

Appendix A
Draft EIS/EIR Notices of Availability



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIS/EIR) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

- PROJECT TITLE:** Fort Ord Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- PROJECT LOCATION:** Former Fort Ord, including areas within the Cities of Seaside, Marina, Monterey, and Del Rey Oaks and County of Monterey, California
- CEQA Lead Agency:** Fort Ord Reuse Authority
- NEPA Lead Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Public Review Period:** November 1, 2019 through December 16, 2019
- Public Meeting:** November 20, 2019, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

A joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) has been prepared to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, which is the issuance of Federal and State incidental take permits (ITPs) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act, and by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code in compliance with the California Endangered Species Act. The issuance of the ITPs would authorize take of the eight State and Federally listed species identified in the Draft Fort Ord Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Draft HCP) during the course of the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord military base. The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and its member jurisdictions have prepared the Draft HCP as a required component of the application for the Federal ITP. The USFWS is acting as lead agency under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FORA is acting as lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Notice is hereby given that FORA is seeking written comment on the Draft EIS/EIR on the Proposed Action in accordance with CEQA and NEPA. The 45-day public review period will begin on November 1, 2019 and end on December 16, 2019. This review period is established for the purpose of receiving written comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIS/EIR together with other information relative to the environmental effects of the Proposed Action. The State Clearinghouse number for this Proposed Action is SCH#2005061119.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Draft EIS/EIR analyzes the potential environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the Draft HCP and the issuance of Federal and State ITPs, as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. The Draft HCP provides measures to mitigate and avoid/minimize impacts to eight Federal and State listed species within a 28,000-acre Plan Area. This is a comprehensive, base-wide plan that would provide conservation and management of sensitive species and their habitat. The Draft HCP was prepared to support the application for the Federal ITP. FORA is requesting a permit term of 50 years to authorize take of covered species associated with the covered activities described in the Draft HCP.

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIS/EIR identifies impacts in the following resource areas that are either less than significant or are potentially significant but can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Climate Change, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice, Transportation and Circulation, and Utilities.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIS/EIR did not identify any significant and unavoidable impacts. All potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the Draft HCP and identified mitigation measures.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The Draft HCP Plan Area consists of the former Fort Ord, which is a hazardous waste site enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code; the entire former Fort Ord Military Base is designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Superfund National Priority List (NPL) site.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR runs for 45 days, beginning November 1, 2019 and ending December 16, 2019. A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR is available online at the FORA Project website at: <https://www.fora.org/habitat.html> and USFWS Website at: <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>. The Draft EIS/EIR may also be viewed at the following locations:

Monterey County Public Library
Seaside Branch
550 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, California 93955

Fort Ord Reuse Authority
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A
Marina, California 93933

PUBLIC MEETING: Pursuant to the public participation goals of CEQA and NEPA, FORA will host a Public Meeting during the public review period to share information on the Draft HCP and the Draft EIS/EIR. Spanish translation will be available, and the venue is accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Comment forms will be available for those who wish to submit written comments during or following the meeting. Prepared written comments will be accepted during the meeting, as well as throughout the 45-day public review period. The date, time, and location of the Public Meeting are listed below.

Date: November 20, 2019
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Community Center at Soper Field
220 Coe Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR must be submitted in writing to the USFWS no later than 5:00 PM on December 16, 2019 to the mailing address, fax number, or email address listed below.

By Mail:

Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003

By Email:

fw8fortordhcp@fws.gov

By Fax:

805-644-3958 (please also send a physical copy of the correspondence to ensure receipt)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Metz, Assistant Executive Officer, FORA, at 831-883-3672, or Leilani Takano, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS, at 805-644-1766.

developments, deliveries, staffing, and admissions.

4. Updates on the Board of Visitors Subcommittee Groups for the Professional Development Initiative Update and the National Fire Incident Report System.

There will be a 10-minute comment period after each agenda item and each speaker will be given no more than 2 minutes to speak. Please note that the public comment period may end before the time indicated following the last call for comments. Contact Deborah Gartrell-Kemp to register as a speaker. Meeting materials will be posted at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/about/bov.html> by December 10, 2019.

Tonya L. Hoover,

Superintendent, National Fire Academy,
United States Fire Administration, Federal
Emergency Management Agency.

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BILLING CODE 9111-45-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2019-N064;
FXES1114080000-189-FF08EVEN00]

Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for Eight Species; Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Habitat Conservation Plan for Fort Ord, Monterey County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an incidental take permit application under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize take of the federally threatened California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and western snowy plover, and the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly, incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with commercial, residential and recreational development, and habitat management within portions of the former Fort Ord Army base in the draft habitat conservation plan (HCP). We invite public comment on the applicant's draft HCP and the draft environmental impact statement, which the Service prepared in response to the application for an incidental take permit.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 16, 2019.

