Applicant voluntary offered to maintain an elevated baseline of a minimum of 3,000 Railroad Valley springfish in order to achieve the recovery goals stated in the Service’s Railroad Valley Springfish Recovery Plan. The Applicant, as the Permitee, will be responsible for annual monitoring and reporting related to implementation of the SHA and fulfillment of its provisions. The Service will also assist the Applicant with monitoring and training of tribal staff in order to achieve annual monitoring and reporting goals as part of the partnership. As specified in the SHA, the Applicant will issue yearly reports to the Service related to implementation of the program.

The SHA will cover conservation activities to create, maintain, restore, or enhance habitat and reintroduce a self-sustaining population of Railroad Valley springfish while achieving species’ recovery goals. Management activities that are undertaken through this SHA will result in the reintroduction and re-establishment of a self-sustaining population of Railroad Valley springfish within designated critical habitat at Big Warm Spring. The overall goal of this SHA is to systematically achieve recovery goals and conservation measures for the Railroad Valley springfish while ensuring that tribal economic, agricultural and cultural interests are preserved and protected.

Given the probable species response time of Railroad Valley springfish to the planned conservation measures the Service estimates it will take 2 years of implementing the SHA to fully reach a net conservation benefit. Although some level of benefits will likely occur within a shorter time period.

After maintenance of the restored/created/enhanced habitat and reintroduction of Railroad Valley springfish habitat on the property for the agreed-upon term, the Applicant may then conduct otherwise lawful activities on their property that result in the direct take of Railroad Valley springfish. However, the restrictions on returning a property to the elevated baseline condition include: (1) The Applicant must demonstrate that elevated baseline conditions were maintained and the conservation measures necessary for achieving a net conservation benefit were carried out; (2) the Service will be notified a minimum of 30 days prior to the activity and given the opportunity to capture, rescue, and/or relocate any Railroad Valley springfish; and (3) return to elevated baseline conditions must be completed within the 25-year term of the permit issued to the Applicant.

The Service has made a preliminary determination that approval of this SHA qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the NEPA, as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1) based on the following criteria: (1) Implementation of the SHA would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) implementation of the SHA would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of the SHA, considered together with the impacts of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be considered significant. This is more fully explained in our Environmental Action Statement.

Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. The Service will consider public comments in making its final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

Public Review and Comments

Individuals wishing copies of the permit application, the Environmental Action Statement, or copies of the full text of the SHA, including a map of the proposed permit area, references, and legal descriptions of the proposed permit area, should contact the office and personnel listed in the ADDRESSES section. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at this office (see ADDRESSES).

The Service provides this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments received on the permit application and SHA, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

Decision

We will evaluate the permit application, the SHA, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA regulations. If the requirements are met, the Service will sign the proposed SHA and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to the Applicant for take of the Railroad Valley springfish incidental to otherwise lawful activities of the project. The Service will not make a final decision until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received during the comment period.


Robert D. Williams,
Field Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, Reno, Nevada.

[FR Doc. E7–13356 Filed 7–9–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Nevada Department of Wildlife, Lincoln County, Nevada, Enhancement of Survival Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In response to an application from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Applicant), we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are considering issuance of an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The permit application includes a proposed programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) between the applicant and the Service. The proposed SHA provides for voluntary habitat restoration, maintenance, enhancement, or creation activities to enhance the reintroduction and recovery of White River springfish (Crenichtheys baileyi baileyi), Hiko White River springfish (Crenichtheys baileyi grandis), Pahranagat roundtail chub (Gila robusta jordani) and southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus), within the Pahranagat Valley, Nevada. The proposed duration of both the SHA and permit is 50 years.

We have made a preliminary determination that the proposed SHA and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The basis for our determination is contained in an environmental action statement, which also is available for
Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) beyond that which exists at the time the cooperative agreement is signed and certificate of inclusion issued (“regulatory baseline”). A SHA encourages landowners to conduct voluntary conservation activities and assures them that they will not be subjected to increased listed species restrictions should their beneficial stewardship efforts result in increased listed species populations. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits and SHAs are found in 50 CFR 17.22(c) and 17.32(c). As long as enrolled landowners agree to the terms of the proposed conservation measures to be completed on their property and agree to maintain their baseline responsibilities, they may make any other lawful use of the property during the term of the cooperative agreement, even if such use results in the take of individual White River spring fish, Hiko White River spring fish, Pahranagat roundtail chub, southwestern willow flycatcher or harm to these species’ habitats, as long as it does not cause conditions to fall below baseline.

As proposed in the SHA, landowners within the Pahranagat Valley that have suitable habitat for any of these four species may be enrolled by the applicant under the SHA. Landowners, as cooperators, would receive a certificate of inclusion when they sign a cooperative agreement. The cooperative agreement would include: (1) A map of the property and its legal location; (2) a description of the portion of the property to be enrolled and its stream mileage/feet; (3) the property’s baseline and biological assessment, which would include a description of the habitat types that occur on the property, including an accurate description of riparian and aquatic habitats and a thorough stream analysis (with photos) of the enrolled stream miles/feet; (4) current land-use practices and existing development, and the characteristics of water supplies to aquatic habitats; (5) a description of the specific conservation measures to be completed; and (6) the responsibilities of the cooperators and the applicant.

