

Myers, Rebecca O'Connor, Lauren McGough, Adam Chavez, Erland Renslo, David Dixon, Anne and Paul Schnell, Raymond Guzman, Erland Renslo, Duane Zobrist Sr., Duane Zobrist Jr., and the California Hawking Club, Inc., as their oversight committee, wishes to renew and amend the Cooperative Breeding Program CB030 covering the

species listed in table 1 by adding Steve Bergh of Chugiak, Alaska, and Laurayomya Jinright of Clark Fork, Idaho, as members to CB030 and removing Los Angeles Zoo, Stuart Rossell, Titus Plomaritis, Jim Tigan, Steve Hoddy, Rebecca and Justin Searle, Nicole Perretta, and Charles Browning as members to CB030. If the amendment

is approved, the program will include Steve Bergh of Chugiak, Alaska, and Laurayomya Jinright of Clark Fork, Idaho, as members of CB030. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the program over a 2-year period.

TABLE 1—SPECIES COVERED BY COOPERATIVE BREEDING PROGRAM CB030

Common name	Scientific name	Common name	Scientific name
African hawk-eagle	<i>Hieraaetus spilogaster</i>	Black goshawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i> .
European sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Spectacled owl	<i>Pulsatrix perspicillata</i> .
Red-necked falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	Saker falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i> .
Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Verreaux's eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i> .
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	African fish-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i> .
African crowned eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Martial eagle	<i>Polemeatus bellicosus</i> .
Ornate hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus ornatus</i>	Bonelli's eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> .
African goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	Eurasian eagle owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i> .
Ural owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> .
Southern boobook	<i>Ninox boobook</i>	Lanner falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i> .
Verreaux's eagle-owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i> ..		

IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make a decision regarding permit issuance. If we issue the permit to the applicant listed, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for "12345A".

V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the implementing regulations and under the authority of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 4901–4916). This notice is provided pursuant to section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Brenda Tapia,

Supervisory Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2024–11653 Filed 5–24–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R8–ES–2024–0061;
FXES11140800000–234–FF08EVEN00]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application for Participation in the General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities; Draft Categorical Exclusion for the California Lease Remediation North Cat Canyon Oil Field 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 California Resources Corporation 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 and restoration on the California (CAL) Lease (Site) within the North Cat Canyon Oil Field east of Santa Maria, California. 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 June 27, 2024.

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–2024–0061 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–2024–0061.
- **U.S. mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2024–0061; U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Brandt, Assistant Field Supervisor, by email at fw8venturaitp@fws.gov, via phone 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 California Resources Corporation 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 on the California (CAL) Lease (Site) within the North Cat Canyon Oil Field 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 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 CAL Site within the North Cat Canyon Oil Field in Santa Maria, California. The project will excavate contaminated soils at three distinct remedial areas, A5-01, B5-02/B5-03, and B6-03 at the CAL Site. Based on initial investigations, approximately 4,926 cubic yards of soil will be excavated with 25 feet set as the

maximum depth for excavation. Excavated material will be transported to a State of California licensed disposal facility. Dewatering activities may also be conducted if perched groundwater is encountered in the excavations. The applicant will return all excavated areas to its original grade and revegetate them with native seed mix. The project area does not contain California red-legged frog breeding habitat however, an ephemeral drainage within the project area may provide a movement corridor during winter months. Nearest known location of California red-legged frogs is within 5-miles of the project site. Additionally, a potential California tiger salamanders breeding pond occurs within 0.7 miles of the project site, making the project site potential California tiger salamander upland habitat. The proposed soil remediation would require excavating contaminated soils, which will result in impacts to burrowing and dispersal habitat as well as the potential for direct injury or mortality from crushing for both species.

