

estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection;

Title of Information Collection: Analysis of Malpractice Premium Data;

Form No.: HCFA-R-143 (OMB# 0938-0575);

Use: This form is used for computing the Medicare physician fee schedule Malpractice Geographic Practice Cost Index (MGPCI) and the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). The data collected will be used to update the MGPCI and the new resource-based malpractice relative value units (MRVUs) component of the physician fee schedule. The malpractice data are critical to the accuracy of the Medicare physician fee schedule;

Frequency: Other: every 3 years;

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Gov., Business or other for-profit, and Not-for-profit institutions;

Number of Respondents: 50;

Total Annual Responses: 50;

Total Annual Hours: 150.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 1, 1999.

John Parmigiani,

Manager, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-31958 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Globenet/Worldcom Parking Lot Expansion in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: MFS Globenet, Incorporated/Worldcom Network Services, Incorporated (Globenet/Worldcom) has applied for an incidental take permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Globenet/Worldcom requests a 5-year permit to allow the incidental take of the federally endangered Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) associated with construction of an expanded parking lot (0.4 acre) in the community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, CA. The permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement, both of which are available for public review and comment. The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003; facsimile (805) 644-3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Hill or Heather Hollis, Fish and Wildlife Biologists, at (503) 231-6241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the documents for review should immediately contact the office listed above. Documents also will be available for inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Under section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations, taking of threatened and endangered wildlife species is prohibited. Under the Act, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture or collect listed wildlife, or attempt to engage in such conduct. Harm includes habitat modification that kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Under limited circumstances, the Service may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

Globenet/Worldcom needs an incidental take permit to expand a parking lot at its telecommunication building located at 10th and Los Olivos Avenue in the city of Los Osos. To obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for the building, Globenet/Worldcom must expand the parking lot for fire truck access. Globenet/Worldcom proposes to expand the parking lot in areas of occupied snail habitat that were previously avoided during siting of the building. Globenet/Worldcom may be able to avoid impacts to the Morro shoulderband snail during future construction and operation of a fiber optic cable originating at the telecommunication facility. If take of the snail can not be avoided during construction and operation of the cable, Globenet/Worldcom will apply for a permit amendment.

The proposed construction of an expanded parking lot would result in the permanent loss of 0.4 acre of habitat that supports the endangered Morro shoulderband snail. The permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) and an Implementation Agreement which define the responsibilities of all of the parties under the Plan. The Plan addresses impacts to the Morro shoulderband snail that are associated with the proposed parking lot expansion and the future cable project. The Plan provides for implementation of measures to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to the Morro shoulderband snail.

To minimize the effects of the parking lot expansion, the boundaries of the work area will be clearly marked and enforced by a Service approved

biological monitor. To compensate for unavoidable habitat loss from the parking lot expansion, and for future impacts from fiber optic cable construction should a permit amendment be needed, Globenet/Worldcom proposes to provide funds to acquire, restore, monitor and manage in perpetuity 3.78 acres of high quality, Morro shoulderband snail habitat off-site and adjacent to Montana de Oro State Park. This land would be deeded to and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation or another land manager approved by the Service.

The Plan and the Environmental Assessment consider two alternatives to the proposed parking lot expansion project, as well as additional alternatives to the future cable project. Under the No Development Alternative, the parking lot would not be expanded, the telecommunications building would remain vacated, and the Service would not issue an incidental take permit. Non-native plants would recolonize the project site, human disturbances would likely continue, and off-site high quality snail habitat would not be protected. Under the Alternate Site Alternative, the existing telecommunications building would remain vacated. Globenet/Worldcom would construct another building at another site that does not support listed species. The Service would not issue an incidental take permit. This alternative would result in greater impacts to the environment than the other alternatives and would not provide a substantial benefit to the snail.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). In determining whether the application meets the requirements of law, the Service will evaluate the application, its associated documents, and comments submitted by the public. If the Service determines that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Morro shoulderband snail. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 99-31746 Filed 12-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-932-1320-05; NMNM 99144]

Notice of Coal Lease Offering

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of competitive coal lease sale.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain coal resources in the tract described below in San Juan County, New Mexico, will be offered for competitive lease by sealed bid in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et. seq.*)

DATES: The lease sale will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2000. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 9 a.m., on January 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The lease sale will be held in the BLM Conference Room, located at 1474 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87502. Sealed bids must be submitted on or before 9 a.m. on January 12, 2000, to: Cashier, New Mexico State Office, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ida T. Viarreal at (505) 438-7603.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder(s) submitting the highest cash offer provided that the high bids meet or exceed the fair market value of the tracts as determined by the authorized officer after the sale. Each bid should be clearly identified by tract number or serial number on the outside of the envelope containing the bid(s). No bid that is less than \$100.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. This \$100.00 per acre is a regulatory minimum, and is not intended to reflect fair market value of the tracts.

Sealed bids clearly market "Sealed Bid for NMNM 99144 Coal Sale—Not to be opened before 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 12, 2000." must be received on or before 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2000. Bids should be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or should be hand delivered. The cashier will issue a receipt for each hand delivered sealed bid. Bids received after 9 a.m., on January 12, 2000, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale.

If identical high sealed bids are received, the tying bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-

breaking sealed bids must be within 15 minutes following the sale official's announcement at the sale that identical sealed bids have been received.

Coal Tract To Be Offered

The coal resources to be offered consist of all recoverable reserves in the following described lands located in San Juan County, New Mexico and are described as follows:

T. 30 N., R. 14 W., NMPM
Sec. 17, ALL;
Sec. 18, ALL;
Sec. 19, ALL;
Sec. 20, ALL;
Sec. 29, ALL;
Sec. 30, ALL;
Sec. 31, Lot 1-4, N¹/₂, N¹/₂, S¹/₂.

Containing 4,483.88 acres, more or less.

Rental and Royalty

The leases issued as a result of this lease offering will require payment of an annual rental of \$3.00 per acre or fraction thereof, and a royalty payable to the United States of 12¹/₂ percent of the value of the coal removed by surface methods and 8 percent of the value of the coal removed by underground methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 206.250.

Notice of Availability

Bidding instructions for the offered tracts are included in Detailed Statement of Coal Lease Sale. Copies of the Statement and the proposed coal lease are available upon request in person or by mail from the New Mexico State Office at the addresses shown above. The case files are available for inspection during normal business hours only at the Santa Fe, New Mexico, location.

Dated: December 2, 1999.

Richard A. Whitley,

Associate State Director.

[FR Doc. 99-31747 Filed 12-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-FB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-030-1310-DB]

Continental Divide/Wamsutter II Natural Gas Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and