

Project” alternative, the applicant would reduce the area of proposed improvements by approximately 50 percent, through elimination of components of the planned outdoor recreational facilities. Under this alternative, the applicant would not achieve his desired goals and fewer conservation credits would be purchased to effect recovery; therefore, the “Redesign Project” alternative has also been rejected.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that issuance of the incidental take permit is neither a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) nor that it will, individually or cumulatively, have more than a negligible effect on the Mount Hermon June beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper, and Ben Lomond spineflower. Therefore, the permit qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the permit application, including the plan and comments we receive, to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the ITP would comply with section 7(a)(2) of the Act by conducting an intra-Service Section 7 consultation.

Public Review

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and NEPA’s public involvement regulations (40 CFR 1500.1(b), 1500.2(d), and 1506.6). We are requesting comments on our determination that the applicant’s proposal will have a minor or negligible effect on the Mount Hermon June beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper, and Ben Lomond spineflower, and that the plan qualifies as a low-effect HCP as defined by our Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook. We will evaluate the permit application, including the plan and comments we receive, to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. We will use the results of our internal Service consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether to issue the permit. If the requirements are met, we will issue an ITP to the applicant for the incidental take of Mount Hermon June

beetle and Zayante band-winged grasshopper. We will make the final permit decision no sooner than 30 days after the date of this notice.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit applications, plans, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any one of the methods in

ADDRESSES.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email 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 view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: April 24, 2018.

Stephen P. Henry,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCO–923000.L1440000.ET0000; COC 028643 & COC 28623]

Public Land Order No. 7866; Partial Withdrawal Revocation, Power Site Classification Nos. 56 and 351; Colorado

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public land order.

SUMMARY: This Order partially revokes a withdrawal created by Secretarial Orders dated June 30, 1923 and March 14, 1944, which established Power Site Classification Nos. 56 and 351, insofar as they affect 49.18 acres of National Forest System lands. This Order opens the lands to such uses as may be made of National Forest System lands subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law.

DATES: This Public Land Order is effective on May 1, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John D. Beck, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, (303) 239–3882, or write: Branch of Lands and Realty, BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215–7093. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Forest Service requested partial revocation affecting portions of withdrawn lands classified for potential power site development. The Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), determined that the interests of the United States would not be injured by conveyance of the land out of Federal ownership. This Order opens the lands within PSC No. 56 to such uses as may be made of National Forest System lands subject to a Section 24 Federal Power Act reservation, and opens the lands within PSC No. 351 to such uses as may be made of National Forest System lands.

Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714, and pursuant to the determination by the FERC, it is ordered as follows:

1. The withdrawal created by Secretarial Order dated June 30, 1923, which established Power Site Classification No. 56, is hereby revoked in part subject to the provisions of Section 24 of the Federal Power Act, as to the following described land:

6th Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 9 S., R. 70 W.,
Sec. 10, Parcel A.

The area described contains 5.39 acres in the Pike National Forest, Douglas County.

2. The withdrawal created by Secretarial Order dated March 14, 1944, which established Power Site Classification No. 351, is hereby revoked in-part as to the following described land:

6th Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 7 S., R. 73 W.,
Sec. 7, lots 5 and 7.

The area described contains 43.79 acres in the Pike National Forest, Park County.

3. At 9 a.m. on May 1, 2018 the lands described in Paragraph 1 and 2 are opened to such forms of disposition as may be made of National Forest System

land, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law.

Joseph R. Balash,

Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 2018-09184 Filed 4-30-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVB02000-L19200000-ET0000; N-94970; LRORF1709500; MO# 4500111101]

Notice of Application for Withdrawal in Nye County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE) has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), requesting that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw 361 acres of public lands to assist the DOE to carry out its responsibilities regarding public health, safety, and national security in connection with a past underground nuclear detonation in Hot Creek Valley, Nye County, Nevada. Publication of this Notice temporarily segregates the lands, subject to valid existing rights, for up to two years from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws and the mineral-leasing laws. The two-year segregation will provide the BLM and the DOE sufficient time to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will analyze the environmental effects of the requested withdrawal and any alternatives in order for the BLM to make a recommendation to the Secretary of Interior on the requested withdrawal.

