

a biologist and the area enclosed by the fence would be systematically searched. All desert tortoises found would be relocated to adjacent habitat in a manner consistent with current handling procedures and guidelines. Workers at the mine site would be educated about the status of the desert tortoise and what to do if desert tortoises are found on access roads or during work activities. The applicant would ensure that trash is handled in a way that does not lure predators of the desert tortoise into the area.

The phasing of mining would reduce the numbers of Mojave ground squirrels killed at any given time. The acquisition and management of off-site habitat would be the primary means of compensating for the loss of this habitat and individual Mojave ground squirrels. Nest tree buffers and grading season restrictions would protect any loggerhead shrikes nesting on site. During reclamation of the site, trees would be planted that provide nesting habitat for the loggerhead shrike.

Environmental Assessment

The environmental assessment considers the environmental consequences of the proposed action and no action alternatives. A no take alternative was not feasible due to the size of the proposed mine and the unpredictable distribution of desert tortoises in the project area. Under the no action alternative, the Service would not issue an incidental take permit to the applicant and a habitat conservation plan would not be implemented. The applicant would not be able to proceed legally with mining as planned due to the presence of listed animal species in the area.

Authority

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the application, its associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the ESA. If the Service determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the listed species. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of Utilities Data Content Standard

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is conducting a public review of the Utilities Data Content Standard. The purpose of this public review is to provide data users and producers with an opportunity to comment on this standard in order to ensure that it meets their needs. Specifically, the FGDC request responses in three areas: (1) Identify any "ad hoc" or "defacto" standards being used that address data content for utilities systems; (2) identify additional feature classes, feature types, attributes, and domains not contained in this standard that are necessary to meet a user's requirements; (3) identify any issues that a user may have in implementing the information contained in the utilities standard into a system's feature schema.

Participants in the public review are encouraged to provide comments that address specific issues/changes/additions that may result in revisions to the draft utilities standard. All participants who make comments during the public review period will receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of their comment. After comments have been considered, participants will receive notification of how their comments were addressed. After the formal adoption of the standard by the FGDC, the revised standard and a summary analysis of the changes will be made available.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 6, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The standard can be downloaded from the following Internet address: <http://www.fgdc.gov/Standards/Documents/Standards/Utility>.

Requests for written copies of the standard should be addressed to "Utilities Data Content Standard", FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192; or telephone

703-648-5514; facsimile 703-648-5755; or Internet "gdc@usgs.gov."

Reviewer's comments may be sent to the FGDC via Internet mail to: gdc.util@www.fgdc.gov. Reviewer comments may also be sent to the FGDC Secretariat at the above address. Please send one hardcopy version of the comments and a soft copy version, preferably on a 3.5x3.5 diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 or 6.0/6.1 format.

For answers to questions related to the content of the standard please contact the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Facilities Working Group, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, General Engineering Branch 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000; voice telephone numbers: Kevin Backe (703) 428-6505, Nancy Blyler facsimile telephone number: (703) 428-6991.

Dated: October 10, 1997.

John Fischer,

Acting Chief, National Mapping Division, U.S. Geological Survey.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Homestead National Monument of America, NE

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impact of alternative management concepts in a revised General Management Plan (GMP) for Homestead National Monument of America. The purpose of revising the GMP is to set forth the basic management philosophy for the next 10 to 15 years, and provide the strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives. Some of the issues needing addressing are: flooding threats to the park's developed infrastructure and operations much of which resides or occurs in a floodplain; the restored tallgrass prairie's relationship to the park's purpose; cultural landscape alterations misrepresenting the historic scene and integrity; adequacy of domestic water and sewerage infrastructure; Highway 4 and traffic safety; Freeman School's interpretive relationship and safe public access thereto; unfulfilled legislative mandates to serve as a repository for