

operating expenses for the project and, where the owner is a priority purchaser, to the portion of project rent attributable to project oversight costs.

III. Findings and Certifications

Environmental Impact

This issuance sets forth rate determinations and related external administrative requirements and procedures that do not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Executive Order 13132, Federalism

This final rule does not have federalism implications and does not impose substantial direct compliance costs on state and local governments or preempt state law within the meaning of Executive Order 13132 (entitled "Federalism").

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 14.187.

Dated: January 14, 2003.

Mel Martinez,
Secretary.

OPERATING COST ADJUSTMENT FACTORS FOR 2003

State	2003 OCAFS
Alabama	2.5%
Alaska	2.9%
Arizona	1.8%
Arkansas	3.0%
California	2.9%
Colorado	3.7%
Connecticut	3.3%
Delaware	1.5%
Dist. of Columbia	3.7%
Florida	3.0%
Georgia	2.6%
Hawaii	2.0%
Idaho	2.5%
Illinois	2.9%
Indiana	2.7%
Iowa	2.8%
Kansas	3.4%
Kentucky	3.2%
Louisiana	2.8%
Maine	1.2%
Maryland	2.6%
Massachusetts	4.7%
Michigan	2.3%
Minnesota	3.0%
Mississippi	2.8%
Missouri	3.1%
Montana	3.9%

OPERATING COST ADJUSTMENT FACTORS FOR 2003—Continued

State	2003 OCAFS
Nebraska	3.2%
Nevada	3.4%
New Hampshire	3.0%
New Jersey	1.9%
New Mexico	3.9%
New York	2.4%
N. Carolina	2.2%
N. Dakota	2.7%
Ohio	3.0%
Oklahoma	3.2%
Oregon	2.0%
Pennsylvania	4.2%
Rhode Island	3.9%
S. Carolina	2.3%
S. Dakota	3.5%
Tennessee	2.3%
Texas	3.5%
Utah	3.4%
Vermont	2.3%
Virginia	2.9%
Washington	2.8%
W. Virginia	1.9%
Wisconsin	2.6%
Wyoming	3.9%
Pacific Islands	3.3%
Puerto Rico	2.5%
Virgin Islands	2.0%
U.S. Average	3.0%

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BILLING CODE 4210-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Extension of Public Comment Period and Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Briargate Development, El Paso County, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and
receipt of application; extension of
public comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that La Plata Investments, LLC (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Incidental Take Permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Service proposes to issue a 30-year permit to the Applicant that would authorize the incidental take of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (Preble's), federally

listed as threatened, and loss and modification of its habitat associated with construction of a residential and commercial development in El Paso County, Colorado. The permit application includes a combined Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan), which is available for public review and comment. We previously published a notice requesting comment on this proposal on November 22, 2002 (67 FR 70453). We received a request to extend the comment period and are hereby granting that request for an additional 30 days. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they have already been incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in our final decision on the Plan. Comments submitted during this comment period also will be incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered. All comments on the Plan 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 plan should be received on or before February 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application or the Plan should be addressed to LeRoy Carlson, Field Supervisor, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, or by facsimile to 303-275-2371. Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of this proposed rule, may be viewed, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, at the above address or telephone 303-275-2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the Plan 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 above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibits the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" (defined by the Act as take that is