

trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)). The term “harm,” as defined in our regulations, includes significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). The term “harass” is defined in our regulations as to carry out intentional or negligent actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns, which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

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 applicant proposes to construct a single-family residence, including a home, driveway, landscaping areas, underground utilities, and an agricultural building on 5 acres in Thurston County, Washington. All construction and landscaping activity will be confined to an area encompassing 1.28 acres. The applicant will continue to implement agricultural activities as conditioned by commitments in the HCP on the remaining acreage.

The property is currently occupied by the Yelm pocket gopher. The applicant proposes to offset adverse effects to the species by executing a conservation easement with Thurston County for a 2.58-acre conservation site within the 5-acre property. The conservation site will be managed for successful Yelm pocket gopher feeding, breeding, and sheltering. The Service proposes to issue the requested 10-year ITP based on the applicant’s commitment to

implement the HCP, if permit issuance criteria are met.

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 the requirements of 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**).

Next Steps

After public review, we will assess the comments received and finalize the EAS. We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and any comments received, to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the requested section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would comply with section 7 of the ESA by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA on the proposed ITP action. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period, and will fully consider all comments received during the comment period. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will issue an ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA to the applicant for the take of the covered species, incidental to otherwise lawful covered activities.

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and their implementing regulations (at 50 CFR 17.32 and 40 CFR 1506.6, respectively).

Mary M. Abrams,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Tribal Consultation Regarding the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal consultation.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) will be hosting a consultation session by webinar with interested Tribes regarding the 477 Program.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before Thursday, April 30, 2020. Consultation by webinar will be held Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 1 p.m. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice for information on joining the webinar.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: *consultation@bia.gov*, or by mail to: Deputy Bureau Director—Indian Services, MS-4660, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dawn Selwyn, Acting Associate Deputy Bureau Director—Indian Services at (202) 208-6941.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Several Federal agencies, including Interior, are party to an interagency memorandum of agreement (MOA) to implement Public Law 102-477, the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (477 Program).

We invite Tribes to attend to a consultation session by webinar, to provide input on the 477 Program on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.:

- *To join the Webinar, go to this link: <https://bia-oishs.webex.com/bia-oishs/j.php?MTID=mfb5d92db4acef795d0d282c3f855187e>, enter meeting number: 795 506 785, Password: 477Program.*

• *To join by phone:* (877) 417-9689 passcode 1730174.

The Department previously announced this webinar session in a March 6, 2020 letter to Tribal leaders. That letter also announced sessions on April 6, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee, and April 28, 2020, in Burlingame, California that have since been canceled due to cancellation of the associated conferences (the Native American Finance Officers Association 38th Annual Conference and the 2020 Tribal Self-Governance Conference). The Department will announce any rescheduled sessions in a future letter to Tribes and by **Federal Register** notice, as appropriate.

Tara Sweeney,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin; California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin and by this notice is announcing for the opening of the comment period. The BLM will hold public meetings throughout the project area to share information with the public and answer questions.

DATES: To ensure comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin within 60 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 and will ensure that the

last public meeting is held at least 15 days before the public comment period ends.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Draft Programmatic EIS for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <https://go.usa.gov/xdfgV>.
- *Email:* BLM_PEIS_Comments@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 208-373-3805.

• *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, ATTN: Fuels Reduction Draft PEIS, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709.

Copies of the Draft Programmatic EIS for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709. Interested persons may also review the Draft Programmatic EIS online at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdfgV>. Additional copies are available upon request at the BLM California, Nevada, Oregon/Washington, and Utah State Offices.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ammon Wilhelm, telephone 208-373-3824; address BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709; email awilhelm@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 sagebrush communities in the Great Basin are home to over 350 species of plants and wildlife and are a vital part of Western working landscapes. Wildfire and cheatgrass invasions are threatening these vegetative communities; approximately 45% of the historical range of sagebrush has been lost. Between 2009 and 2018, over 13.5 million acres burned on BLM land within the project area. Many sagebrush communities, both burned and unburned, are being overtaken by invasive annual grasses and encroaching pinyon-juniper. Fuels reduction and rangeland restoration treatments can reduce fire severity, which increases the vegetative communities' resistance to invasive annual grasses and improves their ability to recover after wildfire.

The Project Area covers approximately 223 million acres, including portions of California, Idaho,

Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Restoration projects would be implemented within an analysis area covering approximately 38.5 million acres of sagebrush communities managed by the BLM within the project area boundary. The analysis area is defined by the current and historical presence of sagebrush on BLM-administered lands.

The purpose of future treatments is to enhance the long-term function, viability, resistance, and resilience of vegetative communities and to protect, conserve, and restore sagebrush communities within the project area. Functioning and viable sagebrush communities provide multiple-use opportunities for all user groups as well as habitat for sagebrush-dependent species.

Intact sagebrush communities are disappearing within the Great Basin due to increased wildfires, the spread of invasive annual grasses, and the encroachment of pinyon-juniper. Restoration treatments such as fuels reduction and revegetation are needed to increase intact sagebrush communities and improve their ability to resist annual grass invasion and recover from disturbance such as wildfire.

The preferred alternative (Alternative B) analyzes a full suite of manual, chemical and mechanical treatments, including prescribed fire, seeding, and targeted grazing, to restore degraded vegetative communities within the 38.5 million-acre sagebrush analysis area.

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 above address 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 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.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10.

John F. Ruhs,

Idaho State Director.

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