

acquisition) was designed to include most of the on-site area known to be occupied by the golden-cheeked warbler. With respect to the five federally-listed karst invertebrates, the preserve was designed and configured to incorporate the remaining suite of biotic and abiotic factors needed to promote the integrity of fully-functioning karst ecosystems on which the endangered invertebrates depend.

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as part of the Proposed Alternative would substantially avoid impacts to the golden-cheeked warbler and five federally-listed karst invertebrates listed above. Impacts that cannot be avoided would be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. The draft EA/HCP describes the impacts that would likely result to the affected species (the take); what steps the Applicants would take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate such impacts; the funding that would be made available to implement those steps; the alternative actions; and the options available within them.

Two other alternatives included in the EA/HCP are the "no action" alternative and the "past development alternatives considered." The "no action" alternative assumes that the proposed development does not occur, and that no application for an incidental take permit is processed. The "past development alternatives considered" pertain to larger and smaller development areas that were discussed.

In accordance with the Act, and 50 CFR 17.22, in December 1997 the Applicants applied for seven section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permits (PRT-838754, PRT-841088, PRT-841090, PRT-841093, PRT-841117, PRT-841120, and PRT-841125), covering approximately 216 acres known as the Hart Triangle (former entire tract), Travis County, Texas. These permits would have allowed for take of the affected species associated with construction, operation, and occupation of residential and commercial development along with streets, utilities, and other improvements and facilities. However, the Service concluded that the seven HCPs would not have avoided, minimized, and mitigated for the potential impacts to the affected species to the maximum extent practicable. Therefore, because of this and other inadequacies in the applications, the Service denied all seven applications.

Subsequently, the Applicants filed suit against the Service claiming it had "taken" their property under the 5th Amendment. The plaintiffs and the Service agreed to enter mediation

beginning in October 1999. After further HCP negotiations, the Service prepared a draft EA/HCP for development of portions of the 216-acre Hart Triangle. The draft EA/HCP was noticed in the **Federal Register** on June 02, 2000, but was never accepted by the Applicants, and therefore never finalized. The permit (TE-027690) was never issued.

Since the June 2000 **Federal Register** Notice, approximately 146 acres of the former 216-acre Hart Triangle have been sold and/or transferred to Travis County and are managed as part of the BCP. The incidental take permit application under consideration is for the remaining 70 acres.

Christopher T. Jones,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-910-08-1739-NSSI]

Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, North Slope Science Initiative, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will meet as indicated below:

DATES: The meeting will be held February 6 and 7, 2008, in Fairbanks, Alaska. On February 6, 2008, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center, Room 401. Public comments will begin at 3 p.m. On February 7, 2008, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the same location.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John F. Payne, Ph.D., Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative (910), c/o Bureau of Land Management, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, (907) 271-3431 or e-mail john_f_payne@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NSSI, STAP provides advice and recommendations to the NSSI Oversight Group (OG) regarding priority needs for management decisions across the North

Slope of Alaska. These priority needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring, and research activities that lead to informed land management decisions. The topics to be discussed at the meeting include:

- Task orders to the STAP.
- NSSI business processes.
- Project coordination with senior NSSI agency staff.
- NSSI priority issues and projects.
- Other topics the OG or STAP may raise.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the STAP through the NSSI Executive Director. When making public comment, participants should know that their address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in their comment, along with their entire comment, may be made publicly available at any time. Commenters can ask that personal identifying information be withheld from their comments, but this cannot be guaranteed. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the NSSI Executive Director.

Dated: December 20, 2007.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Alaska State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-930-5104-FI]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement of the oil and gas leases, ARES 52198 and ARES 52200 located in Scott and Montgomery County, Ouachita N.F., Arkansas, and ARES 53624 located in Yell County, Ouachita N.F., Arkansas. The petition was filed on time and was accompanied