ferrets on the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Lands in Montana

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the receipt of an application for the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on Northern Cheyenne Tribal lands in Montana pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service requests information, views, and opinions from the public via this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments on this request for a permit must be received by January 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Written data or comments should be submitted to the Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries—Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486; facsimile 303-236-0027. Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act [5 U.S.C. 552A] and Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552], by any party who submits a request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to Kris Olsen, by mail or by telephone at 303-236-4256. All comments received from individuals

become part of the official public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kris Olsen, Regional Permit Coordinator (**ADDRESSES** above), telephone 303-236-4256, or Pete Gober, Project Leader, South Dakota Ecological Services Office, 420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, telephone 605-224-8693, extension 24.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following applicant has requested issuance of an enhancement of survival permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act.

Applicant—Northern Cheyenne Natural Resource Department, Lame Deer, Montana, TE-167158.

The applicant requests a permit to take black-footed ferret in conjunction with reintroduction and recovery activities throughout the Northern Cheyenne Reservation portion of the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery. The black-footed ferret is one of the rarest mammals in North America. Formerly co-occurring across the ranges of all prairie dog species, its distribution has been greatly reduced due to disease (plague), poisoning of prairie dogs, and human-related habitat alteration. The only known current populations are those in captivity and those started through reintroduction of captive-bred individuals. Protection of this species and enhancement of its habitat on Tribal land will benefit recovery efforts.

The primary objectives of the proposed action are to—(a) restore the native prairie ecosystem on the Northern Cheyenne, consistent with Northern Cheyenne and Native American traditions and values; (b) establish a viable, self-sustaining ferret population in South-central Montana consistent with the Conservation Plan for Black-tailed and White-tailed Prairie Dogs in Montana and the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1988); and (c) further test the effectiveness of methods to address the threat of Sylvatic plague (*Yersinia pestis*) on black-footed ferret survival in the wild by using vaccination and flea control methods. We have made the preliminary determination that the proposed activities will enhance survival and recovery of the black-footed ferret. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 of the Act.

We will evaluate the permit application and the comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is

determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days after the date of this notice.

**Authority:** The authority of this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

Dated: November 1, 2007.

**Emily Jo Williams,**

*Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-930-6350-DQ-047H]

#### Notice of Extension of Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts

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

**ACTION:** Notice of extension.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces an extension of the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts. The original notice published in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2007 [72 FR 45062] and provided for a comment period to end on November 9, 2007. The BLM is extending the comment period to January 11, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alan Hoffmeister, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Public Outreach Coordinator, at (503) 808-6629.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The original Notice of Availability provided for comments on the Draft IAP/EIS to be received through November 9, 2007. The BLM received requests for an extension of the comment period from individuals and groups. The BLM has decided to accede to these requests. Comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will now be accepted through January 11, 2008.

Dated: November 20, 2007.

**Edward W. Shepard,**

State Director, OR/WA, USDI Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. E7-23743 Filed 12-5-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA 680-07-5101-ER B241] [CACA 48254]

#### Granite Mountain LLC Wind Farm, California Desert District, Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and To Amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Barstow Field Office, Barstow, California, in coordination with the County of San Bernardino (County), California will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the development and operation of a wind energy farm on public and private lands in the Granite Mountains, north of Apple Valley, California to meet the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and NEPA. The project and associated ancillary facilities will require both BLM and County authorizations. Pursuant to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, new power generation projects must be evaluated through the planning process. By this notice the BLM is announcing a 30-day period for public scoping of alternatives, issues, the scope of the direct, indirect, and cumulative analysis for this proposal and associated planning criteria. In addition, BLM is requesting the views of other agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the statutory responsibilities or areas of expertise for your agencies in connection with the proposed project and the analysis of its impacts.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Requests for participation in the development of this EIS/EIR as a cooperating or participating agency, and comments on issues or alternatives related to this proposal

must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, and may be submitted in writing to the address listed below. Additionally, at least two scoping meetings will be held to encourage public input. The public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site (<http://www.ca.blm.gov/barstow>) at least 15 days prior to the event. Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the draft EIS/EIR.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for participation in the EIS development by agencies, requests to be added to the mailing list, and comments on the scope and content of the EIS should be sent to Edy Seehafer, Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311, or by fax at 760-252-6099, or e-mail at [eseehafe@blm.gov](mailto:eseehafe@blm.gov). A follow-up hard copy is requested when comments are sent by fax or e-mail, to assure readability. Documents pertinent to this proposal, including comments with the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the BLM Barstow Field Office located at 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, California, during regular business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at the County of San Bernardino, either at 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino or at 15456 West Sage Street, Victorville, CA 92392, during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and may be published as part of the EIS/EIR. 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 identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*Technical Information:* Joan Patrovsky, 760-252-6032, or [jpatrovs@blm.gov](mailto:jpatrovs@blm.gov).

*EIS/EIR Process:* Edy Seehafer, 760-252-6032, or [eseehafe@blm.gov](mailto:eseehafe@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Granite Wind, LLC has applied for a right of way on public lands and a conditional use permit on private lands to construct a wind energy generating facility at Granite Mountain, near Apple Valley, in San Bernardino County. The project site is east of Apple Valley and west of Lucerne Valley. Operations are expected to last approximately 30 years. The proposed project would install approximately 27 wind turbines on public and private lands, with a generating capacity of approximately 62.1 to 81 megawatts, depending on the make and model of wind turbines used for the proposed project. Related structures would include access roads, underground 34.5 kV transmission lines and fiber-optic cables, an electrical substation and a 230 kV power-line from the project site to Southern California Edison's existing 230 kV transmission system and an electrical substation interconnecting the project to the existing 230 kV transmission system. If approved, the wind energy generating facility on public lands would be authorized in accordance with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the federal regulations at 43 CFR 2800. The proposed project would take approximately 7 months to construct.

Issues that are anticipated to be addressed in this EIS/EIR and plan amendment include visual impacts, avian impacts, socioeconomic impacts, electrical transmission capacity, and cumulative impacts. The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), while recognizing the potential compatibility of wind generation facilities on public lands, requires that all power generating facilities be considered through the planning process. Planning criteria for consideration of a CDCA plan amendment to provide for power generation at this site include:

a. The plan amendment will be completed in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA and all other applicable Federal and State laws, Executive orders, and management policies of the BLM;

b. The plan amendment will recognize and conform to previous site-specific planning decisions from BLM regional and bioregional plans;

c. Where existing planning decisions are still valid, those decisions will remain unchanged;

d. Where appropriate, this EIS will reference the BLM Programmatic Wind EIS (2005);

e. For the purposes of cumulative analysis, past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects will be those alternative energy projects which have