

measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of the taking of the Yelm pocket gopher. We have also prepared a draft environmental action statement (EAS) that includes our preliminary determination that the ITP decision may be eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We provide this notice to open a public comment period and to invite comments from all interested parties regarding the above-referenced documents.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please submit written comments by October 23, 2019.

ADDRESSES: To access or request documents, request further information, and/or submit written comments, please use the following methods:

- *Internet:* You may view or download copies of the HCP and EAS, and obtain additional information, at <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>.
- *Email:* wfwocomments@fws.gov. Include "M-Gopher HCP" in the subject line of the message.
- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R1-ES-2019-N086; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Washington Fish and Wildlife Office; 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102; Lacey, WA 98503.
- *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call 360-753-5823 to make an appointment (necessary for viewing or picking up documents only) during regular business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Romanski, Conservation Planning and Hydropower Branch Manager, Washington Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone: 360-753-5823. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). M-Gopher, LLC (the applicant), requests a 7-year permit term that would authorize "take" of the Yelm subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama yelmensis*), hereafter referred to as Yelm pocket gopher, incidental to construction of one single-family home on land in Thurston County, Washington. This species is listed as threatened under the ESA. The application includes a habitat conservation plan (HCP) that describes actions the applicant will take to

minimize and mitigate the impacts of the taking on the Yelm pocket gopher. We have prepared an environmental action statement (EAS) for the Service's proposed action, in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The EAS includes our preliminary determination that the ITP decision may be eligible for categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations prohibit "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Under the ESA, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)).

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA contains provisions that authorize the Service to issue permits to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened species caused by otherwise lawful activities, provided the following criteria are met: (1) The taking will be incidental; (2) the applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking; (3) the applicant will ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided; (4) the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and (5) the applicant will carry out any other measures that the Service may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the plan. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are found in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively.

Proposed Action

The Service proposes to issue the requested ITP based on the applicant's commitments to implement the HCP, if permit issuance criteria are met. Covered activities include construction of a single-family home. The area covered under the M-Gopher, LLC, HCP consists of an approximately 0.75-acre project development site, and purchase of a 1-acre mitigation area at an offsite location, the Leitner Prairie conservation site. Take of the Yelm pocket gopher would occur within the development site. Offsetting the impacts of the taking of the Yelm pocket gopher would occur through the permanent protection of the mitigation area. Funding for the management of the mitigation site would be assured as described in the HCP.

Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We specifically request information, views, and suggestions from interested parties regarding our proposed Federal action, including adequacy of the HCP pursuant to the requirements for permits at 50 CFR parts 13 and 17 and adequacy of the EAS pursuant to NEPA.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at our Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the ESA and NEPA and their respective implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32 and 40 CFR 1506.6).

Robyn Thorson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-20544 Filed 9-20-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[19X.LLAZ921000.L1440000.BJ0000.LXSSA2250000.241A]

Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of official filing.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled

to be officially filed 30 days after the date of this publication in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona State Office, Phoenix, Arizona. The surveys announced in this notice are necessary for the management of lands administered by the agency indicated.

ADDRESSES: These plats will be available for inspection in the Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona, 85004-4427. Protests of any of these surveys should be sent to the Arizona State Director at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerald Davis, Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Arizona; (602) 417-9558; gtDavis@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 the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS 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 Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

The plat, in one sheet, representing the survey of the east and west boundaries, the subdivisional lines, and the subdivision of certain sections, Township 36 North, Range 15 East, accepted September 12, 2019, for Group 1186, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The plat, in one sheet, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of section 8, and metes-and bounds surveys in section 8, Township 18 North, Range 24 East, accepted September 12, 2019, for Group 1191, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States National Park Service.

The San Bernardino Meridian, Arizona

The supplemental plat, in one sheet, showing the amended lotting in sections 28 and 29, Township 16 South, Range 22 East, accepted September 12, 2019, for Group 9116, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Land Management.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written notice of protest within 30 calendar days from the date of this publication with the Arizona State Director, Bureau of Land

Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within 30 days after the protest is filed. Before including your address, or other personal information in your protest, please be aware that your entire protest, 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: 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3.

Gerald T. Davis,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Arizona.

[FR Doc. 2019-20542 Filed 9-20-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-SERO-BISO-NPS0027182; PPSEROC3, PPMPAS1Y.YP0000]

Determination of Eligibility for Consideration as Wilderness Areas, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of determination of wilderness eligibility for lands in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964, and in accordance with National Park Service (NPS) *Management Policies* (2006), Section 6.2.1, the NPS has completed a Wilderness Eligibility Assessment to determine if lands within Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (Big South Fork NRRRA) meet criteria indicating eligibility for preservation as wilderness. The lands subject to the assessment were those identified in the park's General Management Plan as being within the Natural Environment Recreation Zone and the Sensitive Resource Protection Zone. All other zones in the plan are development zones. Based on the assessment, the NPS has concluded that the assessed lands: (1) Are not predominantly roadless and undeveloped; (2) are not greater than 5,000 acres in size or of sufficient size as to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (3) do not meet the wilderness character criteria

listed in the Wilderness Act and NPS Management Policies (2006). As a result of these findings, the NPS has determined that lands within Big South Fork NRRRA do not warrant further study for possible designation as wilderness at this time. An updated eligibility assessment may be warranted in the future as lands in the park recover from past human disturbance.

ADDRESSES: A map of the lands assessed is on file at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Headquarters, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent Niki Stephanie Nicholas, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, by phone at 423-569-9778, via email at BISO_Superintendent@nps.gov, or by mail at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Big South Fork NRRRA comprises 125,310 acres on the Cumberland Plateau of eastern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. Of this total, 116,309 acres are in Federal ownership. Big South Fork NRRRA has been affected by past extractive activities, including farming, logging, sub-surface coal mining, and drilling for oil and gas.

Staff of the Big South Fork NRRRA reviewed the Primary Eligibility Criteria found in Section 6.2.1.1 of NPS *Management Policies* to evaluate the park's wilderness eligibility. The eligibility assessment initially identified seven areas in the park that are undeveloped, appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and offer opportunities for solitude and an unconfined type of recreation. These areas range in size from 279.2 acres to 3,655.7 acres. None is over 5,000 acres in size, or, given the nature of adjacent recreational and management activities, of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use as wilderness in an unimpaired condition. Furthermore, none of these areas is untrammeled. Due to their small size, each must be actively managed to control the effects of fire, deal with invasive species, and ameliorate the impacts of prior human disturbance. Accordingly, the NPS has determined that none of the acreage administered by the NPS at Big South Fork NRRRA is eligible for designation as wilderness.

A public notice announcing the NPS's intention to conduct this eligibility assessment was placed in the **Federal Register** on December 20, 2016. A previous press release had been issued to local media on March 6, 2007