

pursuant to State regulations, opportunities exist for beachfront homeowners to apply to the State of Florida for a permit to replace temporary emergency armoring structures with permanent structures. Thus, sea turtles could potentially be exposed to the long-term effects of armoring structures and the HCP and environmental assessment assume that all authorized emergency armoring structures subsequently become permanent structures.

Beaches seaward of seawalls and other armoring structures are typically narrower than natural unarmored beaches. As a result, on eroding shorelines seawalls may increase swash velocity, duration and elevation, thereby accelerating erosion in front of the structure. Additionally, buried portions of a seawall may alter beach porosity, permeability, beach groundwater elevation, and beach slope variability. Collectively, these changes in beach characteristics can diminish the quality of the beach as nesting habitat for sea turtles and these areas may be avoided by gravid female sea turtles. Furthermore, the physical presence of armoring structures may decrease the number of emergences by nesting females in front of the structures. Additionally, females that encounter hardened structures are more likely to return to sea without nesting. Females that encounter hardened structures when seeking suitable nesting habitat may wander more than turtles not encountering hardened structures. Behavioral modifications such as these likely increase energy expenditure and decrease fitness of nesting sea turtles.

The Service has worked with the Applicant to design measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of coastal armoring on nesting sea turtles. Minimization measures proposed by the Applicant include conservation benefits from pre-project proactive planning, stringent pre-construction assessments and permitting, implementation of construction precautions during the nesting season, and requirements for post-construction monitoring during the nesting season. A public awareness program will be implemented to inform beachfront homeowners of coastal erosion and the regulatory process for protecting properties. Homeowners will be encouraged to take proactive steps to protect their property and prevent the need to seek emergency armoring permits. If landowners voluntarily take preventative action by installing armoring structures prior to an emergency situation, impacts to nesting sea turtles could be reduced. Furthermore, in the event emergency

armoring is requested, the Applicant agrees to stringently review the application, identify the most practical, least-impact armoring design and location, and require avoidance or relocation of affected sea turtle nests. During construction, the Applicant will require daily sea turtle nesting surveys at the construction and access sites, marking of nest sites, relocation of vulnerable nests, and minimization of impacts through timing restrictions on use and location of heavy equipment. Following construction, the Applicant agrees to require that sea turtle nesting surveys continue until all construction debris and materials are removed from the beach. Finally, in the event any emergency structure is removed, all of the minimization measures identified above for use during construction will also be implemented.

The Applicant has completed or is proposing a number of mitigation measures that will indirectly or directly benefit nesting sea turtles. Protection of beachfront property, implementation of a predator control program, better light management, and systematic sea turtle nest surveys are expected to result in conservation of turtles and their nests. Several of the proposed mitigation measures will have quantifiable results, including an expected reduction in nest predation from areas currently known to suffer high predation rates. A coordinated effort to educate beachfront homeowners about the effects of light pollution and subsequent modification and enforcement of a county lighting ordinance is expected to be beneficial to nesting turtles and hatchlings. The Applicant has also cost-shared on the acquisition of beachfront property and anticipates that the protection of 1,500 linear feet of shoreline resulting from this acquisition will eliminate future threats (e.g., lighting, armoring, and human disturbance) associated with residential and commercial development that may have existed without public acquisition. These mitigation benefits should total just over 5,100 additional nests of all species combined over the life of the proposed permit compared to the expected cumulative nest success without conservation measures (a ratio of about 4 saved nests per each destroyed or displaced nest). Finally, the Applicant also proposes to administer systematic sea turtle nest surveys for areas not already covered by index nesting-beach surveys. The Applicant intends to act as a clearinghouse for survey information so that consistent biological information is available for use in making decisions

that may affect sea turtles and/or their nests.

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, the ITP will be issued for the incidental take of sea turtles along Indian River County's coastline. The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. The results of the Biological Opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP.

Dated: November 5, 2003.

