SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service’s endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the federally threatened and endangered species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria which when met would result in a determination that the species no longer needs the protection of the Act, and provide estimates of the time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires public notice and opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into consideration in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.


Dated: July 6, 1999.

Charles M. Wooley,
Program Assistant Regional Director,
Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 99–17767 Filed 7–12–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly (Somatochlora hineana) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Hine’s emerald dragonfly (Somatochlora hineana), a species that is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This species occurs on public and private land in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by September 13, 1999 will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Comments should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Chicago, Illinois, Field Office, at the above address.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: July 6, 1999.

Edward Antonini Residuary Trust, and E-Z Mix, Inc. (Applicants) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Assessment and Receipt of Permits for the Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Associated With Industrial Developments on the Angelus Block Company Site, City of Rialto, San Bernardino County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that Angelus Block Company, Inc., Edward Antonini Residuary Trust, and E-Z Mix, Inc. (Applicants) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan and issuance of incidental take permits pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, 1973, as amended (Act). The Applicants propose to develop various industrial facilities, including a sucking plant and facility for concrete, pre-blended mortar, asphalt and associated materials; a paver production plant; and a concrete block plant within various lots on the property. Except for those lots within the approximately 30.5-acre on-site Conservation Area, the other lots are
expected to be sold to other industrial users for development. The Applicants seek permits for a period of 30 years that would authorize incidental take of the endangered Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (Rhaphiomusia terminatus abdominals) associated with the construction, development, and maintenance of industrial facilities on approximately 65 acres of the 96-acre site. The permit applications include a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement, both of which are available for public review and comment. The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permits. All comments on the Environmental Assessment and permit applications will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Comments may be sent by facsimile to telephone (760) 431–9624.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Beth Woulfe, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or call (760) 431–9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

You may obtain copies of the documents for review by calling the Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at the above referenced telephone number. Documents also are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the "taking" of threatened or endangered species. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 USC 1538). Harm may include significant habitat modification where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). The Service, however, may issue permits to take endangered and/or threatened species are found at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32. Under the proposed action, construction, development, and maintenance activities would directly impact the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly by removing about 65 acres of habitat on the 96-acre parcel. The permit applications include a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement that define the responsibilities of all of the parties under the Plan. The Applicants' Habitat Conservation Plan describes consideration of alternatives to the action and provisions for minimization and mitigation of impacts.

The Applicants propose to dedicate about 30.5 acres of on-site Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat to a land manager/conservation organization to be managed and preserved in perpetuity. A 5-acre mitigation bank would be established in the 30.5-acre Conservation Area. Proceeds from the sale of credits would off-set the management and maintenance cost. The incidental take permit would also address any take that may occur due to management and maintenance activities within the Conservation Area. This action would compensate for the loss of habitat resulting from the project and would benefit the long-term conservation of the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly.

The Habitat Conservation Plan was prepared by the Applicants' representatives and reflects the opinions of the Applicants; whereas, the Environmental Assessment was prepared by the Service and reflects our opinions regarding the proposed action. This fact will account for the differences in opinion and analysis reflected in the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Environmental Assessment.

The Applicants considered going forward without receiving a section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit under the Act. The Service sought and was granted a preliminary injunction by the United States District Court of Los Angeles that prohibited Angelus Block Company, Inc. from proceeding with their planned development. The Service and representatives from Angelus Block Company, Inc. worked out a settlement agreement regarding this injunction that resulted in finalizing the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Habitat Conservation Plan and the Environmental Assessment considered four alternatives to the proposed project: (1) Abandonment of the industrial facility projects (the "No Project" alternative); (2) abandonment of the industrial facility projects and establishment of a Delhi Sands flower-loving fly mitigation plan (the "Conservation Plan alternative"); (3) participation in the San Bernardino Valley-wide Multiple Species Plan; and (4) development of 83 acres, dedication of a 13.4-acre Conservation Area, habitat restoration, and an endowment fund for maintenance and management of the Conservation Area. The Applicants also considered the redesign of the industrial facilities and establishing a 24-acre Conservation Area including a mitigation bank. This alternative was within the full range of alternatives considered, and therefore, was not further analyzed by the Service in its Environmental Assessment.

Under the first alternative the Angelus Block facilities would not be constructed on the Site, nor would the remaining lots be used for other industrial uses sold to other industrial users. Although this alternative would result in no impact by development of the Project Site, the Applicants would not take any measures to enhance the site or establish permanent on-site conservation that is expected to have long-term benefits for the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly.

Under the second alternative the Project Site would not be developed and the Site would be used as a habitat mitigation bank for Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. Establishment of a Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat mitigation bank on the Site could possibly result in protection of approximately 73 acres of Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat. The success of the mitigation bank would be primarily dependent on the ability and willingness of others to purchase Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat credits arising from establishment of a bank on Site. The certainty that such would actually occur is not known.

Under the third alternative the Applicants would mitigate for any potential take of the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly by participating in a larger geographic scale, multiple species Habitat Conservation Plan under development by local jurisdictions for a portion of San Bernardino County, as opposed to their own site-specific Habitat Conservation Plan. Under this alternative, the Applicants would need to delay construction of their project until the San Bernardino Valley-Wide Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan is complete.

Under the fourth alternative about 83 acres would be developed, a 13.4-acre conservation area would be dedicated to a conservation organization. Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat would be restored in the conservation area, and a long-term maintenance endowment...
would be provided for the conservation area. The conservation area would be used for the recovery and long-term conservation of the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. This alternative would result in construction within approximately 60 acres of potential Delhi Sands flower-loving fly habitat. Impacts to the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly would be greater than the proposed project and there would be less benefit to the species.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). The service will evaluate the permit applications, the Habitat Conservation Plan, Environmental Assessment, the associated documents and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will issue permits for the incidental take of the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. A final decision on permit issuance will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.


Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Deputy Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Sacramento, California
[FR Doc. 99–17763 Filed 7–12–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[CA–320–1820–00]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting; Northeast California Resource Advisory Council; Susanville, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the conference room of the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office. Agenda items include discussion of off-highway vehicle management, grass banking, noxious weeds, the recreation fee demonstration project, sage grouse management, and a status report on BLM wilderness study areas in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada. Public comments will be taken at 10 a.m. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit could be set. The entire meeting is open to the public as well.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Tim Burke, BLM Alturas Field Manager, at (530) 233–4666.
Joseph J. Fontana,
Public Affairs Officer.
[FR Doc. 99–17763 Filed 7–12–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[NV–020–1430–01; N–45098]

Termination of Segregative Effect, and Opening Order for a Portion of Airport Lease N–45098, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action terminates a segregative effect on a portion of Airport Lease N–45098, held by Humboldt County. The land will be opened to the operation of the public land laws, including location and entry under the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 21, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Figarelle, Realty Specialist, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, or 775–623–1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The segregative effect for Airport Lease N–45098, also known as the Denio Junction Airport, was made on January 15, 1987, then amended on September 23, 1987 and July 21, 1988. The public lands affected by the above segregative actions, are described as follows:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada
T. 47 N., R. 30 E., Sec. 9: W1/2SW1/4SE1/4, W1/2SW1/4SE1/4; W1/2SW1/4SE1/4; Sec. 16: NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4NE1/4, W1/2SW1/4NW1/4, N1/4SW1/4NE1/4, N1/4SW1/4NW1/4, N1/4SW1/4NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4SW1/4. Totaling 135 acres more or less in Humboldt County.

The segregation was made pursuant to the Act of May 24, 1928 (49 U.S.C. 211–214) as amended by the Act of August 16, 1941 (55 Stat. 621).

The segregative effect is hereby terminated for all public lands encumbered by Airport Lease N–45098, except the following described lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada
T. 47 N., R. 30 E., Sec. 9: W1/2SW1/4SE1/4, W1/2SW1/4SE1/4; Sec. 16: NW1/4, N1/4SW1/4SW1/4, N1/4SW1/4NE1/4, E1/4SE1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4NW1/4, SE1/4SW1/4NW1/4. Totaling 310 acres more or less in Humboldt County.

At 9 a.m. on July 21, 1999, the land encumbered by Airport Lease N–45098, except the lands described above, will be opened to location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, the provisions of existing withdrawals, other segregations of record, and the requirements of applicable law. All valid applications received at or prior to 9 a.m. on July 21, 1999, shall be considered as simultaneously filed at that time. Those received thereafter shall be considered in the order of filing. Appropriation of any of the land described in this order under the general mining laws prior to the date and time of restoration is unauthorized. Any such attempted adverse possession under 30 U.S.C. 38 (1988), shall vest no rights against the United States. Acs required to establish a location and to initiate a right of possession are governed by State law where not in conflict with Federal law. The Bureau of Land Management will not intervene in disputes between rival locators over possessory rights since Congress has provided for such determinations in local courts.

Dated: June 30, 1999.

Terry A. Reed,
Field Manager, Winnemucca.
[FR Doc. 99–17682 Filed 7–12–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[NV–020–1430–01; N–59006]

Termination of Segregative Effect, and Opening Order for Proposed Exchange, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action terminates the land exchange segregation, dated March