

was identified in the Draft MSHCP that was made available for public review with the **Federal Register** Notice of the incidental take permit applications from the other Applicants (67 FR 69236) and the RCA permit application would contain no new substantive information for the public to comment upon.

On November 15, 2002, the Service published a notice in the **Federal Register** (67 69236) announcing receipt of an application for an incidental take permit from Riverside County, the 14 cities and the other Applicants, and the availability of a Draft EIS/EIR for the application. The Draft EIS/EIR analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Federal action of authorizing incidental take anticipated to occur with implementation of the MSHCP, and identified various alternatives. We received a total of 110 comment letters on the Draft EIS/EIR. A response to each comment received in these letters has been included in Final EIS/EIR.

The Draft EIS/EIR considered four alternatives in addition to the preferred alternative/proposed project described above: (1) A listed, proposed and strong candidate species alternative; (2) a listed and proposed species alternative; (3) an existing reserves alternative; and (4) a no project alternative.

The listed, proposed and strong candidate species alternative focuses on the conservation of 29 state and/or federally listed species and seven unlisted species. This alternative would conserve approximately 119,300 acres of "new" lands (*i.e.*, acreage above and beyond what is already conserved through public or quasi-public land ownership and management).

The listed and proposed species alternative focuses on the conservation of 29 state and/or federally listed or proposed species. The proposed new conservation under this alternative is approximately 93,800 acres.

The existing reserves alternative would provide coverage for six State and/or federally listed or candidate species and some unlisted species depending on management regimes in the existing reserves. It would not provide any new conservation of land.

The analysis provided in the Final EIS/EIR is intended to accomplish the following: inform the public of the proposed action; address public comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR; disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action; and indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 of the

Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Robert D. Williams,

Deputy Manager, Region 1, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Skull Valley Goshute Tekoi Balefield Landfill Project, Tooele County, UT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, will be gathering information needed for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The information on the EIS will be used to support a lease to a private company to construct and operate a landfill and to develop the necessary infrastructure. The purpose of this project is to help provide an economic base for the tribe while helping the Salt Lake City area to dispose of non-hazardous wastes. We also are announcing public scoping meetings at this time.

DATES: Written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must arrive by November 5, 2003. The public scoping meetings will be held on October 21 and 22, 2003, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, hand carry or telefax written comments to either (1) Amy L. Heuslein, Regional Environmental Protection Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, Arizona 85001, telefax (602) 379-3833; or (2) Chester Mills, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Uintah and Ouray Agency, P.O. Box 130, Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026, telefax (435) 722-2323.

The October 21, 2003, public scoping meeting will be held at the Utah State Extension Auditorium, 151 North Main Street, Tooele, Utah. The October 22, 2003, meeting will be held at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Heuslein, (602) 379-6750, or Chester Mills, (435) 722-4300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the environmental consequences of BIA approval of a proposed lease between the CR Group, the lessee, and the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians (Band), the lessor, of approximately 500 acres in the southwest Section 18, Range 8W, Township 5S, NAD 27, Tooele County, Utah. This section is approximately 2 miles west of Skull Valley Road on the reservation. The leased property will occupy the southwest 75 percent of the section. The property is located approximately 50 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah. The CR Group intends to construct and operate a solid waste landfill on this property for a period of 25 years, with an option to renew the lease for another 25 years.

The proposed landfill will meet or exceed all applicable criteria of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for such landfills, including, without limitation, the design criteria set forth in 40 CFR part 258. The landfill will be constructed with the appropriate impermeable lining material, and will only accept non-hazardous municipal and/or industrial solid waste. Limited ancillary facilities consisting of a truck scale, scale house and small administrative office will be constructed at the site, and an approximately 3-mile long road on the reservation constructed to provide access to and from the landfill.

The solid waste will be compressed, de-watered and baled before transportation to the landfill. The baled solid waste will be transported to the landfill in containers, using primarily flatbed trucks. It is anticipated that the majority of the waste will come from the Salt Lake City, Utah area. The transportation route is expected to be via Interstate 80 westward from the Salt Lake City area, then southward approximately 27 miles on Skull Valley Road to the proposed landfill site on the reservation.

The proposed landfill will consist of separate cells. The baled solid waste will be stacked in the cells. Separate cells will be used for municipal and industrial waste. As individual cells are filled and closed, they will be covered with lining and soil and re-vegetated consistent with EPA regulations and with BIA and tribal requirements. The CR Group will provide construction and reclamation bonds suitable to both the BIA and the Band.

Water for construction and operation of the landfill will be obtained from wells drilled on the reservation. These wells will be within 1 mile of the proposed site. Electricity will be generated using the collected landfill