

to the construction of a metal recycling steel plant. The applicant requests the renewal of the ITP to extend the expiration date for 3 additional years in Polk County, Florida. There is no request for additional take or increases in development levels. The proposed time extension maintains the existing levels of take, but would extend the covered activities out to April 19, 2027, instead of April 19, 2024. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and the Service's preliminary determination that this ITP renewal qualifies as low-effect, categorically excluded, under the National Environmental Policy Act. To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before June 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-202X-0062; at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by one of the following methods:

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

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2024-0062;

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2024-0062; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alfredo Begazo, by U.S. mail (see **ADDRESSES**), by telephone at 772-469-4234 or via email at alfredo_begazo@fws.gov. 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 Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Nucor Steel Florida, Inc. (applicant) for a renewal of incidental take permit (ITP)

TE12906D-0 under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the renewal of the ITP to extend the expiration date for 3 additional years in Polk County, Florida. The ITP would authorize take of the sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) and blue-tailed mole skink (*Eumeces egregius lividus*) via destruction of these species' feeding, breeding, and sheltering habitat associated with commercial construction. The applicant's existing HCP provides measures to mitigate for the incidental take of the species. The proposed ITP extension will grant additional time to complete the metal recycling steel plant. The amendment to renew does not include any changes in the covered area, activity, amount or type of take, or species to be covered by the permit. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that this HCP qualifies as low-effect, categorically excluded, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review.

Proposed Project

The applicant requests to extend the expiration date for three 3 additional years and does not include any other changes that alter the original review analyses by the Service. There is no request for additional take or increases in development levels; the proposed time extension maintains the existing levels of take but would extend the covered activities out to April 19, 2027, instead of April 19, 2024.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's project, extending the expiration date of the original ITP for 3 additional years, would individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the covered species and the environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily concluded that renewal of the ITP for this project would qualify for categorical exclusion and that this action is low effect under our NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.205 and 46.210. A low-effect action is one that would result in (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts that, when considered together with the impacts of other past,

present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not over time result in significant cumulative effects to environmental values or resources.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments to determine whether to issue the requested permit. 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 preceding and other matters, 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 ITP number PER9460033 to Nucor Steel Florida, Inc.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made available to the public. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32), and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6 and 43 CFR 46).

Robert L. Carey,

Division Manager, Environmental Review, Florida Ecological Services Office.

[FR Doc. 2024-10349 Filed 5-10-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2024-0046; FF08ESMF00-245-FXES1140800000]

Azalea Hybrid Power Project Habitat Conservation Plan, Kern County, CA; Draft Categorical Exclusion and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from SF Azalea, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act.

The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) incidental to development activities in Kern County, California. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which is also available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before June 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2024-0046 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: To send written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information requests or comments are in reference to the draft CatEx, draft HCP, or both.

- *Internet:* Submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2024-0046.

- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2024-0046; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comments under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Justin Sloan, Senior Wildlife Biologist, San Joaquin Valley Division, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, by phone at 916-414-6600. 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 (Service), announce receipt of an application from SF Azalea, LLC for a 35-year incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Application for the permit requires the preparation of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) with measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of incidental take to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant prepared the draft Azalea Hybrid Power Project HCP pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

We also make available a draft CatEx, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6. The purpose of the draft CatEx is to assess the effects of issuing the permit and implementing the draft HCP on the natural and human environment.

We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service's preliminary determination that this proposed ITP qualifies as low effect, and may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1501.4), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and the DOI's Departmental Manual (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)). To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which is also available for public review.

Background Information

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544 *et seq.*) and Federal regulations (50 CFR 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 about the Federal habitat conservation plan (HCP) program, go to <https://www.fws.gov/service/habitat-conservation-plans>.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The proposed issuance of a permit triggers the need for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The draft CatEx was prepared to analyze the impacts of issuing an ITP based on the draft HCP,

to inform the public of the proposed action and associated impacts, and to disclose any irreversible commitments of resources.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Service would issue an ITP to the applicant for a period of 35 years for certain covered activities (described below). The applicant has requested an ITP for two covered species, the federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*)

Habitat Conservation Plan Area

The geographic scope of the draft HCP encompasses 560 acres in northwestern Kern County where the development will occur, and 210 acres in northwestern Kern County that will be used to mitigate impacts from HCP covered activities.