ADDRESSES:

To obtain documents: You may download a copy of the draft habitat conservation plan and environmental impact statement at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>, or you may request copies of the documents by sending U.S. mail to our Ventura office (see below), or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). For information on reviewing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) comments on the draft EIS, see EPA's Role in the EIS Process under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

To submit written comments: Please send us your written comments using one of the following methods:

- **U.S. mail:** Send your comments to Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003.
- **Facsimile:** Fax your comments to 805-644-3958.
- **Electronic Mail:** Send your comments to fw8fortordhcp@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leilani Takano, Assistant Field Supervisor, by phone at 805-644-1766, at the Ventura address in **ADDRESSES**, or via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant has developed a draft habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the project that includes measures to mitigate and avoid/minimize impacts to the federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*), and Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*); the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*), Monterey (sand) gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*), and Yadon's piperia (*Piperia yadonii*); and the State endangered seaside bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*). The permit would authorize take of the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, and Smith's blue butterfly incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the Fort Ord HCP. We invite public comment on the application, the draft HCP, and draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

Background

The California tiger salamander was listed as threatened on August 4, 2004 (69 FR 47212); the California red-legged frog was listed as threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 FR 25813); the western snowy plover was listed as threatened on March 5, 1993 (58 FR 12864); the Monterey spineflower was listed as threatened on February 4, 1994 (59 FR 5499); the Smith's blue butterfly was listed as endangered on June 1, 1976 (41 FR 22041); the Monterey (sand) gilia was listed as endangered on June 22, 1992 (57 FR 27848); and the Yadon's piperia was listed as endangered on August 12, 1998 (63 FR 43100). The seaside bird's beak has no Federal status, but was listed as endangered by the State of California in 1982 (<https://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/list.html>), and the applicant has chosen to address this species in the HCP to facilitate State permitting.

Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations in effect at the time the above-referenced species were listed prohibited the take of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. "Take" is defined under the ESA to include the following activities: "[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532); however, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed fish or wildlife species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Under the ESA, protections for federally listed plants differ from the protections afforded to federally listed animals. Issuance of an incidental take permit also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. The permittees would receive assurances under our "No Surprises" regulations ((50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)) regarding conservation activities for the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, Monterey spineflower, Smith's blue butterfly, Monterey (sand) gilia, Yadon's piperia, and seaside bird's beak.

Applicant's Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog,

western snowy plover, and Smith's blue butterfly. Take is likely to occur in association with activities necessary to develop and use commercial, residential, and recreational facilities on non-Federal portions of the former Fort Ord Army base and to manage habitats within conserved areas of the former base. The site contains 4 acres of aquatic breeding habitat and 5,718 acres of upland habitat for the California tiger salamander. The site contains 4 acres of aquatic breeding habitat and 3,494 acres of upland habitat for the California red-legged frog. The site contains 71 acres of breeding, foraging, and overwintering habitat for the western snowy plover, all of which is in critical habitat designated for the species. The site contains 110 acres of habitat (for all of the species' activities) for the Smith's blue butterfly. The HCP includes measures to minimize take of the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, and Smith's blue butterfly in the forms of injury, mortality, and harm. Mitigation for unavoidable take of the species consists of preservation and management of existing habitat and restoration of areas of degraded habitat (primarily through restoration of aquatic breeding habitat for the two amphibian species and of upland habitat for all species).

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The Service has developed a draft EIS in response to the ITP application in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The draft EIS analyzes three alternatives. The proposed action is issuance of a base-wide ITP, which would address development and use of the former Fort Ord in accordance with the HCP. This would include unrestricted development of some undisturbed habitat areas, redevelopment of areas developed by the Army during its use of the base, and limited development within areas otherwise conserved and managed as habitat. Under the "no action" alternative, a base-wide ITP would not be issued and the HCP would not be implemented. Development and use of the former base would likely continue under existing local and Army-prepared planning documents and the applicant would likely apply for future project-specific ITPs. Under the "reduced take" alternative, a base-wide ITP would be issued, but limited development within areas otherwise conserved and managed as habitat would be eliminated.

EPA's Role in the EIS Process

The EPA is charged with reviewing all Federal agencies' EISs and commenting on the adequacy and acceptability of the environmental impacts of proposed actions in EISs. Therefore, EPA is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing this draft EIS, as required under section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The publication date of EPA's notice of availability is the official beginning of the public comment period. EPA's notices are published on Fridays. EPA serves as the repository (EIS database) for EISs prepared by Federal agencies. All EISs must be filed with EPA. You may search for EPA comments on EISs, along with EISs themselves, at <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, draft HCP, draft EIS, and associated documents, you may submit comments by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 can 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Michael Long,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-ES-2019-N125;
FXES11130600000-190-FF06E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Draft Recovery Plan for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for review and comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of a draft recovery plan for Gunnison sage-grouse, a bird species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. We are requesting review and comment from the public on this draft plan. The draft recovery plan includes objective, measurable criteria, and site-specific management actions as may be necessary to remove the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

DATES: We must receive any comments on the draft recovery plan on or before December 31, 2019.

ADDRESSES:

Document availability: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/recovery-plans.html>.

Alternatively, you may request a copy by U.S. mail from the Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 445 West Gunnison Avenue, #240, Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711; or via telephone at 970-628-7181.

Submitting comments: If you wish to comment on the draft recovery plan, you may submit your comments in writing by email to gusgrecoveryplan@fws.gov, or by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to the Field Supervisor at the address above.

Viewing public comments: Comments and materials the Service receives will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Timberman, Field Supervisor, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, Grand Junction, at the above U.S. mail address or telephone number (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft recovery plan for Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*; hereafter, GUSG), a bird species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We are requesting review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. Recovery means improving the status of a listed species to the point at which listing is no longer necessary according to the