The Service proposes to issue the requested 3-year ITP based on the applicant’s commitment to implement the HCP, if permit issuance criteria are met. Covered activities include construction of a single-family home and an agricultural building. The area covered under the HCP consists of an approximately one-half acre project development site and an approximately one acre conservation site on land owned by the applicant. Take of the Yelm pocket gopher would occur within the half-acre development site and will be offset by granting Thurston County a perpetual conservation easement over an acre of occupied habitat, for the purpose of ensuring that it is perpetually managed for the benefit of the covered species. Funding for management of the conservation easement will be assured. The applicant may have the conservation easement released in the future if it purchases credits from a Service-approved conservation bank for the Yelm pocket gopher, which would provide equivalent or greater conservation benefits to the species. At present, no such conservation bank exists.

Public Comments
You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in ADDRESSES. We specifically request information, views, and suggestions from interested parties regarding our proposed Federal action, including adequacy of the HCP pursuant to the requirements for permits at 50 CFR parts 13 and 17 and adequacy of the EAS pursuant to NEPA.

Public Availability of Comments
All comments and materials we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at our Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES).

Authority
We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the ESA and NEPA and their implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.32 and 40 CFR 1506.6, respectively).

Theresa E. Rabot,
Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from Midnight Sun, Inc., for a 20-year incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application addresses the potential for “take” of the federally threatened California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander that is likely to occur incidental to ongoing agricultural activities, flood and erosion control activities, and habitat restoration at Gaver Ranch near the community of Castroville in unincorporated Monterey County, California. We invite comments from the public on the application package, which includes a low-effect habitat conservation plan.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by September 17, 2018.

ADDRESSES:
Document availability: You may
download a copy of the habitat
conservation plan, draft environmental
action statement and low-effect
screening form, and related documents
on the internet at http://www.fws.gov/
ventura/, or you may request copies of
the documents by U.S. mail to our
Ventura office (see address below) or by
phone (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT).

Comment submission: Please address
written comments to Stephen P. Henry,
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and
Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B,
Ventura, CA 93003. You alternatively
may send comments by facsimile to
(805) 644–3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Chad Mitcham, Fish and Wildlife
Biologist, (805) 677–3328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have
received an application from Midnight
Sun, Inc., for a 20-year incidental take
permit under the Act. The application
addresses the potential for “take” of the
federally threatened California red-
legged frog (Rana draytonii) and
California tiger salamander (Ambystoma
californiense) likely to occur incidental
to ongoing agricultural activities, flood
and erosion control activities, and
habitat restoration at Gaver Ranch,
15740 Blackie Road (Assessor Parcel
Numbers (APNs): 133–012–001 and
133–012–007), near Castroville in
unincorporated Monterey County,
California. We invite comments from
the public on the application package,
which includes a low-effect habitat
conservation plan. This proposed action
has been determined to be eligible for a
categorical exclusion under the National
Environmental Policy Act of 1969
(NEPA), as amended.

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Service) added the California red-
legged frog to the List of Endangered
and Threatened Wildlife (“listed”) as
threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 FR
25813), and the Service listed the
California tiger salamander in central
California as threatened on August 4,
2004 (69 FR 47212). This list is found in
title 50 of the Code of Federal
Regulations at 50 CFR 17.11. Section 9
of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and
its implementing regulations prohibit
the take of fish or wildlife species listed
as endangered or threatened. “Take” is
defined under the Act 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); however, under section
10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we may issue
permits to authorize incidental take of
listed species. The Act defines
“incidental take” as take that is not the
purpose of carrying out an otherwise
lawful activity.

Regulations governing incidental take
permits for threatened and endangered
species are provided at 50 CFR 17.32
and 17.22, respectively. Issuance of an
incidental take permit and actions
undertaken through implementation of
the habitat conservation plan (HCP)
must not jeopardize the existence of
federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant
species. All species covered by an
incidental take permit receive
assurances under our “No Surprises”
regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and
17.32(b)(5)). In addition, the Service has
issued regulations for these species under
section 4(d) of the Act. These
regulations state that incidental take as
the result of routine ranching activities
will not be a violation of the take
provisions of section 9 of the Act. The
sections 4(d) regulations for the
California tiger salamander are located
at 50 CFR 17.43(c) and for the California
red-legged frog at 50 CFR 17.43(d).

Applicant’s Proposal

Midnight Sun Inc. (hereafter, the
applicant), has submitted a low-effect
HCP in support of their application for
an incidental take permit (ITP) to
tackle take of the California red-legged
frog and California tiger salamander that
is likely to occur as the result of direct
impacts on up to 9.5 acres of suitable
habitat occupied by the species. Take
would be associated with ongoing
agricultural activities, flood and erosion
control activities, and habitat restoration
on two existing parcels legally described
as APNs: 133–012–001 and 133–012–007.
Ultimately, the project intends to
improve drainage infrastructure to avoid
on- and offsite flooding that has been
occurring since 2011. The current site
address is 15740 Blackie Road near
Castroville in unincorporated Monterey
County, California. This property is
outside the critical habitat designations
for these species as set forth in 50 CFR
17.95(d).

