

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has applied to the Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. This permit would authorize the incidental take of piping plovers through otherwise lawful activities occurring on plover breeding beaches. Included in the application is a conservation plan prepared by the Division detailing the activities that would result in incidental take and describing measures that mitigate, minimize and monitor the amount of take.

The purpose of the proposed incidental take permit is to provide increased flexibility in managing Massachusetts beaches for use by recreationists and homeowners, while assuring continued progress toward the recovery of the Massachusetts and Atlantic Coast populations of the piping plover. The additional flexibility in managing beaches will prevent a disproportionate expenditure of resources directed at the protection of a few nests or broods in areas where they may significantly disrupt beach access by large numbers of people and be highly vulnerable to disturbance and/or mortality. Management flexibility also will create incentives for the continued participation by beach management agencies and organizations involved in protecting piping plovers.

On May 18, 2000, the Service published a notice of availability of the draft EA and receipt of an application for an incidental take permit for the Atlantic coast piping plover in Massachusetts. The public comment period originally was announced to close on June 19, 2000. Because of several requests for additional time, the Service is extending the public comment period to July 3, 2000.

Dated: June 19, 2000.

Margaret T. Kolar,

Acting Deputy Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-075-1330-AC]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Dry Valley Mine Extension, Panels C and D. The FEIS

analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with a proposal by Astaris, LLC (Formerly FMC Corporation) to extend existing open-pit phosphate mining operations in southeastern Idaho. BLM, US Forest Service, and the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared the FEIS. BLM is acting as the lead agency; the US Forest Service is a joint lead agency; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency for preparation of the FEIS. The Proposed Action includes: construction of two mining pits (Pits C and D), associated haul and access roads, overburden dumps, and use of existing mine facilities to support continued mining. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include the No Action Alternative and alternative methods of handling overburden to reduce impacts caused by the proposed mine extension. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was distributed in July 1999. The FEIS responds to comments received on the DEIS.

Agency Decisions

The BLM will issue a Record of Decision regarding the proposed Dry Valley Panel C and D Mine and Reclamation Plan and modification (enlargement) of Federal Phosphate Lease I-0678. The Caribou National Forest will provide BLM with recommendations for those portions of the project that are on National Forest System lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District anticipates signing a separate Record of Decision regarding issuance of a Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit for the project.

DATES: The Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers intend to issue independent Records of Decision (ROD) on the proposal no sooner than July 24, 2000 or 30 days after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: Limited numbers of the FEIS are available at the Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 1111 N. 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83201, telephone (208) 478-6354; the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest, 421 W. 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276, telephone (208) 547-4356; and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, Idaho Falls Regulatory Office, 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402 Falls, telephone (208) 522-1645.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Comments or questions may be directed to Jeff Cundick, EIS Project Manager,

Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 1111 N. 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. Telephone: (208) 478-6354.

Jeff S. Steele,

Manager, Pocatello Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-00-5101-ER-J206, U-76985]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment to the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment to the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salt Lake Field Office, Utah announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and plan amendment to the Transportation and Corridor Decision of the Pony Express RMP.

On April 15, 1999 the Salt Lake Field Office published in the **Federal Register** a notice of intent to conduct a plan amendment to the RMP. Further, the notice indicated that BLM was a cooperating agency with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), lead agency for the DEIS. The NRC is publishing a separate notice for the DEIS, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah" NUREG-1714, June 2000, regarding the proposal of Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (PFS) to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. BLM intends to adopt the EIS as a basis for its plan amendment decision.

DATES: Comments on the land use plan amendment and DEIS will be accepted through September 21, 2000. Public meetings concerning both the DEIS and