

## Alternatives

Four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, were analyzed in the PEIS and are briefly described below. More detailed information on the alternatives may be found in the Final PEIS, which can be accessed from the Web site provided above.

### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the Service would continue to consider requests for easement exchanges to accommodate wind energy project requests under the procedures currently used to evaluate and address the environmental impacts associated with wind energy projects. Requests would be processed, reviewed, and evaluated on a case-by-case basis, including separate NEPA, section 7, and section 106 reviews performed for each specific project.

### *Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)—Programmatic Regional Wind Energy Development Evaluation Process for Western and the Service*

The Service has decided to adopt a Programmatic Regional Wind Energy Development Process to address requests for Service easement exchanges to accommodate wind energy development. Under Alternative 1, the Service will adopt a standardized structured process for collecting information and evaluating and reviewing environmental impacts of wind energy requests. Best management practices and mitigation measures developed in the PEIS programmatic process would be employed to minimize the potential environmental impacts of wind energy projects. Project-specific NEPA analyses, either environmental assessments (EAs) or streamlined EISs, would tier off (eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues) the analyses in the Final PEIS as long as the appropriate identified conservation measures were implemented as part of proposed projects. In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.20, these project-specific NEPA documents would summarize the information and issues covered in the Final PEIS or incorporate relevant discussions by reference. This approach would allow for more efficient NEPA documents that would properly focus on local or site-specific issues. The decision to pursue a tiered EA or EIS would be made similar to any other proposal. If the potential for new significant impacts appeared low, then an EA process could be initiated, with the understanding that the identification of any potentially new significant impact would require transition to an

EIS process. It is anticipated that the tiered NEPA document in most instances will be an EA. If there appeared to be a potential for new significant environmental impacts, based on the project description and site location, then a tiered EIS process would be initiated.

Project-specific ESA Section 7 consultations would utilize the Programmatic BA so long as the applicable best management practices, minimization measures, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements established in the Programmatic BA were implemented. Project proponents who could not agree to the requirements in the Programmatic BA would be required to conduct a separate ESA Section 7 consultation with the Service. NHPA section 106 and related tribal consultation would continue unchanged from the present practices; since cultural resources issues are very site specific, it was not possible to address them programmatically beyond including general avoidance and protection measures and committing to the established processes and procedures. The primary objective of Alternative 1 was to collect relevant natural resources information; evaluate the typical impacts of wind energy projects and associated facilities on those resources; identify effective best management practices, minimization measures, and mitigation measures that could reduce impacts; provide information about areas that would be more sensitive to development impacts and encourage avoidance of siting projects in these areas; and have all this material available to support site-specific tiered environmental reviews. The parallel Programmatic BA would similarly expedite the ESA section 7 consultation by having previously established minimization measures, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements, by species, that if committed to and implemented would constitute compliance with ESA section 7 without a separate consultation.

### *Alternative 2: Programmatic Regional Wind Energy Development Evaluation Process for Western and No Wind Energy Development Allowed on USFWS Easements*

Alternative 2 would not allow easement exchanges to accommodate wind energy facilities.

### *Alternative 3: Regional Wind Energy Development Evaluation Process for Western and the USFWS, With No Programmatic Requirements*

In essence, Alternative 3 is a minimalist approach that would

incorporate all mandated environmental review requirements, but would not extend beyond them. Easement exchanges would occur for wind energy projects as presented by developers without consideration of best management practice and other issues to limit environmental impacts.

## Decision

The Service has determined that Alternative 1, the agency-preferred alternative, best meets the agency's needs. Alternative 1 is also the environmentally preferred alternative, and would afford the greatest protection for environmental resources that would be impacted by future wind energy projects. Therefore, it is the Service's decision to implement Alternative 1, and use the program defined by that alternative for all applicable future wind energy project affecting Service easements in the UGP Region. This decision is based on the information contained in the Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Final PEIS. The ROD was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA at 42 U.S.C. 1505.2 and the Department of the Interior's implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 46.205, 46.210, and 46.215).

### **Matt Hogan,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

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### **Notice of Public Meeting: Resource Advisory Council (RAC) to the Boise District, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will hold a meeting as indicated below.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held August 3, 2016, at the Boise District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho

83705 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and adjourning by 4:00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend. A public comment period will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Larry Ridenhour, Public Affairs Specialist and RAC Coordinator, BLM Boise District, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho 83705, telephone (208) 384-3393.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in southwestern Idaho. During the August meeting the Boise District RAC will receive updates on Soda Fire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions, sage-grouse conservation implementation efforts, programmatic assessments for herbicide treatments and vegetation seeding projects and management actions associated with Skinny Dipper Hot Springs. The RAC's subcommittee on the proposed Tri-State Fuel Breaks Project will report on their meetings to date. Agenda items and location may be modified due to changing circumstances. The public may present written or oral comments to members of the Council. At each full RAC meeting, time is provided in the agenda for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance should contact the BLM Coordinator as provided above. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or questions. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Dated: June 30, 2016.

**Lara Douglas,**  
*District Manager.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

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**Filing of Plats of Survey: California**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey of lands described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, Sacramento, California.

**DATES:** August 8, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the plats may be obtained from the California State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, upon required payment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Chief, Branch of Geographic Services, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way W-1623, Sacramento, California 95825, 1-916-978-4310. 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:** A person or party who wishes to protest a survey must file a notice that they wish to protest with the Chief, Branch of Geographic Services. A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest and must be filed with the Chief, Branch of Geographic Services within thirty days after the protest is filed. If a protest against the survey is received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed or otherwise resolved. Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

**Mount Diablo Meridian, California**

T. 33 N., R. 5 W., the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of sections 25 and 26, and the metes-and-bounds survey of Tract 37 and certain lots in section 25, accepted June 6, 2016.

**San Bernardino Meridian, California**

T. 3 N., R. 26 E., the dependent resurvey of a portion of the east boundary and a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of section 13, and the survey of the meanders of the full-pool line of a portion of Lake Havasu Reservoir, accepted March 9, 2016.

T. 3 N., R. 27 E., the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of section 18, and the survey of the meanders of the full-pool line of a portion of Lake Havasu Reservoir, accepted March 9, 2016.

T. 3 S., R. 2 E., the supplemental plat showing parcels 1 through 6 of Tract 9 in section 6, accepted March 28, 2016.

T. 9 N., R. 23 E., the supplemental plat showing a corrected distance measurement on the west boundary of Lot 6 in the NW. ¼ of the NE. ¼ of section 31, accepted April 11, 2016.

T. 10 N., R. 4 E., the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines and a portion of the Camp Cady Military Reservation boundary and the subdivision of section 20, accepted June 21, 2016.

**Authority:** 43 U.S.C., chapter 3.

Dated: June 22, 2016.

**Jon L. Kehler,**

*(Acting) Chief Cadastral Surveyor, California.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

[NPS-WASO-NRNL-21349;  
PPWOCRADIO, PCU00RP14.R50000]

**National Register of Historic Places;  
Notification of Pending Nominations  
and Related Actions**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before June 18, 2016, for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted by July 22, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent via U.S. Postal Service to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW., MS 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St. NW., 8th floor, Washington, DC 20005; or by fax, 202-371-6447.