

may revise this preliminary determination.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the HCP and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32). If we determine that the application meets these requirements, we will issue the permit for incidental take of the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel. We will also evaluate whether issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would comply with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue a permit. If the requirements are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

Public Availability of Comments

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.

Authority

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

Dated: July 9, 2010.

Diane K. Noda,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.

[FR Doc. 2010-17270 Filed 7-14-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVSO0530 L5101.ER0000
LVRWF0900110; NVN-0865171; 10-08807;
MO# 4500011976; TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Abengoa Solar Inc., Lathrop Wells Solar Facility, Amargosa Valley, Nye County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pahrump Nevada Field Office, Southern Nevada District Office intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until September 13, 2010. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>. Comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later, to be included in the Draft EIS. Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Abengoa Solar Inc., Lathrop Wells Solar Facility by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* lwse_EIS@blm.gov
- *Fax:* (702) 515-5010 (attention: Gregory Helseth)

• *Mail:* Gregory Helseth, BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130-2301.

- *In person:* At any EIS public scoping meeting.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, send requests to: BLM Southern Nevada District Office, Gregory Helseth, Renewable Energy Project Manager,

Attn: Abengoa Lathrop Wells Solar Facility, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130; e-mail: Gregory_Helseth@blm.gov or lwse_EIS@blm.gov; or phone: (702) 515-5173

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant, Abengoa Solar Inc., has requested a right-of-way authorization for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a solar energy generation project. The proposed Lathrop Wells Solar Facility project would consist of a concentrated solar power facility including a solar parabolic trough, photovoltaic panels, an electrical transmission substation, switchyard facilities, and a transmission line connecting to the existing Valley Electric Line south of the project. The proposed project would produce approximately 250 megawatts (MW) from a parabolic-trough, dry-cooled solar power plant with the option to expand the facility by adding a second 250-MW unit. Additionally, the proposal may include up to 20 MW of photovoltaic solar power. The proposed project would be located on approximately 5,336 acres of public lands in the Amargosa Valley, Nye County, Nevada. The purpose of the public scoping process is to ascertain the relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and to guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Threatened and endangered species, visual resource impacts, impacts to lands with wilderness characteristics, recreation impacts, socioeconomic effects, and cumulative impacts.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted, and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as individuals, organizations or tribes that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request, or be requested by the BLM, to participate as a cooperating agency.

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.

Patrick Putnam,

Field Manager, Pahrump Field Office.

[FR Doc. 2010-17264 Filed 7-14-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-NWRS-2010-N056; 1265-0000-10137 S3]

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, Canyon, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington Counties, ID; Malheur County, OR

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; announcement of open houses; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Refuge has units located in Canyon, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington Counties, ID, and Malheur County, OR. We will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential effects of various CCP alternatives. This notice also requests public comments and announces public open houses; see **DATES**, **ADDRESSES**, and **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the details. We issue this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to notify the public and other agencies of our intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues we will consider during the CCP planning process.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by September 10, 2010. Public open houses will be held on July 28, August 20, and August 21, 2010; see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods:

E-mail: deerflat@fws.gov.

Fax: Attn: Refuge Manager, (208) 467-1019.

U.S. Mail: Refuge Manager, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686.

In-Person Drop-Off: You may drop off comments during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at the above address, or at the public open house.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Brown-Scott, phone (208) 467-9278.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a CCP for the Refuge. This notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise the public, other Federal and State agencies, and Tribes of our intention to conduct detailed planning on the Refuge, and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during development of the Draft CCP/EIS.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning and public involvement process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and

the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for future management of the Refuge.

We will conduct the environmental review of this project and develop an EIS in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge was established in 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Its purpose is to serve as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Refuge encompasses 11,860 acres in two units—the Lake Lowell Unit and the Snake River Islands Unit. The Lake Lowell Unit encompasses 10,640 acres located in Canyon County, ID. The Lake Lowell Unit is an overlay refuge, on an off-stream Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) irrigation project. Reclamation owns and operates two dams on Lake Lowell to manage the lake's water for irrigation. Reclamation will participate in our CCP planning, NEPA, and public involvement process as a cooperating agency. The Snake River Islands Unit includes over 100 islands along 113 miles of the Snake River located in Canyon, Payette, Owyhee, and Washington Counties in ID; and Malheur County, OR.

The Refuge provides a variety of wildlife habitats, including the open waters and wetland edges of Lake Lowell, sagebrush uplands and riparian forest around the lake, and grassland and riparian forests on the Snake River Islands. In early summer, western grebes, white pelicans, mallards, and wood ducks congregate on the lake. When the lake is drawn down in late summer for irrigation, large numbers of shorebirds—including least sandpipers, godwits, yellowlegs, and plovers—feed on the exposed mudflats. Duck populations peak in mid-December, with 40,000-70,000 ducks using Lake Lowell annually. The Snake River Islands' grassland, shrub, and riparian forest habitats and surrounding waters provide habitat throughout the year for herons, cormorants, songbirds, and predators such as foxes, coyotes, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrels.