

counsel or witnesses in the course of civil discovery, litigation, mediation, or settlement negotiations, or in connection with criminal law proceedings; when HUD determines that use of such records is relevant and necessary to the litigation and when any of the following is a party to the litigation or have an interest in such litigation: (1) HUD, or any component thereof; or (2) any HUD employee in his or her official capacity; or (3) any HUD employee in his or her individual capacity where HUD has agreed to represent the employee; or (4) the United States, or any agency thereof, where HUD determines that litigation is likely to affect HUD or any of its components.

(5) To any component of the Department of Justice or other Federal agency conducting litigation or in proceedings before any court, adjudicative, or administrative body, when HUD determines that the use of such records is relevant and necessary to the litigation and when any of the following is a party to the litigation or have an interest in such litigation: (1) HUD, or any component thereof; or (2) any HUD employee in his or her official capacity; or (3) any HUD employee in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice or agency conducting the litigation has agreed to represent the employee; or (4) the United States, or any agency thereof, where HUD determines that litigation is likely to affect HUD or any of its components.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

Electronic and paper records.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Records are retrieved by inspector name and inspector's identification number.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

Temporary. Destroy upon verification of successful creation of the final document or file, or when no longer needed for business use, whichever is later.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

Administrative Safeguards: When first gaining access to PASS-R and annually, all users must agree to the systems "Rules of Behavior" which specify handling of personal information and any physical records.

Technical Safeguards: Controls for the system include, but are not limited to, user identification, password protection,

firewalls, virtual private network, encryption, intrusion detection system, common access cards, smart cards, biometrics, and public key infrastructure. Unauthorized access is controlled by the application-level security.

Physical Safeguards: Controls to secure the data and protect paper and electronic records, buildings, and related infrastructure against threats associated with their physical environment include, but are not limited to, using the HUD Employee ID and/or badge number and key cards, security guards, cipher locks, biometrics, and closed-circuit TV. Paper records are secured in locked file cabinets, offices, and facilities. Electronic media are kept on secure servers or computer systems. Records are stored in a dedicated file room or in locking file cabinets in file folders. During normal business hours, assigned agency personnel, including Records Management staff and on-site contractor personnel, regulate availability of the files. During evening and weekend hours the offices are locked.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking notification of and access to their records in this system of records may submit a request in writing to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Attn: FOIA Program Office, 451 7th Street SW, Suite 10139, Washington, DC 20410-0001. or by emailing foia@hud.gov. Individuals must furnish the following information for their records to be located:

1. Full name.
2. Signature.
3. The reason why the individual believes this system contains information about him/her.
4. The address to which the information should be sent.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as the Notification Procedures above.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Any person wanting to know whether this system of records contains information about him or her should contact the System Manager. Such person should provide his or her full name, position title and office location at the time the accommodation was requested, and a mailing address to which a response is to be sent.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

Docket No. FR-4456-N-15, FR 28193, May 22, 2001.

LaDonne White,

Chief Privacy Officer, Office of Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023-02454 Filed 2-3-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2022-0171; FXES11140300000-234]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Great Pathfinder Wind Project, Hamilton and Boone Counties, Iowa; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of documents; request for comment and information.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from Great Pathfinder Wind LLC (applicant), for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. If approved, the ITP would be for a 6-year period and would authorize the incidental take of two endangered species, the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat. The applicant has prepared a habitat conservation plan (HCP) in support of their application. We have made a preliminary determination that the HCP and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We invite comments from the public and Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments.

DATES: We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before March 8, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Document availability:

Electronic copies of the documents this notice announces, along with public comments received, will be available online in Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2022-0171 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Comment submission: Please specify whether your comment addresses the proposed habitat conservation plan, draft environmental action statement, any combination of the aforementioned documents, or other documents. You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and

submit comments on Docket No. FWS–R3–ES–2022–0171.

- *By hard copy:* Submit comments by U.S. mail to Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R3–ES–2022–0171; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB/3W; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kraig McPeck, Field Supervisor, Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office, by email at kraig_mcpeek@fws.gov, or telephone at 309–757–5800, extension 202; or Andrew Horton, Regional HCP Coordinator, Midwest Region, by email at andrew_horton@fws.gov, or telephone at 612–713–5337. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from Great Pathfinder Wind LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) incidental to the operation of 66 wind turbines with a total generating capacity of 225 megawatts (MW) at the Great Pathfinder Wind Project in Hamilton and Boone Counties, Iowa. While the ITP is for 6 years, the operational life of most new wind energy facilities is 30 years, and intensive monitoring conducted during this permit term will inform the need for future avoidance or a future long-term ITP for the remaining life of the project that will comply with a future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) analysis and habitat conservation plan (HCP). The applicant has prepared an HCP that describes the actions and measures that the applicant would implement to avoid, minimize, and mitigate incidental take of the covered species for the first 6 years.

We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed HCP, and on the Service's preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as "low-effect," categorically excluded under NEPA; to make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and

low-effect screening form, both of which are also able for public review.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of animal species listed as endangered or threatened. "Take" is defined under the ESA as to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect [listed animal species], or to attempt to engage in such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1538). However, under section 10(a) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits (ITPs) for endangered and threatened species, respectively, are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR 17.32.

