

workforce housing (50%–60% of the area median income). Approximately 34,000 square feet of additional community space would also be developed to provide a range of community uses (*i.e.*, social services, educational facilities, library, neighborhood services, commercial uses).

All existing low-income housing is planned to be replaced either on-site or elsewhere in King County through construction of public housing units on-site and project based Section 8 vouchers in existing or new housing complexes. Existing residents would be displaced and assisted with benefits according to the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act (42 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.*). Where possible, displaced residents in good standing would be allowed to return to the public housing units once redevelopment is completed.

#### B. Need for the EIS

The proposed project may constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and an EIS will be prepared on this project by KCHA and the King County DDES in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Responses to this notice will be used to, (1) determine significant environmental issues, (2) identify data that the EIS should address, and (3) identify agencies and other parties that will participate in the EIS process and the basis for their involvement.

#### C. Scoping

A public EIS scoping meeting will be held on February 26, 2003, at 6 p.m. The EIS scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and provide input to the environmental process. At the meeting, the public will be able to view graphics illustrating preliminary planning work and talk with King County DDES and KCHA staff, and members of the consultant team providing technical analysis to the project. Translators will be available. Written comments and testimony concerning the scope of the EIS will be accepted at this meeting.

The scoping meeting will be held at the Park Lake Homes Jim Wiley Community Center, which is located at 9800 8th Ave. SW., Seattle, WA 98106.

#### D. EIS Issues

The lead agencies have preliminarily identified the following environmental elements for discussion in the EIS: earth (geology, soils, topography); air quality; water (surface water movement/

quantity, runoff/absorption, flooding, groundwater movement/quantity/quality); plants and animals; energy use; noise; land use and socioeconomic factors (land use patterns, relationship to plans/policies and regulations; population; housing and displacements); environmental justice (disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low income populations); historic and cultural resources; aesthetics, light and glare; parks and recreation; public services and utilities (fire, police, parks/recreation, communications, water, stormwater, sewer, solid waste); and transportation (transportation systems, parking, movement/circulation, traffic hazards).

Questions may be directed to the individual named in this notice under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Dated: February 4, 2003.

**Nelson R. Bregon,**

*Acting General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.*

[FR Doc. 03–3229 Filed 2–7–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210–29–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City and County of Denver's Board of Water Commissioners, Denver, CO

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the City and County of Denver, acting by and through its Board of Water Commissioners (Denver Water) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The permit would authorize the loss and modification of habitat associated with Denver Water's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities and the incidental take of Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) ("Preble's"), federally listed as threatened. The permit would be in effect for 30 years from the date of issuance.

The Service received Denver Water's ITP Application that includes a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Environmental Assessment

(EA) for the Preble's on Denver Water properties. The proposed HCP/EA is available for public comments. It fully describes the proposed O&M activities and the measures Denver Water would undertake to avoid, minimize, and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the HCP/EA for the proposed issuance of an ITP. Pursuant to notice requirements under section 10(c) of the Act and the National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1406.6), all comments on the HCP/EA and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application and the HCP/EA should be received on or before April 11, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding the permit application and the HCP/EA should be addressed to LeRoy Carlson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275–2370.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the HCP/EA and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Lakewood, Colorado, Field Office (See **ADDRESSES** above).

##### Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal Regulation prohibits the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The applicant's plan to conduct O&M activities necessary for Denver Water to meet its mission of providing a safe and high quality water supply to its customers covers properties that may constitute Preble's habitat in Boulder, Jefferson, and Douglas Counties in Colorado. Such activities would include repair and maintenance of infrastructures and facilities (*e.g.*, conduits, siphons), ditch/canal maintenance, road repair and maintenance, construction of new

conduits, burial of pipeline, and other activities necessary for municipal water supply. The planning area for the permit application covers approximately 2,428 hectares (6,000 acres) of properties that may constitute Preble's habitat. The O&M activities could permanently alter no more than 4 hectares (10 acres) of potential Preble's habitat, but are estimated to only permanently impact 0.4 hectare (1 acre). Additionally, up to 30 hectares (74 acres) of potential Preble's habitat could be temporarily impacted, with total impacts not to exceed 30 hectares (75 acres) (either 0.4 hectare (1 acre) permanent and 30 hectares (74 acres) temporary or ranging up to no more than 4 hectares (10 acres) permanent and 26 hectares (65 acres) of temporary disturbance). As discussed below, Denver Water proposes a number of measures to mitigate possible impacts of the proposed action.

Alternatives considered were—No Action; individual ITPs on a site-by-site/project-by-project basis, as needed; waiting for approval of and participating in three separate countywide HCPs; waiting for and participating in a single Statewide HCP; and the Preferred Alternative—a single incidental take permit held by Denver Water, achieved through the proposed HCP. None of these alternatives, except No Action, eliminated potential take of Preble's.

To mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take the HCP provides mitigation that includes—restoration of temporary disturbance to a specified level of success, creation of riparian shrub and upland habitat, revegetation of social trails no longer in use, weed management, education to Denver Water employees conducting O&M activities, maintenance and management of a potential Preble's habitat linkage corridor, population monitoring, and conducting Preble's trapping to assess status. All efforts will be made to avoid and minimize disturbances to Preble's habitat according to Best Management Practices specified in the HCP.

Denver Water is committed to providing the necessary funding to support the implementation of the HCP/EA. Denver Water will allocate necessary funds into its budget under an account that is established specifically for the HCPs mitigation, monitoring, and compliance requirements.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, the EA/HCP, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are

met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Preble's in conjunction with Denver Water's activities on properties that may constitute Preble's habitat. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: January 29, 2003.

**John A. Blankenship,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-310-1310-PB-24 1A]

#### Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Control Number 1004-0196

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

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect certain information from operators and operating rights owners who apply for designation of National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA) unit agreements. We collect nonform information to determine whether to grant approval to operate under a unit plan for NPRA Federal lands. We require operators to retain and provide data to determine whether proposed unit agreements meet the requirements for unitized exploration and development of oil and gas resources of the NPRA.

**DATES:** You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before April 11, 2003. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: [WOCComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@blm.gov). Please include "ATTN: 1004-0196" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

All comments will be available for public review at the L Street address

during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may contact Barbara Gamble, Fluid Minerals Group, on (202) 452-0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires that BLM provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and 43 CFR 3133, 3135, 3137, and 3138 require affected oil and gas operators and operating rights owners to maintain records or provide information to apply for suspensions of royalty; apply for suspensions of operations; form and maintain unit agreements; and to enter into subsurface storage agreements, respectively. All recordkeeping burdens are associated with the nonform items requested.

The reporting burden of each provision for the information collection, including recordkeeping, depends on which information is required. The respondents are oil and gas operators and operating rights owners. The frequency of response varies from one-time only to occasionally to routine, depending on activities conducted. We estimate 35 responses per year and a total annual burden of 410 hours. We based this estimate on our experience managing the program. The table below summarizes our estimates.