

- A brief description of the action the PHA undertook to reduce the utility rate and supporting documentation;
- An explanation of how the PHA will calculate savings and anticipated savings; and
- Identification of the incentive the PHA will claim, whether it is 50 percent or 100 percent of the actual savings.

HUD uses collected information to determine whether applications meet eligibility requirements and application submission requirements. Applicants provide information about the proposed contract to enable HUD to evaluate the applicant's response to the criteria for rating the application and approving or disapproving the contract.

Annual EPC Measurement and Verification and savings calculation information collected allows HUD to audit program performance accurately. The quality of reported data is critical for ensuring an accurate distribution of the Operating Fund subsidy appropriation. The information collected will allow HUD to accurately audit the program. For the EPC program, Measurement and Verification data will be submitted by the PHA annually in a format of their choice. The report must contain the actual usage amount of each utility under the EPC, the actual unit of measure, the consumption savings, and the cost savings. The PHAs will also be required to submit their consumption data using a standardized Excel

Spreadsheet through the Operating Fund Web Portal, the Energy Savings Calculator. This Calculator is used to ensure the accuracy of the EPC incentives being claimed by the PHA in their annual Operating Subsidy submission.

For the RRI program, PHAs must annually submit documentation on energy cost savings attributed to the reduction in the rate. This data is submitted on an Asset Management Project (AMP basis). For the RRI program, PHAs will submit their data via email using the format of their choice.

Respondents: Public Housing Agencies (PHAs).

Type of submission/information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of submissions	Total responses	Estimate average time (hours)	Estimate annual burden (hours)	Hourly cost	Total annual cost
EPC Application and supporting documentation	10	1	10	560	5,600	\$125	\$700,000
EPC Measurement and Verification Report and Energy Savings Calculator	200	1	200	20	4,000	125	500,000
RRI Application and supporting documentation	30	1	30	2	60	125	7,500
RRI savings calculation	60	1	60	10	600	125	75,000
Totals	300	300	10,260	1,282,500

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A regarding the following:

- (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.
- (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

C. Authority

Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

Colette Pollard,

Department Record Management Officer, Officer of Policy Development and Research, Chief Data Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2023-0075; FXES1114080000-234-FF08EVEN00]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application for Participation in the General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities; Draft Categorical Exclusion for the Conoco Philips Soil Remediation Project; Santa Barbara County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Conoco Philips for an incidental take permit (ITP), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, under the approved

General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities (GCP). If granted, the ITP would authorize take of the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and the Santa Barbara County distinct population segment (DPS) of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), incidental to excavation and remediation of soils contaminated with hydrocarbons at the historical Cox 3-32 oil well sump and oilfield lease access road. The Service prepared a draft screening form in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the potential effects of the specific project to the natural and human environment resulting from issuing an ITP to the applicant. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on the draft screening form and the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before July 10, 2023.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The document this notice announces (draft screening form), as well as any comments and other materials that we

receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2023–0075 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. The approved GCP and the associated final environmental assessment/finding of no significant impact are also available on that site. However, we are no longer taking comments on those finalized, approved documents.

Submitting Comments: If you wish to submit comments, you may do so in writing by one of the following methods:

- **Online:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2023–0075.
- **U.S. mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R7–NWR5–2023–0075; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kirby Bartlett, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, by email at kirby_bartlett@fws.gov, by telephone at 805–644–1766, or by U.S. mail at the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Conoco Philips for an incidental take permit (ITP), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), under the approved General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities (GCP). A GCP is a mechanism that meets the definition of a conservation plan in section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and enables the construct of a programmatic permitting and conservation process to address a defined suite of proposed activities over a defined planning area. The application for an incidental take permit was made pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. The ITP, if granted, would authorize take of the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and the federally endangered Santa Barbara County distinct population segment (DPS) of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) incidental to activities

associated with the soil remediation for the historical Cox 3–32 oil well sump and oilfield lease access road in Santa Maria, California. The permit would be issued to the applicant under the GCP for Oil and Gas Activities, which was approved on June 27, 2022. Prior to approval, a notice of availability of the draft programmatic environmental assessment (EA) and GCP published on March 6, 2020 (85 FR 13181). The approved GCP and the associated final programmatic environmental assessment/finding of no significant impact are available on the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office web page at <https://www.fws.gov/media/habitat-conservation-plans-and-general-conservation-plans>. We have also uploaded them to <https://www.regulations.gov>. However, we are no longer taking comments on these finalized, approved documents.

Document for Public Comment

We invite public comment on a draft screening form we prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and on our preliminary determination that this proposed ITP qualifies as “low effect,” and may qualify for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1501.4), the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and the DOI’s Departmental Manual (516 DM 8.5(C)(2)).

