

ES-2024-0134; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Begazo, by U.S. mail (see **ADDRESSES**), by telephone at 772-226-8134, 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 Mosaic Fertilizer, 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 crested caracara (Audubon's) [FL DPS] (*Caracara plancus audubonii*) (caracara), federally listed as threatened under the ESA, incidental to the construction and operation of a phosphate mine in Hardee County, Florida. We request public comments on the application, which includes the applicant's 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 part 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, both of which are also available for public review.

Proposed Project

The applicant requests a 10-year ITP to take approximately 42.7 acres (ac) of the 70-ac primary zone of a caracara breeding territory incidental to the construction and operation of a phosphate mine on a 4,386.1-ac parcel in Hardee County. The primary zone of a caracara breeding pair is considered of vital importance for breeding success. The project site is located east of the South Fort Meade Mine and north of State Road 64, in sections 1-4 and 12-14, Township 33 South, Range 26 East, sections 5, 6, 8, 9, 14-16, 21-23, and 26-28, Township 33 South, and Range 27 East, at Latitude 27°36'10.1" longitude 81°36'1.4", Hardee County,

Florida. The applicant proposes to minimize disturbance on nesting caracaras by conducting all mining activities within the 70-ac primary zone during the non-breeding season. To mitigate for the 47-ac portion of unavoidable impacts on the caracara's primary zone, the applicant proposes to donate \$38,000 to restore 70 ac of caracara habitat per the Service's Audubon's crested caracara conservation guidelines.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant's proposed project, including the construction and operation of a phosphate mine and associated infrastructure, would individually and cumulatively have a minor effect on the caracara 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 caracara 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 reasonably foreseeable actions, would not result in significant cumulative effects to the human environment.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments to determine whether to issue the requested ITP. 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 PER11778402 to Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC.

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. If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire

comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, 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

The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32) 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).

Robert L. Carey,

Manager, Division of Environmental Review, Florida Ecological Services Field Office.

[FR Doc. 2024-20084 Filed 9-5-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2024-N043;
FXES11130800000-245-FF08E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before October 7, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Document availability and comment submission: Submit requests

for copies of the applications and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name(s) and application number(s) (e.g., XXXXXX or PER0001234).

- Email: permitsR8ES@fws.gov.
- U.S. Mail: Tiffany Heitz, Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606, Sacramento, CA 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tiffany Heitz, via phone at 916-414-6489, or via email at permitsR8ES@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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications

for permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permits would allow the applicants to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species that are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.

Background

With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA’s definition of “take” includes such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting, in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of propagation or survival of the species. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and

collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment

Proposed activities in the permit requests in table 1 are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits. Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
PER10171021	Miguel Moutsos, Oceanside, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	New.
091857	Denise Duffy & Associates, Monterey, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Renew and amend.
PER0121458	Donald W. Hardeman Jr., Cedar Hill, Texas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments. • Morro Bay kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys heermanni morroensis</i>). • Fresno kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i>) • Tipton kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i>) • Giant kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Amend.
815537	Karen Swaim, Livermore, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, collect adult vouchers, mark, swab, release, and insert PIT (passive integrated transponder) tag.	Renew.
179036	Cullen Wilkerson, Richmond, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Amend.
PER9781002	Cynthia Martinson, Paso Robles, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	New.
802450	Arthur Davenport, Barstow, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Bernardino Merriam’s kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>). • Pacific pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>). 	CA, NV ..	Survey, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED—Continued

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
PER9605389	Rylie Towne, Stockton, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	New.
142436	Eric Renfro, Torrence, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i>). 	CA	Pursue	Renew.
13636B	Michaela Craighead, Grover Beach, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod resting eggs.	Renew.
PER9814465	Kelly Otto, Oceanside, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	New.
35000A	University of California, Davis, Davis, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>) Salt marsh harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>). 	CA	Handle, mark, take hair samples, swab, release, and collect and store biological samples from carcasses.	Renew.
PER9973823	Adam Malisch, Mariposa, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod resting eggs.	New.
98470C	Michael Burleson, Citrus Heights, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	Renew.
PER0040489	Tara Johnson-Kelly, Salinas, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Coast distinct population segment. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Amend.
66228D	Andrew Ford, Vallejo, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, and collect adult vouchers.	Renew and amend.
PER0010680	David Moskovitz, Diamond Bar, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
41346D	Stan C. Glowacki, Redondo Beach, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, photograph, release, and collect voucher specimens.	Renew and amend.
745541	SJM Biological Consultants Inc., Flagstaff, Arizona.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>). Amargosa vole (<i>Microtus californicus scirpensis</i>) Pacific pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>). Yuma Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.
PER0008920	Megan R. Bishop, Richmond, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
PER0012897	Julie Thomas, Morro Bay, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED—Continued