Covered Activities

The proposed section 10 ITP would allow incidental take of two covered species from covered activities in the proposed HCP area. The applicant is requesting incidental take authorization for covered activities, including site preparation, infrastructure development, construction, decommissioning, and management of the conservation easement area. The applicant is proposing to implement a number of project design features, including best management practices, as well as general and species-specific avoidance and minimization measures to minimize the impacts of the take from the covered activities.

Public Comments

We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other interested party on this notice, the draft CatEx, and the draft HCP. We particularly seek comments on the following:

1. Biological information concerning the species;
2. Relevant data concerning the species;
3. Additional information concerning the range, distribution, population size, and population trends of the species;
4. Current or planned activities in the area and their possible impacts on the species;
5. The presence of archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which are required to be considered in

project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act; and

6. Any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed development and permit action.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—might 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.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's proposed project would individually and cumulatively have a minor effect on the San Joaquin kit fox and giant kangaroo rat, and the human environment. Therefore, we have preliminarily determined that the proposed ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would be a low-effect ITP that individually or cumulatively would have a minor effect on the species and may qualify for application of a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, DOI's NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. A low-effect ITP is one that would result in (1) minor or nonsignificant effects on species covered in the HCP; (2) nonsignificant effects on the human environment; and (3) impacts that, when added together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions, would not result in significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

Next Steps

Issuance of an incidental take permit is a Federal proposed action subject to compliance with NEPA and section 7 of the ESA. We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and any public comments we receive as part of our NEPA compliance process to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will conduct an intra-Service consultation under section 7 of the ESA for the Federal action for the potential issuance of an ITP. If the intra-Service consultation confirms that issuance of the ITP will not jeopardize the continued existence

of any endangered or threatened species, or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat, 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 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. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508 and 43 CFR 46).

Michael Fris,

Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

[FR Doc. 2024–10352 Filed 5–10–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

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Second Call for Nominations for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of second call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior is soliciting nominations for the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee (Committee). This Committee advises the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council on decisions related to the planning, evaluation, funds allocation, and conduct of injury assessment and restoration activities related to the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill of March 1989.

DATES: The deadline for submissions for the notice published on February 13, 2024 at 89 FR 10096 has been extended. All nominations must be received by June 27, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Send nomination packages by hard copy or via email to Shiway Wang, Executive Director, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, 4230 University Drive, Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508–4650, or at shiway.wang@alaska.gov. Also please copy Joy Maglaqui, Executive Assistant, on any email correspondence at joy.maglaqui@alaska.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Grace Cochon, Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, telephone number: (907) 786–3620; email: grace_cochon@ios.doi.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was created pursuant to Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America and the State of Alaska on August 27, 1991, and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, Civil Action No. A91–081 CV. The Committee advises the Trustee Council on matters relating to decisions on injury assessment, restoration activities, or other use of natural resource damage recoveries obtained by the government. The Trustee Council consists of representatives of the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Alaska Department of Law.

The Committee consists of 10 members to reflect balanced representation from each of the following principal interests: aquaculture/mariculture, commercial tourism, conservation/environmental, recreation, subsistence use, commercial fishing, native landownership, sport hunting/fishing, science/technology, and public-at-large. We are soliciting nominations for eight positions that represent aquaculture/mariculture, commercial tourism, recreation, subsistence use, commercial fishing, native landownership, science/technology, and public-at-large interests. The Committee members will be selected and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to serve a four-year term.

Nomination Process: Nominations for membership may be submitted by any source. Nominations should include a résumé providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior to evaluate the nominee's ability to meet Committee membership requirements and to contact a potential member.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. ch. 10.

Lisa M. Fox,

Regional Environmental Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024–10414 Filed 5–10–24; 8:45 am]

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