Background

The Service listed the California red-legged frog as threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 FR 25813), and the Santa Barbara County DPS of the California tiger salamander as endangered on September 21, 2000 (65 FR 57242). Section 9 of the ESA prohibits “take” of fish and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered (16 U.S.C. 1538), where take is defined to include the following activities: “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532). Under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(B)), we may issue permits to authorize take of listed fish and wildlife species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for endangered and threatened species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively. Issuance of an ITP also must not jeopardize the

existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. The permittee would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Applicant’s Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. The take would occur in association with activities necessary to remediate soil contaminated with hydrocarbons at the historical Cox 3–32 oil well sump and oilfield lease access road in Santa Maria, California. Excavation of hydrocarbon-impacted material surrounding the oil well sump would extend to a maximum depth of approximately 12 feet (ft) below ground surface within an approximately 0.88-acre work area surrounded by a temporary chain link fence. California red-legged frogs have a known population approximately 0.5 miles (mi) west of the project site in Bradley Lake, making the project within dispersal distance for the California red-legged frog. Additionally, California tiger salamanders have been identified approximately 0.65 mi southwest of the project site, making the project site potential California tiger salamander upland habitat. The proposed soil remediation would require excavating contaminated soils to a depth of approximately 12 ft in the area where the oil well sump was located, which will result in impacts to burrowing and dispersal habitat for the covered species as well as the potential for direct injury or mortality from crushing during excavation activities.

The project includes avoidance and minimization measures for the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander and mitigation for unavoidable impacts to their habitat. The applicant has proposed mitigation in the form of funding activities consistent with the GCP that will compensate for unavoidable impacts to the California red-legged frog. To mitigate for impacts to the California tiger salamander, the applicant proposes to purchase one California tiger salamander credit from the Service-approved La Purisima Conservation Bank located in Santa Barbara County, California.

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

The Service provides this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508 and 43 CFR 46).

Stephen P. Henry,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_OR_FRN_MO4500170655]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon/Washington and California and an Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), Presidential Proclamations entitled “Establishment of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument” (June 9, 2000) and “Boundary Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument” (January 12, 2017), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) and California (CA) State Offices intend to revise a resource management plan (RMP) with an associated environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Monument). With this notice, the BLM announces the beginning of a 60-day public scoping period to solicit public comments and identify issues, provide the planning criteria for public review, and issue a call for nominations for areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). This RMP revision would replace the existing 2008 Monument RMP.

DATES: The BLM requests the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives,

and identification of relevant information, studies, and ACEC nominations by August 8, 2023. The BLM also requests the public submit comments on the planning criteria by the same date identified earlier. The planning criteria will be made available to the public within the first 30 days of the 60-day comment period to ensure the public has at least 30 days to comment on the planning criteria as required by the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.2(e).

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Monument RMP and nominations of new ACECs by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510>.
- **Mail:** ATTN: CSNM RMP Project Manager, BLM Medford District, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023675/510> and at the BLM Medford District Office, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nikki Haskett, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument RMP Project Manager; (458) 246–8861, address 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504; email blm_csnm_rmp@blm.gov. Contact Ms. Haskett to have your name added to our mailing list. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Haskett. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM OR/WA and CA State Directors intend to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the Monument, announces the beginning of the scoping process, seeks public input on issues and relevant planning criteria, and invites the public to nominate ACECs. The planning area is in Jackson and Klamath Counties in Oregon and Siskiyou County in California and encompasses approximately 113,500 acres of BLM-administered lands. While most of the BLM-administered lands are within the BLM Ashland and Klamath Falls Field Offices in Oregon, approximately 5,000 acres are located within the BLM Redding Field Office in California.

In response to Presidential Proclamation No. 9564 (Boundary

Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument January 12, 2017), multiple plaintiffs sued the President and the BLM, claiming that the monument expansion violated the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of 1937 (the O&C Act). In 2017, two plaintiffs filed separate suits in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. A third plaintiff filed suit in the District of Oregon. In September 2019, the District of Oregon upheld the monument expansion, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court’s judgment in April 2023. In November 2019, the District Court for the District of Columbia held that the monument expansion violated the O&C Act by “reserving land governed by the O&C Act from sustained yield timber production” and held Presidential Proclamation No. 9564 “invalid and unenforceable as applied to land subject to the O&C Act.” The United States has appealed this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Although the outcome of this appeal is uncertain, the BLM is exercising its discretion to initiate preliminary planning steps with the understanding that the BLM retains the ability to modify or terminate any planning effort in response to the outcome of the litigation.

Purpose and Need for the RMP

This RMP will provide a management framework, including goals, objectives, and management direction, to guide management of the Monument. The RMP purposes and needs will frame issue identification, alternatives development, and effects analyses. The following purposes are explicitly provided in Presidential Proclamations No. 7318 (Establishment of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument) and No. 9564, other designating legislation, and/or have been identified based on key present and historical Monument management challenges. Planning for these purposes will be crucial for development of an RMP that provides direction for addressing critical management challenges. Associated problems and opportunities that the RMP will address are also summarized.

1. Protect and/or restore the unique and varied natural and scientific resources in the Monument. This includes Monument objects identified in the proclamations, including:

a. A landscape of ecological wonder with unmatched biological diversity that provides habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape