

destroyed; (3) construction limits will be fenced or flagged prior to construction activities to avoid inadvertent disturbance of areas outside the construction zone; (4) the proper use and disposal of oil and gasoline will be enforced; and (5) all trash associated with construction activities will be properly contained and disposed.

To mitigate for the permanent loss of occupied habitat due to the proposed activities, the Applicant proposes to revegetate 6.0 acres of non-native grassland in Deer Canyon Park Preserve with coastal sage scrub vegetation. The revegetated area would connect patches of fragmented coastal sage scrub that lie to the north and south. A restoration HCP will be developed that includes performance criteria, such as percent cover by native and non-native plants, native plant diversity, and evidence of natural reproduction, which must be met. The restoration plan must be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The HCP considered the following alternatives: (1) The proposed project; (2) use of a mitigation fee; (3) redesign of the project; and (4) no project or no action alternative.

The proposed project involves the issuance of a permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to authorize the incidental take of the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher during facilities improvement and fire management activity. The project impacts 1.39 acres of coastal sage scrub occupied by the coastal California gnatcatcher. Mitigation for the project is the revegetation of 6.0 acres of non-native grassland with coastal sage scrub vegetation.

The use of a mitigation fee to compensate for the loss of coastal sage scrub, as outlined in the Central and Coastal Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), is not authorized for this project because Deer Canyon Park Preserve is designated as an Existing Use Area, and the in-lieu fee mitigation program is not available to mitigate for take of gnatcatchers within Existing Use Areas unless specifically authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game.

Under the redesign alternative, the applicant would redesign the project to further reduce impacts to coastal sage scrub vegetation. The applicant states that it is not possible to further redesign the project and meet project goals.

Under the No Project alternative the project would not occur. Therefore an incidental take permit would not be required and the Applicant would abandon the proposed project.

The Service has determined that the HCP qualifies as a "Low Effect" Habitat Conservation Plan as defined by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Our determination that a habitat conservation plan qualifies as a low-effect plan is based on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of a plan would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of a plan would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of a plan, considered together with the impacts of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be considered significant.

The Service therefore has made a preliminary determination that approval of the HCP qualifies as a categorical exclusion under NEPA, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). Based on this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. The Service will consider public comments in making its final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

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). The Service will evaluate the permit application, the HCP, and the associated documents and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will issue a permit for the incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: April 23, 2001.

Jill Parker,

Acting Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 01-11897 Filed 5-10-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1990-EX]

Notice of Availability for the Oil-Dri Corporation of Nevada's Reno Clay Plant Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Washoe County, Nevada.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Oil-Dri Corporation of Nevada Reno Clay Plant Project, notice of public meeting, and initiation of a 60-day public comment period.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 40 CFR 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ), and 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management Regulations, notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City Field Office has prepared, with the assistance of a third-party consultant, a Draft EIS on the proposed Reno Clay Plant Project, and has made the document available for public and agency review.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft EIS must be submitted or postmarked to the BLM no later than July 10, 2001. Written comments may also be presented at a public open house that is scheduled for May 30, 2001, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft EIS should be addressed to: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Terri Knutson, Oil-Dri EIS Project Manager. Comments may also be sent via electronic mail to the following address: tknutson@nv.blm.gov or via fax: (775) 885-6147. A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained at the above BLM Field Office in Carson City, NV. In addition, the Draft EIS is available on the internet via the Carson City Field Office Home Page at: www.nv.blm.gov/carson.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request

confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Knutson, Oil-Dri EIS Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 885-6156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Oil-Dri Corporation of Nevada (Oil-Dri) has submitted a Plan of Operations for the construction, operation, and reclamation of a mining operation and processing facility located approximately ten miles north of the Reno/Sparks area in Hungry Valley, Washoe County, Nevada. The proposed mining operation, known as the Reno Clay Plant Project, would be located on 305 acres of public and 40 acres of private land and would result in the development of two open pit mine areas, construction of a processing facility, construction and/or upgrade of haul and access roads, and continued exploration activities. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2001 and continue for approximately 20 years.

The Draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed mining and processing facilities, two access alternatives, and the no action alternative. Issues analyzed include geology, minerals, paleontology, air resources, aesthetics (visual & noise), water resources, soils, vegetation, range resources, wildlife, special status species, land use, access, recreation, cultural resources, Native American Religious Concerns, social & economic resources, and Environmental Justice.

A copy of the Draft EIS has been sent to all individuals, agencies, and groups who have expressed interest in the project or as mandated by regulation or policy. A limited number of copies are available upon request from the BLM at the address listed above. In addition, the document is available on the Carson City Field Office Home Page at the address above.

Public participation has occurred throughout the EIS process. A Notice of

Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 2000 (Pages 43779-43780) and the 30-day public scoping period was initiated. A public open house was held in Reno on August 8, 2000 and additional presentations were made to three Washoe County Citizen Advisory Boards and to a community meeting at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

To assist the BLM in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible. Comments should also refer to specific pages or chapters in the document. After the comment period ends, all comments will be analyzed and considered by the BLM in preparing the Final EIS.

Dated: April 23, 2001.

John Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 01-10912 Filed 5-10-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-090-1990EX-01]

Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Reclamation of the Zortman and Landusky Mines in Phillips County, Montana. This is a supplement to the 1996 Final EIS on Reclamation Plan Modifications and Mine Life Extensions at the Zortman and Landusky Mines. The Draft Supplemental EIS addresses 12 reclamation alternatives, six for the Zortman Mine and six for the Landusky Mine. The BLM and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are co-lead agencies for the preparation of the Supplemental EIS. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council are participating agencies.

DATES: The comment period on the Draft Supplemental EIS will end on July 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address all written comments to Zortman/Landusky Mine Reclamation Plan SEIS, c/o Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457-1160. Comments may also be sent electronically to:

ZLReclamation_EIS@blm.gov. Please include your name and complete mailing address on all comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Haight, 406-538-1930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EIS is a draft supplement to the March 1996 Final EIS Zortman and Landusky Mines Reclamation Plan Modifications and Mine Life Extensions. With the bankruptcy of the mines' operator, Zortman Mining, Inc., the BLM and DEQ are overseeing reclamation at the mines. The Draft Supplemental EIS has been prepared to analyze additional reclamation alternatives developed by the agencies that may constitute a substantial change from those presented in the 1996 Final EIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS presents 12 reclamation plans, six for reclamation of the Zortman Mine and six for reclamation of the Landusky Mine. The reclamation plans were developed based upon public scoping comments and through consultation with the Fort Belknap government and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Draft Supplemental EIS discloses the environmental consequences of each alternative. Alternative Z6 is identified in the Draft Supplemental EIS as the DEQ and BLM preferred reclamation alternative for the Zortman Mine, and Alternative L4 is identified as the preferred reclamation alternative for the Landusky Mine. The identification of the preferred alternatives does not constitute an agency decision but is intended to help focus public comment on the alternatives more likely to be selected.

Authority: Sec. 102, Pub. L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 853 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

Dated: May 1, 2001.

Bruce W. Reed,

Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 01-11875 Filed 5-10-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-360-01-1430-EU; CACA-37660]

Notice of Realty Action, Noncompetitive Sale of Public Lands in Trinity County, California for Community Purposes, Case File CACA-37660

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Redding Field Office, Redding, CA.

ACTION: Notice of segregation and sale of public land.