

Secs. 16, 17, and 18.

Containing approximately 4,376 acres.

T. 13 S., R. 59 W.,

Secs. 1, 2, and 3;

Secs. 10 to 13, inclusive.

Containing approximately 4,488 acres.

T. 12 S., R. 60 W.,

Secs. 7 and 8.

Containing approximately 1,273 acres.

T. 13 S., R. 60 W.,

Sec. 6.

Containing approximately 603 acres.

T. 13 S., R. 61 W.,

Sec. 1.

Containing approximately 640 acres.

Aggregating approximately 11,380 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Bristol Bay Times.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until April 19, 2010 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the BLM.

**Judy A. Kelley,**

*Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication I Branch.*

[FR Doc. 2010-6060 Filed 3-18-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[F-22520; LLAk-962000-L14100000-HY0000-P]

#### Alaska Native Claims Selection

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management will issue an appealable decision approving the conveyance of surface and subsurface estates for certain lands pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to Doyon, Limited for 118.47 acres, located southeast of the Native village of Hughes, Alaska. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until April 19, 2010 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Dina L. Torres,**

*Land Transfer Resolution Specialist, Branch of Preparation and Resolution.*

[FR Doc. 2010-6058 Filed 3-18-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AA-8448-A; AA-8448-B; LLAk965000-L14100000-KC0000-P]

#### Alaska Native Claims Selection

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management will issue an appealable decision approving the conveyance of the surface estate in certain lands pursuant to the Alaska

Native Claims Settlement Act to Leisnoi, Incorporated. The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Koniag, Inc. when the surface estate is conveyed to Leisnoi, Incorporated. The lands are in the vicinity of Woody Island, Alaska, and are located in:

U.S. Survey No. 9177, Alaska.

Containing 139.95 acres.

U.S. Survey No. 5702, Alaska.

Containing 159.93 acres.

#### Seward Meridian, Alaska

T. 27 S., R. 19 W.,

Tract F.

Containing approximately 1 acre.

Aggregating approximately 301 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Kodiak Daily Mirror.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until April 19, 2010 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Linda L. Keskitalo,**

*Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication II Branch.*

[FR Doc. 2010-6059 Filed 3-18-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2010-N003; 80221-1112-0000-F2]

#### Southeastern Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan, Lincoln County, NV

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: final environmental impact statement and habitat conservation plan.

**SUMMARY:** Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), advise the public of the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the applications from Lincoln County, City of Caliente, and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) for three section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permits under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

We also announce the availability of the Southeastern Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan (SLCHCP), which the three applicants have submitted with their incidental take permit applications and Implementing Agreement (IA). If issued, the permits would authorize incidental take of the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The permits are needed because incidental take of these listed species could occur during proposed land development activities (including land use conversion from agriculture or grazing to urban development), flood control activities (within the City of Caliente), maintenance of Lincoln County roads and right-of-ways, UPRR activities, and/or conversion of grazing land to irrigated/cultivated agricultural land, on approximately 31,000 acres of private and local government property in southeastern Lincoln County, Nevada.

**DATES:** A Record of Decision will be signed no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notice of the Final EIS in the **Federal Register**. We must receive any comments by 5 p.m. on April 15, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to Robert D. Williams, State Supervisor, by U.S. mail at Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130; by telephone at (702) 515-5230; or by fax at (702) 515-5231.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeri Krueger, Habitat Conservation Planning Coordinator, at the address or telephone or fax numbers above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Availability of Documents**

You may download copies of the SLCHCP, EIS, and IA from the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/nevada/es/hcp.html>. Alternatively, you may contact us by telephone or visit during regular business hours to ask us how to

obtain copies (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

In addition, copies of all documents are available at the following library locations:

(1) Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119; (702) 507-3400;

(2) Washoe County Library, Downtown Main Branch, 301 South Center Street, Reno, NV 89501; (775) 327-8300;

(3) Mesquite Library, 121 West First North Street, Mesquite, NV 89027; (702) 346-5224;

(4) Alamo Branch Library, 100 N. First Street, Alamo, NV 89001; (775) 725-3343;

(5) Lincoln County Library, 100 Depot Avenue, Caliente, NV 89008; (775) 726-3104; and

(6) Lincoln County Library, 63 Main Street, Pioche, NV 89043; (775) 962-5244.

**Background**

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and Federal regulations prohibit the “take” of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)(1)(B)). 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)). We have further defined “harm” to mean significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). Under limited circumstances, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed fish or wildlife (*i.e.*, “take” that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are found in 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. If we issue permits, the applicants would receive assurances for all species covered by the permits in accordance with our “No Surprises” regulations at 50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5) for all species covered by the permits.

The EIS analyzes the impacts of the proposed implementation of the SLCHCP by the applicants. The applicants are seeking permits for the incidental take of desert tortoise and southwestern willow flycatcher for a term of 30 years. Incidental take of these species may occur on approximately 31,000 acres of habitat for the tortoise and the flycatcher within the SLCHCP planning area (covered area). The covered activities may result in the loss of up to 20,000 acres of desert tortoise

habitat and up to 85 acres of southwestern willow flycatcher habitat during the term of the permit. The covered area includes the non-Federal lands on which the covered activities would occur, and Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on which most of the mitigation would occur. The BLM, as a participant in the SLCHCP, would be responsible for reviewing and, if appropriate, authorizing the implementation of mitigation measures on BLM-administered land.

Proposed covered activities include: (1) Planned land development and maintenance activities (including land use conversion from agriculture or grazing to urban development), (2) utility and infrastructure development and maintenance activities, (3) flood control activities within the City of Caliente, (4) Lincoln County roadway construction and maintenance activities, (5) UPRR activities, and (6) land conversion activities (*e.g.*, conversion of grazing land to irrigated/cultivated agricultural land).

The SLCHCP’s proposed conservation strategy is designed to minimize and mitigate the impacts of incidental take of the covered species resulting from covered activities, to maintain stable or increasing desert tortoise populations in the covered area, and to achieve no net loss of suitable southwestern willow flycatcher habitat within the covered area. The SLCHCP provides a mechanism to supply funding for a full range of conservation measures targeting desert tortoise, southwestern willow flycatcher, and the ecosystems that support them. Conservation measures proposed for the desert tortoise as part of the SLCHCP include pre-construction surveys, initiating and sustaining a desert tortoise “Head Start” program, translocation of desert tortoises, research on the ecological implications of fire to species’ habitats, restoration of burned desert tortoise habitat areas, and public outreach and education. To minimize and mitigate the loss of suitable flycatcher habitat along the Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek resulting from the covered activities, UPRR and the City of Caliente will provide the funding necessary to create additional suitable flycatcher habitat or enhance the functional value of potentially suitable existing flycatcher habitat at a ratio of 2 acres for every 1 acre of native habitat removed, or at a ratio of 1 acre for every acre of non-native habitat removed. Private landowners with property located along these two waterways may volunteer to participate in the SLCHCP by signing a participation agreement provided by

Lincoln County that would extend take authorization under Lincoln County's permit to the participating landowner, provided the landowner agrees to implement the minimization and mitigation measures in the SLCHCP.

### National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

Our proposal to issue incidental take permits is a Federal action that triggers the need for compliance with NEPA. Accordingly, as the Federal agency responsible for compliance under NEPA, we have prepared an EIS that analyzes alternatives associated with issuance of the incidental take permits. In addition to the permit issuance alternative, other alternatives we considered in the EIS include the "No Action" alternative (we would not issue the incidental take permits, "take" of the desert tortoise and southwestern willow flycatcher would not be authorized, and the SLCHCP would not be implemented), and "Alternative A, Additional Lands for Development" (we would issue incidental take permits for development and associated activities on up to 44,135 acres of private lands within the covered area as well as BLM land proposed for disposal over the next 30 years in the southeastern portion of Lincoln County).

The final EIS includes all comments we received on the draft EIS and our responses to those comments. After the 30-day waiting period, we will complete a Record of Decision that announces our decision on the action that will be implemented and discusses all factors leading to the decision.

### Public Involvement

We published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for this project in the **Federal Register** on July 5, 2001 (66 FR 35451), and held public workshops on June 25 and 26, 2001, in Alamo and Caliente. We held additional public workshops on July 5 and 6, 2006, in Caliente, Alamo, and Mesquite to update members of the public on the status of the SLCHCP. On December 5, 2008, we published a notice of availability of the draft SLCHCP, draft EIS, and draft IA in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 74185). The draft documents were available for a 75-day public comment period ending on February 11, 2009.

### Public Review

Copies of the final EIS, SLCHCP, and IA are available for review (*see* Availability of Documents). Any comments we receive will become part of the administrative record and may be available to the public. Before

submitting comments that include your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may 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.

We will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. A permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the EPA's final EIS notice in the **Federal Register** and completion of the Record of Decision.

### Ken McDermond,

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. 2010-5629 Filed 3-18-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2010-N017; 20124-1112-0000-F2]

### Lower Colorado River Authority Transmission Services Corporation; Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of Competitive Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Lines and Related Facilities

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement and draft habitat conservation plan; announcement of meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), advise the public that we intend to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts of, and alternatives to, the proposed issuance of an Endangered Species Act permit to the Lower Colorado River Authority Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC; applicant) for incidental take of six federally listed or candidate species from activities associated with LCRA TSC's construction, maintenance, operation, and repair of four Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) "priority" transmission lines and related facilities (i.e., substations, substation upgrades, and access roads) required to be constructed by the Public

Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) (collectively, the LCRA TSC CREZ transmission lines). We also announce plans for a series of public scoping meetings and a public comment period.

**DATES:** If you wish to submit written comments on alternatives and issues for us to address in the draft EIS, we must receive them by close of business on June 17, 2010. We will hold public scoping meetings at locations throughout LCRA's proposed 14-county permit area. The scoping meetings will be noticed in local news papers at least two weeks before each scoping meeting and on the following website: <http://www.LCRA.org>.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information or to send written comments by mail: Field Supervisor, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnett Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758-4460; 512/490-0057 (phone); 512/490-0974 (fax); or [Luela\\_Roberts@fws.gov](mailto:Luela_Roberts@fws.gov) (e-mail). Note that your information request or comments concern the LCRA TSC draft EIS/HCP.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We publish this notice in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6), and section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We intend to gather the information necessary to determine impacts and alternatives to support a decision regarding the potential issuance of an incidental take permit to the applicant, and the implementation of the supporting draft HCP. We intend to prepare an EIS to evaluate the impacts of, and alternatives to, the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit under the Act. The applicant proposes to apply for an incidental take permit through development and implementation of an HCP. The proposed HCP will cover take of certain species that is incidental to activities associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of LCRA TSC's CREZ transmission lines and related facilities and will include measures necessary to minimize and mitigate impacts to covered species and their habitats to the maximum extent practicable.

### Background

Section 9 of the Act prohibits "taking" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered under section 4 of the Act. The Act's implementing regulations extend, under certain circumstances, the prohibition of take to threatened