

under this NOFA and may make any remaining amounts available under a future NOFA.

To review and rate applications, HUD may establish panels including persons not currently employed by HUD to obtain certain expertise and outside points of view, including views from other Federal agencies. HUD reserves the right to use two separate panels to review and rate applications in the two groups, and to announce the awards under the two groups at different times.

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Dated: August 30, 1996.

Howard Glaser,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 96-22894 Filed 9-4-96; 4:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Decision and Availability of Two Record of Decision Documents on the Issuance of Permits for Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

Record of Decision for the Proposed Issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the Incidental Take of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, Riverside County, California; and Record of Decision for the Proposed Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species to Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., for Lands in the I-90 Corridor of King and Kittitas Counties, Washington.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that a decision on the applications for permits by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. (Plum Creek), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, have been made and that the Records of Decision are available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency: Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008, telephone (619) 431-9440, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and for Plum Creek: Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, 3704 Griffin Lane SE, Suite 102, Olympia, Washington 98501-2192, telephone (360-753-9440).

Individuals wishing copies of the Records of Decision should contact the respective U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Decision

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision is to adopt the Preferred Alternative and issue a permit authorizing incidental take of Stephens' kangaroo rats to the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency based on the Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan in western Riverside County, as described in the final Environmental Impact Statement/Report. This decision is based on a thorough review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences. By adopting the preferred alternative with its assurances that the mitigation program and enforcement measures be implemented, all practicable means to avoid or minimize harm have been adopted.

Rationale for Decision

Implementation of the Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan has been selected as the Preferred Alternative based on consideration of a number of environmental and social factors. These factors include: (1) proposed mitigation and minimization measures in the Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan that would benefit Stephens' kangaroo rats on a regional scale in the core habitat area for the species by establishing seven Core Reserves; (2) the incidental take would occur within western Riverside County, where a viable population of Stephens' kangaroo rats cannot be maintained over the long-term; and (3) the proposed permit would allow incidental take of Stephens' kangaroo rats in areas outside the Core Reserves providing the opportunity for more orderly development and minimizing impacts to the social environment within western Riverside County.

Plum Creek Decision

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision is to adopt the Preferred Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative, issue a permit authorizing incidental take of listed species and enter into an unlisted species agreement as described in the final Environmental Impact Statement. This decision is based on a thorough review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences. By adopting the preferred alternative with its assurances that the mitigation program and enforcement measures be implemented, all practicable means to avoid or minimize harm have been adopted.

Rationale for Decision

The Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative, as described in the applicant's Habitat Conservation Plan and analyzed in the final Environmental Impact Statement, provides the most comprehensive package of conservation prescriptions and activities of all of the Alternatives. None of the other alternatives provide as integrated and comprehensive a package of habitat conservation as the Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative. The Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative specifically addresses four listed species, two listed species for which incidental take coverage is not currently sought, riparian habitat management which captures the majority of species that might inhabit the plan area, including anadromous salmonids which are the subject of Federal Tribal Trust responsibility. Furthermore, the Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative provides management goals for 16 Lifeforms and associated species, as well as special habitat management such as caves, talus slopes, wetlands and snags. Only the Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan Alternative addresses talus, caves, wetlands, riparian management, Old Growth and spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat, murrelets, owls, grizzly bears, gray wolves, snags, roads and accelerated watershed analysis. No other alternative addresses all of these resource concerns, together, in an integrated way.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 96-22921 Filed 9-06-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to Tribal-State compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 2710, of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-497), the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the Federal Register, notice of approved amendments to Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III (casino) gaming on Indian reservations. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved Amendment III to the Gaming Compact Between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the