The applicant, as the permittee, will be responsible for annual monitoring and reporting related to implementation of the SHA and cooperative agreements and fulfillment of their provisions. As specified in the SHA, the Applicant will issue yearly reports to the Service related to implementation of the program.

Each cooperative agreement would cover conservation activities to create, maintain, restore, or enhance habitat for the White River spring fish, Hiko White River spring fish, Pahranagat roundtail chub, and/or the southwestern willow flycatcher and achieve species’ recovery goals. These actions, where appropriate, could include (but are not limited to): (1) Restoration of wetland and riparian habitats and stream form and function; (2) establishment of wetland and riparian buffers; (3) repair or installation of improved irrigation systems that improve water quality and quantity for habitat; (4) development and implementation of monitoring plans as well as facilitation of the implementation of other objectives recommended by the recovery plan for these species. The overall goal of cooperative agreements entered into under the proposed SHA is to produce conservation measures that are mutually beneficial to the cooperators and the long-term existence of these four species.

Based upon the probable species’ response time, we estimate it will take 3 years of implementing the planned conservation measures to fully reach a net conservation benefit for White River spring fish and Hiko White River spring fish, 5 years for Pahranagat roundtail chub and 10 years for southwestern willow flycatcher; some level of benefit would likely occur within a shorter time period. Most cooperative agreements under the proposed SHA are expected to have at least 10 years’ duration.

After maintenance of the restored/created/enhanced habitat for these species on the property for the agreed-upon term, cooperators may then conduct otherwise lawful activities on their property that result in the partial or total elimination of the habitat improvements and the taking of these four species. However, the restrictions on returning a property to its original baseline condition are: (1) The cooperators must demonstrate that habitat conditions were maintained during the term of the cooperative agreement and the conservation measures necessary for achieving a net conservation benefit were carried out; (2) we and the applicant will be notified a minimum of 30 days prior to the activity and given the opportunity to capture, rescue, and/or relocate any of the four species; and (3) return to baseline conditions must be completed within the term of the certificate of inclusion issued to the applicant. Cooperative agreements could be extended if the applicant’s permit is renewed and that renewal allows for such an extension.
We have made a preliminary determination that approval of the proposed SHA qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA, as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1) based on the following criteria: (1) Implementation of the SHA would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; (2) implementation of the SHA would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) impacts of the SHA, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similar projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be considered significant. This is more fully explained in our environmental action statement.

Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. The Service will consider public comments in making its final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

Decision

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and pursuant to implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, the proposed SHA, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and NEPA regulations. If the requirements are met, we will sign the proposed SHA and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA to the Applicant for take of White River springfish, Hiko White River springfish, Pahranagat roundtail chub and southwestern willow flycatcher incidental to otherwise lawful activities of the project. We will not make a final decision until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received during the comment period.


Robert D. Williams,
Field Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, Reno, Nevada.

[FR Doc. E7–13375 Filed 7–9–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management


Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Ekwok Natives Limited. The lands in the vicinity of Ekwok, Alaska, and are located in:

Seward Meridian, Alaska

T. 10 S., R. 49 W., Secs. 14, 23, and 34. Containing 1,886.03 acres.

T. 11 S., R. 49 W., Sec. 3. Containing 640 acres.

T. 9 S., R. 50 W., Secs. 12, 21, and 28. Containing 1,920 acres.

T. 10 S., R. 50 W., Sec. 29. Containing 306.27 acres.

T. 9 S., R. 51 W., Secs. 6 and 7. Containing 1,147.60 acres. Aggregating 5,899.90 acres.

The subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Bristol Bay Native Corporation when the surface estate is conveyed to Ekwok Natives Limited. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Anchorage Daily News.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until August 9, 2007 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907–271–5960, or by e-mail at: ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

Michael Bilancione,
Land Law Examiner, Branch of Adjudication II.

[FR Doc. E7–13325 Filed 7–9–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management


Notice of Realty Action:

Recreation and Public Purposes Act Classification of Public Lands in Iron County, UT; Correction

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action; correction.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert C. Wilson, Realty Specialist at (435) 865–3005 or via e-mail at: rob_wilson@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Corrections

1. Correct the section to be “3” from “34”.

T. 38 S., R12 W. Sec. 3, lot 12, containing 2.47 acres. Correction.

2. Correct the section to be “3” from “34”.

T. 38 S., R12 W. Sec. 3, lot 13, (portion), containing 7.53 acres. Correction.


Randy Trujillo,
Associate Field Office Manager (UT–040).

[FR Doc. E7–13370 Filed 7–9–07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–DG–P