

T33 ½ N, R24E Sections 25–28, 32–36, T33N R24E Sections 1–5, 8–22, 23, 27–30; T33N, R25E Sections 2, 3, 4, 9; T34N, R24E Sections 1–3, 10–15, 21–27, 34–36; T34N, R25E Sections 1–4, 9–16, 21–28, 33–36; T34N, R26E Sections 1–24, 28–33; T34N, R27E Sections 1–18; T35.5N, R25E Sections 27–34; T35.5N, R26E Sections 25–36; T35N, R24E Sections 6, 13, 22–27, 34–36; T35N, R25E Sections 1–4, 9–16, 21–28, 33–36; All of T35N, R26E; All of T35N R27E; T36N R23.5E Section 1; T36N, R24E Sections 5, 6, 8, 17, 30; T36N, R25E Sections 1–5, 8–18, 21–36; All of T36N, R26E; T36N, R27E Sections 4–9, 16–21, 28–33; T37N, R23 ½ E Section 36; T37N, R24E Sections 11, 14, 23, 23, 30; T37N, R25E Sections 7, 22–27, 34–36; T37N, R26E Sections 19–36; T37N, R27E Sections 19–21, 28–33; T38N, R23E Section 22.

To ensure public safety, these lands would be closed to public use from 0900–1200 hours during the CSXT permit period, under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1, BLM personnel, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and CSXT staff as designated by the BLM authorized officer would be exempted from the closure. Spectators or other area users who are inconvenienced by the closure could be escorted to the launch site. A map showing these temporary closures, restrictions and prohibitions is available from the following BLM office: BLM-Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445–2921.

The map may also be viewed on the Winnemucca Field Office Web site at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca>.

DATES: Closure to public use could occur from 0900–1200 hours, September 15th through the 18th 2003, and October 14th through the 17th 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Lefevre, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445, telephone (775) 623–1500.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364.1.

Penalty: Any person failing to comply with the closure orders may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.

Terry A. Reed,
Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–340–03–5101-ER-B171; CACA–44000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for Wind Energy; Ukiah Field Office, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a plan amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Wind Energy; Ukiah Field Office, California.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ukiah Field Office, will be directing the preparation of a plan amendment and EIS and conducting public scoping meetings in response to a right-of-way application filed by GE Wind Energy, LLC. GE Wind Energy proposes an array of wind turbines and ancillary facilities including buried power lines, access roads, an electric substation and transmission line interconnect in the Walker Ridge Area of Lake and Colusa Counties, California. BLM will assess the potential impacts of a proposed right-of-way for an array of approximately eighty (80) 1.5-megawatt wind turbines. The project area contains the public land bordered by Bear Valley to the east, State Highway 20 to the south, and Indian Valley Reservoir to the west.

The proposal is located in the Indian Valley Management Area the Clear Lake Management Framework Plan Update, 1984 for the Ukiah Field Office. This management plan does not address long-term management objectives for Walker Ridge and is silent on wind power development projects; thus, a plan amendment is required in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5–5. Although BLM has tentatively scheduled to begin a Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision in the fall of 2003, BLM has elected to accelerate this wind energy plan amendment in response to the need for alternative energy sources in California and in support of the President's energy policy. A final decision on the plan amendment is expected in 2004.

DATES: The public is invited to submit comments on the scope of the plan amendment and issues to be addressed in the EIS. Three (3) public scoping meetings will be held. The exact dates, times and locations for these meetings will be announced by BLM, published in local newspapers within 15 days in advance of the event, and posted on

BLM's Web site at: <http://www.ca.blm.gov>. The three scoping meetings will be open houses; they will provide opportunities for the applicant and BLM to explain details of the project and gather information from interested individuals or groups. The "open houses" will start at 6 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Starting at 7 p.m. the EIS process will be explained and an opportunity will be given for written comments and general concerns. Meetings are anticipated at the following locations: Sacramento, Colusa, and Clear Lake, California.