Applicant's Proposed Project

The applicant requests a 6-year ITP to take the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The applicant determined that take is reasonably certain to occur incidental to operation of 66 previously constructed wind turbines in Hamilton and Boone Counties, Iowa, covering approximately 19,690 acres of private land. The proposed conservation strategy in the applicant's proposed HCP is designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of the covered activity on the covered species. The biological goals and objectives are to minimize potential take of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat through on-site minimization measures, and to provide habitat conservation measures for the two species to offset any impacts from project operations. The HCP provides on-site avoidance and minimization measures, which include turbine operational adjustments. The authorized level of take from the project is 18 Indiana bat and 18 northern long-eared bat over the 6-year permit duration. To offset the impacts of taking Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats, the applicant will implement one or more of the following mitigation options:

- Purchase credits from an approved conservation bank;
- Contribute to an in-lieu fee mitigation fund;
- Implement permittee-responsible mitigation project; or
- Contribute to a white-nose syndrome treatment fund, if available and approved by the Service.

Our Preliminary Determination

We are requesting comments on our preliminary determination that the applicant's proposal will have a minor or negligible effect on the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat and that the plan qualifies as a low-effect HCP as defined by our Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (December 2016). We base our determinations on three criteria: (1) Implementation of the proposed project as described in the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and/or candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of the HCP would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) HCP impacts, considered together with those of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, would not result in cumulatively significant effects. In our analysis of these criteria, we have made a preliminary determination that the approval of the HCP and issuance of an ITP qualify for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), as provided by the Department of the Interior implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 46.205, and 46.215). However, based upon our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice, this preliminary determination may be revised.

National Environmental Policy Act

Issuance of an ITP is a Federal action that triggers the need for compliance with NEPA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's project and the proposed mitigation measures would individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the covered species and the environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily concluded that the ITP for this project would qualify for categorical exclusion, and the HCP would be low effect under our NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.205.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments received to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the above findings, we will determine whether the permit

issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue the requested ITP to the applicant.

Request for Public Comments

The Service invites comments and suggestions from all interested parties on the proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) and screening form during a 30-day public comment period (see **DATES**). Information and comments regarding the following topics are requested:

1. Whether the adaptive management, monitoring, and mitigation provisions in the proposed HCP are sufficient;
2. The requested 6-year ITP term;
3. Any threats to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat that may influence their populations over the life of the ITP that are not addressed in the proposed HCP or screening form;
4. Any new information on white-nose syndrome effects on the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat;
5. Whether or not the significance of the impact on various aspects of the human environment has been adequately analyzed; and
6. Any other information pertinent to evaluating the effects of the proposed action on the human environment, including those on the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

Availability of Public Comments

You may submit comments by one of the methods shown under **ADDRESSES**. We will post on <https://www.regulations.gov> all public comments and information received electronically or via hardcopy. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16

U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508; 43 CFR part 46).

Lori Nordstrom,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services.

[FR Doc. 2023–02417 Filed 2–3–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLOR936000–L14400000–ET0000–HAG23–0002; OROR–16756]

Notice of Application for Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting for the Wheeler Creek Research Natural Area, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of withdrawal application.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service (USFS), has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend Public Land Order (PLO) No. 6476, as extended by PLO No. 7572, for an additional 20 years. PLO No. 6476 as extended withdrew 334 acres of National Forest System land from location and entry under the United States mining laws for 20 years, subject to valid existing rights, for protection of the Wheeler Creek Research Natural Area. This notice advises the public of a 90-day opportunity to comment on this application for a withdrawal extension and to request a public meeting.

DATES: Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by May 8, 2023.

ADDRESSES: All comments and meeting requests should be sent to the BLM Oregon/Washington State Director, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208. The application and case file are available for public examination by interested persons by appointment at the BLM Public Room, 1220 SW 3rd Ave., 11th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97208 during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays. Please call 503–808–6001 to make an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Luke Poff, Realty Specialist, BLM Oregon/Washington State Office, (503) 808–6249, by email at lpoff@blm.gov, or

at the address noted earlier. The USFS can be reached at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor's Office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504, (541) 618–2200.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The withdrawal established by PLO No. 6476 (48 FR 45395), as extended by PLO No. 7572 (68 FR 42127), is incorporated by reference. PLO No. 6476 withdrew 334 acres of National Forest System land in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest from location and entry under the United States mining laws to protect the Wheeler Creek Research Natural Area, which was established to represent undisturbed examples of redwood (*Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*) at the northern limits of its range. The legal land description for PLO No. 6476 is on file with the BLM. Unless further extended, the withdrawal will expire on October 4, 2023. The USFS has requested that this withdrawal be extended for an additional 20 years.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency agreement, or cooperative agreement would not adequately preserve the unique resources located at this site. There are no suitable alternative sites since preserving the unique resource within the lands described in PLO No. 6476 is the reason for the application for withdrawal extension.

No water rights will be needed to fulfill the purpose of this requested withdrawal extension.

Mining would be inconsistent with preservation of the area.

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 personally identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting may be afforded in connection with the application for withdrawal extension. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being