

Preble's at Eagle's Nest Open Space. The proposed EA/HCP is available for public review and comment. It fully describes the proposed project and the measures the Applicant would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the EA/HCP and associated documents for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments on the EA and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and the National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and EA/HCP should be received on or before April 27, 2004 to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application and EA/HCP should be addressed to Susan Linner, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. Comments also may be submitted by facsimile to (303) 275-2371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275-2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the EA/HCP and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Incidental take is defined under the Act as take of a listed species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

Eagle's Nest Open Space is located south of Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74), along the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River, south of the Town of Livermore, Larimer County, Colorado. The project site is 107 hectares (264

acres), but the proposed project will directly impact a maximum of 1.4 hectares (3.4 acres) that may result in incidental take of the Preble's. Of the total amount of impacted acreage, 0.3 hectare (0.7 acre) will be temporarily disturbed and will be revegetated. An HCP has been developed as part of the preferred alternative. The proposed HCP will allow for the incidental take of the Preble's by permitting bridge replacement, spring development and construction of a multiple-use trail in an area that may be periodically used as foraging, breeding or hibernation habitat.

In addition to the Proposed Action, alternatives considered included—(a) develop the site more intensively with less avoidance of Preble's habitat, (b) no action, and (c) look for an alternative open space property. The draft EA analyzes the onsite, offsite, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project and all associated development and construction activities and mitigation activities on the Preble's, and also on other threatened or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, geology/soils, land use, water resources, air and water quality, and cultural resources. The Applicant, using the Service's definition of Preble's habitat, has determined that the proposed project would impact approximately 1.4 hectares (3.4 acres) of potential Preble's habitat. The mitigation will likely provide a net benefit to the Preble's mouse and other wildlife by planting additional shrubs and revegetating an old road with a native grass mix.

Only one federally listed species, the threatened Preble's, occurs on site and has the potential to be adversely affected by the project. To mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take, the HCP provides mitigation for the development of the proposed trail and associated facilities by protecting and enhancing 2.8 hectares (7.0 acres) of existing or potential Preble's habitat through reduced and managed grazing, planting native shrubs and grasses. Approximately 0.3 hectare (0.7 acre) of temporarily disturbed habitat will be reseeded with a native seed mix and planted with native shrubs where appropriate and approximately 107 hectares (264 acres) will be protected on perpetuity as open space by Larimer County as well as via a deed restriction. Measures will be taken during construction to minimize impact to the habitat, including monitoring, worker education/awareness of Preble's habitat and the restricted construction period during daylight hours and between mid-September and mid-May when Preble's is inactive. All of the proposed

mitigation area is within the boundaries of the Eagle's Nest Open Space property.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. We will evaluate the permit application, the EA/HCP, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Preble's in conjunction with the development of the proposed trail, associated facilities, river access, and ongoing management of the Eagle's Nest Open Space property. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: January 27, 2004.

John A. Blankenship,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-01-134-1610-241A]

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Advisory Council will hold its first bi-monthly meeting of 2004 on April 7, 2004. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. and will be held at the Mesa County Administration Building; 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, CO. Throughout the remainder of calendar year 2004, the CCNCA Advisory Council meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every other month—June 2, August 4, October 6 and December 1—in the same location and at the same time.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 7, 2004.

ADDRESSES: For further information or to provide written comments, please contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; (970) 244-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CCNCA was established on October 24, 2000 when the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Wilderness Act of 2000 (the Act) was signed by the President. The Act required that the CCNCA Advisory Council be established to provide advice

in the preparation and implementation of the CCNCA Resource Management Plan.

The CCNCA Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at the Mesa County Administration Building; 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, CO, beginning at 3 p.m. The agenda topics for this meeting are:

- (1) The re-election of council officials;
- (2) CCNCA Resource Management Plan implementation and monitoring strategy;
- (3) Budgetary requirements for upcoming fiscal years;
- (4) Development of Limits of Acceptable change to be used in the CCNCA monitoring strategy;
- (5) Public comment period;
- (6) Agenda for next meeting.

Beginning April 2004 the CCNCA Advisory Council meetings will be held monthly on the first Wednesday of every other month at the same time and location. The dates for these meetings are April 7, 2004; June 2, 2004; August 4, 2004; October 6, 2004; and December 1, 2004.

Topics of discussion for future meetings will include completion of the proposed resource management plan and Record of Decision, development of limits of acceptable change to be used in the CCNCA monitoring strategy, partnerships, interpretation, adaptive management, socioeconomic, and other issues as appropriate.

All meetings will be open to the public and will include a time set aside for public comment. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements at any meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of all Council meetings will be maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Office in Grand Junction, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting. In addition, minutes and other information concerning the CCNCA Advisory Council, can be obtained from the CCNCA Web site at: <http://www.co.blm.gov/gjra/ccnca/ccncahome.htm>, which will be updated following each Advisory Council meeting.

Dated: February 20, 2004.

Greg Gnesios,

Manager, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of an information collection (1010-0067).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), MMS is inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under "30 CFR 250, Subpart E, Oil and Gas Well-Completion Operations."

DATES: Submit written comments by April 27, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. If you wish to e-mail comments, the address is: rules.comments@mms.gov. Reference "Information Collection 1010-0067" in your e-mail subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team at (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart E, Oil and Gas Well-Completion.

OMB Control Number: 1010-0067.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and

to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

Section 1332(6) of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332) requires that "operations in the [O]uter Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner by well-trained personnel using technology, precautions, and techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize the likelihood of blowouts, loss of well control, fires, spillages, physical obstruction to other users of the waters or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property, or endanger life or health." This authority and responsibility are among those delegated to MMS. To carry out these responsibilities, MMS issues regulations governing oil and gas and sulphur operations in the OCS. This collection of information addresses 30 CFR part 250, subpart E, Oil and Gas Well-Completion Operations.

The MMS district supervisors analyze and evaluate the information and data collected under subpart E to ensure that planned well-completion operations will protect personnel safety and natural resources. They use the analysis and evaluation results in the decision to approve, disapprove, or require modification to the proposed well-completion operations. Specifically, MMS uses the information to ensure: (a) Compliance with personnel safety training requirements; (b) crown block safety device is operating and can be expected to function to avoid accidents; (c) proposed operation of the annular preventer is technically correct and provides adequate protection for personnel, property, and natural resources; (d) well-completion operations are conducted on well casings that are structurally competent; and (e) sustained casing pressures are within acceptable limits.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2) and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.196, "Data and information to be made available to the public." No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

Frequency: The frequency of reporting varies by section, but is mostly "on occasion" or annually.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved annual reporting burden for this collection is 9,520 hours.