

in the subject lands. This notice is to notify the public of the pending application and the State's grounds for supporting it. The State asserts that this river system is navigable; therefore, under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, and other title navigability law, ownership of these lands underlying the river automatically passed from the United States to the State at the time of statehood in 1959.

The State's application, AA-086372, is for "all submerged lands lying within the bed of Aniak River, below the ordinary high water lines of the left and right banks beginning at its source in Section 20 of Township 3 North, Range 57 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, northerly to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River in Section 7 of Township 17 North, Range 56 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska; and the submerged lands encompassed by the ordinary high water line of Aniak Lake within the following townships and ranges in the Seward Meridian, Township 5 North, Range 56 West; Township 4 North, Range 57 West." The State did not identify any known adverse claimant or occupant of the affected lands.

A final decision on the merits of the application will not be made before October 27, 2011. During the 90-day period, interested parties may comment on the State's application, AA-086372, and supporting evidence. Interested parties may also comment during this time on the BLM's Draft Summary Report. The State's application and the BLM's Draft Summary Report may be viewed on the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/rdi.html>, or in the BLM Public Room located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Comments filed with the BLM Division of Cadastral Survey, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public inspection at the BLM Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 may 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.

If no valid objection is received and all else is proper, a Disclaimer of Interest may be approved stating that the United States does not have a valid interest in these lands.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1864.2(a).

**Craig Frichtl**,  
Chief, Branch of Survey Planning and Preparation.

[FR Doc. 2011-19215 Filed 7-28-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

**[LLAK927000 L54200000 FR0000  
LVDILO440000; AA-086375]**

### Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying Whitefish Lake and Its Outlet in Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Alaska (State) has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest from the United States in those lands underlying Whitefish Lake and its outlet in southwestern Alaska. The State asserts that Whitefish Lake and its outlet were navigable and unreserved at the time of statehood; therefore, title to the submerged lands passed to the State at the time of statehood (1959). The lake and its outlet are partially within the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487 of December 2, 1980, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**DATES:** All comments to this action should be received on or before October 27, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the State of Alaska application or the BLM Draft Summary Report must be filed with the Chief, Branch of Survey Planning and Preparation (AK-9270), Division of Cadastral Survey, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Ralph Basner, Navigable Waters Specialist, 907-271-3329; 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; e-mail [rbasner@blm.gov](mailto:rbasner@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information

Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual; or visit the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/rdi.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 10, 2006, the State filed an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest pursuant to Section 315 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the regulations contained in 43 CFR Subpart 1864 for the lands underlying Whitefish Lake and its Outlet (AA-086375). A Recordable Disclaimer of Interest, if issued, will confirm that the United States has no valid interest in the subject lands. This notice is to notify the public of the pending application and the State's grounds for supporting it. The State asserts that this river system is navigable; therefore, under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, and other title navigability law, ownership of these lands underlying the river automatically passed from the United States to the State at the time of statehood in 1959.

The State's application, AA-086375, is for the submerged lands encompassed by the ordinary high water line of Whitefish Lake within the following townships and ranges in the Seward Meridian: Township 14 North, Range 60 West; Township 15 North, Ranges 59-60 West. The State also submitted application for the submerged lands within the bed of the Whitefish Lake Outlet between the ordinary high water lines of the left and right banks of the Outlet, beginning at its source, Whitefish Lake, in the SW¼SW¼ of Section 3 in Township 15 North, Range 60 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska; thence west-northwest to its confluence with two other unnamed streams in the NE¼SW¼ of Section 1 in Township 15 North, Range 61 West, Seward Meridian Alaska.

On February 11, 2010, the State amended Section I (Description of Waterways), clarifying its application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for the lands underlying Whitefish Lake and the entirety of its outlet, from Whitefish Lake to its confluence with the Kuskokwim River. In its amended application, the State claims to own the land underlying Whitefish Lake and its outlet (from where it flows out of Whitefish Lake to where it flows into the Kuskokwim River). The State did not identify any known adverse claimant or occupant of the affected lands.

A final decision on the merits of the application will not be made before October 27, 2011. During the 90-day period, interested parties may comment on the State application, AA-086375, and supporting evidence. Interested parties may also comment during this time on the BLM Draft Summary Report. The State application and the BLM Draft Summary Report may be viewed on the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/rdi.html>, or in the BLM Public Room located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Comments filed with the BLM Division of Cadastral Survey, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public inspection at the BLM Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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 may 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.

If no valid objection is received and all else is proper, a Disclaimer of Interest may be approved stating that the United States does not have a valid interest in these lands.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 1864.2(a).

**Craig Frichtl,**  
Chief, Branch of Survey Planning and Preparation.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2011-N131; 80221-1112-80221-F2]

#### Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan and Possible Land Use Plan Amendment, Southern California: Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent and notice of public meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The EIS will be a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), for which the Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), intend to gather information necessary for preparation. The DRECP will then be prepared to meet the requirements of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the State of California's Endangered Species Act and Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act. The BLM, in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, will consider this NEPA process and the resulting DRECP documents in its analysis toward possible amendment of BLM's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended.

**DATES:** Please send written comments on or before September 12, 2011 (see **ADDRESSES**).

Three public scoping meetings will be held for the EIS/EIR, and we will accept written comments at these meetings. These public meetings will be held on the following dates and at the following locations:

1. August 16, 2011, 7–9 p.m., Lake Arrowhead Ballroom, Doubletree Ontario Hotel, 222 N Vineyard Ave. Ontario, CA 91764.

2. August 24, 2011, 2–4 p.m., Hearing Room A, California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

3. August 24, 2011, 7–9 p.m., Hearing Room A, California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information, see “Public Comments” and “Reasonable Accommodation” under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information by any one of the following methods.

*E-mail:* [FW8DRECP@fws.gov](mailto:FW8DRECP@fws.gov). Include “Scoping Comments” in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* Attn: Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, (760) 431-5902.

*U.S. Mail:* Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101, Carlsbad, CA 92011.

*In-Person Drop-off:* You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Corey, Assistant Field Supervisor, by phone at (760) 431-9440, or by U.S. mail at the above address; or Vicki Campbell, DRECP Program Manager, by phone at (916) 978-4320, or by U.S. mail at the BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623, Sacramento, CA 95825.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service intends to prepare an EIS under NEPA for the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The EIS will be a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), for which the Service and BLM, together with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the CDFG, intend to gather information necessary for preparation. The DRECP will then be prepared to meet the requirements of the section 10 habitat conservation plan (HCP) process under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), and the State of California's Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). The Service and BLM will serve as co-lead agencies in the overall EIS process.

BLM, in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782; FLPMA), will consider the NEPA process and DRECP documents in its analysis as it considers possibly amending its California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980, as amended (CDCAP). The BLM issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for a possible amendment to the CDCAP on November 20, 2009 (74 FR 60291). At this time, BLM announces the joining of its EIS preparation for the possible CDCAP amendment with the Service's EIS for the DRECP. For further information on the potential CDCA Plan amendment, please refer to BLM's November 20, 2009, **Federal Register** notice.

The Service will serve as the administrative lead for all actions related to this **Federal Register** notice for the DRECP HCP EIS component of the EIS/EIR. The CEC will serve as the State lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the EIR component.

The Service is publishing this notice to announce the initiation of a public scoping period, during which we invite other agencies (local, State, and Federal), Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and the public to submit written comments providing suggestions