

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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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. 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.