

APPENDIX A FY2013 FAIR HOUSING INITIATIVES PROGRAM AWARDS—Continued

Applicant name	Contact	Region	Award Amt.
Fair Housing Council of Oregon, 506 SW. 6th Avenue, Suite 111, Portland, OR 97204.	Pegge McGuire, 503-223-8197	10	325,000.00
Intermountain Fair Housing Council, Inc. 208-383-0695, 5460.	W. Franklin Road, Suite M 200, Boise, ID 83702.	Zoe Olson 10	324,630.00

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-R-2011-N030; 93261-1263-000-5C]

RIN 1018-AX35

Friends Policy for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce that we have established a Friends policy, the purpose of which is to assist Service employees in achieving our mission more efficiently and effectively by increasing community involvement through partnerships with nonprofit Friends organizations (Friends). The policy includes guidance on the relationship between the Service and Friends, Service employee responsibilities, financial and administrative practices, Friends Partnership Agreements, and revenue generating operations.

DATES: This policy is in effect as of April 4, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The Friends policy is available at www.fws.gov/refuges/friends and in the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual at: www.fws.gov/policy/manuals/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanna Webb, Visitor Services, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 635, Arlington, VA 22203; Telephone: 703-358-2392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

We have established a final Friends policy, which is available at www.fws.gov/refuges/friends and in the Service Manual at www.fws.gov/policy/manuals/.

We have incorporated this policy as part 633, chapters 1-4 of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual. The purpose

of the policy is to assist Service employees in achieving our mission more efficiently and effectively by increasing community involvement through partnerships with nonprofit Friends. The policy includes guidance on the relationship between the Service and Friends organizations, Service employee responsibilities, financial and administrative practices, Friends Partnership Agreements, and revenue-generating operations.

Background

While these chapters are written to implement specific provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-242, 112 Stat. 1574), and the National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-360), they also provide direction and administrative procedures for other divisions of the Service seeking to establish and work with Friends organizations.

The two Acts together encourage the National Wildlife Refuge and Hatchery Systems to enter into partnerships with non-Federal entities such as Friends organizations to promote public awareness of Service resources and facilitate public participation in the conservation of those resources, and to accept donations of funds and other contributions by people and organizations through partnerships with non-Federal entities such as Friends organizations. We based this policy on these statutory requirements.

The National Friends Program (National Refuge System) was established in 1996 to encourage and organize community involvement in refuge activities. The program works to expand the number and effectiveness of community-based Friends organizations, which assist with increasing visibility and support for refuges, the Refuge System, and conservation. During the last decade, the Friends program has grown substantially in size and complexity, with approximately 200 Refuge Friends organizations and 30 Fisheries Friends organizations, with a combined estimated total of 40-60,000 members. These organizations significantly strengthen refuges and fish hatcheries

across the country and help the Service fulfill its mission.

Final Policy

We recognize that Friends provide many vital services to our sites and programs. This policy provides guidance on roles and responsibilities for the Service to enter into partnerships and work with Friends organizations. The purpose of this policy is to provide Service employees with guidance when working with Friends organizations.

Chapter 1 of this policy identifies the legal authorities under which the Service must work with Friends organizations, describes the relationship between the Service and Friends organizations, and describes the responsibilities of Service employees and Friends organizations.

Chapter 2 describes the information we need when we consider the financial and administrative activities under Friends agreements, including the practices and activities that the Service may allow on Service-managed property.

Chapter 3 describes the major components of and process for developing and modifying legal Friends Partnership Agreements between Friends organizations and the Service.

Chapter 4 describes how we work with Friends organizations to manage revenue-generating operations on Service property.

Summary of Comments and Changes to the Final Policy

On October 18, 2010, we announced the draft of this policy and requested public comments via a **Federal Register** notice (75 FR 63851). The comment period was open from October 18, 2010, through December 2, 2010. On March 9, 2011, we opened a second public comment period, which went through April 8, 2011 (76 FR 12989). In total, we received approximately 40 comment letters on the draft policy. The letters included a total of approximately 500 individual comments on the draft policy. The comments were from Federal and State government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals. Most of the comments addressed specific elements, while some comments expressed general support,

without addressing specific elements. We considered all of the information and recommendations for improvement included in the comments and made appropriate changes to the draft policy. We also made some additions and clarifications to the policy that were not addressed in the public comments, but were discovered through internal briefings and reviews during the policy revision period.

