

ecosystem approach, (2) providing a public forum for the public to comment on the type, extent and compatibility of wildlife-dependent recreational uses within the refuge area, and (3) ensuring public involvement in refuge management decisions by providing a process for effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with affected parties.

The CCP will address habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and possible restoration, wildlife-dependent recreational uses, and adjacency issues that could affect the Refuge goals and management objectives that will be developed during this process. Public input into this planning process is essential. The Service will solicit comments from the public via noticed meetings, open houses, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general area of the time and place of such opportunities for public input into the CCP.

#### Refuge Information

The South San Diego Unit of the San Diego NWR, located at the southern end of San Diego Bay, supports tens of thousands of migrating shorebirds, nesting seabirds, wintering sea ducks and other migratory waterfowl. Included within the refuge boundaries is a salt production operation that maintains about 1,050 acres of salt ponds. These ponds provide large amounts of food in the form of fish, brine shrimp and brine flies, all of which are particularly important for shorebirds and seabirds. This refuge provides nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for six endangered bird species, and feeding habitat for one listed sea turtle species.

The Sweetwater Marsh NWR, located in the southeast end of San Diego Bay, includes 316 acres of salt marsh and coastal uplands. This refuge provides habitat for two federally endangered species of bird (California Least Tern and Light-footed Clapper Rail), one federally endangered plant species (salt marsh bird's beak), the Belding's Savannah Sparrow (a State of California endangered bird species), and the Western Snowy Plover, a federally threatened species of bird. Sweetwater Marsh functions as an essential link between Multiple Species Conservation Program wildlands, the South San Diego Bay Unit, and the Tijuana Slough NWR in Imperial Beach.

Review of the CCP and associated environmental document will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et*

*seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1509), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, including the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvements Act of 1997, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. It is estimated that a draft CCP and NEPA document will be made available for public review in October 2001.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

**Elizabeth H. Stevens,**

*Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations, Sacramento, California.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Extension to Public Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension to public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This notice informs the public that the comment period for the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Boundary Revision—Environmental Impact Statement for Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex is extended.

**DATES:** The comment period has been extended to August 12, 2000. Comments will be considered during the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 1236, Fallon, NV 89406.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Hanson, Refuge Manager, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex (775) 423–5128.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published in the **Federal Register** of April 14, 2000 (Vol. 65, No. 73), that comments to the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Boundary Revision draft Environmental Impact Statement were to be received on or before June 12, 2000. In response to public interest, the Service has granted two separate 30 day extensions to the public comment period.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

**Elizabeth H. Stevens,**

*Acting CA/NV Operations Manager.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310–55–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife: Extension of Comment Period on Draft Environmental Assessment and Application for an Incidental Take Permit of the Atlantic Coast Piping Plover in Massachusetts

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service provides notice to extend the public comment period on the draft Environmental Assessment and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit, which is for a period of three years, would authorize the incidental take of the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in Massachusetts. The proposed take would occur as a result of specific actions relating to the management of recreational use of beaches where breeding piping plovers are found. All interested parties are invited to submit comments on these proposals.

**DATES:** Written comments on the application and draft EA must be received no later than July 3, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the draft EA and application should be addressed to Field Supervisor, New England Field Office, 22 Bridge St., Unit 1, Concord, New Hampshire 03301–4986, telephone (603) 225–1411. Comments regarding the conservation plan will be forwarded to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for review and response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susanna L. von Oettingen at the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic Coast piping plover was listed as a threatened species on January 10, 1986. Because of its listing as threatened, the piping plover is protected by the Act's prohibitions against "take". However, the Service may issue permits to carry out otherwise prohibited activities involving endangered and threatened wildlife under certain circumstances. For threatened species, such permits are available for scientific purposes, incidental take, or special purposes consistent with the purposes of the Act.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has applied to the Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. This permit would authorize the incidental take of piping plovers through otherwise lawful activities occurring on plover breeding beaches. Included in the application is a conservation plan prepared by the Division detailing the activities that would result in incidental take and describing measures that mitigate, minimize and monitor the amount of take.

The purpose of the proposed incidental take permit is to provide increased flexibility in managing Massachusetts beaches for use by recreationists and homeowners, while assuring continued progress toward the recovery of the Massachusetts and Atlantic Coast populations of the piping plover. The additional flexibility in managing beaches will prevent a disproportionate expenditure of resources directed at the protection of a few nests or broods in areas where they may significantly disrupt beach access by large numbers of people and be highly vulnerable to disturbance and/or mortality. Management flexibility also will create incentives for the continued participation by beach management agencies and organizations involved in protecting piping plovers.

On May 18, 2000, the Service published a notice of availability of the draft EA and receipt of an application for an incidental take permit for the Atlantic coast piping plover in Massachusetts. The public comment period originally was announced to close on June 19, 2000. Because of several requests for additional time, the Service is extending the public comment period to July 3, 2000.

Dated: June 19, 2000.

**Margaret T. Kolar,**

*Acting Deputy Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-15890 Filed 6-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[ID-075-1330-AC]

#### Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Dry Valley Mine Extension, Panels C and D. The FEIS

analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with a proposal by Astaris, LLC (Formerly FMC Corporation) to extend existing open-pit phosphate mining operations in southeastern Idaho. BLM, US Forest Service, and the US Army Corps of Engineers prepared the FEIS. BLM is acting as the lead agency; the US Forest Service is a joint lead agency; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency for preparation of the FEIS. The Proposed Action includes: construction of two mining pits (Pits C and D), associated haul and access roads, overburden dumps, and use of existing mine facilities to support continued mining. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include the No Action Alternative and alternative methods of handling overburden to reduce impacts caused by the proposed mine extension. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was distributed in July 1999. The FEIS responds to comments received on the DEIS.

#### Agency Decisions

The BLM will issue a Record of Decision regarding the proposed Dry Valley Panel C and D Mine and Reclamation Plan and modification (enlargement) of Federal Phosphate Lease I-0678. The Caribou National Forest will provide BLM with recommendations for those portions of the project that are on National Forest System lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District anticipates signing a separate Record of Decision regarding issuance of a Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit for the project.

**DATES:** The Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers intend to issue independent Records of Decision (ROD) on the proposal no sooner than July 24, 2000 or 30 days after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**ADDRESSES:** Limited numbers of the FEIS are available at the Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 1111 N. 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83201, telephone (208) 478-6354; the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest, 421 W. 2nd South, Soda Springs, Idaho 83276, telephone (208) 547-4356; and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, Idaho Falls Regulatory Office, 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402 Falls, telephone (208) 522-1645.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Comments or questions may be directed to Jeff Cundick, EIS Project Manager,

Bureau of Land Management, Pocatello Field Office, 1111 N. 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. Telephone: (208) 478-6354.

**Jeff S. Steele,**

*Manager, Pocatello Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.*

[FR Doc. 00-15418 Filed 6-22-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-020-00-5101-ER-J206, U-76985]

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment to the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP)

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment to the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP).

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salt Lake Field Office, Utah announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and plan amendment to the Transportation and Corridor Decision of the Pony Express RMP.

On April 15, 1999 the Salt Lake Field Office published in the **Federal Register** a notice of intent to conduct a plan amendment to the RMP. Further, the notice indicated that BLM was a cooperating agency with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), lead agency for the DEIS. The NRC is publishing a separate notice for the DEIS, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah" NUREG-1714, June 2000, regarding the proposal of Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (PFS) to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. BLM intends to adopt the EIS as a basis for its plan amendment decision.

**DATES:** Comments on the land use plan amendment and DEIS will be accepted through September 21, 2000. Public meetings concerning both the DEIS and