

issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <http://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

Brenda Tapia,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2019-N053;
FXES1114080000-190-FF08E00000]

Green Diamond Resource Company Final Forest Habitat Conservation Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement; Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement and final habitat conservation plan.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act. We also announce the availability of the final habitat conservation plan (HCP). These documents were prepared in support of a permit application submitted to us under the Endangered Species Act. We will use these documents to inform our decision regarding issuance of the permit.

DATES: A record of decision will be signed no sooner than 30 days after the publication of this notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: You may obtain copies of the FEIS and other documents by the following methods.

- *Internet:* <https://www.fws.gov/arcata/es/HCP.htm>.
- *Public libraries:* Electronic copies of the documents will be available for

viewing at Del Norte and Humboldt County Libraries on their public access computer stations. In Del Norte County, the documents will be available at the Main Library in Crescent City and at the branch library in Smith River. In Humboldt County, the documents will be at the Eureka Main Library, and at branch libraries in Arcata, McKinleyville, and Willow Creek.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer L. Norris, Deputy Field Supervisor, by phone at 707-822-7201, or via U.S. mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521-4573.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Green Diamond Resource Company has applied for a 50-year incidental take permit (ITP); the applicant prepared the final Green Diamond Resource Company Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the HCP, and also announce the availability of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1967 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). These documents were both prepared in support of the permit application. We will use these documents to inform our decision regarding issuance of the permit.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our Federal regulations (50 CFR part 17) prohibit the taking of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the ESA. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively. For more information about the Federal habitat conservation plan program, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/hcp.pdf>.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA; 16 U.S.C. 703-712) protects over 1,000 species of birds, including the barred owl. The MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. As authorized by the MBTA, the Service may issue permits for scientific collecting (50 CFR 21.23).

Applicant's Final Habitat Conservation Plan

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is implementation of the final HCP; issuance of a 50-year ITP authorizing incidental take of the northern spotted owl, fisher, red tree vole, and Sonoma tree vole that may occur as a result of implementation of the HCP; and issuance of an MBTA permit for barred owl experiments.

Plan Area

The HCP area encompasses 357,412 acres in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, California.

Covered Activities

The HCP contains conservation measures considered necessary to minimize and mitigate the impacts, to the maximum extent practicable, of the potential taking of federally listed species to be covered by the HCP. The covered activities under the HCP are those associated with commercial forest management within the plan area.

Covered Species

The proposed ITP includes one bird species, the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), which is federally listed as threatened. Three mammal species with no Federal listing status are also proposed to be covered—The fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), red tree vole (*Arborimus longicaudus*), and Sonoma vole (*Arborimus pomus*). In addition, experiments on barred owl (*Strix varia*) will be conducted as part of implementation of the HCP for the benefit of northern spotted owls.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The final EIS analyzed four land management alternatives. These include a "no action" alternative, which allows the existing 30-year incidental take permit to expire at the end of its term in 2022 with no permit replacement. The proposed action consists of a four-species HCP and associated permit with a 50-year term. Two other "action" alternatives are included. Alternatives A and B evaluate a single-species HCP and 50-year permit for the northern spotted owl only. Alternative B differs from Alternative A by proposing a shift in Green Diamond company policy from even-aged forest management toward uneven-aged forest management.

Public Review

The Service published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2010 (75 FR

19994), announcing a 30-day public scoping period, during which the public was invited to provide written comments. The Service published a notice of availability (NOA) of the draft EIS and draft HCP in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 2018 (83 FR 34861). The NOA announced a 45-day public comment period, during which the public was invited to provide written comments. In accordance with NEPA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will announce the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

Next Steps

Issuance of an ITP is a Federal proposed action subject to compliance with NEPA. We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and the public comments we received to determine whether the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA have been met. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will issue a record of decision no sooner than 30 days after the EPA publishes notice of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently, we will issue a permit to the applicant for the incidental take of the covered species.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22), the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 21.23), and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Jody Holzworth,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCAD01000.L13400000.DO0000.19X]
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Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, California, and the Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as

amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area (HGLA), Inyo County, California, and is announcing the opening of the comment period. In order to comply with Federal regulations, the BLM is also announcing a comment period on changes to the management of four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the HGLA.

DATES: To ensure that all comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft Supplemental EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: The HGLA Draft CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft Supplemental EIS are available on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://go.usa.gov/xEnvy>. Click the "Documents" link on the left side of the screen to find the electronic version of these materials. Hard copies of the Draft CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft Supplemental EIS are also available for public inspection at the BLM, California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

You may submit comments related to the HGLA by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://go.usa.gov/xEnvy>
- **Email:** BLM_CA_CD_Haiwee_Geothermal@blm.gov
- **Mail:** Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Project, c/o Greg Miller, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.
- **Fax:** 951-697-5299.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Miller, Deputy District Manager—Resources via telephone at (951) 697-5216; or via mail at 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; or via email at gmliller@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Mr. Miller during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM published the HGLA Draft EIS and Draft

Proposed Amendment to the CDCA in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2012 (77 FR 27478) and held public meetings in June 2012. The BLM prepared an Administrative Draft Final EIS in December 2013 that included public comments and responses to comments, updates to the alternatives descriptions, and internal review comments. As a result of the review of the comments, the BLM conducted a more detailed study to address projected water use by geothermal facilities should they be allowed in the HGLA. Argonne National Laboratories conducted the study and provided BLM a report in January 2016. Additionally, new land use designations approved with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Amendment to the CDCA Plan in September of 2016 required analysis of a new alternative that considered the new land use designations. Based on these two developments, the BLM has prepared a CDCA Plan Amendment and Draft Supplemental EIS for the project. This new alternative would make Federal lands available for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization, within the entire HGLA.

The BLM received three geothermal lease applications for 4,460 acres of public land within the HGLA. In addition, the BLM identified approximately 18,345 acres of public lands, also within the Haiwee Proposed Project Area and adjacent to the three geothermal lease applications, which will be considered for competitive geothermal leasing under 43 CFR 3203.10(e). The proposed action is to amend the CDCA Plan to allow project-area lands to be leased under the authority of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*) The leasing of public lands for geothermal resources will require an amendment to the CDCA Plan, which is authorized by the FLPMA, Section 202 (43 U.S.C. 1712) and 43 CFR 1610.5-5. Total acreage being considered for geothermal leasing is approximately 22,805 acres.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and email addresses of persons who submit comments will be available for public review and disclosure at the address listed earlier during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly