

opportunity to test the conversion of public housing and other HUD-assisted properties to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance to achieve certain goals, including the preservation and improvement of these properties through access by public housing agencies (PHAs) and owners to private debt and equity to address immediate and long-term capital needs; the extent to which residents have increased housing choices after the conversion; and the overall impact of conversion on the subject properties. The March 8, 2012, notice advised that HUD posted on its Web site the full details of the demonstration in a Program Notice entitled "Rental Assistance Demonstration—Partial Implementation and Request for Comments." HUD refers the reader to the March 8, 2012, **Federal Register** notice for detailed information about RAD, as well as to the Program Notice, posted on HUD's Web site at [www.hud.gov/rad](http://www.hud.gov/rad). This notice extends the due date for the submission of public comments on the Program Notice to April 23, 2012, and clarifies the scope of the demonstration that took effect on March 8, 2012.

## II. Extension of Public Comment Due Date

The March 8, 2012, notice solicited public comment on the demonstration and established a comment due date of April 9, 2012. In order to ensure that interested members of the public have sufficient time to prepare and submit comments, HUD is extending the due date for the submission of comments on the Program Notice until April 23, 2012.

## III. Clarification of Demonstration Scope

As provided in the March 8, 2012, notice and in the Program Notice, RAD consists of two components. The first component, which is covered under Sections I and II of the Program Notice for PHAs and Mod Rehab owners, respectively, allows projects funded under HUD's public housing and Mod Rehab programs to convert to long-term Section 8 rental assistance contracts. Under this first component, PHAs and Mod Rehab owners may apply to HUD to convert to one of two forms of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts: Project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA).

The second component, which is covered under Section II of the Program Notice, for owners of Mod Rehab projects, and under Section III of the Program Notice, for owners of Rent Supplement (Rent Supp) and Rental Assistance (RAP) projects, of the

Program Notice, allows projects funded under the Mod Rehab, Rent Supp and RAP programs, with a contract expiration or termination occurring after October 1, 2006, and no later than September 30, 2013, to convert tenant protection vouchers (TPVs) to PBVs.

The "Effective Date" section of the March 8, 2012, notice provided that the conversion of Rent Supp and RAP Properties under Section III of the Program Notice were effective on March 8, 2012.

The March 8, 2012 notice, at 77 FR 14030, following the explanation of the Section II and Section III provisions of the second component stated, inconsistent with the "Effective Date" provision, "These provisions are effective immediately."

Accordingly, this notice clarifies the scope of the sections of the demonstration that are effective on March 8, 2012, to eliminate any confusion made by the statement at the end of the explanation of the second component at 77 FR 14030. The only provisions that are effective immediately are, as provided in the "Effective Date" section of the notice, those of Section III of the Program Notice for the conversion of Rent Supp and RAP Properties. The Section II provisions for properties funded under Mod Rehab, which are part of the discussion of the second component, are not yet in effect.

Dated: March 30, 2012.

**Deborah Hernandez,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

**Carol J. Galante,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 2012-8210 Filed 4-3-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R9-MB-2011-N215; 91400-5110-0000-7B; 91400-9410-0000-7B]**

### Multistate Conservation Grant Program; Priority List and Approval for Conservation Projects

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of priority list and approval of the projects.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announce the fiscal year 2012, priority list of wildlife and sport fish conservation projects from the Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). As required by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, AFWA submits a list of projects to us each year to consider for funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program. We have reviewed the list and have awarded the grants from the list.

**ADDRESSES:** John C. Stremple, Multistate Conservation Grants Program Coordinator, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John C. Stremple, at the above address, or at (703) 358-2156 (phone) or [John\\_Stremple@fws.gov](mailto:John_Stremple@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Improvement Act, Pub. L. 106-408) amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 *et seq.*) and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 *et seq.*) and established the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The Improvement Act authorizes us to award grants of up to \$3 million annually from funds available under each of the Restoration Acts, for a total of up to \$6 million annually. Projects can be funded from both funds depending on the project activities. We may award grants to projects from a list of priority projects recommended to us by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The FWS Director, exercising the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, need not fund all projects on the list, but all projects funded must be on the list.

Grantees under this program may use funds for sport fisheries and wildlife management and research projects, boating access development, hunter safety and education, aquatic education, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation.