The project includes minimization measures for the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander and mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the species and its habitat. The applicant has proposed a one-time fixed payment of \$13,050 to the California red-legged frog mitigation account managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to compensate for unavoidable impacts to the California red-legged frog. To mitigate for impacts to the California tiger salamander, the applicant proposes to purchase 1.25 credits 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_FRN_MO4500177410]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Lisbon Valley Mining Company, LLC Copper Mine Plan of Operations Modification, San Juan County, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Canyon Country District, Moab Field Office, Moab, Utah, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of the Lisbon Valley Mining Company, LLC (LVMC) proposed plan of operations modification. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. The BLM requests the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives, and identification of relevant information and studies by June 27, 2024. To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the draft EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the plan of operations modification EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2027164/510>

- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office, Lisbon Valley Mine Plan Modification EIS, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/>

project/2027164/510 and at the BLM Moab Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Stephenson, Planning and Environmental Specialist, telephone: 435–249–2100; address: 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532; email: BLM_UT_MB_LVMC_EIS@blm.gov.

Contact Ms. Stephenson 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. Stephenson. 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: The Lisbon Valley Copper Mine is in the Lisbon Valley in San Juan County in southeast Utah. The mine, situated on Federal, State, and private lands, has been in operation under the ownership of multiple companies since 1998. LVMC has operated the mine under Plan of Operations Serial No. UTU 072499 (mine plan) since it obtained ownership in 2009. The mine plan boundary encompasses 4,480 acres, of which current operations cover 1,146 acres (BLM: 521 acres; State: 333 acres; and private: 292 acres) of disturbance. LVMC also conducts exploration activities within a 5,430-acre authorized boundary adjacent to the mine plan boundary under Exploration Plan of Operations Serial No. UTU 077879 (exploration plan). Federal, State, and private lands occur within the exploration plan boundary (BLM: 3,199 acres; State: 1,056 acres; and private: 1,175 acres).

LVMC currently mines copper ore at the mine from mineralized zones in porous sandstones approximately 50 to 200 feet below the surface using conventional open pit mining methods. Waste rock material is hauled to existing waste rock storage areas or is used to backfill existing pits. The copper ore is hauled to a heap leach facility where it is crushed and stacked onto a heap leach pad. A low pH solution is sprayed onto the crushed ore and copper is leached out of the rock into solution. The resultant copper-laden solution is sent to adjacent process facilities where it undergoes solvent extraction and electrowinning processing. The final product is copper cathode of a 99.9% purity. Currently, LVMC is mining copper ore from two open pits. LVMC expects to operate the current mine

until both pits are exhausted in approximately 2028.

On April 11, 2023, the BLM Moab Field Office received a proposal from LVMC to modify its current mine plan. Consistent with the surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809.411(a), the BLM reviewed the filed plan of operations modification and accepted it as complete on May 5, 2023.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The BLM's purpose and need are to respond to LVMC's mine plan modification proposal to expand mining operations and associated infrastructure and to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the public lands consistent with the BLM's responsibilities under FLPMA, surface management regulations (43 CFR subpart 3809), and use and occupancy regulations (43 CFR subpart 3715).

Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action is to modify the mine plan to expand open pit mining and beneficiation operations and to initiate the extraction of copper through a method of in-situ recovery (ISR) mining. The proposed expansion activities would include improvement of existing mining facilities in the mine plan boundary and construction of new facilities and associated access, power, and water facilities in the exploration plan boundary. Under the proposed action there would be approximately 2,391 acres of new surface disturbance (BLM: 1,388 acres; State: 412 acres; and private: 591 acres). Reclamation would be ongoing through the different phases of mining. The life of the mine is anticipated to be 20 years with final reclamation and post-closure monitoring occurring until approximately 2066.

The mine plan modification would include the following components: open pit, backfill area, ISR wellfield (injection wells, pump-back wells, and monitor wells), waste rock storage, storm water diversion channels, sediment basins, berms, heap leach pad, process ponds, solution pipelines, access roads, and ancillary facilities (power supply; reagent, fuel, ready line; crushing area and related stockpiles; area for temporary storage of petroleum-contaminated soils; groundwater monitoring wells; water supply pipeline and facilities; and construction laydown yards).

The proposed disturbance also includes improvements to the existing mining and processing facilities and their associated roads in the mine plan