The comment period for scoping will commence with the publication of this notice. Those having concerns, issues, or alternatives they would like to see addressed in the EIS must respond with written comments within 45 days of the date of this notice. Comments concerning the Proposed Action and Alternatives, plan amendment, and EIS should address issues to be considered, planning criteria, feasible alternatives to examine, possible mitigation measures, and information relevant to or having a bearing on the Proposed Action. In addition, any persons wishing to be added to a mailing list of interested parties can call or write to BLM as described in this notice. Additional informational meetings may be conducted throughout the process to keep interested parties informed of progress of the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Information and a copy of the Notice of Intent can be obtained by contacting or visiting the following offices:

Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, Telephone: (707) 468–4000; or

Public Room, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, Telephone: (916) 978–4400; or

Tom Hurshman, Bureau of Land Management, 2505 South Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401, Telephone: (970) 240–5345.

A copy of the scoping notice and other relevant information concerning the status of the project may also be found on-line at: <http://www.ca.blm.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Hurshman, BLM Project Manager, (970) 240–5345 or e-mail at tom_hurshman@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Walker Ridge area is located in north central California, west of the Sacramento Valley and near the southern tip of the Coast Range. Walker Ridge is located north of Highway 20 between Bear Valley and Little Indian

Valley at an elevation of approximately 3,000 feet. The proposed project area is accessible by the Walker Ridge Road, a BLM maintained road that runs north from its junction with State Highway 20. The proposed wind power development area application encompasses approximately 8,200 acres of public lands. On June 2, 2003, GE Wind Energy received a site testing and monitoring right-of-way grant from BLM to study the wind power potential of the project area for a period of three years. Five meteorological towers with anemometers to measure wind characteristics are currently installed on Walker Ridge. No private lands would be utilized for the project. The legal description of the land proposed for the wind power development project is available from the contact information in this notice.

Tentatively identified issues of concern may include: threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; visual resources; loss of wildlife habitat; land use conflicts; and avian mortality. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan amendment in order to consider a variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved will include specialists with expertise in archaeology, wildlife, outdoor recreation, visual resources, biology, soils, and realty. BLM has preliminarily identified the following, possible planning criteria:

- Comply with applicable laws, Executive Orders, and regulations,
- Consider all alternatives in the context of their consistency with the President's National Energy Policy, BLM's Interim Wind Energy Development Policy, and State of California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards.

The Plan Amendment and EIS will analyze the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Other alternatives may include modifying proposed tower/turbine locations, road and power cable and line locations, rerouting linear electric power line right-of-way locations, as well as applying mitigating measures to reduce or eliminate impacts.

Dated: July 14, 2003.

Richard Burns,
Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-4210-05; N-63336]

Notice of Realty Action: Lease/Conveyance for Recreation and Public Purposes

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Recreation and public purpose lease/conveyance.

SUMMARY: The following described public land in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada has been examined and found suitable for lease/conveyance for recreational or public purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 *et seq.*) (R&PP). The City of Las Vegas proposes to use the land for a public park.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 20S., R. 60E.,

Section 27,

SW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

S¹/₂SE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

S¹/₂S¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

S¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

S¹/₂N¹/₂NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄,

W¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂SE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

Section 28,

N¹/₂SW¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

NW¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, E¹/₂NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

W¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄,

SE¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SE¹/₄

NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄.

Containing 266.5 acres, more or less.

The land is not required for any federal purpose. The lease/conveyance is consistent with current Bureau planning for this area and would be in the public interest. This lease/conveyance is subject to all valid and existing rights. The lease/patent, when issued, will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States, Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All minerals shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and will be subject to:

Those rights for public utility purposes which have been granted to

Nevada Power Company by Permit Nos. N-51943, N-61618, N-55965, N-59930 and N-43546, Central Telephone Company by Permit Nos. N-33429, N-42514 and N-31028, the Las Vegas Valley Water District by Permit Nos. N-16999, N-48185, N-53358 and N-51605, the City of Las Vegas by Permit Nos. N-37142, N-38851, N-41255, N-46267, N-58670 and N-73906, under the Act of October 26, 1978 (FLPMA).

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for lease/conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments regarding the proposed lease/conveyance for classification of the lands to the Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130.

Classification Comments: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for a public park. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use or uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

Application Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a public park.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director.

In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification of the land described in this Notice will become effective 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The lands will not be offered for lease/conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.