Dated: April 7, 2014.

Daniel M. Ashe,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA-048669, LLCAD07000,
L51010000.ER0000.LVRWB10B4050]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the San Diego Gas & Electric Ocotillo Sol Solar Project and California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) and approved plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) for the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Ocotillo Sol Solar Project in Imperial County, California. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, approved the ROD on April 7, 2014, which constitutes the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Ocotillo Sol Solar Project ROD/approved CDCA plan amendment are available upon request at the BLM El Centro Field Office at 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243, at the BLM California Desert District Office at 22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553, or via the Internet at the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/ocotillosol.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Noel Ludwig, BLM Project Manager, telephone 951-697-5368; address BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; or email nludwig@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339

to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant, SDG&E, filed an application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Ocotillo Sol project, a 20-megawatt (MW) (peak load) solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant facility, on 115 acres of BLM-administered public lands in Imperial County, California, including a 15-acre temporary construction laydown area. The site for the solar facility would be adjacent to the existing Imperial Valley Substation (IVS), approximately 5 miles north of the United States-Mexico border, 9 miles southwest of El Centro, and 82 miles east of San Diego. The proposed project site is located within the BLM's CDCA, the BLM's Yuha Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and the Yuha Desert Management Area for the flat-tailed horned lizard. A portion of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail lies approximately 5 miles southwest of the project site at its closest point, and runs approximately north-south. The Jacumba Mountains Wilderness Area lies 11.7 miles to the west of the project site. The Agency Selected Alternative retains the 100-acre solar facility from the proposed project, but reduces the laydown area from 15 acres to 2 acres; this was described in the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as Alternative 3: Reduced Construction Footprint, and identified as the Preferred Alternative.

All proposed project components, including the temporary 2-acre construction laydown area, would be located on BLM-administered lands subject to a ROW grant. The proposed Ocotillo Sol project components would include the PV modules and mounting structures, a maintenance building with an associated parking area, internal roads, inverters, transformers, and the combining switchgear. An existing road to the IVS would provide access to the proposed project site. New minor internal roads would be constructed between the module rows. The interconnection to the IVS would be via underground trench. Once approved and operational, the proposed Ocotillo Sol project is expected to have an average generating capacity of 15 to 18 MW, depending on the specific technology chosen, with a peak output of 20 MW.

In addition to mitigation and monitoring measures applied to all large ground disturbance projects on BLM land, the following are several of the key mitigation measures included in the ROD:

- Flat-tailed horned lizard translocation and monitoring plan;
- Burrowing owl mitigation and monitoring plan;
- Flat-tailed horned lizard exclusionary fence monitoring plan;
- Compensatory mitigation for flat-tailed horned lizard habitat losses;
- Wildlife mortality monitoring plan and mitigation measures; and
- An Archaeological Resources Monitoring and Discovery Plan, Tribal Participation Plan, and Long-Term Archaeological Management Plan.

The project site is located in the California Desert District within the planning boundary of the CDCA Plan, which is the applicable resource management plan for the project site and surrounding areas. The CDCA Plan, while recognizing the potential compatibility of solar energy generation facilities with other uses on public lands, requires that all sites associated with power generation or transmission not already identified in the Plan be considered through the BLM's land use plan amendment process. As a result, prior to approval of a ROW grant for the Ocotillo Sol Solar Project, the BLM must amend the CDCA Plan to allow the solar energy generating project on that site. The approved amendment to the CDCA Plan specifically revises the CDCA Plan to allow for the development of the Ocotillo Sol Solar Project and ancillary facilities on land managed by the BLM.

In addition to the ROW grant and plan amendment, the ROD also authorizes the temporary closures of existing routes for purposes of construction and maintenance of the underground transmission line for the Project as described in the ROD.

A Notice of Availability of the proposed plan amendment/final EIS for the Ocotillo Sol Solar Project was published on July 26, 2013 (78 FR 45268). Publication of the Notice of Availability for the plan amendment/final EIS initiated a 30-day protest period for the proposed amendment to the CDCA Plan. At the close of the 30-day period, no written protests were received. Simultaneously with the protest period, the Governor of California conducted a 30-day consistency review of the proposed plan amendment to identify any inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies or programs; no inconsistencies were identified.