

to 446 ft (136.5 m), depending on the type of turbine. The proposed wind turbine hub height for Phase IV would range 263–328 ft (80–100 m), depending on the type of turbine selected. Rotor diameters at Phase IV may vary from 253 to 371 ft (77 to 113 m), depending on the type of turbine selected.

Approximate total height at the rotor apex would vary from 389 to 514 ft (118.5 to 156.5 m). Installation of each individual turbine will temporarily impact an area of approximately 2.9 ac (1.2 ha), while the final footprint of each turbine will be approximately 0.2 ac (0.08 ha). Access roads to the turbines will have a temporary width of up to 55 ft (17 m) during construction and a permanent width of 16 to 20 ft (4.8 to 6.1 m).

The project is located in a rural setting, with the landscape primarily composed of agricultural properties. Of the roughly 72,953 ac (29,523 ha) within 0.5 mi (0.8 km) of turbine locations, row crops comprise about 93 percent of the land use for the study area. After tilled agriculture, the next most common land uses within the FRWF are developed areas (e.g., houses and buildings), which comprise 5.0 percent of the total, and pastures/hayfields, which comprise 1.4 percent of the total. There are 22.8 ac (9.2 ha) of grasslands, which compose less than 0.1 percent of the study area. Grasslands in the study area are limited primarily to strips along drainages, railroad rights-of-way (ROW), and ROWs along county and State roads. Trees in the study area occur at homesteads, along some of the drainages and fencerows, and within some small, isolated woodlots. Forested areas are rare within the study area, based on 2001 data, and the 249.3 ac (100.8 ha) of forest comprise 0.5 percent of the total area. Small amounts of barren ground, open water, and woody wetlands are also present.

Despite the relatively small acreage of land to be affected by the project, impacts to wildlife, particularly birds and bats, are anticipated. Minimization for potential impacts to Indiana bats will include a turbine operational management adjustment program developed based on the results of post-construction studies conducted at Phases I, II, and III of the project.

Any turbine operational management adjustment program is likely to contain various measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Indiana bats, including the impact of lethal take. Various methods that may be considered include, but are not limited to: Protection of roost trees and surrounding habitat, set-back distances from known roost trees, mapping and avoidance of foraging

areas, protection and enhancement of Indiana bat habitat outside the project area, various operational adjustments for turbines during prime activity or migration periods, and post-construction monitoring for fatalities.

#### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

In addition to the proposed action, there is one additional action alternative that is currently under consideration related to the proposed issuance of an ITP to the Applicant for activities associated with operation of the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm. These alternatives, and possibly additional alternatives, will be considered in the draft EIS, along with the potential impacts associated with each alternative. Each action alternative analyzed in the draft EIS will be compared to the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative represents estimated future conditions to which the proposed action can be compared.

#### No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, an ITP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act would not be issued for the existing phases or the future Phase IV of the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm. The existing phases of the project would continue to fully operate, and Phase IV would fully operate once construction is complete. Under the No Action Alternative, the applicant would not have coverage for an incidental take of the Indiana bat and would be at risk of violation of Section 9 of the Act. In addition, no HCP would be produced; therefore, the Indiana bat would not have the protections afforded to it through development and implementation of an HCP. The proposed project purpose would not be met under the No Action Alternative.

#### Maximally Restricted Operations Alternative

Under the Maximally Restricted Operations Alternative, an ITP would be issued; Phases I, II and III would continue to operate; and Phase IV would be constructed as described under Proposed Action—i.e., full build-out of up to 448 turbines. Minimization for potential impacts to Indiana bats would include shutting down turbines at night during the period from April 1 through October 31, the active period for Indiana bats. This minimization would occur during all four phases of the project, every year the FRWF is in operation.

#### Environmental Review

The Service will conduct an environmental review to analyze various alternatives for implementing

the proposed action and the associated impacts of each. The draft EIS will be the basis for the impact evaluation for Indiana bats and the range of alternatives to be addressed. The draft EIS is expected to provide biological descriptions of the affected species and habitats, as well as the effects of the alternatives on other resources such as vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, geology and soils, air quality, water resources, water quality, cultural resources, land use, recreation, water use, local economy, and environmental justice. Following completion of the environmental review, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comments on the draft EIS and the Applicant's permit application, which will include the draft HCP. The draft EIS and draft HCP are expected to be completed and available to the public in late 2011.

#### Authority

This notice is being furnished as provided for by NEPA, the NEPA regulations, and the Act. The intent of the notice is to obtain suggestions and additional information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be considered. Comments and participation in this scoping process are solicited.

Dated: May 9, 2011.

**Lynn Lewis,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, MN.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-IA-2011-N110; 96300-1671-0000-P5]

#### 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) prohibits activities with listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activities. Both laws

require that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before June 24, 2011. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by June 24, 2011.

**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 e-mail [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov) (e-mail).

**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 e-mail or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an e-mail 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

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, 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.

**II. Background**

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, section 10(a)(1)(A), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 18 require that we invite public comment before final action on these permit applications. 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: University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX; PRT-124346

The applicant requests renewal of the permit to import biological samples from wild Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*), 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.

Applicant: Mary Hunt, Edmore, MI; PRT-42976A

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

*B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals*

Applicant: U.S. Geological Survey—Sirenia Project, Gainesville, FL; PRT-791721

The applicant requests renewal of the permit to take and import West Indian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) and other Sirenian species for the purpose of scientific research. 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.

Dated: May 20, 2011.

**Brenda Tapia,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[LLWY-957400-11-L14200000-BJ0000-LXSS054K0000]**

**Filing of Plat of Survey, Wyoming**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is scheduled to file the plat of survey of the lands described below thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication in the BLM Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management, 5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Land Management and is necessary for the management of these lands. The lands surveyed are:

The plat and field notes representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of Lot No. 72, a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the survey of the subdivision of section 15, Township 52 North, Range 93 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming, Group No. 834, was accepted May 19, 2011.

Copies of the preceding described plat and field notes are available to the public at a cost of \$1.10 per page.