**Sam D. Hamilton,**

*Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 03-29081 Filed 11-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Elk Valley Rancheria 203.5 Acre Fee-to-Trust Transfer and Casino/Resort Project, Del Norte County, CA**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), with the cooperation of the Elk Valley Rancheria, intends to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 203.50 acre Fee-to-Trust Transfer and Casino Project in Del Norte County, California. The purpose of the proposed action is to help meet the land base and economic needs of the Elk Valley Rancheria. This notice also announces a public scoping meeting to identify potential issues, topics and alternatives for consideration in the EIS. **DATES:** Written comments must arrive by December 30, 2003. The public scoping meeting will be held on December 15, 2003, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., or until the last public comment is received.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail or hand carry written comments on the scope of the EIS to Clay Gregory, Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820, Sacramento, California 95825.

Please include your name, return address and the caption, "DEIS Scoping Comments, Elk Valley Rancheria, Martin Ranch, Fee to Trust Casino Project 203.50 Acre Fee-to-Trust Casino Project, Del Norte County, California," on the first page of your written comments.

The public scoping meeting will be held at the Elk Valley Tribal Center, 2332 Howland Hill Road, Crescent City, California 95531.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Allan, (916) 978-6043.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Elk Valley Rancheria is located just east of Crescent City, California, on Howland Hill Road. The project area, known locally as the Martin Ranch, is located southeast of Crescent City, adjacent to Highway 101 and Humboldt Road.

The Elk Valley Rancheria proposes that 203.50 acres of land that is currently owned by the tribe in fee title be taken into federal trust, and that the site be developed for recreation/tourism by constructing a golf course, hotel, conference facilities and casino for the benefit of the tribe and the local community. The project site is currently undeveloped, with the exception of a single-family residence and its associated barn and outbuildings. The BIA will serve as the lead agency for National Environmental Policy Act compliance.

#### Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or 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. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. 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.

#### Authority

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, parts 1500 through

1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: November 12, 2003.

**Aurene M. Martin,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 03-29088 Filed 11-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[ES-960-1430-BJ, ES-052004, Group 16, Illinois]**

#### Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Illinois

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will officially file the plat of the survey of an amended portion of the Carlyle Reservoir acquisition boundary, in Township 3 North, Range 1 West, of the Third Principal Meridian, in the State of Illinois, accepted on October 30, 2003, in the Eastern States Office, Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

The survey was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All inquiries or protests concerning the technical aspects of the survey must be submitted in writing to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to the date of the official filing.

We will place a copy of the plat we described in the open files. Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: October 30, 2003.

**Stephen D. Douglas,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

[FR Doc. 03-29082 Filed 11-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[ES-030-1430-BJ, ES-052005, Group 27, Missouri]**

#### Notice of Filing of Plat of Survey; Missouri

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will officially file the plat of the

remonumentation of a portion of the subdivisional lines and the monumentation of a portion of the subdivision of sections 3 and 4, which define a portion of the Wappapello Lake acquisition boundary in Township 28 North, Range 5 East, Fifth Principal Meridian, Missouri, accepted on October 30, 2003, in the Eastern States Office, Springfield, Virginia, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

The survey was requested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All inquiries or protests concerning the technical aspects of the survey must be submitted in writing to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to the date of the official filing.

We will place a copy of the plat we described in the open files. Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: November 3, 2003.

**Stephen D. Douglas,**

*Chief Cadastral Surveyor.*

[FR Doc. 03-29083 Filed 11-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P**

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

**[Investigation No. 731-TA-1059 (Preliminary)]**

### Hand Trucks From China

**AGENCY:** International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Institution of antidumping investigation and scheduling of a preliminary phase investigation.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission hereby gives notice of the institution of an investigation and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping investigation No. 731-TA-1059 (Preliminary) under section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act) to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of imports from China of hand trucks, provided for in subheading 8716.80.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless the Department of Commerce extends the time for