The applicant is requesting a permit
for take of the California red-legged frog
and California tiger salamander that
would result from “covered activities”
that are related to ongoing agricultural
operations. A 20-year ITP is requested to
authorize take that would occur
incidental to the proposed project. The
applicant proposes to avoid, minimize,
and mitigate for the California
red-legged frog and California tiger
salamander associated with the covered
activities by fully implementing the
HCP. The following measures will be
implemented:

1. A qualified biologist will conduct
an education program for all persons
employed or otherwise working in the
project area. The program will cover
species identification and ecology, legal
protections afforded the species, and
species-specific conservation measures.
The education program will be attended
by all onsite construction personnel,
and those personnel will be directed to
cease work and immediately contact a
biologist permitted to capture and
relocate the subject species if any are
observed in an area to be impacted.

2. Each day prior to work beginning,
a designated biologist or biological
monitor will inspect the work area for
the covered species. If an individual of
the covered species is found in an area
to be impacted, all work in that area will
cease and a Service-approved biologist
immediately notified. Work will cease
until the individual moves from the area
on its own accord or until the Service-
approved biologist is able to capture
and relocate the individual to the nearest
suitable habitat not affected by project
activities.

3. To the maximum extent
practicable, construction activities will
be limited to daylight hours.

4. The applicant will not use erosion
control materials that contain
monofilament netting or similar
material that can result in the
entanglement of the covered species and
other wildlife.

5. Soil stockpiles will be fully
stabilized to prevent erodible materials
entering the covered species’ aquatic
habitats.

6. Onsite restoration and
management of 8.9 acres of upland and
dispersal habitat will occur in order for
the covered species to continue to
utilize the project site.

7. Permanent protection of 1.5 acres
of habitat for the California red-legged
frog and California tiger salamander will
be ensured through the purchase of
multispecies credits at the Sparling
Ranch Conservation Bank in San Benito
County, California. The applicant will
fund up to $1,556,976 to ensure
implementation of all minimization
measures, monitoring, and reporting
requirements identified in the HCP.

In the proposed HCP, the applicant
considers two alternatives to the
proposed action: “No Action” and
“Redesigned Project.” Under the “No
Action” alternative, an ITP for the
proposed project would not be issued.
The proposed conservation strategy
consisting of onsite management of 8.9
acres of upland and dispersal habitat
and the purchase of conservation credits would not be provided to effect recovery actions for the impacted species. The “No Action” alternative would not result in needed improvements to reduce the risk of on- and offsite flooding and would not result in benefits for the covered species; therefore, the applicant has rejected the “No Action” alternative. Under the “Redesigned Project” alternative, the applicant would further reduce the area of the proposed project to the smallest possible footprint; however, the Redesigned Project would not realistically accomplish the project goal of the reduction of on- and offsite flooding risk. Under this alternative, the applicant would not achieve the desired goal of reduced flooding risk, and fewer conservation credits would be purchased to effect recovery; therefore, the applicant has also rejected the “Redesigned Project” alternative.

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 California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Therefore, in accordance with this preliminary determination, 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, 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 California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander, 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 California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. 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 application, HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by one of the methods described in ADDRESSES. 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 review, 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: August 10 2018.

Stephen P. Henry,
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–NRNH–DTS#–26141; PPWOCRADIO, PCU00RP14.R50000]

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before July 27, 2018, for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by August 31, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent via U.S. Postal Service and all other carriers to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW, MS 7228, Washington, DC 20240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The properties listed in this notice are being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations for their consideration were received by the National Park Service before July 27, 2018. Pursuant to Section 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60, written comments are being accepted concerning the significance of the nominated properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation.

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 review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Nominations submitted by State Historic Preservation Officers:

ALABAMA

Baldwin County
American Legion Post 199, 700 S Mobile St., Fairhope, SG100002858

INDIANA

Carroll County
American House Hotel, 205 Michigan Rd., Burlington, SG100002859

Elkhart County
Selmer, H. & A., Inc. Factory, 1119 N Main St., Elkhart, SG100002860

Grant County
Marion PCC & St. Louis Railroad Depot, 1002 S Washington St., Marion, SG100002861

Howard County
Greentown Commercial Historic District, 1/2 blk. on either side of Meridian St. between Walnut and Grant, Greentown, SG100002862

Madison County
Anderson High School Wigwam, 1229 S Lincoln St., Anderson, SG100002863

Marshall County
Arnold, Isaac and Ruth, House, 1003 N Main St., Bourbon, SG100002864

Rush County
Mount Pleasant Beech Church and Beech Cemetery, E side of Cty. Rd. 725 W between Cty. Rds. 1000 N & 1100 N, Carthage vicinity, SG100002865

Sullivan County
Sullivan Courthouse Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by Section, Wall, State & Harris Sts., Sullivan, SG100002867