

species or facilitate obtaining incidental take coverage if these species become listed in the future. Comal County would not seek incidental take authorization for the four "additional species," because these species are not likely to experience take from covered activities.

*Alternatives:* The proposed action and alternatives that will be developed in the EIS will be assessed against the No Action/No Project Alternative, which assumes that some or all of the current and future take of covered species in Comal County would be implemented individually, one at a time, and be in compliance with the Act. The No Action/No Project Alternative implies that the impacts from these potential activities on the covered species would be evaluated and mitigated on a project-by-project basis, as is currently the case. For any activities involving take of listed species due to non-Federal actions, individual Section 10(a)(1)(B) permits would be required. Without a coordinated, comprehensive conservation approach for the County, listed species may not be adequately addressed by individual project-specific mitigation requirements, and mitigation would be piecemeal and less cost effective in helping Federal and non-Federal agencies work toward recovery of listed species. In addition to the No Action/No Project Alternative, a reasonable range of alternatives will also be considered, along with the associated impacts of the various alternatives.

### Scoping Meeting

The primary purpose of this meeting and public comment period is to receive suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider when drafting the EIS. We will accept oral and written comments at this meeting. You may also submit your comments by mail (see **ADDRESSES** above). Once the draft EIS and draft RHCP are completed, additional opportunity for public comment on the content of these documents and an additional public meeting will be provided.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public scoping meeting should contact the Service (see **ADDRESSES** above) no later than 1 week prior to the public scoping meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

A primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify, rather than debate, significant issues related to the proposed action. In order to ensure that we identify a range of issues and

alternatives related to the proposed action, we invite comments and suggestions from all interested parties. We will conduct a review of this project according to the requirements of NEPA, other appropriate Federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidance, and Service procedures for compliance with those regulations.

### Environmental Review

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, other applicable regulations, and the Service's procedures for compliance with those regulations. The EIS will analyze the proposed action, as well as a range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each. The EIS will be the basis for our evaluation of impacts to the human environment and the range of alternatives to be addressed. We expect the EIS to provide biological descriptions of the affected species and habitats, as well as the effects of the proposed action and alternatives on resources such as: Vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, threatened or endangered species and rare species, geology and soils, air quality, water resources, flood control, water quality, cultural resources (prehistoric, historic, and traditional cultural properties), land use, recreation, water use, local economy, and environmental justice.

After a draft EIS is prepared, we will publish a Notice of Availability along with a request for comment on the draft EIS and Comal County's permit application, which will include the draft RHCP.

The draft EIS and draft RHCP are expected to be completed and available to the public by January 2010.

**Thomas L. Bauer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[F-19154-18, F-19154-24, F-19154-30; AK-964-1410-KC-P]

### Alaska Native Claims Selection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving the surface and subsurface estates in certain lands for conveyance pursuant to the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. The lands are in the vicinity of Kivalina and Noatak, Alaska, and are located in:

### Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 23 N., R. 19 W.,

Secs. 1 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 19,050 acres.

T. 27 N., R. 19 W.,

Secs. 2 to 11, inclusive;

Secs. 15 to 22, inclusive;

Secs. 27 to 34, inclusive.

Containing approximately 16,430 acres.

T. 29 N., R. 27 W.,

Secs. 1 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 21,629 acres.

Aggregating approximately 57,108 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Arctic Sounder.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until November 17, 2008 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from:

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Hillary Woods,**

*Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication I.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[F-14874-K; AK-964-1410-KC-P]

### Alaska Native Claims Selection

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.