DATES: Comments regarding this withdrawal proposal must be received by July 30, 2018. The BLM welcomes comments regarding the environmental consequences of the proposed withdrawal, for consideration in preparation of the EA.

ADDRESSES: Comments pertaining to this Notice should be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* BLM_NV_BMDO_Tonopah_Withdrawal@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 775-482-7810.
- *Mail:* BLM Nevada State Director, Attn: NV 930 CNTA Withdrawal, Bureau of Land Management, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wendy Seley, Project Lead, Tonopah Field Office, Attn: DOE Withdrawal, 1553 South Main Street, P.O. Box 911, Tonopah, NV 89049; email: wseley@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-775-861-6511 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to fulfill its obligations under the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201) regarding public health, safety, and national security in connection with a past underground nuclear detonation, the DOE requests that the 361 acres of public lands be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws and mineral leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.

The AEA requires the DOE to take necessary measures to protect human health and the environment from nuclear contamination, and provides broad authority for the DOE to do so. The AEA states, in part, that DOE may “establish by rule, regulation, or order, such standards and instructions to govern the possession and use of special nuclear material, source material, and byproduct material as the Commission may deem necessary or desirable to promote the common defense and security or to protect health or to minimize danger to life or property” (42 U.S.C. 2201(b)).

This application is to withdraw lands adjacent to and surrounding land and interests withdrawn under Public Land Order (PLO) No. 4338, published in the **Federal Register** Volume 32, No. 241, December 14, 1967. The PLO established the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA) for an underground nuclear test. The test, which was conducted in 1968, resulted in a determination that the site was unsuitable for further nuclear tests. DOE requests a new withdrawal of lands adjacent to and surrounding the 1967 withdrawal in order to prevent disturbance to residual subsurface contamination. The BLM will hold a 90-day scoping period to identify issues and begin preparing an EA to analyze the impacts of the proposed withdrawal.

As required by section 204(b)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1714(b)(1), and the BLM regulations at

43 CFR part 2310.3-1, the BLM is publishing the Notice that DOE has requested the withdrawal of the following described lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 9 N. R. 51 E., Unsurveyed, Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23. It is an irregular bounded portion of land being described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point which is north 35°15'30" west, 14,986.1 feet from the southeast corner of township 9 north, range 51 east.

THENCE, north 89°43'10" west, a distance of 6602.5 feet.

THENCE, north 0°16'30" east, a distance of 6602.6 feet.

THENCE, south 89°43'10" east, a distance of 6602.5 feet.

THENCE, south 0°17'20" west, a distance of 6602.6 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

BASIS OF BEARING: Mean geodetic bearings referenced to the true meridian.

EXCEPTING those portions withdrawn by PLO No. 4338 (UC-1 withdrawal).

The area encumbered by the existing withdrawal contains approximately 640 acres.

The area encumbered by the new withdrawal is 361 acres in Nye County.

This proposed withdrawal would fully encompass the use-restriction and compliance boundaries established by DOE. The objective of the compliance boundary is to protect the public and environment from exposure to groundwater contamination by the underground nuclear test. The objective of the use-restriction boundary is to restrict access to subsurface materials, including groundwater. The proposed withdrawal for 20 years would maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment, and would ensure that DOE's ongoing, long-term site characterization studies of the CNTA are not invalidated or otherwise adversely affected.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency agreement, or cooperative agreement would not adequately constrain non-discretionary uses which could result in permanent loss of significant values and threaten public health, safety, and Federal investment in the long-term monitoring program established for the CNTA.

There are no suitable alternative sites because the lands contain the specific area surrounding the underground nuclear test site, and Federal improvements described in the application.

No water rights will be required for this withdrawal.

The legal descriptions and the maps depicting the lands are available for public inspection at the following offices: BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada