

Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Ave. West, Carlsbad, California 92008.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Availability of Documents

Individuals wishing copies of this draft Joint EIS/EIR for review should immediately contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Field Office at the above referenced address, or by telephone at (619) 431-9440. Individuals wishing to review the SKR Long-term HCP and IA should immediately contact the RCHCA at (909) 275-1100. Documents will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday) at the RCHCA, 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, California 92501. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday) at the Service's Office at the above referenced address and telephone. Documents will also be available for public inspection at numerous libraries throughout the planning area. The location of specific libraries having copies can be obtained by contacting the Service at the above number. Copies of the draft EIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

##### Background

The Service listed the SKR as an endangered species, effective October 31, 1988 (53 FR 38485). Because of its listing as an endangered species, the SKR is protected by the Act's prohibition against "take", that is, no one may harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect the species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). The Service, however, may issue permits to conduct activities involving endangered species under certain circumstances, including carrying out scientific purposes, enhancing the propagation or survival of the species, or incidentally taking the species in connection with otherwise lawful activities.

The RCHCA presently has a short-term 10(a)(1)(B) permit (PRT-739678) from the Service to incidentally take SKRs in connection with various proposed public and private projects in the western portion of Riverside County. Under the program established through this interim permit, SKR habitat in public and private ownership is being acquired and managed for the long-term benefit of the species. Acquisition of private lands is funded in part from

mitigation fees collected by the RCHCA as developments proceed.

As intended when the interim permit was granted in August 1990, the RCHCA is applying to the Service for a 30-year incidental take permit for the same purposes. The area covered by the proposed 30-year permit will include much of the historical range of the SKR in Riverside County. The procedures for the RCHCA to incidentally take SKRs under the proposed 30-year permit are evaluated in the EIS/EIR.

This draft Joint EIS/EIR has been developed cooperatively by the Service's Carlsbad Field Office (lead agency for the draft EIS), the RCHCA, and California Department of Fish and Game.

In the development of this draft Joint EIS/EIR, the Service has initiated action to assure compliance with the purpose and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. Scoping activities were undertaken preparatory to developing the draft EIS with a variety of Federal, State, and local entities. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 1993.

The RCHCA's preparation of the long-term HCP has been on-going since the short-term permit was authorized. In March 1993 the Service and the RCHCA initiated a joint scoping process for the preparation of a joint EIS/EIR in anticipation of the Service receiving a permit application for a 30-year Section 10(a) permit for incidental take of SKR. The scoping process was initiated in accordance with NEPA to solicit comments on issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Because of the extended 2-year scoping process, a draft Scoping Report was prepared to update public knowledge of the scoping process. That report summarizes the 2-year scoping process, identifies the scoping issues raised by interested parties at public meetings and in written statements, and outlines the issues and alternatives that will be addressed in the draft EIS/EIR. The availability of the draft Scoping Report was published in the **Federal Register** on March 24, 1995.

Key issues addressed in this draft EIS/EIR are identified as the effects that implementation of various alternatives would have upon: (1) The endangered SKR; (2) other wildlife and their habitats; (3) land uses and general plans; (4) provision of public facilities, services and utilities; and (5) social and economic conditions.

More than 10 alternatives were considered before limiting the alternatives to be advanced for further study. Ultimately, 4 alternatives were

selected for detailed analysis: (1) Proposed Action/Project (approve and implement the Long-term SKR HCP); (2) Expanded Conservation/Protection (conserve more SKR habitat); (3) Existing Reserves/Public Lands (focus on SKR habitat already protected); and (4) a No Project/No Action Alternative (assume no regional program). The Service will identify its preferred alternative and environmentally preferable alternative as defined in the NEPA in the final EIS/EIR.

Each alternative was evaluated in terms of its potential to result in significant adverse impacts, and the adequacy or inadequacy of the proposed measures to avoid, minimize, and substantially lessen the effects.

Dated: July 27, 1995.

**David L. McMullen,**

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#### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-964-1410-00-P; F-14944-A]

##### Alaska Native Claims Selection

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision to issue conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(a) and 22(j) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(a), will be issued to Tozitna, Limited for approximately 330 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Tanana, Alaska, within T. 4 N., R. 22 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599 ((907) 271-5960).

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government or regional corporation, shall have until September 5, 1995 to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart