

Frequency of Response: Focus groups will be one-time collections

(2) Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden:

Estimated Number of Responses Annually: 141.

Estimated Burden per Response: 47 minutes.

Total Annual Reporting: 110 hours.

(3) Description of the need and use of the information: DOI will use the results of these information collection activities (the focus groups) to optimize the design of the survey instrument.

As required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), a **Federal Register** notice soliciting comments on the collection of information was published on June 9, 2009 (74 FR 27340). No comments were received. This notice provides the public with an additional 30 days in which to comment on the proposed information collection activity.

IV. Request for Comments

The Department of the Interior invites comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection and the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: March 31, 2010.

Benjamin Simon,

Acting Economics Staff Director, Office of Policy Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2010-7710 Filed 4-5-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-R-2010-N026; 80230-1265-0000-S3]

Hopper Mountain, Bitter Creek, and Blue Ridge National Wildlife Refuges, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Ventura Counties, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Hopper Mountain, Bitter Creek, and Blue Ridge National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) located in Kern, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Ventura counties of California. We provide this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribes; and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the planning process.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by May 21, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods.

E-mail: fw8plancomments@fws.gov. Include "Hopper CCP" in the subject line of the message.

Fax: Attn: Sandy Osborn, (916) 414-6497.

U.S. Mail: Pacific Southwest Region, Refuge Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, W-1832, Sacramento, CA 95825.

In-Person Drop-off: You may drop off comments at the Hopper Mountain NWR Complex Headquarters in Ventura, California, during regular business hours; please call (805) 644-5185 for directions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy Osborn, Planning Team Leader, at (916) 414-6503 or Marc Weitzel, Project Leader, at (805) 644-5185 or fw8plancomments@fws.gov. Further information may also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/planning/ccp.cfm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a CCP for Hopper

Mountain, Bitter Creek, and Blue Ridge NWRs in Kern, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Ventura Counties, California. This notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct detailed planning on this refuge and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the environmental document and during development of the CCP.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, 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, 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 where compatible with refuge purposes. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals, objectives, and strategies that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our CCP process provides opportunities for participation by Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. We will be contacting identified

stakeholders and individuals at this time for initial input. If you would like to meet with planning staff or would like to receive periodic updates, please contact us (*see ADDRESSES*). We anticipate holding public meetings for initial comments and also when we have identified alternative management scenarios. At this time we encourage comments in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Hopper Mountain, Bitter Creek, and Blue Ridge NWRs.

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (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.

Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge

Hopper Mountain NWR is in Ventura County, approximately 6 miles north of the community of Fillmore. Hopper Mountain NWR was established in 1974 to protect the endangered California condor, its habitat, and other wildlife resources. The refuge encompasses 2,471 contiguous acres owned in fee title by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This refuge is currently closed to public use.

Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Bitter Creek NWR is located approximately 80 miles north of Los Angeles and approximately 10 miles southwest of the community of Maricopa in the arid foothills, primarily in Kern County. The legislatively approved refuge boundary also falls within parts of San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties. Bitter Creek NWR was established in 1985 to provide safe roosting and foraging habitat for California condors. The refuge encompasses nearly 14,097 acres owned in fee title by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bitter Creek NWR Grassland Habitat Management and Restoration Plan Environmental Assessment and Compatibility Determination is ongoing. This refuge is currently closed to public use.

Blue Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

Blue Ridge NWR is located in central Tulare County in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 11 miles north of Springville and 17.5 miles northeast of Porterville, California. Blue Ridge NWR was established in 1982 to protect critical habitat for the California

condor. Blue Ridge NWR encompasses 897 acres owned in fee title by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This refuge is currently closed to public use.

Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

We have identified preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that we may address in the CCP. These include: Wildlife management, habitat management, wildlife-dependent recreation, environmental education, and cultural resources. During public scoping, we may identify additional issues.

Public Meetings

We will give the public an opportunity to provide input at public meetings. You can obtain the schedule from the planning team leader or project leader (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*). You may also submit comments or request a meeting during the planning process by mail, e-mail, or fax (*see ADDRESSES*). There will be additional opportunities to provide public input once we have prepared a draft CCP.

Public Availability of Comments

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.

Dated: March 26, 2010.

Ken McDermond,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACAO 048811, LLCAD06000, L51010000.FX0000, LVRWB09B2600]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment for the Chevron Energy Solutions/Solar Millennium (CESSM) Blythe Solar Power Plant (BSPP) and Possible California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment, and Staff Assessment (SA) as a joint environmental analysis document for the CESSM BSPP Project, Riverside County, California, and by this notice are announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft EIS/SA and Plan Amendment within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the BSPP Project by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* CAPSSolarBlythe@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* (760) 833-7199.
- *Mail or other delivery service:*

Allison Shaffer, Project Manager, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allison Shaffer, BLM Project Manager at (760) 833-7100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CESSM has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to the BLM for development of the proposed BSPP Project, consisting of four parabolic-trough solar thermal power plants, each of which has a “solar field” comprised of rows of parabolic mirrors focusing solar energy on collector tubes. The tubes carry heated oil to a boiler that sends live steam to a steam turbine. The project would be built in four phases, which are designed to generate in total approximately 968 megawatts (MW) of electricity at full development. The total expected project footprint aggregates approximately 7,030 acres of BLM-managed lands, with the total proposed ROW involving about 9,400 acres. The project site is in Riverside County, California, approximately eight miles west of Blythe, California, three miles north of Highway I-10, and one mile north of the Blythe Regional Airport.