

(1) advise other Federal and State agencies and the public of our intention to conduct detailed planning on this refuge, and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of topics to consider in the environmental document and during development of the CCP.

## Background

### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act and NEPA.

We establish each unit of the NWRS for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the basis to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives for the refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can use the refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation approach to this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS. Our CCP process provides opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate. At this time, we encourage the public to provide input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of John Hay NWR.

We will conduct the environmental review of this environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts

1500–1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

### *John Hay National Wildlife Refuge*

John Hay NWR was the former summer estate of historic figure John Hay. It was donated to the Service in 1972 by Alice Hay to be used as a migratory bird and wildlife reservation. Currently, the refuge consists of approximately 80 acres on the shores of Lake Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire, and consists of upland northern forests, and undeveloped shoreline. These areas serve the habitat needs of waterfowl, wading birds, and raptors.

### **Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities**

We have identified preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that we may address in the CCP. We have briefly summarized these issues below. During public scoping, we may identify additional issues.

Public use throughout the refuge will be reevaluated in relation to wildlife-dependent recreation and other mission compatible uses. These include an ADA-compliant interpretive nature trail, overlooks, and a trailhead at the Fells parking area. We will also explore different visitor use options for the refuge.

Access to the refuge from the adjacent Fells property needs to be coordinated in terms of the use of their parking area or the creation of a second parking area, and the establishment of a trailhead or other interpretive information on their property.

We need to address how the Service can create a more visible presence at the refuge and the adjacent Fells property. Potential avenues are through signs, kiosks, and seasonal staff.

### **Public Meetings**

We will involve the public through open houses, informational and technical meetings, and written comments. We will release mailings, news releases, and announcements to provide information about opportunities for public involvement in the planning process. You can obtain the schedule from the planning team leader or project leader (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also submit comments anytime during the planning process by mail, electronic mail, or fax (see **ADDRESSES**). There will be additional opportunities to provide public input once we have prepared a draft CCP.

We anticipate that public meetings will be held in Newbury, New

Hampshire. For specific information including dates, times, and locations, contact the project leader (see **ADDRESSES**) or visit our Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/johnhay>.

### **Public Availability of Comments**

Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and electronic mail addresses of respondents available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: October 1, 2008.

### **Wendi Weber,**

*Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

**[LLNV050000–L5101000.ER000.F8740000; NVN–084626; 09–08807; TAS: 14X5017]**

### **Proposed Wind Energy Project, Searchlight, NV**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office will prepare an EIS for a wind energy project located on public lands in Clark County, Nevada. **DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until February 17, 2009. Any scoping meetings will be announced 15 days in advance through local news media and

the BLM Web site at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/vegas/default.html>.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments related to the project by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: [mchandle@nv.blm.gov](mailto:mchandle@nv.blm.gov)
- Fax: (702) 515-5064 (attention Mark Chandler)
- Mail: BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301

Documents pertinent to this project may be examined at the Las Vegas Field Office. Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided on publication of the draft EIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, call Mark Chandler, (702) 515-5064; or e-mail [mchandle@nv.blm.gov](mailto:mchandle@nv.blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Searchlight Wind Energy, LLC, has submitted an application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a wind energy generation site. The proposed project would consist of 156 wind turbine generators and related rights-of-way appurtenances, including a substation administered by the Western Area Power Administration east of Searchlight, Nevada. The proposed wind energy project would produce approximately 359 megawatts of electricity. The proposed project site will be located on approximately 24,383 acres of public lands surrounding the town of Searchlight, Nevada.

Issues that are anticipated to be addressed in this EIS include visual impacts, avian impacts, socioeconomic impacts, electrical transmission capacity, and cumulative impacts.

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.

Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2800.

Dated: December 4, 2008.

**Kimber Liebhauser,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Lands Division, Las Vegas Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLID100000-L10200000-PH0000]

#### Notice of Public Meeting, Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

**DATES:** The RAC will next meet in Idaho Falls, Idaho on January 20-21, 2009 for a two-day meeting. The first day will be new member orientation in the afternoon starting at 2 p.m. at the Idaho Falls BLM Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The second day will be at the same location starting at 8 a.m. with electing a new chairman, vice chairman and secretary. Other meeting topics include noxious weeds, power line corridors, Snake River Activity Operations Plan, Upper Snake RMP and Recreation RAC items. Other topics will be scheduled as appropriate. All meetings are open to the public.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the BLM Idaho Falls District (IFD), which covers eastern Idaho.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council. Each formal Council meeting will also have time allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, tour transportation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the BLM as provided below.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joanna Wilson, RAC Coordinator, Idaho Falls District, 1405 Hollipark Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Telephone: (208) 524-7550. E-mail: [Joanna\\_Wilson@blm.gov](mailto:Joanna_Wilson@blm.gov).

Dated: December 8, 2008.

**Joanna Wilson,**

*RAC Coordinator, Public Affairs Specialist.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-923-1310-FI; WYW172444]

#### Wyoming: Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed reinstatement of terminated oil and gas lease.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188(d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2-3(a) and (b)(1), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement from Chesapeake Exploration, L.L.C. for competitive oil and gas lease WYW172444 for land in Converse County, Wyoming. The petition was filed on time and was accompanied by all the rentals due since the date the lease terminated under the law.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bureau of Land Management, Pamela J. Lewis, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication, at (307) 775-6176.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year, and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$163 to reimburse the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease WYW172444 effective June 1, 2008, under the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited