

Under Alternative D (the preferred alternative), the habitat potential within the salt ponds would be maximized. Approximately 600 acres of salt ponds would be restored to tidal influence to support intertidal mudflat and coastal salt marsh habitats. Additionally, some 30 acres of new nesting habitat would be created, 230 acres of pond area would be managed to benefit waterfowl and shorebird foraging and nesting, and 44 acres of salt ponds and associated levees would be managed to sustain a viable population of brine invertebrates to support the foraging needs of specific species of migratory birds. The Otay River floodplain would be restored as described in Alternative C and the nesting enhancements described under Alternative B would be implemented. Opportunities for wildlife observation, photography, and environmental interpretation would be expanded, the regional trail and boardwalk described in Alternative C would be provided, and the other public uses that are currently provided, including fishing, environmental education, and boating, would be maintained. Restoration under this alternative would be phased and would ultimately result in the closure of the existing commercial solar salt operation.

#### Predator Management Plan

A draft predator management plan has also been prepared to accompany the CCP. Implementation of this plan is proposed pursuant to the Service's endangered species management responsibilities and would occur on the Refuge in conjunction with other wildlife and habitat management activities. Species to benefit from the implementation of predator management include the federally listed endangered California least tern and light-footed clapper rail and the threatened western snowy plover. The predator management plan has been developed as a comprehensive wildlife damage control program that addresses a range of management actions from vegetation control and nesting habitat enhancement to non-lethal and lethal control of both mammalian and avian predators. Under this plan, the most effective, selective, and humane techniques available to deter or remove individual predators or species that threaten nesting, breeding, or foraging California least terns, western snowy plovers, or light-footed clapper rails would be implemented.

#### Public Comments

After the review and comment period ends for this Draft CCP/EIS, comments will be analyzed by the Service and

addressed in the Final CCP/EIS. All comments received from individuals, including names and addresses, become part of the official public record and may be released. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, and Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

**Ken McDermond,**

*Manager, California/Nevada Operations, Sacramento, California.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species for the Monument Creek Interceptor Tie-In Project Along Jackson Creek, El Paso County, CO

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permit for incidental take of endangered species.

**SUMMARY:** On February 15, 2005, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 70, No. 30, FR 7754), that an application had been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by the Triview Metropolitan District and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District for a permit to incidentally take, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539) as amended, Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), pursuant to the terms of the "Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for Issuance of an Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the Incidental Take of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) for the Monument Creek Interceptor Tie-In Along Jackson Creek, El Paso County, Colorado."

Notice is hereby given that on June 30, 2005, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the Service issued a permit (TE-097228-0) to the above named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after the Service determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: July 8, 2005.

**Mike Stempel,**

*Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-931-6320 HAG5-0121]

#### Notice of Availability of a Final Integrated Pest Management Program Environmental Impact Statement for the Horning Seed Orchard; Clackamas County, OR

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates, analyzes, and discloses to the public direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of a proposed integrated pest management program at the Horning Seed Orchard in Clackamas County, Oregon, in BLM's Salem District. The integrated pest management program is proposed to control the insect, weed, animal, and disease problems at the orchard, and to maintain healthy, vigorous crop trees for the production of seed and other vegetative materials used for reforestation and a variety of land management actions.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Final EIS will be accepted for 30 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. BLM asks that those submitting comments on the Final EIS make them as specific as possible with reference to page numbers and chapters of the document. Comments will not receive a formal response; however, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

*Freedom of Information Act Considerations:* Public comments submitted for this planning action, including names and street addresses of