To be eligible for funding, a project must benefit fish and/or wildlife conservation in at least 26 States, or in a majority of the States in any one FWS Region, or it must benefit a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. We may award grants to a State, a group of States, or one or more nongovernmental organizations. For the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, we may award grants to the FWS, if requested by AFWA, or to a State or a group of States. Also, AFWA requires all project proposals to address its National

Conservation Needs, which are announced annually by AFWA at the same time as its request for proposals. Further, applicants must provide certification that no activities conducted under a Multistate Conservation grant will promote or encourage opposition to regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or to regulated angling or taking of fish.

Eligible project proposals are reviewed and ranked by AFWA

Committees and interested nongovernmental organizations that represent conservation organizations, sportsmen's and women's organizations, and industries that support or promote fishing, hunting, trapping, recreational shooting, bowhunting, or archery. AFWA's Committee on National Grants recommends a final list of priority projects to the directors of State fish and wildlife agencies for their approval by

majority vote. By statute, AFWA then must transmit the final approved list to the FWS for funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program by October 1 of the fiscal year.

This year, we received a list of 12 recommended projects from AFWA. We recommend all of them for funding in fiscal year 2012. The list follows:

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM—FY 2012 CYCLE RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

| ID           | Title  | Submitter                                    | PR funding <sup>1</sup> | DJ funding <sup>2</sup> | Total 2012 grant request |
|--------------|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12-034 ..... | Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordination.  | AFWA .....                                   | \$145,260.00            | \$145,260.00            | \$290,520.00             |
| 12-001 ..... | Coordination of Farm Bill Program Implementation to Optimize Fish and Wildlife Benefits to the States. | AFWA .....                                   | 156,600.00              | 52,200.00               | 208,800.00               |
| 12-008 ..... | Coordination of the Industry, Federal and State Agency Coalition.                                      | AFWA .....                                   | 152,775.00              | 50,925.00               | 203,700.00               |
| 12-028 ..... | State Fish and Wildlife Agency Coordination and Administration.  | AFWA .....                                   | 299,359.80              | 299,359.80              | 598,719.60               |
| 12-029 ..... | State Fish and Wildlife Agency Director Travel Coordination and Administration.                        | AFWA .....                                   | 64,075.00               | 64,075.00               | 128,150.00               |
| 12-010 ..... | 2011 Economic Impacts of Sportfishing ....   | American Sportfishing Association            | 0.0                     | 82,503.00               | 82,503.00                |
| 12-022 ..... | The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 75th Anniversary.                                      | Wildlife Management Institute .....          | 50,000.00               | 50,000.00               | 100,000.00               |
| 12-011 ..... | Investigating Factors Related to Hunting and Fishing License Sales Increases.                          | American Sportfishing Association            | 92,886.15               | 92,886.15               | 185,772.30               |
| 12-017 ..... | Longitudinal Evaluation of Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Recruitment/Retention Programs.              | National Wild Turkey Federation              | 173,172.38              | 173,172.38              | 346,344.76               |
| 12-033 ..... | Organizational Development Training for Fish Habitat Partnerships to Increase Capacity.                | National Fish Habitat Action Plan Board.     | 0                       | 100,000.00              | 100,000.00               |
| 12-021 ..... | Trailblazer Adventure Program .....  | U.S. Sportsman Alliance Foundation.          | 40,000.00               | 40,000.00               | 80,000.00                |
| 12-030 ..... | Conserving Fish Habitat from Whitewater to Bluewater.  | Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. | 0                       | 261,440.38              | 261,440.38               |
|              |  |  | 1,174,128.33            | 1,411,821.71            | 2,585,950.04             |

<sup>1</sup> PR Funding: Pitman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds.

<sup>2</sup> DJ Funding: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds.

Dated: December 28, 2011.

Rowan W. Gould,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-7998 Filed 4-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCA9300000 L13400000.DS0000]

**Notice of Amendment to the Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Including Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties; and Possible Land Use Plan Amendments**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central California District, Sacramento, California and California Desert District, Moreno Valley, California intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which may include amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP), Caliente/Bakersfield RMP, and Eastern San Diego County RMP for the areas that are within the planning boundary of the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). These potential plan amendments will be analyzed in the DRECP Draft EIS and CDCA Plan Amendment (PA), as noticed in the **Federal Register** on November 20, 2009 (74 FR 60291) and August 29, 2011 (76 FR 45606). By this notice, the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to