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
75112	Gregory Chatman, Ashton, Idaho.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>)	CA	Pursue	Renew.
PER11171364	Caroline Hamilton, Placerville, California.	• Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments.	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, and insert PIT (passive integrated transponder) tag.	New.
PER10983254	Daniel J. Smith, Kingman, Arizona.	• San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, and release adults and juveniles of both sexes.	New.
101154	Douglas Rischbieter, Arnold, California.	• Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, photograph, release, and collect voucher specimens.	Renew.
PER0003722	James Hickman, San Bernardino, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>) • San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>).	CA	Pursue, survey, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.
217119	Carie Wingert, Clovis, California.	• Tipton kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i>) • Giant kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.
020548	U.S. Geological Survey, WERC, San Francisco Bay Estuary F.S., Vallejo, California.	• Salt marsh harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>). • California Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus obsoletus</i>) .. • Yuma Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, mark, take fur samples, salvage eggs, and salvage carcasses.	Renew.
PER0003167	Elyssa K. Robertson, Imperial Beach, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>)	CA	Pursue	Renew.
PER0002933	Jordan Zylstra, San Jacinto, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>)	CA	Pursue	Renew.
108683	Austin Pearson, Coarsegold, California.	• Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts.	Renew.
20280D	Stephanie A. Cashin, Anaheim, California.	• Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	Renew.
200340	Andrew Hatch, South Lake Tahoe, California.	• Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments.	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Amend.
032713	California Department of Transportation, Fresno, California.	• Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>) .. • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>) • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>) • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>) • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • Tipton kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i>) • Giant kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
118641	Jodi McGraw, Watsonville, California.	• Mount Hermon June beetle (<i>Polyphylla barbata</i>) • Zayante band-winged grasshopper (<i>Trimerotropis infantilis</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and monitor.	Renew.
PER003214	Monica Alfaro, San Diego, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>) • Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>).	CA	Pursue, survey	Renew.
PER11783251	Matthew Metheny, Arcata, California.	• Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, photograph, release, and collect voucher specimens.	New.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive 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, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Next Steps

If we decide to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Angela Picco,

Regional Threatened and Endangered Species Lead, Ecological Services, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2024-20076 Filed 9-5-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_NV_FRN_MO4500179144]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for the Bonanza Solar Project, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment with an associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of a right-of-way (ROW) application from Bonanza Solar, LLC for the Bonanza Solar Project and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS.

DATES: This notice announces the opening of a 90-day comment period for the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS beginning with the date following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal**

Register. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 90-day comment period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will be holding a combination of virtual and in-person public meetings. The specific date(s) and location(s) of these meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the Project website.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Bonanza Solar Project and RMP Amendment by any of the following methods:

- *Project website:* <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2020905/510>.
- *Email:* Bonanzasolar@blm.gov.
- *Mail:* BLM, Nevada State Office, Attn: Renewable Energy Coordination Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada 89502.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2020905/510> and at the Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katy Paiva, Project Manager, telephone (775) 861-6723; address 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89502; email Bonanzasolar@blm.gov. Contact us at this email address to have your name added to our mailing list. 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 for contacting Katy Paiva. 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: This document provides notice that the BLM has prepared a Draft RMP Amendment/EIS and announces the opening of the comment period on the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS. The Draft RMP amendments evaluated changes to the existing 1998 Las Vegas RMP to modify an existing utility corridor and reclassify the visual resources management class in the project area.

The project area is in Clark County, Nevada, and encompasses approximately 5,131 acres of public lands with a gen-tie transmission going into Nye County for 10 acres.

Purpose and Need

The BLM's purpose is to respond under title V of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1761) to an application submitted by Bonanza Solar, LLC on December 1, 2020, to construct, operate, maintain, and eventually decommission a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated facilities with a capacity of 300 megawatts.

The need for this action is established by BLM's responsibilities under FLPMA and its ROW regulations to consider the application. The BLM is required by FLPMA Section 103(c) to manage public lands for multiple uses that consider the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. The Secretary of the Interior authorized the BLM to grant ROWs on public lands for systems of generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy (43 U.S.C. 1761(a)(4)).

Alternatives Including the Preferred Alternative

The BLM analyzed five alternatives in detail, including the no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, the project would not be authorized or constructed. The BLM evaluated four action alternatives, including the Proposed Action, a Resource Integration Alternative (Alternative 1), a BLM Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2), and a Modified Layout Alternative (Alternative 3), with variations on management objectives for vegetation cover and grading limits, measures to maintain the area for Mojave desert tortoise connectivity, and the source of the water for construction, operations and maintenance. The BLM further considered six additional alternatives but dismissed these from detailed analysis as explained in the Draft RMP Amendment/EIS.

The BLM has identified Alternative 2 as the BLM Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 was found to best meet the planning guidance and, therefore, selected as the preferred alternative because it provides the best opportunity for solar energy development while allowing for the maintenance of habitat for Mojave desert tortoise connectivity.

Mitigation

The BLM Preferred Alternative includes measures to maintain and/or improve connectivity along U.S. Highway 95 for connectivity for the Mojave desert tortoise through the requirement of minimum vegetation retention standards and grading limits. The BLM Preferred Alternative also includes anti-perching/nesting