various newspapers in the San Francisco Bay area. We conducted a public scoping meeting on August 7, 2002 (67 FR 135). We held a second public scoping meeting on March 9, 2007 (72 FR 46). During preparation of the Environmental Assessment, we determined that the scope of the restoration would require an environmental impact statement. On September 6, 2007, we announced a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and sent notices to various newspapers and interested parties and agencies in the San Francisco Bay area.

Because some of the proposed project area includes State lands, we have prepared the DEIS/EIR to satisfy the requirements of both NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The California Department of Fish and Game is the CEQA lead agency for this project. The potential impacts of a ''no-action'' alternative and two ''action'' alternatives are assessed and, where appropriate, mitigation measures are applied to reduce the intensity of the potential effect or to avoid the potential effect.

Alternatives

We identified and analyzed a total of eight alternatives. The alternatives were analyzed based on a set of criteria, including effects to adjacent habitats; effects to the existing levees; effects on the hydrology of the existing slough channels and adjacent water bodies; costs of implementing restoration activities and long-term maintenance; and effects of project construction on existing uses on and adjacent to the Cullinan Ranch Site (Site). We removed five of these alternatives from further consideration because they did not meet the cost and engineering feasibility criteria as set forth by the lead agencies. Many of the alternatives considered were formulated with optional implementation features in order to minimize effects on adjacent habitats (such as the fringe marshes along Dutchman Slough and Pritchett Marsh), such as staging the Proposed Action and/or limiting the amount of tidal exchange. We analyzed these features but removed them from further consideration because hydrologic modeling revealed that they would not significantly reduce adverse effects to adjacent habitats. Based on additional hydrologic modeling and information obtained from the Napa Sonoma Restoration Project (NSRP), the lead agencies carried forward three possible alternatives to environmental analysis: The No-Action Alternative, the Preferred Restoration Alternative, and the Partial Restoration Alternative.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the lead agencies would take no action to restore tidal influence to the Site; however, continued maintenance of the Dutchman and South Slough levees would occur. Under this alternative, because the lead agencies would be required to maintain the northern levee along Dutchman Slough in perpetuity, maintenance activities would likely increase as the levees age and scour increases in response to activities undertaken by the NSRP. Under the No-Action Alternative, the components of the Proposed Action would not be implemented.

Preferred Restoration Alternative

The Preferred Restoration Alternative would restore the entire 1,500-ac Cullinan Ranch Site with implementation of the following project components:

- *Component 1:* Construct boardwalk to provide access to existing electrical towers.
- *Component 2:* Block drainage ditches to promote redevelopment of natural sloughs.
- *Component 3:* Improve the DFG Pond 1 levee and install water control structures.
- *Component 4:* Protect Highway 37 from project-induced flooding and erosion, through levee construction.
- *Component 5:* Construct public access areas.
- *Component 6:* Breach the levees along Dutchman and South Sloughs and Guadalcanal Village.
- *Component 7:* Implement long-term monitoring.

Partial Restoration Alternative

The Partial Restoration Alternative would restore 300 ac of the Cullinan Ranch Site. The Partial Restoration Alternative was developed in order to limit potential impacts to the hydrology of Dutchman Slough. While it would meet the purpose and need of the project, a smaller overall area within Cullinan Ranch would be restored, and connectivity with other adjacent restoration projects would be limited.

The Partial Restoration Alternative would include implementation of the following project components:

- *Component 1:* Block drainage ditches to promote redevelopment of natural Sloughs.
- *Component 2:* Construct internal levee.
- *Component 3:* Protect Highway 37 from project-induced flooding and erosion, through levee construction.
- *Component 4:* Breach the levee along Dutchman Slough.
- *Component 5:* Long-term monitoring.

Public Meeting

We will hold one public meeting in to solicit comments on the DEIS/EIR on May 30, 2008, at the Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94954, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Public Comments

We invite the public to comment on the DEIS/EIR during the comment period. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will use the comments to prepare a final environmental impact statement/environmental impact report. A decision will be made no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the final environmental impact statement. We anticipate that a Record of Decision will be issued by the Service in the summer of 2008.

We provide this notice under regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: April 23, 2008.

Ken McDermond,

Acting Regional Director, Region 8.

[FR Doc. E8–9675 Filed 5–1–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R8–ES–2008–N0100; 80221–1113–0000–F5]

Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

DATES: Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before June 2, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Program Manager, Region 8, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W–2606, Sacramento, CA 95825 (telephone: 916–414–6464; fax: 916–414–6486). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Marquez, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, see **ADDRESSES** (telephone: 760–431–9440; fax: 760–431–9624).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (''we'') solicits review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on the following permit requests. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Permit No. TE–180579

Applicant: Dwane N. Oberhoff, Los Osos, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey and handle) the Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta waleriana*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–180517

Applicant: Dylan O. Burge, Durham, North Carolina.

The applicant requests a permit to remove/reduce to possession the *Ceanothus ferrisae* (coyote ceanothus) and *Ceanothus roderickii* (pine hill ceanothus) from federal lands in conjunction with genetic research and taxonomic status studies in Santa Clara and El Dorado Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–180430

Applicant: Jeffrey P. Jorgenson, Sacramento, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, collect, and kill) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Service Office, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–180428

Applicant: Ramon E. Aberasturi, Sacramento, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, collect, and kill) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Service Office, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–040510

Applicant: Ero Resources Corporation, Boise, Idaho.

The applicant requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, and locate/monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with surveys and monitoring activities throughout the range of the species in California and Nevada for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–094308

Applicant: Shay E. Lawrey, San Bernardino, California.

The applicant requests an amendment to take (harass by survey) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli extimus*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–180585

Applicant: Bill A. Arnerich, Santa Rosa, California.

The permittee requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with surveys in Sonoma County, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Dated: April 28, 2008.

Michael Fris,

Acting Regional Director, Region 8, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. E8–9672 Filed 5–1–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Extension of the Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Absaloka Mine Crow Reservation South Extension Coal Lease Approval, Mine Development Plan and Related Federal and State Permitting Actions, Big Horn County, MT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is extending by 30 days the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Absaloka Mine Crow Reservation South Extension Coal Lease Approval, Mine Development Plan and Related Federal and State Permitting Actions, announced in the **Federal Register** on March 21, 2008 (73 FR 15189). The closing date for public comments announced in the March 21, 2008, notice was May 5, 2008.

DATES: The extended public comment period closes on June 4, 2008. Written comments on the DEIS must arrive by that date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand-carry written comments to George Gover, Superintendent, Crow Agency, P.O. Box 69, Crow Agency, Montana 59022. You may also comment via the Internet to *westmorelandeis@mt.gov*. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact Greg Hallsten at (406) 444–3276.